

O Timothy

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

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

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"God made man's amazing singing voice, and like all things, man's singing voice is of him, and through him, and to him, and for His glory (Ro. 11:36). In this present world, the most beautiful voices, typically, are devoted to self-pleasure, self-glorification, and unholiness. It is idolatry. Let God's people refuse to follow the way of the world. Let them use their God-given voices for their Redeemer's glory and pleasure." Page 10.

Digging in the Walls: A month's worth of news items, republished from Friday Church News Notes. **Page 11.**



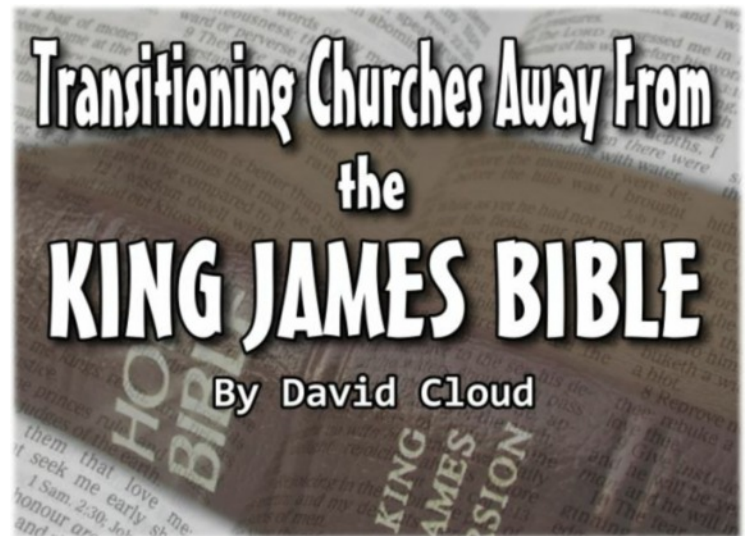
TRANSITIONING CHURCHES AWAY FROM THE KING JAMES BIBLE ~ *By David Cloud*

The Translation Transition" is an interview with Bryan Samms by Luke Clayton at the Church Advance YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gbyr_iNj9E

Shallow Baptist churches that are uneducated in the Bible and in the fundamental issues of the day are ripe for the devil's picking, and they are falling away from the truth on every hand.

Bryan Samms is pastor of River City Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, which under his leadership (beginning in 2016) transitioned from a conservative fundamental Baptist Church to a contemporary evangelical church.

According to his own testimony, after he took the pastorate, he came to a "conviction" that modern versions such as the New King James Version, the New American Standard Version, and the English Standard Version, are



to be preferred above the King James Version. He subsequently transitioned his church to the modern versions.

Now he is teaching other pastors to make the transition.

Samms hosts an annual Church Advance conference. In February 2023, it featured Cary Schmidt, who served for 22 years as the the associate pastor of Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, California. Schmidt currently pastors Emmanuel Baptist Church in Newington, CT, which he has transitioned from a conservative fundamentalist to a contemporary evangelical stance.

Following is an excerpt from the first part of Samms' podcast interview in which he explains how he accomplished the transition away from the King James Bible:



Bryan Samms: The reason for me [to lead my church in making the transition] were two-fold.

First, I became scripturally convinced about the version issue.

Secondly, my children. Honestly, the most important thing to me was my own children. I did not want them growing up in a family where either (a) I told them something I didn't believe, or (b) force them to be hypocrites because they could read a new translation, but couldn't let anybody else know about it.

What am I going to do if I'm in a King James Only church and my kids are reading the ESV? What am I going to

tell them? You can't tell people at church. To memorize Scripture, you are going to have to go over there and use this [KJV], but at home, you know, you can do this [ESV]. I just think that duplicitous thing creates [hypocrisy]. It might be easy for us to do, but it isn't easy for kids to swallow.

[D. Cloud - If you were a pastor of a "KJV only" church and had come to a conviction against the KJV, you could do the honest thing and resign.]

