

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 39 - Issue 6 - June 2022



"Rap/hip-hop is aggressive music, both in its lyrics, in its sound, and in its attitude, and it is not surprising that it has produced great violence. It is so morally filthy that a large percentage of the lyrics cannot be quoted and practically none of the videos can be shown in decent company...Probably no other one influence has so defiled black culture." Page 9.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 14.**



IS IT GOG/MAGOG TIME? ~ By David Cloud

Someone wrote to me recently and asked if the prophecy of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel 38-39 is post-Rapture. The answer is that it is most definitely post-Rapture.

This great prophecy describes a major power north of Israel ("out of the north parts," Eze. 38:15; 39:2) that will create a strong military alliance and attack Israel and be destroyed by God.

As for the timing, it is clear that it is for a time when Israel thinks herself safe and disarms. It is when Israel "shall dwell safely" (Eze. 38:8, 11, 14; 39:26).

This is repeated four times for emphasis and it certainly does not describe this present hour. Israel's cities don't have walls, but Israel has better than that. It has one of the most formidable militaries on earth. In fact, it is very possible that Israel could defeat Russia and her allies. Russia has a strong military and a strong leader, but I would put my money on Israel.



There is no doubt that Gog/Magog is Russia. She is the only great power north of Israel, and the nations aligned with Gog/Magog point to Russia, particularly Persia (Iran), Ethiopia, and Libya, which are named in the prophecy.

These nations have close military ties with Russia even today.

Russia has a long history of persecuting Jews. Many of the early Jewish returnees to Israel were escaping Russian pogroms. “Pogrom” means “to wreck havoc” and refers to “large-scale, targeted, and repeated anti-Jewish rioting.”

A time is described in prophecy when Israel will feel safe and disarm, and that is when the Antichrist makes his seven-year “peace” covenant with her. It is then that the Third Temple will be built, as described in the first verses of Revelation 11, and “peace and safety” will be proclaimed globally and the nations will rejoice, but it will prove to be a delusion.

“For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:3).

After three and a half years, the Antichrist will show his true colors as the greatest hater of Israel in history; he will break the covenant and set himself up as God in Israel’s temple, and the persecutions will be terrible.

We have documented this extensively in [*The Future According to the Bible*](#).

O TIMOTHY Magazine

Volume 39 Issue 6

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Subscription information on
back page of the magazine

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We would counsel God’s people in the strongest terms to avoid those who focus on a conspiratorial approach to Bible prophecy and who are devoted to analyzing current events as signs and are perpetually in a state of carnal disquiet.

There are general signs of the nearness of Christ’s return, such as Israel back in the land and the Temple Institute’s plan to build the temple, but there are no exact signs that will give the timing of Christ’s coming for His Church. It is always imminent. We can “see the time approaching” (Heb. 10:25), but that is all we can see. We cannot even know the decade.

That’s not our business. Christ has given the churches their marching orders. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

We see that this program is in force until “the end of the world,” referring to the church age. We are somewhere at the end, but we haven’t reached the end, so we keep working.

This is a very large, never-ending job that requires the dedication of every saint if it is to be done right, and this is what God’s people need to focus on like a laser and not waste precious, fleeting time with things of little to no eternal importance. The time lost cannot be recaptured. If God’s people don’t do God’s will today, it won’t be done. It is treasure lost.

I don’t hesitate to say that, from my experience, a large percentage of fundamentalists and independent Baptists are wrong about these things, and that is because *most* members of such churches are not serious Bible students and are not prayer warriors and neither are their pastors. Their minds are more filled with sports, the vanities of social media, conservative politics, homely projects, fun and games, than with the pure Word of God.

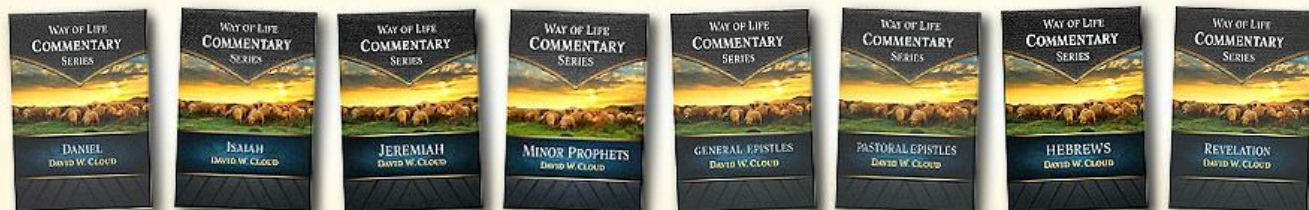
It gives me no joy to say this, and I only mention it in an attempt to help.

It’s not Gog/Magog time; it is wake up time!

“But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. For they that sleep sleep in the night; and

they that be drunken are drunken in the night. But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:4-9).

Recommendations for the WAY OF LIFE COMMENTARY SERIES



By David Cloud

Way of Life Literature COMMENTARY SERIES - <https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/commentaries/>

We currently have verse-by-verse commentaries on 36 books of the Bible in the following volumes: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Minor Prophets, Romans, Corinthians, Prison epistles, Thessalonian Epistles, Pastoral Epistles, Hebrews, General Epistles, Revelation.

The interpretation is from a literal, dispensational perspective. The King James Bible is explained and illuminated but not criticized. The New Testament church is given priority as the pillar and ground of the truth and the headquarters for world evangelism.

There is no hint of modernism or influence from compromised evangelicalism. The user will find no reference to or dependence upon men such as Origen, Jerome, Augustine, C.S. Lewis, Eberhard Nestle, or Bruce Metzger.

SOME FEEDBACK FROM READERS:

“These commentaries are chock-full of vital informative truths, Biblically sound doctrine and prophetic insights that are written in easy-to-understand language. The *Fundamentalist Digest* editor highly commends these books” (Don Jasmin).

“I’m in one room reading Isaiah with your commentary, while my wife is at her desk reading Ezekiel with your commentary. We can both say, with zero doubt, that there is no commentary on earth that we trust more than yours--and we’ve seen (and own) several others of great renown.”

“I love your commentary series. I eagerly await the release of each new title! We usually buy them in bulk as there are others in our church who are collecting the set. They are simply excellent. So good to have commentaries that are based on an uncompromising position. I pray God gives you the strength and ability to finish the rest of the Bible. We need them!”

“There is not a single Christian author/commentator that I trust and respect more than you. I am extremely excited about your full Bible commentary.”

“I am getting a lot out of your commentary on Revelation. I have about 10 commentaries or so and yours stands out so far as the best from my reading to date. Thank you for these excellent resources.”

“Everything you write seems to have the Spirit of God behind it, and nothing is as exceptional as your commentary on the General Epistles. I’ve only finished going through the first 13 verses of 1 Peter and you have already handled depression, angels, heaven, election, holiness and our glorified bodies in such a deeply profound manner that it’s as if I had never studied those issues before (as a 35 year Christian and zealous student of Scripture).”

“I want to thank you for your book on the Minor Prophets. I was reading your commentary of Habakkuk yesterday and was blessed to the foundation of my soul. Thank you for the time and study you put into providing the Christian world with such tremendous tools of understanding and enlightenment.”



“**T**hus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me; and, behold, he formed grasshoppers in the beginning of the shooting up of the latter growth; and, lo, *it was* the latter growth after the king's mowings. And it came to pass, *that* when they had made an end of eating the grass of the land, then I said, O Lord GOD, forgive, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he *is* small. The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD. Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and, behold, the Lord GOD called to contend by fire, and it devoured the great deep, and did eat up a part. Then said I, O Lord GOD, cease, I beseech thee: by whom shall Jacob arise? for he *is* small. The LORD repented for this: This also shall not be, saith the Lord GOD” (Am. 7:1-6).



In Amos 7 we see the power of intercessory prayer.

God's people need to learn from Amos and pray fervently and persistently in the most desperate, wicked times. Prayer changes things!

When Amos saw the first two visions of coming judgments (a locust invasion and a great fire), he beseeched God to withhold judgment, and the Lord repented (Am. 7:3, 6).

Amos's prayer issued from a heart of concern. Amos could have said nothing, but he was moved with compassion for Israel; he was concerned about the matter. He could have thought, “It's not my business if God wants to do that.” He could have thought, “I need to get

back to my farming.” But he was deeply concerned, and he took the time to pray. We will not pray effectually until we care about the thing we are praying for. We must genuinely care about our own spiritual lives, our families, our churches, our nations, our unsaved neighbors, and when we care, we are moved to intercessory prayer and God answers such prayers.

Amos's prayer was intercessory. He prayed for others. This is the opposite of praying only for “me and mine.” Christ taught that even the heathen love their own, but Godlikeness is caring for others, even for your enemies (Mt. 5:44-48).

Amos's prayer was fervent. Observe the passion. “O Lord God ... I beseech thee...” He beseeched God. This is effectual fervent praying (Jas. 5:16).

Amos's prayed by reasoning with God. Prayer is reasoning with God on the basis of His character and His promises. Amos called Israel “Jacob” to remind God of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Amos reminded God that Israel was small and helpless in the midst of her enemies. Amos reminded God that He was Israel's only help. What wonderful reasoning with God!

Amos's prayer was based on his right thinking and outlook. Unlike the average Israelite in that day, Amos knew that Israel was small and helpless without God's protection and intervention. He knew that except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain (Ps. 127:1). He knew that Israel's wealth and military strength could not protect her if God was against her. This wisdom comes only by God's Word.

Amos prayed for mercy. Amos was not asking for justice but for mercy. He didn't say, “Lord, Israel is good.” Amos knew all about Israel's “mighty sins” (Am. 5:12).

Amos's prayer was based on his knowledge of God.