I've told the story many times before, but I believe it is worth repeating. My son was in ABEKA homeschooling curriculum, back during Covid, and I was getting my doctorate at the time. This was the spring of 2020. Schools had shut down. I decided to use the time down from church to finish my doctorate. And my son was doing homework. One of his homework assignments for his Bible class was to read the story of David and Goliath, and I was kinda excited. I said, Man, this is going to be great. I sat down with him to help him with his homework, and he was going to read 1 Samuel 17. And pretty much every other word I'd tell him how to pronounce it, tell him what it means. I'm thinking to myself, Wait, I know the whole story almost by memory. You know what word he's struggling with. You have been through this enough. Finally, he asked me this question: "Well, dad, if it means that why doesn't it just say that?" I said, "That's a great question, dude, a great question." From that point forward, my kids never used the King James again in their devotionals. My two older kids are doing their own devotions. They are reading the ESV. This was long before we did this as a church, or even on air. I just said, "My kids aren't going to go through this." By the time they are 20, this is over. I know, my daughter who is 15 right now, we aren't playing the game anymore. She isn't going to be reading the King James when she is 20. She's not. I mean, I don't have the conviction. She doesn't have the conviction. So I did it for my kids.

The third thing is I did it for the future of my church, feeling like the next pastor cannot be bound by this. Chances are he's likely going to be younger than me. I mean, I'm in my mid 40s now. The chances of me resigning and the next pastor being older than me are slim to none. It's likely going to be young guy. Of course, by that time, I might be 60. So he might be 40. That guy is not going to be King James Only, 9 times out of 10. And [if he were] he certainly would not be interested in my

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David W. Cloud, Editor
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Way of Life Literature
PO Box 610368, Port Huron, MI
48061

866-295-4143 (toll free)
fbns@wayoflife.org
<http://www.wayoflife.org>

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

church. Or he will be in training. So let's go ahead and deal with it.

OK. So, that's the background. Now I bring this into the certainty that I am going to make this change, at my church, and through the podcast, publicly.

Specifically speaking, what steps did I take when I actually made the transition at River City? So I think we should walk through these. I think I wrote down eight steps.

Step 1 is formulate clear biblical convictions on bibliology. Formulate means you need to learn, study, grow, and create your convictions on the matter. You should be able to write a research paper on it, a position paper is what they call them now. This should be clear with you. If you aren't certain, don't do it. "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin." If you are not sure about the move, then don't change, because convictions and clarity must go together. If you going to lead in major change, you'd better be clear. You must formulate your position from the Bible. A conviction means, "I can't change this." I have a conviction about Scripture. I believe it is inspired, and I believe preservation is predominately a reference to original manuscripts. And [in mocking mannerism] I've heard all the guys rooting and tooting on Twitter, "I ain't seen the manuscripts and neither have you." What we mean is that the word "preservation" in the Bible is not speaking of English translations, it is speaking of the Word that God gave, which was not in English. I know that is SO novel, but it is really simple. Once I believe that it is inspired and the original is preserved, then I make my best position on a language translation based upon formal equivalency and readability. It's that simple. You have got to have a Bible that is true to the original languages, and you have got to have a Bible that you can read. Those are convictions. So the King James falls out of line on the second one. The Message falls out of line on the first one. Eugene Peterson never intended for it to be a translation. So if you read it like that, it is a great help, just like the Amplified Version of the Bible. But we wouldn't even consider those as Bibles. They are paraphrases. It's like a commentary. But within the two, I have to pick something that is reliable and that is readable. Those are the issues. Those are my convictions. I believe the Bible is the Word of God. I believe it is preserved in the original manuscripts. Then as far as translation goes, I have to pick something that is reliable and readable. So, because the King James is

not readable to most people, and certainly many parts of it (and that's where Mark Ward comes into the conversation). Once I sorted through all of this theology and then sorted through the book Authorized, the convictions were there. I am literally convicted I am not going to use the King James Version of the Bible in my church, and to my family. So that's it. Now, all of the sudden, something has to change.

[**Luke Clayton:** Q. Are there any translations that you are kinda hesitant on these because of their philosophy of translation?]

Bryan Samms: Sure, you find things that are more intentionally more dynamic in their equivalence. They are trying to convey the thought. [Like the NIV, NLT.] Then there are those who are trying really to be formal. When I made the transition, I told the church that I am recommending five translations to you for your own personal reading, for your family. These are modern translations that are formal in equivalence. New American Standard, New King James Version, English Standard Version, Christian Standard Bible. Then, of course, the NIV is going to be over in the [dynamic equivalency] spectrum. For me, I wanted to be more safe in the reliability, the formal. So, you can over to the NIV or the New Living Translation or the CEB, there are tons of them, but I'm not going to want to use those predominantly for worship. Again, I'm not against people that do. I'm just saying, for me I have the conviction that formal equivalence is a priority, and I can find readability and formal equivalency together. So that's why the ESV was on the table for me, New King James was, and, frankly, Christian Standard Bible was. I may have gone with that if it wasn't so new at the time. So I have versions we would not use as the teaching Bible at the church.

I preached from my New King James in an ESV church, and in the particular text I was preaching from there was virtually no difference.

[**Luke Clayton:** I will chime in here and say, there is very little difference, other than the old English words, between the ESV and the KJV.]

[**D. Cloud** - This is definitely not true.]

Bryan Samms: - Don't skip this step. Here's the thing. Don't go ramrodding something in. If you are not articulate, and if you do not know, and certainly if you are

not convicted about it, you don't want to [do this]. You could easily destroy a church over this.

[D. Cloud - That he is promoting something that could "easily destroy a church" is a very loud warning of the unsound character of his program.]

Step 2 you gotta be sensitive to your own unique ministry concept.

Let me make this kinda sub statement here. The consciences of your people [in a "KJV only" church] have been mistakenly, yet passionately, tethered to this position. Here's the problem. Some people have been forcefully, dynamically told that Psalm 12:6-7 is a promise about the King James Bible. I know it's not. You know it's not. Anybody that is a fairly cognitive reader of the Bible, a student of grammar, a student of context, is gonna say that is talking about the people being preserved, not the words. I've heard people try to twist that one out and explain it away.

Let's just be honest here. Psalm 12:6-7 has nothing to do with the Bible. But what do you do with John Smith in your pew who has been told, and not just told but told passionately, that it was tethered to the Bible? And he *thinks* in his mind he has a conviction. So here's something everybody needs to understand about my church. Our change had already happened. Our church split in 2019 over bigger issues, over philosophical issues: styles, black ceilings in the auditorium, you know, modern worship, and a myriad of other things. So by the time I changed Bibles in 2021, it was all over. The covid purge had happened. This was a whole new church. This is the third church I pastored. I pastored the original church. I pastored the carnal church where people started coming out of the woodwork. And now I am pastoring *my* church. I may pastor five churches along the way.

So I would say to you that you need to know your own unique ministry context. Here's the question. If you changed the Bible right now in your church, would it destroy your church? If the answer is yes, don't do it. Don't do it. Don't even talk about it.

Let me make a couple of statements about how you can begin changing the ministry context. First of all, you may not be able to. If you know you may never change it, you might need to leave. Just face it.

[Luke Clayton: You are saying that if you have this conviction as a pastor, but you know your church and it might destroy your church, it might actually be time for you to make a transition?]

Bryan Samms: Absolutely. You need to change ministries, or start changing the context, or live with it.

In what ways can I begin to shift the ministry context? And this may take five years. It may never happen. Number 1, I'm going to eliminate any kind of King James Only lingo. I'm just going to eliminate it. I'm going to quit saying things like, "Open your King James Bible, bless God. How many are glad for the old book?" I'm going to start defanging this. Number 2, I'm going to test waters by maybe mentioning things like this: "If we were translating this word today, we would say this word means this." Now, if you are in an ultra radical King James church, you can't even say this. You will know because you will have a line a mile long at your office door.

If you are a little more intentional, you will test the waters; you will start saying things. I think it's terrible to say this is a bad translation. Come on, you are surely not that arrogant. This is what sophomores in Greek 1 do. They say, "The King James is a terrible translation." Like you know more than that committee that translated the King James? No you don't. But I can say, "If this word were being translated in 2023, we would say this." Or, "In the original language this is a present tense active voice imperative mood verb." And what I am showing is that there is study going on here, and it is my job to teach you the Bible.