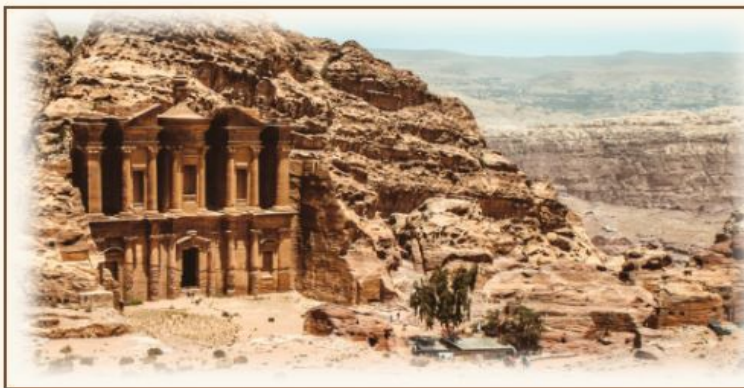
Amos was asking God for mercy, because he knew that God is merciful. The better we know God, the more we know His character through the study of Scripture, the more effectual our prayers can be.

Amos's prayer was persistent. He didn't stop praying after the first answer.

As a result, God was moved by Amos's plea and withheld His hand. God did eventually judge Israel, but He withheld *those particular judgments at that time* in answer to prayer.

Amos's prayer reminds us of Abraham's intercessory prayer for Sodom (Ge. 18:23-32) and Moses' intercessory prayer for Israel (Ex. 32:7-14).

This prayer situation is an example of how that prayer can bring some respite, some divine help, even when a nation is heading toward ultimate judgment. It is a perfect prayer for America today. If God's people will pray effectually for the nation, there probably will not be a great awakening, but God can help us. He delights in mercy. He can withhold judgment; He can restrain wickedness in high places; He can confound the forces of evil.



The Glories Of **BIBLE** **GEOGRAPHY** By David Cloud

The study of geography is essential to a proper understanding of the Bible, because it is an historical book that describes events in the land of Israel and surrounding territory. The more the student knows about the geography pertaining to a Bible passage, the better he can understand the scene and the teaching.

Bible geography is divine revelation. The land of Israel is God's classroom. It is the land that He chose for the outworking of His eternal plan. It is the land that He chose to be the land of the Bible. It is the land that He fashioned for this very purpose. It is for this reason that it is called "the pleasant land" (Da. 8:9), "the glorious land" (Da. 11:16), "the glory of all lands" (Eze. 20:6). When God gave the land to Israel, it flowed with milk and honey (De. 27:3). It was a paradise, and it will be that even more in the future. "... he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD (Isa. 51:3). It is "a land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God *are* always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year" (De. 11:12). Israel is a small country, but it has every type of topography: mountains, hills, plains, forests, savannas,

deserts, rich pasture land and barren salt flats, lakes, rivers, oceans.

Everywhere you look in Israel and the surrounding territories, there are lessons about God. Every mile has its lesson; sometimes every yard. The land's very name, *Israel*, means "power with God." Moriah is where Abraham learned that God is *Jehovahjireh*, "Jehovah who will provide" (Ge. 22:14). Rephidim in Sinai is where Moses learned that God is *Jehovahaniissi*, "Jehovah my banner" (Ex. 17:15). Ophrah is where Gideon learned that God is *Jehovahshalom*, "God is peace" (Jg. 6:24). Bethel is where Jacob had the vision of the ladder to heaven and named the place "the house of God" (Ge. 13:19). Shechem is where Jacob called God *Elelohe-Israel*, "the God of the House of God" (Ge. 33:19). Ramah is where Hannah named her son Samuel, "God has heard," as a reminder that God answers prayer. Jerusalem is "the city of our God ... the city of the great King" (Ps. 48:1, 2). Oh, the infinite lessons of Jerusalem! *Penuel* is where Jacob wrestled with God and "saw God face to face" (Ge. 32:30). *Mahanaim*, "two troops," is where Jacob learned that the angels of God camp with God's people (Ge. 32:1-2). Consider the

lessons of Sinai, Kadesh, Sodom, Marah, Rephidim, Sharon, Gilboa, Carmel, Jezreel, Megiddo, Kishon, Shunam, Harod, Endor, Tabor, Nazareth, Hazor, Hebron, Bethlehem, Beersheba, Shiloh, Nebo, Gilgal, Ai, Shechem, Ebal and Gerizim, Samaria, Elah, Gath, Gaza, Timnath, Ziklag, Lachish, Bethany, and literally a thousand more. Countless books have been written about the lessons God has taught us from the region of Galilee alone, and countless more will be written.

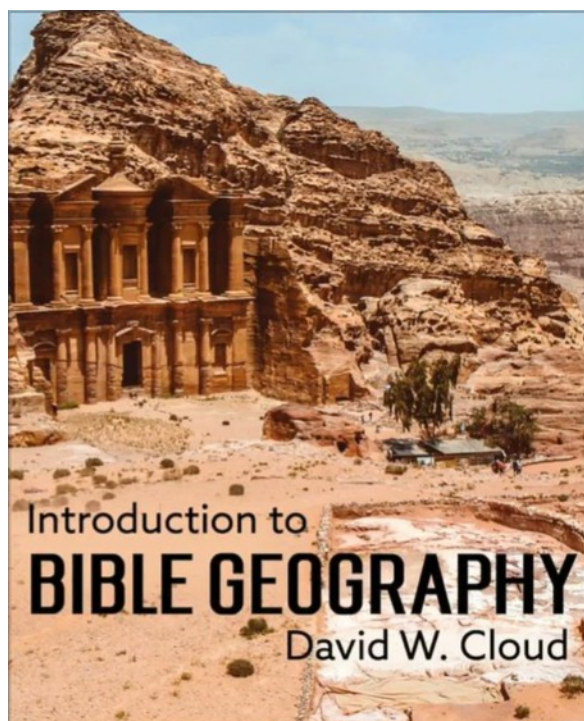
To benefit from Bible geography, the student has to ask questions such as where is the author? Where are the recipients? If the passage describes an event, where does it take place? “What was the terrain like? What topographic features made this region unique? What was the weather like? How far was this place from other places mentioned in this passage? What were the travel routes? What size was this town or city? What was the layout? What was the location known for?” (William Hendrick).

This requires a good knowledge of Bible geography and constant reference to maps. This information can be found in good commentaries, surveys, Bible encyclopedias, and Bible atlases.

We recommend the following three Bible atlases: **NEW MOODY ATLAS OF THE BIBLE**, **ROSE THEN AND NOW BIBLE MAP ATLAS** (not to be confused with the

much smaller *Deluxe Then and Now Bible Maps*), and the **SATELLITE BIBLE ATLAS**. We also recommend **BIBLEATLAS.ORG**, an online atlas that is easy to use and has many excellent features.

We recommend [INTRODUCTION TO BIBLE GEOGRAPHY](http://www.wayoflife.org), www.wayoflife.org. This course is geared for beginning students and older ones. It covers Israel’s divinely-ordained location, an overview of the larger region as far west as the Strait of Gibraltar, the Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia (Shinar), Egypt and the Nile, Israel’s mountains and rivers, the Negev, the Sea of Galilee and major sites pertaining to Jesus’ ministry, the Jordan River, the Dead Sea, Jericho, Dan, Beersheba, Bethel, the Philistine cities, Carmel, Sharon, Bashan, Gilead, Shiloh, Samaria, Ebal and Gerizim, Elah Valley (where David killed Goliath), Jerusalem, ancient highways, the division of the tribes, Sodom and Gomorrah, and the Jezreel Valley (plain of Megiddo), its history and future. The course consists of a PowerPoint presentation and a PDF, which is the textbook. The PowerPoint covers the same material as the PDF, but it includes videos and photos that aren’t in the PDF. As the teacher goes through the PowerPoints, the students can have all of the major parts of the study before them in the PDF (using a smartphone or tablet, etc.) or in a printout of the PDF. The downloads of both files are provided as part of the package.



Introduction to Bible Geography

2022 Edition

A PowerPoint/PDF Bible Geography Course

280 slides - PowerPoint (or Keynote) set.

51 page Student Edition PDF (51 page pdf of selected slides)

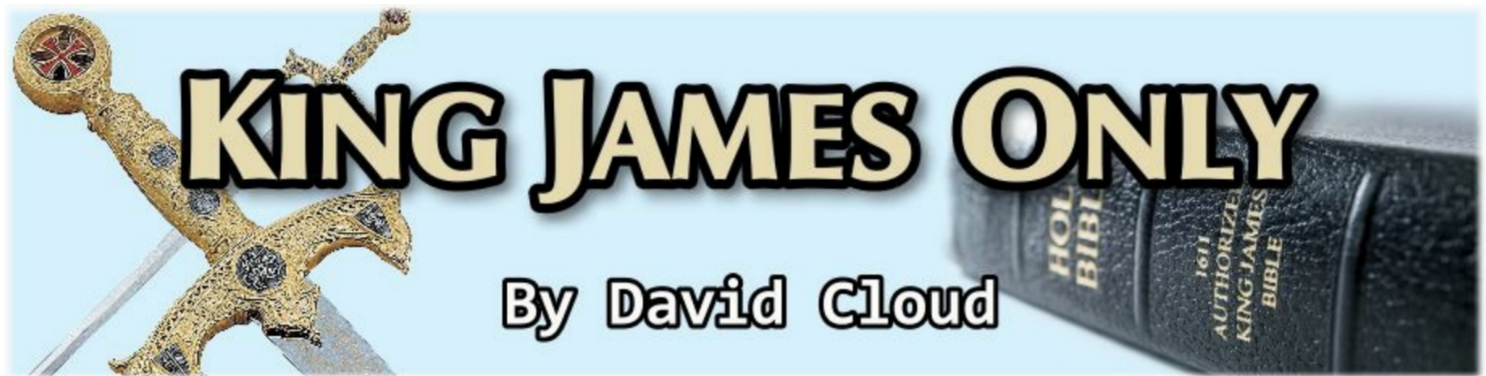
5 page Description/Review Questions PDF document.

The abbreviated 51 page PDF edition is intended for individual students to use in classrooms and for private study and easy reference. As the teacher goes through the PowerPoints, the students can have all of the major parts of the study before them in the PDF (using a smartphone, tablet, etc.) or in a printout of the student PDF.

Available at the Way of Life Website, at:

https://www.wayoflife.org/s3/introduction_to_bible_geography.php

https://www.wayoflife.org/free_slides/bible_geography_slides.php



There is a lot of debate and confusion surrounding the man-made term "King James Only." It has been popularized in recent years by men who claim they are concerned about a dangerous and cultic view of the King James Bible. Rarely do they carefully define the term, though, and as a result a wide variety of Bible-believing men are given a nebulously-defined label.

The term "King James Only" was invented by those who oppose the defense of the King James Bible and its underlying original language texts. It was intended to be a term of approbation, and it is usually defined in terms of extremism.

I have been labeled "King James Only" because of my writings on the subject of Bible texts and versions. To set the record straight, let me explain what I believe. I know that this is also what a large number of other King James Bible defenders believe.

I WILL ACCEPT THE LABEL OF "KING JAMES ONLY" IF IT MEANS THE FOLLOWING:

If "King James Only" defines **one who believes that God has given infallible Scripture in the original Greek and Hebrew writings and that He has preserved that in the Hebrew Masoretic and Greek Received Text and that we have a beautiful translation of it in the English language in the Authorized Version**, call me "King James Only."

If "King James Only" defines **one who believes modern textual criticism is heresy**, call me "King James Only." Prior to the Internet era, I spent hundreds of dollars to obtain the writings of the men who have been at the forefront of developing the theories underlying modern textual criticism, and I have read them. They are not dependable. They refuse to approach the Bible text from a position of faith in divine preservation. Most of them

are out-and-out heretics, and I refuse to lean upon their scholarship. I am convinced they do not have the spiritual discernment necessary to know where the inspired, preserved Word of God is located today.

If "King James Only" defines **one who believes that God has preserved the Scripture in its common use among apostolic churches through the fulfillment of the Great Commission and that He guided the Reformation editors and translators in their choice of the Received Text and that we don't have to start all over today in an to attempt to find the preserved text of Scripture**, call me "King James Only." The theories of modern textual criticism all revolve around the idea that the pure text of Scripture was not preserved in the Reformation text but that the Reformation editors, because of their alleged ignorance and or lack of resources, rejected the best text and chose, instead, an inferior one. In fact, modern textual criticism is predicated upon the theory that the best text of the New Testament (the Egyptian or Alexandrian) was rejected in the earliest centuries and was replaced with a corrupt recension that was created through the conflation of various manuscript readings (the Byzantine or Traditional text) and that the corrupt text became the dominant text throughout most of church history (for 1,500 years) until the best text was rediscovered in the 19th century. You are free to accept such views if it suits you. I, for one, believe it is absolute nonsense.

Similarly, if "King James Only" defines **one who rejects the theory that the "preserved" Word of God was hidden away in the Pope's library and in a weird Greek Orthodox monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai (a monastery which has a room full of the skulls of dead monks) for hundreds of years**, call me "King James Only."

If "King James Only" defines **one who believes that it is necessary to have one biblical standard in a**

language as important as English and who believes that the multiplicity of competing versions has created confusion and has weakened the authority of the Word of God, call me “King James Only.”

ON THE OTHER HAND, I WILL NOT ACCEPT THE LABEL OF “KING JAMES ONLY” IF IT MEANS THE FOLLOWING:

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that the KJV was given by inspiration**, I am *not* “King James Only.” The authority of the King James Bible is the product of preservation, not inspiration. The term “inspiration” refers to the original giving of the Scripture through holy men of old (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). At the same time, I agree with the *Pulpit Commentary* when it says, “We must guard against such narrow, mechanical views of inspiration as would confine it to the Hebrew and Greek words in which it was written, so that one who reads a good translation would not have ‘the words of the Lord.’” To say that the King James Bible is the inspired Word of God in the English language because it is an accurate translation of the preserved Hebrew and Greek is not the same as saying that it was *given by inspiration*.

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes the English KJV is superior to the Hebrew and Greek texts upon which it was based**, I am *not* “King James Only.” In fact, I believe such an idea is pure nonsense, as it would mean the pure and preserved Word of God did not exist before 1611.

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that the King James Bible is advanced revelation** over the Hebrew and Greek texts that God gave through inspiration to holy men of old, I am *not* “King James Only.”

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that we do not need to study Greek and Hebrew today or that it is not important to use lexicons and dictionaries**, I am *not* “King James Only.” God’s people should learn Greek and Hebrew, if possible, and use (with caution and wisdom) study tools. When the Bible says that “holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost,” we know that the words they spake were Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words. But foundational to the study of the biblical languages is a thorough understanding of the textual issue. We must study the *right* Greek and

Hebrew, and we must also be careful of original language study tools, because many of them were produced from a rationalistic perspective and with great bias against the God-blessed Received Text.

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes the preserved Word of God is available only perfectly in English**, I am *not* “King James Only.” The Masoretic Hebrew Old Testament and Greek Received New Testament translated correctly into any language is the preserved Word of God in that language, whether it is German, Spanish, French, Korean, or Nepali.

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that translations in other languages should be based on English rather than (when possible) Greek and Hebrew**, I am *not* “King James Only.”

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that a person can only be saved through the King James Bible**, I am *not* “King James Only.” It is the gospel of Jesus Christ that is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16), and even a Bible that is textually corrupt contains the gospel.

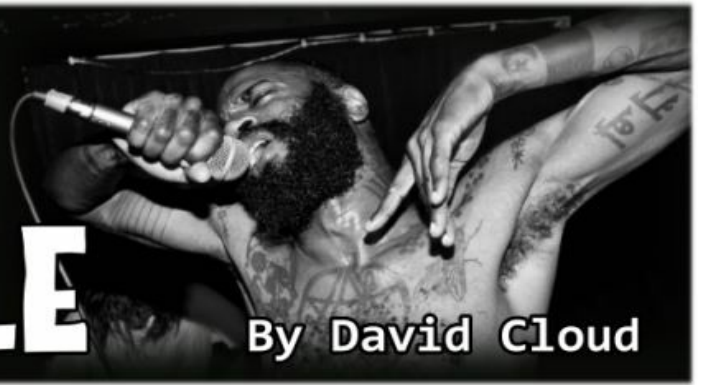
If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that the King James Bible’s antiquated language is holy or who believes the KJV could never again be updated**, I am *not* “King James Only.” I doubt the KJV will ever be replaced in this apostate age, but to say that it is wrong to update the language again after the fashion of the several updates it has undergone since 1611 is not reasonable.

Having dealt extensively with people who speak English as a second or third language, I am very sympathetic to the very real antiquation problem in the King James Bible. At the same time, I am not going to trade an excellent Bible with a few problems due to old language for a Bible filled with error due to a corrupt text and/or a corrupt translation methodology (e.g., dynamic equivalency).

If “King James Only” defines **one who believes that he has the authority to call those who disagree with him “silly asses, morons, and jacklegs,” and to treat them as if they were fools because they refuse to follow his (or her) peculiar views, or if it defines one who threatens to sue those who challenge him (or her)**, I am *not* “King James Only.”

The HIP-HOP DEATHSTYLE

By David Cloud



The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened” (Proverbs 10:27).

“bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in thee” (Psalm 55:23).

“A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction” (Proverbs 13:2-3).

“The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it” (Proverbs 30:17).

“Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?” (Ecclesiastes 7:17).

“As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool” (Jeremiah 17:11).

“But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:20).

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever” (1 John 2:16-17).



Rap/hip-hop* is aggressive music, both in its lyrics, in its sound, and in its attitude, and it is not surprising that it has produced great violence. It is so morally filthy that a large percentage of the lyrics cannot be quoted and practically none of the videos can be shown in decent company. It screams rebellion and insubordination. Probably no other

one influence has so defiled black culture. It is doubtless a major contributor to inner city violence, juvenile delinquency, the corruption of churches, and the destructive phenomenon of absentee fathers.

(* Attempts have been made to distinguish rap music from hip-hop music, and it has been said that rap is the music and hip-hop is the lifestyle, but the terms are commonly used as synonyms. The Grammys for the Hip-Hop category include Rap and R&B.)

VIOLENT, FILTHY MUSIC

Consider some of wicked lyrics by rappers who have won Grammys, the American music industry’s highest honor. Much of the violence is addressed to whites (crackers, devils, honkey), police, and women. For thirty years, this type of thing has filled young people’s minds with moral filth and encouraged them to act violently. Gangsta rap has doubtless been at the forefront of the explosion of rape and murder in black communities.

“From the gang called Niggaz With Attitudes; when I’m called off, I got a sawed off. Squeeze the trigger, and bodies are hauled off. You too, boy, if ya ***** with me. ... Here’s a murder rap to keep yo dancin with a crime record like Charles Manson, AK-47 is the tool” (“Straight Out of Compton,” N.W.A., lyrics by Ice Cube, 1988, this was a pioneer album in “hardcore, gansta rap”).

Ice Cube’s 1991 album *Death Certificate* was a revolutionary rage against the United States. The cover depicted the rapper standing over the corpse of America. The track “I Wanna Kill Sam” blames black troubles on America and foment the most vicious hatred against the nation. The lyrics are vile in the extreme. It could be the theme song for Black Lives Matter and Antifa.