Then, later on in the process, someone preached here and used a different translation. That was two years before we changed. ... I bought him a beautiful King James Bible, calfskin leather, had his name put on it, and sent it to him with a note saying, "Thank you so much for coming and preaching. I'm so honored that you are coming. I bought this Bible for you and in my context it would really help me if you wouldn't mind using this Bible. I can explain it if you want. This church has traditionally been King James Only." I just sent it and never said another word about it. The night he preached, Nov. 5, 2018, the service started at 5pm. He thought it started at 6. He shows up at like 4:58. Music started. Huge crowd. He walks in, sits down in our conference room, and he is being very slow. And I saw him pull out an ESV. I just decided the best

thing for the spirit was not to say anything. There were a couple of people who said something, but not many. In fact, one of my deacons, I went to him after the service. I walked up to him. His name is Jeff. I said, “Jeff,” and I was going to tell him that story. And he stopped me and said, “It’s a doubtful thing, preacher, don’t even worry about it.” Because I had recently preached on Romans 14.

Step 3 - Which would be the final step, I would say, you need to be teaching your people about latitude. You need to be teaching your people about gray areas. Romans 14; 1 Corinthians 8-10; and many other places. You need to be teaching them that there are Christians who have different opinions about things, and it’s OK. Individual soul liberty. Which we don’t believe as Baptists, even though it is in the acrostic.

[**Luke Clayton:** There are several more steps, which we plan to get to in the next hour. Join us for Church Advance with Bryan Samms.]

The previous paragraphs are from “The Translation Transition,” an interview with Bryan Samms by Luke Clayton at the Church Advance YouTube channel.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gbyr_iNj9E

COMMENTS ON BRYAN SAMMS’ “TRANSLATION TRANSITION” By David Cloud

Bryan Samms refutes a Ruckmanite view that the English Bible was given by inspiration and is unalterable in its jots and tittles. Men such as Samms do not clearly define “King James Only,” but when they interact with it, they interact with a Ruckmanite position. There are large numbers of preachers who are labeled “King James Only,” but they understand that the chief issue is the text. They use the King James Bible, first of all, because it is translated from the right Hebrew and Greek texts. There are other fundamental issues, but the textual issue is the fundamental of fundamentals. (See “**King James Only**,” www.wayoflife.org.)

Samms overstates the difficulty of the language of the King James Bible. He says his son struggled with 1 Samuel 17 in the King James Bible, and that “pretty much every other word I’d tell him what it means.” That makes

no sense. The only words in that passage that need explanation are place names (Gath, Ephrathite, Bethlehemjudah, Ekron, Shaaraim), measurements (ephah, cubit, span, shekel), and items of military equipment (coat of mail, greaves, target). Those would need to be explained in any literal translation of the Hebrew. The only antiquated word in the entire passage is “assayed” (v. 39), which means attempted. The Trinitarian Bible Society publishes a list of 618 antiquated words. It is called *Bible Word List*. Most of these can be understood by considering the context. **There are only about two hundred words in the KJV that have become so antiquated that they have changed meanings or have dropped entirely out of common usage, so that you really need a dictionary to understand them.** Multiple studies have found that the KJV is written on an 8th to 10th grade level. The KJV was rated as “very easy prose” by Dr. Rudolf Flesch. In the book *The Art of Plain Talk*, (1946). The KJV has a small vocabulary of only 6,000 words (Albert Cook, *The Authorized Version of the Bible and Its Influence*, 1910). Shakespeare used a vocabulary of roughly 21,000 English words. The King James Bible is composed of simple words (an average of 1.31 syllables and 4 letters per word). This goes back to the work of William Tyndale. British historian James Froude observed: “The peculiar genius—if such a word may be permitted—which breathes through it—the mingled tenderness and majesty—the Saxon simplicity—the preternatural grandeur—unequalled, unapproached in the attempted improvements of modern scholars—all are here, and bear the impress of the mind of one man—William Tyndale” (*History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada*, III, p. 84). **Children who are old enough to read are old enough to learn the discipline of daily Bible reading/study, and they are old enough to use sound Bible study tools.** It is our passion to help young people become effectual Bible students. Beginner’s tools include the Strong’s Concordance, Believer’s Bible Dictionary, Believer’s Bible Commentary, and Treasury of Scripture Knowledge. See the course [The Effectual Bible Student](http://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php), which has video classes, textbook, review questions, and tests. This course is particularly designed for teens, though it is beneficial for properly prepared pre-teens and for older saints. [https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php](http://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php)