“I got my black shirt on, I got my black gloves on, I got my ski mask on, This ***** been too long, I got my twelve gauge sawed off, I got my headlights turned off I’m ‘bout to bust

some shots off, I'm 'bout to dust some cops off, Cop killer, better you than me; Cop killer, **** police brutality; Cop killer, I know your family's grievin' ... Cop killer, but tonight we get even; I got my brain on hype; Tonight'll be your night; I got this **** knife; And your neck looks just right; My adrenaline's pumpin'; I got my stereo bumpin'; I'm 'bout to kill me somethin'; A pig stopped me for nuthin' ("Cop Killer," Ice-T, 1992). Most of the lyrics consist of vile, repetitive cursing of police.

"Kill the white people; we gonna make them hurt" ("Kill d'White People," Apache, 1993).

"A fight, a fight, a [black] and a white, if the [black] don't win then we all jump in ... smoking all [of] America's white boys" ("A Fight," Apache, 1993).

"Now I'm black but black people trip [become upset] 'cause white people like me; white people like me but don't like them ... I don't hate whites, I just gotta death wish for ***** that ain't right" ("Race War," Ice-T, 1993).

"Where you gonna go when the brothers wanna bust a shot ... where you gonna go when I wanna kill bloodclot ... bust a glock, bust a glock, devils get shot" ("Enemy," Ice-T, 1993).

"What do blacks do; they just keep on blowing devils away ... evil ***** cracker ... I'm tightening up the laces to my steel-toed boots, so I can walk, stomp; we stomp this devil down in the park" ("Planet of da Apes," Da Lench Mob, 1994).

"These devils make me sick; I love to fill them full of holes; kill them all in the daytime, broad ***** daylight; 12 o'clock, grab the Glock; why wait for night" ("Sweatin Bullets," Brand Nubian, 1994).

"I kill a devil right now ... I say kill whitey all night long ... I stabbed a ***** Jew with a steeple ... I would kill a cracker for nothing, ... Menace Clan kill a cracker; jack 'em even quicker ... catch that devil slipping; blow his ***** brains out" ("***** a Record Deal," Menace Clan, Da Hood, 1995).

"Niggas in the church say: kill whitey all night long ... the white man is the devil. ... I got the .380; the homies think I'm crazy because I shot a white baby; I said; I said; I said: kill whitey all night long ... nigga, I'm gonna blast ... I beat a white boy to the **** ground" ("Kill Whitey," Menace Clan, Da Hood, 1995).

"Actual fact you need to be black ... everyday I fight a devil

... I grab a shovel to bury a devil ... grab my bazooka and nuke a devil ... with black, I build; for black, I kill" ("Fightin the Devil," RBX, 1995).

"Get them devil-made guns and leave them demons bleeding; give them back whips, and just feed them bullets" ("Wicked Ways," Sunz of Man, 1995).

"Waiting for the crackers; smuggle; his mug is in the gutters ... so we need your participation in the Caucasian assassination; time is wasting ... so who is in association with the *** retaliation; it needs your total cooperation ... a confrontation will be fought by the younger generation; because we got determination; all we need is organization" ("Purse Snatchers," Onyx, 1995).

"... sticking guns in crackers' mouths ... the cops can't stop it ... coming to a corner near you, cracker; we've been through your area, mass hysteria" ("Mad Nigga," Menace Clan, 1995).

"To all my Universal Soldier's: stay at attention while I strategize an invasion; the mission be assassination, snipers hitting Caucasians with semi-automatic shots heard around the world; my plot is to control the globe and hold the world hostage ... see, I got a war plan more deadlier than Hitler ... lyrical specialist, underworld terrorist ... keep the unity thick like mud ... I pulling out gats [handguns], launching deadly attacks" ("Blood for Blood," Killarmy, 1997).

"I love black women and I hate ***** crackers ... I destroyed a whole city like Sodom and Gomorrah or Babylon ... devils choke from the gunsmoke ... I'm swelling devils' melons ... solo pro-morgue supplier" ("Graveyard Chamber," Gravediggaz, 1997).

"Listen to this black visionary, bringing war like a revolutionary ... go on a killing spree, putting devils out their misery; hearing screams, sounds of agony; my hostility takes over me" ("Under Siege," Killarmy, 1997).

"I bleed them next time I see them ... I pray on these devils ... look what it has come to; who you gonna run to when we get to mobbing ... filling his body up with lead, yah; cracker in my way; slitting, slit his throat; watch his body shake; watch his body shake; that's how we do it in the ***** [San Francisco] Bay ...sitting on the dock of the dirty with my AK" ("Heat--featuring Jet and Spice 1," Paris, Unleashed, 1998).

Since 1999, Eminem (real name Marshall Mathers) has

been one of the biggest names in hip hop. He has sold more than 220 million records, and in 2015 *Billboard* magazine named him one of “the greatest rappers of all time.” Eminem’s 1999 album *The Slim Shady LP*, which launched him to rapper stardom, featured a “drug-dealing, bloodthirsty thug who spits furious rhymes about murder, rape, drugs and living by the law of the urban jungle.” Slim Shady is the rapper’s “alter ego.” He claims it’s all just entertainment, like a horror movie (“Robert Hilburn, “Has He No Shame?” *Los Angeles Times*, May 14, 2000). The vicious song “Just the Two of Us” (also called “97 Bonnie and Clyde”) is about a man who kills the mother of his child and has the following conversation with his daughter on the way to dispose of the body: “Where’s mama? She’s just taking a little nap in the trunk/ Oh, that smell? Dada must have runned over a skunk.” Mathers actually used his young daughter’s vocals in this vile song. He said later that he and his girlfriend, Kim, were not getting along at the time and that he actually wanted to murder her like that.

Eminem’s 2000 *The Marshall Mathers* album was described by a secular music reviewer as “an hour-plus of vile, hate-filled spew, dripping with references to rape, murder and violence toward women, gays and pretty much anyone Eminem doesn’t like. On the opening track, the rapper even threatens to rape and kill his estranged mother” (Dan Durchholz, “Eminem tops the charts,” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, June 25, 2000). The song “Kim” is a vicious rant of anger and hatred toward the rapper’s wife, climaxing in her murder. He drives her to the woods, where she tries to run away but is caught, and he slits her throat while screaming, “Bleed ... Bleed!” The song ends with the sound of a body being dragged through the grass and thrown into the trunk of the car. (“97 Bonnie and Clyde” begins with this scene and describes the burial of the body.) Mathers admitted that he wrote the song about his own wife and that he was filled with hatred when he created the lyrics. He said he wanted “to scream” (Eminem, *Angry Blond*, 2000). When he played the song to his wife, he told her, “[I]t shows how much I care about you. To even think about you this much. To even put you on a song like this.” Murderous “love” is not love. The “love” of rock/hip hop is not love, it is lust. God’s Word defines real love. “Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil” (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

Countless hip hop-loving men have murdered their wives and “baby mammas,” but of course this has nothing to do with the music and the culture it has created. It’s just entertainment. It’s just art. Wink, wink.

By 2017, neither hip hop in general nor the 45-year-old Mathers in particular had made moral progress, still spewing out filth and anger and rebellion and subversion and violence. Eminem appeared on the song “No Favors” in Big Sean’s album *I Decided*, calling President Trump vile names and rapping about brutally raping conservative commentator Ann Coulter. It’s just harmless art, of course. It doesn’t affect anyone.

BLACK VIOLENCE

“In New York from January to June 2008, 83 percent of all gun assailants were black, according to witnesses and victims, though blacks were only 24 percent of the population. Blacks and Hispanics together accounted for 98 percent of all gun assailants. Forty-nine of every 50 muggings and murders in the Big Apple were the work of black or Hispanic criminals. New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly confirms [these] facts. Blacks and Hispanics commit 96 percent of all crimes in the city, he says ... After researching the FBI numbers for *Suicide of a Superpower*, this writer concluded: ‘An analysis of single offender victimization figures from the FBI for 2007 finds blacks committed 433,934 crimes against whites, eight times the 55,685 whites committed against blacks. Interracial rape is almost exclusively black on white—with 14,000 assaults on white women by African Americans in 2007. Not one case of a white sexual assault on a black female was found in the FBI study.’ Though blacks are outnumbered 5-to-1 in the population by whites, they commit eight times as many crimes against whites as the reverse. By those 2007 numbers, a black male was 40 times as likely to assault a white person as the reverse. If interracial crime is the ugliest manifestation of racism, what does this tell us about where racism really resides — in America? ... Today, 73 percent of all black kids are born out of wedlock. Growing up, these kids drop out, use drugs, are unemployed, commit crimes and are incarcerated at many times the rate of Asians and whites — or Hispanics, who are taking the jobs that used to go to young black Americans. Are white vigilantes or white cops really Black America’s problem?” (Patrick Buchanan, “Black America’s Real Problem Isn’t White Racism,” *Human Events*, July 19, 2013).

RAPPER DEATHS

For a list of rapper deaths, see the report “[Rapper Hip-Hop Deathstyle](https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/rapper_deathstyle.html)” at https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/rapper_deathstyle.html



The cicadas (pronounced si-kah-da) are a large superfamily of about 3,000 species of insects called Cicadoidea, but the cicada we are interested in for this report is the *Magicicada* periodical cicada of North America which has an amazing life cycle. They spend most of their lives as underground nymphs and emerge like clockwork in intervals of 13 or 17 years. They are called periodical cicada because the nymphs are developmentally synchronized to emerge at the same time according to a preset biological clock.

Cicadas have often been confused with locusts, but they are a different creature.

The adult cicada are large insects with black head, thorax, and abdomen, small antennae, large compound red eyes, three simple eyes, six sets of legs, and two sets of transparent wings with bright orange veins. They are about two inches long.

Microscopic analysis has found that the cicada wings are covered with minute spikes and chemicals that create a water-repellent film that removes dirt, keeps their wings dry, and also kills bacteria by literally tearing them apart as they are moved across the wing ("Biophysical Model of Bacterial Cell Interactions," *Biophysical Journal*, Feb. 2013). Scientists are trying to replicate the design of the cicada wing for a new generation of rain jackets and for bacteria control ("Cicada-inspired waterproof surfaces closer to reality," *Illinois News Bureau*, Oct. 22, 2020).

The cicada has a life cycle of three stages: egg, nymph, and adult. It is a dramatic process of metamorphosis, as with butterflies and some other insects.

The *Magicicada* nymphs are developmentally synchronized and emerge in great numbers from underground exactly on time in the spring of the 13th or

17th year, depending on the brood. It has been estimated that there can be more than 1.5 million insects per acre (Williams, Smith, and Stephen, "Emergence of 13-year periodical cicadas," *Ecology*, 1993).

During the brief mating season, they make a huge racket by means of drum-like tymbals on each side of the abdomen. The tymbal is made of resilin and when buckled by the insect's muscle, it unbuckles automatically when the muscle is relaxed. The male's abdomen is nearly hollow and acts as a resonating chamber for the tymbals. Each species produces its own distinctive mating songs by modulating the clicks.

The female detects the male's signals by means of a membranous structure called tympana. Males also have tympana, and when signaling with their tymbals the tympana are disabled so as not to be deafened.

Thousands of mating adult cicadas make a noise that is nearly deafening. The Australian species can produce sounds up to 120 dB, the loudest of all insects. The ones in North America have been measured at 106 dB, which is like standing near a chainsaw. William Bradford, governor of Plymouth Colony, wrote the first known account of this in 1633. He said the insects "made such a constant yelling noise as made the woods ring of them, and ready to deafen the hearers" (*Bradford's History of Plymouth Plantation*, 1606-1646).

After mating, the females cut slits on bark or branches and deposit their eggs (600 or more in batches of 10 to 20). Both males and females die within two to six weeks of emerging from the soil, thus ending the life cycle that began so many years before.

When the eggs hatch after about 6 weeks, the nymphs drop to the ground and burrow into holes, disappearing

for 13 to 17 years, depending on the brood. (Other species of cicadas emerge in two to five years.) The nymphs have strong front legs for digging. They drink sap from tree roots and go through five stages of development called molting, each time shedding their exoskeletons for new ones. As they grow, they dig deeper into the ground to find new roots, tunneling as much as eight feet or more. In addition to sustenance from root juice, they are dependent on three types of symbiotic bacteria called *Hodgkinia* that provide essential vitamins and nutrients. ("Feeding ecology and evidence for amino acid synthesis," *Journal of Insect Physiology*, 2011, 57, p. 211-219). All three types of bacteria must be present.

In the spring of the pre-programmed emergent year, the nymphs dig tunnels to the surface and wait for the right time to emerge, which is when the soil a few inches deep reaches about 64 degrees F.

After emergence they climb a tree and make a final molt of their exoskeleton to complete the transformation into adults. At first their wings are soft and useless and they must wait about six days to complete the hardening of their wings and bodies. The males then congregate in "chorus centers" on shrubs and trees to call the females.

In his "Garden Book," Thomas Jefferson recorded 17-year cicadas emerging in 1724, 1741, 1758, and 1775.

Fifteen broods of *Magicalicada* have been identified, each brood emerging after a 13 or 17 year cycle. Brood X, a 17-year brood, emerged in the spring of 2021 across 14 states, and I witnessed this at the Meadowlark Botanical Garden in Virginia in June. If Jesus tarries, Brood X will reappear in 2038. In 2024, two broods are set to emerge: Brood XIX, a 13-year brood, and Brood XIII, a 17-year brood.

THE CRICKET'S SUPER BAT ALARM (Friday Church News Notes, May 20, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from creationmoments.com, December 28, 2020: "The swiftly moving bat cuts almost invisibly through the darkness, silent to all but those who can hear its ultrasonic radar. What chance does a poor night-flying cricket--prized as a tasty bat snack--have? Let's treat this problem as if *you* were the Creator, faced with the problem of giving your night-flying cricket a chance against its predator. Of course, you could design the cricket so that it would stay in its hiding place at night, but then you wouldn't have a night-flying cricket. You could give the cricket the ability to hear the bat's radar, but that alone won't help the cricket if he can't get to safety. The solution our true Creator has invented to help the cricket



preserve its life is another example of His engineering excellence. He has built the cricket with a single-celled bat detector that is wired into the cricket's nervous system. The detector is triggered by the frequency that bats use for navigation. When triggered, the cell fires off up to 500 impulses per second. These impulses automatically cause the cricket to steer away from the source of the ultrasound. The most impressive engineering fact about this bat detector is that it only works if the cricket is in flight and therefore vulnerable to bats. When crickets are safe from bats--resting, hiding, eating or preening--the bat detector cell doesn't fire any warning at all! The precise elegance that the Creator has designed into the cricket for its protection is a witness to His wisdom in caring for all that He has created. Learn more about that wisdom in the Bible. Author: Paul A. Bartz; ref: Shreeve, James, 1985, 'The great cricket escape,' *Science* 85, May, p. 83."



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).

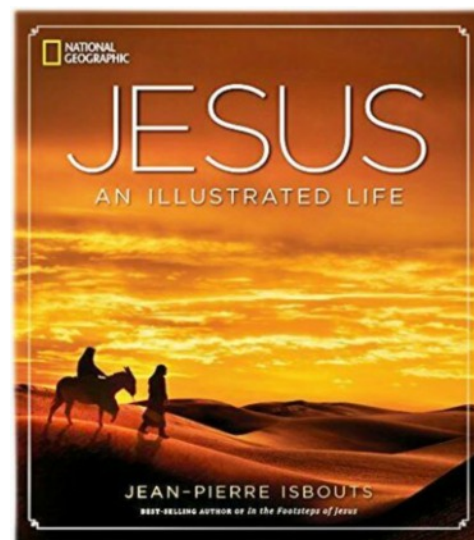
As in Ezekiel's day much of the apostasy of our hour is hidden from the view of the average Christian. We intend by God's grace to "dig in the walls" of modern ecumenism and to expose and cry out against the things we find. In this section we also report on secular events which are relevant to Christians. May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to obey. Is the truth of God not worthy of defense?



STATUE OF GODDESS ANAK DISCOVERED IN GAZA (Friday Church News Notes, May 6, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A Palestinian farmer in southern Gaza recently discovered the head of a statue of Anat, a Canaanite goddess. The head is 8.6 inches high and is crowned with a serpent (Ancient Origins, Apr. 26, 2022). A sister of Baal, Anat was one of the fertility mother-goddesses that were worshipped by orgies. She was also the goddess of war against Baal's enemies. "Anat appears as a fierce, wild and furious warrior in a battle, wading knee-deep in blood, striking off heads, cutting off hands, binding the heads to her torso and the hands in her sash" (Wikipedia). Anat was worshipped in various places under manifold names and myths, including Inanna, Ishtar, Aphrodite, Isis, Venus, Nerthus, and Freyja.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S ATTACK ON JESUS AND THE BIBLE (Friday Church News Notes, May 6, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Over the past century, mainstream media has launched a relentless attack on the deity of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Bible. The latest example is National Geographic's special publication *Jesus: An Illustrated Life*. The false Christ presented herein did not come as the fulfillment of Bible prophecy,

was not the eternal Son of God, was not infallible, did not die as the Lamb of God by a vicarious, substitutionary atonement, and might or might not have been born of a virgin and risen from the dead. According to this report, the Gospel of Luke was written in about 80 AD; Daniel was written in about BC 200 (after the fulfillment of many of his prophecies); Jesus learned His skill with the Scriptures from the rabbis; Jesus' baptism was His anointing as the Christ; Jesus "may have been inspired by prophets such as Amos, Micah, and Hosea"; Jesus thought the kingdom of God "would come about as a grassroots movement"; Jesus' healings "involved some exchange of energy" which is "a core concept of various schools of non-Western or holistic medicine"; the recording of the miracles in the Gospels might be the product of "oral transmission and redaction"; Jesus probably could not read Hebrew; the Pharisees "genuinely welcomed" Jesus' opinions, "believed his ideas had merit," and "had considerable sympathy for what Jesus was trying to accomplish"; Jesus was "in many ways a man of His time"; Jesus "developed a quite different view of God" from the Old Testament view; there are "discrepancies between the



Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John” and “perhaps the most trustworthy account is that of Mark” which “may have been based on a separate Passion tradition known as the ‘Cross Gospel’”; Jesus “was not aware” that the money changers had been relocated from the Mt. of Olives to the temple; Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13-14 are not Messianic prophecies but are “beautiful, rousing poetry”; Mark’s description of Christ’s trial “is probably more accurate than the fully developed trial described in the later Gospels”; Jesus “died of asphyxiation, compounded by shock and loss of blood.” These tired liberal views have been refuted, but the fundamental issue is not evidence, but unbelieving skepticism. In fact, the unyielding skepticism of this age is a fulfillment of Bible prophecy and is therefore further evidence of the Bible’s supernatural inspiration. “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...” (2 Peter 3:3-4).

TEMPLE INSTITUTE PRACTICES BURNING THE RED HEIFER (Friday Church News Notes, May 6, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Temple Institute has burnt a red heifer in its preparations toward building Israel’s Third Temple (*Israel Today*, May 2, 2022). Under the Levitical system, a red heifer was sacrificed and its ashes were used to make the water of separation. “And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay *them* up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin” (Nu. 19:9). The water of separation

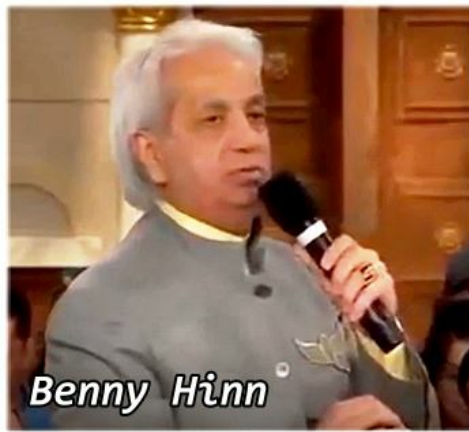


was required for ritual cleansing whenever someone came into contact with anything pertaining to the dead (Nu. 19:11, 14-16). The Temple Institute confuses ritual with spiritual reality and misapplies Bible prophecy. In its report of the burning of the red heifer, *Israel Today* states, “[A]ccording to Ezekiel 36 [verses 25-26], only the sprinkling of the Red Heifer water allows for the complete change of heart and spirit (‘then I shall sprinkle pure waters upon you, and you shall be clean, from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. I will also give you a new heart, and I will place within you a new spirit’).” It should be obvious that the sprinkling of water cannot change the heart or impart a new spirit. This can only be done by a supernatural act of the Spirit of God, and it will be done when Israel repents of her sin against God. This is described a few verses later in Ezekiel 36:31, “Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.” This refers to the New Covenant that God will make with Israel, which is yet the future. There will be great repentance, including repentance of rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom**

they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn” (Zechariah 12:10). In that day, God will write His law on the hearts and all of redeemed Israel shall know the Lord. “But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: **for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them,** saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more” (Jeremiah 31:33-34). The entire Levitical system, including the water of purification, pointed to the coming of Christ as the Lamb of God, and Jesus was identified as such by John the Baptist. “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

BENNY HINN’S REPENTANCE NOT LIKE THAT OF ZACCHAEUS (Friday Church News Notes, May 6, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A little over two years ago, Pentecostal healing evangelist Benny Hinn said he was correcting his theology. “I’m sorry to say that prosperity has gone a little crazy and I’m correcting my own theology and you need to all know it. Because when I read the Bible now, I don’t see the Bible in the same eyes I saw 20 years ago. I think it’s an offense to the Lord, it’s an offense to say give

\$1,000. I think it's an offense to the Holy Spirit to place a price on the Gospel. I'm done with it. I will never again ask you to give \$1,000 or whatever amount, because I think the Holy Ghost is just fed up with it" (Sept. 2, 2019). The prosperity gospel made Hinn and his family millions, as documented in his nephew's book *God, Greed, and the Prosperity Gospel*. If Hinn were truly repentant, he would follow Zacchaeus' example. "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold" (Lu. 19:8). Millions have attended Hinn's crusades, watched his television programs, and read his books, and the prosperity gospel is only one of his many heresies. The man is a lying false prophet. He allegedly had his first vision of Jesus at age 11 and had an eight-hour private conversation with the Holy Spirit (Hinn, *Rise and Be Healed*, pp. 1, 22). Hinn tosses the "anointing of the Holy Spirit" like a baseball and "slays people in the spirit" by blowing on them. He teaches the heresy that healing is promised in Christ's atonement. "God is not going to heal you now--he healed you 2,000 years ago. All you have to do today is receive your healing by faith" (Hinn, *Rise and Be Healed*, p. 44). He said, "We must never say, 'If it be thy will, Lord.'" Though Hinn claimed that one thousand people were healed at each of his "miracle services," researchers were unable to verify any healings (*Florida Magazine*, Nov. 24, 1991). Hinn's ministry sent Hank Hanegraaff three prime examples of the supposed thousands of healings that have occurred through his ministry, including the case of the healing of colon cancer, but when Dr. Preston Simpson investigated he found that



the colon tumor had been surgically removed rather than miraculously healed and that the other two cases were also bogus (Hank Hanegraaff, *What's Wrong with the Faith Movement*, Part 1, <http://www.equip.org/free/DC755-1.htm>). Anthony Thomas followed up on five of Hinn's best healing cases for a year and concluded, "In my experience, there was nothing that we saw that in any way could qualify as a miracle" ("Documentary Questions Healing Miracles," *Christian News*, April 30, 2001, p. 19). NBC television's *Dateline* program asked Hinn's ministry to provide confirmation of the 56 cases of healing that were claimed at one of his crusades. Hinn's people could only come up with five cases of what they called "irrefutable and medically proven miracles," but when *Dateline* researched these cases they found that only one of the people could provide medical records, and her doctor suspected that the woman never had the Lou Gehrig's disease she claimed to have been healed of (*Charisma Online*, Feb. 20, 2003). On Sunday, April 30, 2000, four people died in Nairobi, Kenya, during a Benny Hinn "Miracle Crusade" (Reuters News Service, "Four Die Waiting for 'Miracle' Cures," May 4, 2000). They had been released from a hospital to be cured at Hinn's meeting.

GIVE UNCLEANNESS A WIDE BERTH (Friday Church News Notes, May 6, 2022, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from Harry Ironside's commentary on First Corinthians. It was first preached in 1934 at Moody Memorial Church in Chicago: "We are living in a day when uncleanness is everywhere. Our modern novels are reeking with it, our newspaper stands are filled with vile pornographic literature that came from hell, and men are enriching themselves by poisoning the minds of our young people. The pictures they see, the songs that come over the radio, many are filled with suggestions of impurity and uncleanness. How sternly the Christian Church needs to set its face against everything of this kind. We should have no compromise whatever with impurity. People see the pictures, read the books, listen to the songs, and they all have their effect upon the flesh, and before you know it men are drifting off into unholy, unclean things because of the constant incitation to them in the music and literature of the day. Let us give everything like that a wide berth."

DISNEY MARKET FREE-FALL (Friday Church News Notes, May 13, 2022, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Disney's Market," *PJMedia*, May 4, 2022: "David Ng at *Breitbart* is reporting that The Walt Disney Company has lost a whopping \$63 billion in market capitalization over the past two months. 'Shares of Disney have plummeted 23.5 percent since the start of March, falling from \$145.70,' Ng writes. 'Market cap is down \$62.6 billion, from \$265.3 to \$202.7 billion.' ... Disney's stock has performed poorly over the past several



months, dropping 30% over the past year. Much, though not all, of this stems directly from Disney's decision to speak out on Florida's Parental Rights in Education bill, which the legislature passed into law and Gov. Ron DeSantis signed at the end of March. The Democrats and their willing accomplices in the media falsely dubbed it the 'Don't Say Gay Bill,' which triggered the LGBTQ lobby among Disney cast members to pressure CEO Bob Chapek to stick the company's nose into the state's business. [Since Florida's Parental Rights in Education law merely forbids public schools from teaching transsexualism to children from kindergarten to third grade, Disney is calling for homosexual indoctrination of the youngest children.] ... On top of Disney's newfound woke activism, the public found out that some of Disney's creative executives are dedicated to doubling down on LGBTQ content for kids and families. ... All of this wokeness on Disney's part has backfired, to the point where CEOs of other companies of all sizes are viewing Disney's antics as an example of what *not* to do."

GRANDCHILDREN SING AS GRANDMOTHER IS EUTHANIZED IN CHURCH SANCTUARY (Friday Church News Notes, May 13, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from

"Children, Grandchildren Sing," *The Dissenter*, May 5, 2022: "The elders at Churchill Park United in Winnipeg, Manitoba, unanimously voted to carry out the recently-legalized form of government-sanctioned medical murder in the sanctuary of the church. According to *Broadview*, a United Church of Christ (UCC) publication, Betty Sanguin, with an amyotrophic lateral sclerosis diagnosis [Lou Gehrig's disease] and whose age is left unreported, was brought in on a stretcher around noon on March 9 to have the procedure carried out. ... 'As the sun streamed through the stained glass windows in the music-filled sanctuary,' the obituary continues, 'surrounded by her children, grandchildren and close friends, Betty hosted a simple Crossing Over Ceremony and then let go of her hold on this life.' ... The *Broadview* reports: 'During the ceremony, two of Sanguin's grandchildren sang *Let Your Light Shine on Me* and everyone joined in for *How Great Thou Art*. Sanguin waved her arms along to the music. Sanguin had prepared a playlist for the event, which was mostly gospel music--a lifelong love of hers.' This is seriously unfathomable. But it comes as no surprise [since] the United Church of Christ employs atheist 'pastors' and leaders. 'Afterwards, the minister of Churchill Park United, Rev. Dawn Rolke, offered a blessing, the report continued. 'Each of Betty's six



children placed their hands on her as Rolke invited Sanguin to go in peace.'"

NORTH CAROLINA LT. GOVERNOR - "AIN'T BUT TWO GENDERS" (Friday Church News Notes, May 13, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)



North Carolina Lt. Governor Mark Robinson speaks the truth regardless of how unpopular. Bolder than the vast majority of preachers, Robinson made the following remarks in August 2021 at Upper Room Church of God in Raleigh, NC: "Something else I'm not supposed to say: Ain't but two genders. Two genders. Ain't nothing but men and women. You can go to the doctor and get cut up. You can go down to the dress shop and get made up. You can go down there and get drugged up. But at the end of the day, you're just a drugged up, dressed up, made up, cut up man or a woman. You ain't changed what God put in you--that DNA. You can't transcend God's creation, I don't care how hard you try. If there is a movement in this country that is demonic, and is full of the spirit of antichrist, it is the transgender movement. ... It's time for grown-ups and time for Christians to start standing up and being unafraid to tell the truth. I'm not afraid to stand up and tell the truth about that issue. They're dragging our kids into the pit of hell, trying to teach 'em that mess

in our schools.” **CONCLUDING NOTE:** The widespread acceptance of homosexuality, with its endless perversions and insanities [i.e., multiple sexes], is a sign of the end times. The Lord Jesus Christ prophesied that the days preceding His return will be like those of Sodom. “Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed *them* all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:28-30). It is high time for all sinners, both “straight and gay,” to repent and flee to Christ for salvation before it is too late.

TEACHER WHO SEES RAMPANT TECH ADDICTION SENDS OWN KIDS TO SCREEN-FREE SCHOOL (Friday Church News Notes, May 13, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “As a Teacher Who Sees Rampant Tech Addiction,” *The Federalist*, May 6, 2022: “Many of today’s children are ignorant, sad, and set up for failure. They lack the knowledge and skills to perform basic tasks. They are lonely and suffer from depression and anxiety. Also, as Mark Bauerlein explains in his book ‘The Dumbest Generation Grows

Up,’ they are incredibly immature. The reasons for this are not a mystery. One top answer is actually incredibly simple: screens. Instead of learning about their world and participating in it, the majority of young people are glued to their devices, playing video games, scrolling through social media, and streaming videos. ... tablets and smartphones have radically transformed the school experience from what it used to be. Those who taught before screens wouldn’t even recognize today’s classrooms, and those who taught afterward wouldn’t even believe what students of the past were capable of without the help of technology. ... Not only do the screens affect students academically, but also socially. Many students don’t talk anymore, and they will go through the whole school year without making friends. ... It makes sense, then, that in my experience, there’s a strong correlation between students’ academic performance and the time they spend on their phones. ... There’s also the serious problem of what the kids are actually doing on their screens--much of which is not age-appropriate. ... For a few years now, my wife and I have held strong with our three toddlers, keeping our house screen-free. On one hand, this means we have to actively monitor and supervise them from the time they wake up to the time they go to bed, which can be exhausting and often overwhelming. On the other hand, our children are much more creative, energetic, and mature than most kids their age. More importantly, they are happier and we have a close relationship with them. To maintain a screen-free environment, we’ve also opted to send our children to a classical charter school that prohibits smartphones and tablets. ... This is

why countries like France have banned smartphones from public schools altogether, or why fancy prep schools in Silicon Valley like the Waldorf Academy do the same.”

SUICIDE OF THE LIBERALS (Friday Church News Notes, May 13, 2022, www.wayoflife.org,

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

- The following is excerpted from “Suicide of the Liberals” by Gary Saul Morson, *First Things*, Oct. 2020. Dr. Morson is Lawrence B. Dumas Professor of the Arts and Humanities at Northwestern University. “Between 1900 and 1917, waves of unprecedented terror struck Russia. Several parties professing incompatible ideologies competed (and cooperated) in causing havoc. Between 1905 and 1907, nearly 4,500 government officials and about as many private individuals were killed or injured. Between 1908 and 1910, authorities recorded 19,957 terrorist acts and revolutionary robberies, doubtless omitting many from remote areas. As the foremost historian of Russian terrorism, Anna Geifman, observes, ‘Robbery, extortion, and murder became more common than traffic accidents.’ Anyone wearing a uniform was a candidate for a bullet to the head or sulfuric acid to the face. Country estates were burnt down (‘rural illuminations’) and businesses were extorted or blown up. Bombs were tossed at random into railroad carriages, restaurants, and theaters. Far from regretting the death and maiming of innocent bystanders, terrorists boasted of killing as many as possible, either because the victims were likely bourgeois or because any murder helped bring down the old order. A group of anarcho-communists threw bombs laced with nails into a café bustling with two hundred customers in order ‘to see





Gary Saul Morson

how the foul bourgeois will squirm in death agony.’ Instead of the pendulum’s swinging back--a metaphor of inevitability that excuses people from taking a stand--the killing grew and grew, both in numbers and in cruelty. Sadism replaced simple killing. As Geifman explains, ‘The need to inflict pain was transformed from an abnormal irrational compulsion experienced only by unbalanced personalities into a formally verbalized obligation for all committed revolutionaries.’ One group threw ‘traitors’ into vats of boiling water. Others were still more inventive. Women torturers were especially admired. How did educated, liberal society respond to such terrorism? What was the position of the Constitutional Democratic (Kadet) Party and its deputies in the Duma (the parliament set up in 1905)? **Though Kadets advocated democratic, constitutional procedures, and did not themselves engage in terrorism, they aided the terrorists in any way they could.** Kadets collected money for terrorists, turned their homes into safe houses, and called for total amnesty for arrested terrorists who pledged to continue the mayhem. Kadet Party central committee member N. N. Shchepkin declared that the party did not regard terrorists as criminals at all, but as saints and martyrs. The official Kadet paper, *Herald of the Party of People’s Freedom*, never published an article

condemning political assassination. The party leader, Paul Milyukov, declared that ‘all means are now legitimate ... and all means should be tried.’ When asked to condemn terrorism, another liberal leader in the Duma, Ivan Petrunkevich, famously replied: ‘Condemn terror? That would be the moral death of the party!’ Not just lawyers, teachers, doctors, and engineers, but even industrialists and bank directors raised money for the terrorists. Doing so signaled advanced opinion and good manners. A quote attributed to Lenin--‘When we are ready to kill the capitalists, they will sell us the rope’ ... **True to their word, when the Bolsheviks gained control, their organ of terror, the Cheka, ‘liquidated’ members of all opposing parties, beginning with the Kadets.**”

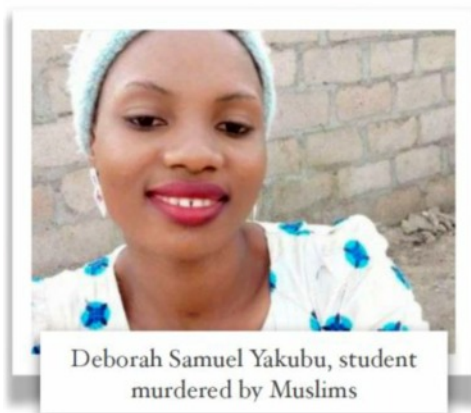
FEMALE “MINISTER” TO LEAD WORSHIP AT 2022 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION (Friday Church News Notes, May 20, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The Southern Baptist Executive Committee tweeted on May 10 that Abbie Maggio will be leading worship at the Southern Baptist Convention 2022. Maggio is “Worship Arts Minister” at Redemption Church, Saraland, Alabama. At Redemption Church, the male ministry leaders are called “pastors” while the females are called “ministers,” perhaps to avoid the Southern Baptist Convention’s Scriptural ban on female pastors. Regardless of the title, it is not Scriptural for a women to lead a mixed congregation in worship. “But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence” (1 Timothy 2:12).



Abbie Maggio

There are two restrictions here: teaching men and leading men. The church also ignores the Bible’s command not to be conformed to the world (Romans 12:2), clearly aping the world’s musical sound and presentation (e.g., music styles, singing styles, front and center focus on singers and musicians, large screen projection of artists, spotlights, sensual moving).

MUSLIM MOB BURNS FEMALE CHRISTIAN STUDENT ALIVE IN NIGERIA (Friday Church News Notes, May 20, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Muslim Mob,” *PJMedia*, May 12, 2022: “Earlier today, a Muslim mob beat and burned to death a female Christian student in Nigeria. She was apparently accused of ‘blasphemy.’ A brief video clip shows a massive fire against a wall, where the hapless woman was likely driven and cornered, and Muslims jumping around it and crying ‘Allahu Akbar.’ One man, dressed in traditional Muslim attire, triumphantly jabbars while waving around a box of matches--perhaps the same used to ignite the fire. The Christian girl had apparently challenged a group of Muslim students spreading Islamic propaganda, thereby rousing their ire, in a nation where Christians are being purged in a genocide (and where just two days ago, 29 other Christians



Deborah Samuel Yakubu, student
murdered by Muslims

were hacked to death by Muslims). The incident occurred on the grounds of the Shehu Shagari College of Education. ... This is certainly not the first time a Muslim mob burned Christians alive on the charge that they had ‘blasphemed’ against Islam. Most notably, in 2015, a Muslim ‘mob accused of burning alive a Christian couple in an industrial kiln in Pakistan allegedly wrapped a pregnant mother in cotton so she would catch fire more easily, according to family members who witnessed the attack,” reported *NBC News*.”

CHURCHES FEATURE “DRAG QUEENS” (Friday Church News Notes, May 20, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from



“Naples Church,” *The Dissenter*, May 15, 2022: “*Drag Queen Story Hour* has been a perversion plaguing public libraries and schools around the nation for several years, but what about Drag Queen prayer time for children during Sunday morning worship at church? In a recent spate of pulpit perversion, churches have been inviting drag queens to come in to address the children as parents willingly hand their kids over ... In December, a church [St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Logan Square, Chicago] hosted a drag queen to have a ‘prayer time’ with children. Earlier this month, another church [Park Slope United Methodist Church in Brooklyn, New York] hosted a drag queen to hold a dance party in lieu of biblical exegesis from a qualified pastor. And a Canadian ‘church’ [St. Mary’s Road United Church in Manitoba] recently hosted an online event with a drag queen posing as God answering prayers. Another church [Naples United Church of Christ, Naples, Florida] will be hosting a ‘Youth Pride Conference’ on May 21 featuring a drag show for ages 12 to 18.” [“Drag queens” are male homosexuals who dress up like women.]

A BIBLICAL MEASURE OF A CHURCH (Friday Church News Notes, May 20, 2022, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Instead of “How many members do you have?” or “How many are you running in Sunday School?” or “What’s your Sunday morning attendance?” or “What was the attendance of your last special day?” or “How many kids were at camp this year?” or “How are the offerings?” biblical questions would look like the following: Are we seeing life-



changing conversions of sinners? What percentage of those who have professed Christ have gone on to be baptized and to grow in Christ and serve Him? What percentage of our members are real Bible students? What percentage faithfully, enthusiastically attend prayer meetings? What percentage of our homes are holy and separated from the world? What percentage of our homes are effectually raising their children for Christ? What percentage of the husbands are the spiritual leaders of their homes and are modeling a serious walk with Christ, Bible study, prayer, love for souls, ministry in the church? What percentage of the wives are modest and spiritual keepers at home? What percentage of the children in the homes are properly disciplined and biblically educated? What percentage of the church’s youth are on fire for the Lord, meaning surrendered to Christ and separated from the world from the heart and testing their friends, music, and social media by God’s Word and being transformed by the renewing of the mind by being serious Bible students and seeking to prove the perfect will of God according to the path of Romans 12? What percentage of the members are actively seeking to share the gospel and win people to Christ as the ambassadors God has called them to be? Does the church have an aggressive program to reach everyone in the community and beyond with the gos-

pel? What percentage of the members participate? Is the church holding the line against the world's music and contemporary Christian music? Is the church being properly educated in this important issue? Is the church seeing men called to preach and is it training men for the ministry? Is the church spiritually stronger today than it was 10 years ago? Is the church starting other sound churches? Is it multiplying itself? If these are the type of questions that preachers are asking, they will have different goals, different plans, different programs, different emphases than most churches today. And they will be laying a foundation to avoid the great collapse that we see on every hand. We live in an apostate age, but we don't have to be apostate. We don't have to go with the flow.

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR DEPARTING TWITTER, WARNS THAT IT IS "MADDENING US ALL" (Friday Church News Notes, May 20, 2022, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Jordan Peterson Announces," *Fox News*, May 16, 2022: "Canadian psychologist and bestselling author Jordan B. Peterson announced that he is 'departing' from Twitter after finding an 'endless flood of vicious insult' on the platform. 'I recently stopped accessing Twitter for three

weeks as an experiment,' Peterson began in a thread on Twitter. 'I had some of my staff post video links etc. It was a genuine relief. I started to read & write more. I started using it again, a few days ago, and I would say that my life got worse again almost instantly.' **'The endless flood of vicious insult is really not something that can be experienced anywhere else,'** the psychologist added. 'I like to follow the people I know but I think the incentive structure of the platform makes it intrinsically and dangerously insane. So I told my staff to change my password, to keep me from temptation, and am departing once again. If I have something to say I'll write an article or make a video. If the issue is not important enough to justify that then perhaps it would be best to just let it go.' ... Peterson, who taught psychology at the University of Toronto from 1999 to 2021, rose to prominence after releasing a series of YouTube videos criticizing Canada's Bill C-16, which barred discrimination on the basis of 'gender identity and expression.' Peterson argued that the bill would make the use of certain gender pronouns 'compelled speech,' and tied this move to political correctness and identity politics."

FEDERAL COURT RULES KANSAS TEACHER CAN SPEAK ACCORDING TO HER RELIGIOUS BELIEFS REGARDING TRANSGENDER STUDENTS (Friday Church News Notes, May 27, 2022, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Federal Court Rules," *Fox News*, May 13, 2022: "A federal court ruled this week that a Kansas teacher is able to communicate honestly with



parents of her transgender students using their preferred name, when different than their given name, in line with her Christian beliefs. School policy currently mandates teachers use preferred names and pronouns of students, and hide that information from parents unless the student consents. Fort Riley, Kansas, middle school teacher Pamela Ricard last year was reprimanded and suspended from school for 'declining to use a name for a student that was inconsistent with the student's biological sex.' ... After being reprimanded, Ricard sued the school, alleging that the policies violated her rights under the First and Fourteenth Amendments. The court ruled this week that the school could not punish Ricard for communicating with parents using the preferred name of students, even if that name was different than the student's legal name. Langhofer said they are working to get the school to adopt a new policy which would 'respect the rights of students, parents and teachers.'"

VERDICT IN: BLACK LIVES MATTER A FRAUD (Friday Church News Notes, May 27, 2022, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

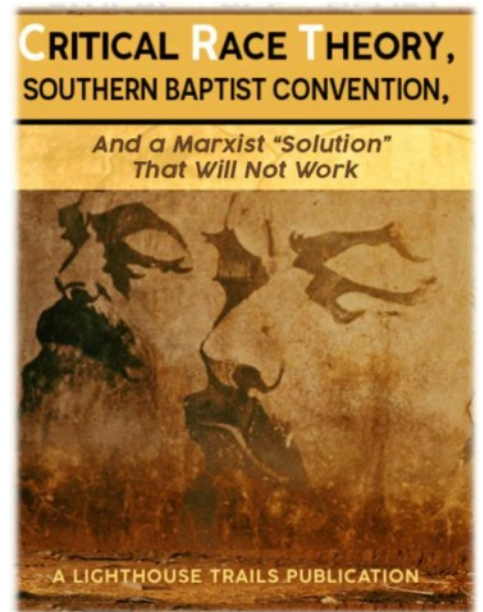
- The following is excerpted from PowerlineBlog, May 17, 2022: "We have written several times about the fraud that has been perpetrated by the founders of the Black Lives Matter





movement ... Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation raised a reported \$90 million, mostly from large corporations. In truth, however, no one knows how much money the operation pulled in, since it hasn't filed its legally required reports. The whole thing has turned out to be a farce, with millions upon millions going to enrich BLM's founders. On May 17, the *Daily Mail Online* revealed that BLM founder Patrisse Cullors paid her baby father \$970,000 for 'creative services.' There is a lesson here. The major corporations that funneled money to BLM obviously didn't know, or care, where their donations were actually going. They perceived that they were paying protection money: if they shoveled millions at BLMGNF, they wouldn't be attacked by that group or its affiliates. What was actually done with the money was no concern of theirs, just as a business that pays protection money to the Mafia doesn't inquire into what the criminals do with the money they extort." **CONCLUDING NOTE:** In April 2021, the *New York Post* reported that BLM co-founder Patrisse Cullors had purchased more than \$3 million worth of luxury real estate. In April 2022, the BLM Global Network Foundation purchased a \$6 million house in California. BLM is being investigated at the national and state level for financial irregularities.

NEW BOOK *CRITICAL RACE THEORY, SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, AND A MARXIST "SOLUTION" THAT WILL NOT WORK* (Friday Church News Notes, May 27, 2022, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A new book [*Critical Race Theory, Southern Baptist Convention, and a Marxist "Solution" That Will Not Work*](#) is available from Lighthouse Trails. Following is an excerpt: "In an article titled 'You Can Be a Christian, You Can Be a Marxist, But You Can't Be Both,' Christian journalist Joshua Lawson explains: 'Whereas traditional garden-variety Marxism views history as a struggle between the wealthy and the working class proletariat, neo-Marxism [i.e., cultural Marxism] cranks up the heat and redefines the fight to incorporate biological sex, race, ethnicity, and a whole gambit of various identity badges. ... The grand unifying principle for the Marxists behind the Black Lives Matter movement is that everything--and they mean everything--can be reduced to oppressors versus the oppressed. If you happen to be a member of one of the oppressor groups, then expect to see all sorts of punishments heading your way until the neo-Marxists are satisfied. Except they never are.' **When we begin to understand that Critical Theory is a Marxist/Leninist ideology that aspires to create a communistic society through revolution, we should also understand that the end result will eliminate freedom, justice, and democracy from all citizens. We should see that CT and CRT are not solutions to racism but rather are dangerous philosophies and vain deceits that will hurt people of all skin colors and where people of color are merely being used as pawns to**



promote a socialist agenda only to be later discarded." [*Critical Race Theory, Southern Baptist Convention, and a Marxist "Solution" That Will Not Work*](#) is available from lighthouse trailsresearch.com.

COVID VACCINE PATHETICALLY INEFFECTIVE (Friday Church News Notes, May 27, 2022, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Vaccination Blues," *PowerLine*, May 18, 2022: "It should be obvious to everyone by now that the covid vaccines have underperformed. After a few months, they provide only minimal protection. [Following is a summary of] the Minnesota numbers, and every other state is no doubt the same if the data can be extracted. Currently, 78% of covid cases are in



fully vaccinated people, as are 67% of hospitalizations. There aren't many deaths, but if we go back to the end of February, 70% of 'covid deaths' are fully vaccinated people. We have here, as Kevin Roche says, an epidemic of the vaxed. Yet the zombie march of vax mandates continues. Unvaccinated athletes are shunned and disqualified, as though they pose a risk to the vaccinated—which never did make any sense, still less given the current numbers. Four Air Force Academy cadets may not graduate because they have not been vaccinated, a procedure that reduces their risk of getting a serious case of covid—let alone someone else's risk!—to no perceptible extent."

MEGACHURCH PASTOR SAYS IT IS OK TO QUESTION GOD

(Friday Church News Notes, May 27, 2022, www.wayoflife.org

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

- Michael Youssef, megachurch pastor, told his congregation that "questioning God is OK" ("Michael Youssef," *Christian Post*, Jan. 26, 2022). This is emerging church



heresy. Rob Bell says that God gives men "the invitation to follow Jesus with all our doubts and questions right there with us" (*Velvet Elvis*, p. 28). Brian McLaren says that we should welcome "the disillusioned and the doubters" (*A Generous Orthodoxy*, p. 172). While it is right to ask sincere questions in the honest search for the truth, it is evil to entertain questions that deny Bible truth. If the Bible says all unbelievers will suffer conscious eternal torment in fire, which it does, we must not entertain questions that speculate if this is a just punishment. If the Bible claims to be the infallible Word of God, which it does, we are not to question how this could be possible. If the Bible says we are not to love

this world, which it does, we are not to question whether this might be a narrow, "legalistic" position. Our questions must be controlled by the Bible, not the Bible by our questions. If a church member asks a question about the deity of Christ or hell, etc., he should be instructed from Scripture. If, though, he refuses to accept the Bible's teaching and persists in his doubt and unbelief and chooses heresy over the truth, he must be put out of the congregation. A qualification for church membership is to continue "steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine" (Acts 2:42). Further, the Bible exalts faith over doubt. "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*" (Heb. 11:6). Jesus rebuked those who doubted (Mt. 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; 16:8) and praised those who had faith (Mt. 8:10; 15:28). The Bible teaches that doubt must be resolved. The Psalmist momentarily doubted in Psalm 73, but his doubt was resolved and he rightly saw himself as a foolish beast for doubting God.

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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)
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