Samms ignores the importance of maintaining the distinction between the second person singular and plural pronouns. A large part of the antiquated feel of the King James Bible is due to the retention of the old

English distinction between the singular and plural second person pronoun (thee, thou, thy, thine - ye, you, yours). This had already fallen out of common use in the early 17th century, but it was maintained for accurate translation of the Hebrew and Greek. The British biblical scholar J.B. Lightfoot wrote, "Indeed, we may take courage from the fact that the language of our English Bible is not the language of the age in which the translators lived, but in its grand simplicity stands out in contrast to the ornate and often affected diction of the literature of the time" (cited from *The Divine Original*, Trinitarian Bible Society, London, England). Pronouns beginning with "t" are singular (thee, thou, thy, thine) and those beginning with "y" are plural (ye, you, yours). One way to remember this is that a "t" resembles one stick (singular), while a "y" resembles two sticks (plural). ("Thy" and "thine" correspond to "your" and "yours." If the noun placed after "thy" begins with a vowel sound, "thine" is used: *thy* book; *thine* eyes.) Consider one small example of the importance of maintaining this distinction: Genesis 18:3-4. "And said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in **THY** sight, pass not away, I pray **THEE**, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray **YOU**, be fetched, and wash **YOUR** feet, and rest **YOURSELVES** under the tree." In verse 3 Abraham is speaking to and of the Lord (thy, thee), but in verse 4 he is speaking of all three of the persons who appeared to him, including the two angels (you, your, yourselves). Modern English translations, including the New King James Version, have lost this important distinction. (For more examples, see the report, "[Isn't the King James Bible Too Difficult to Understand?](https://www.wayoflife.org/database/isnt_the_king_james_bible_too_difficult_to_understand?)" https://www.wayoflife.org/database/isnt_the_king_james_bible_too_antiquated.html)

Samms ignores the textual issue. He deals only with translation methodology (formal equivalency vs. dynamic equivalency) and the language (antiquated vs. updated). This is a gross error. His main point is that the King James language is old; therefore, it should be replaced with a modern version. In reality, the most fundamental issue is the textual issue. The Reformation Bibles were based on the Hebrew Masoretic and the Greek Received Texts, whereas the modern versions, beginning in the late 1800s, are based on a Text that was formulated by the theories of textual criticism, theories that were invented by theological liberals, unitarians, and men deeply influenced by them. Consider the testimony of John Burgon and Edward Miller, 1896: "That which distinguishes Sacred Science from every other Science which can be named is that it is Divine, and has to do with a Book which is

inspired; that is, whose true Author is God. ... *It is chiefly from inattention to this circumstance that misconception prevails in that department of Sacred Science known as 'Textual Criticism'*" (*The Causes of the Corruption of the Traditional Text of the Holy Gospels*, p. 9). Dr. Edward Hills warned, "If you adopt one of these modern versions, you must adopt the naturalistic New Testament textual criticism upon which it rests. This naturalistic textual criticism requires us to study the New Testament text in the same way in which we study the texts of secular books which have not been preserved by God's special providence" (Hills, *Believing Bible Study*, 1967, pp. 226, 27).

The essential nature of the textual issue has been documented extensively since the gradual rise of textual criticism in the 19th century: John Burgon (*The Revision Revised*, 1881), George Samson (*The English Revisers' Greek Text Shown to Be Unauthorized Except by Egyptian Copies Discarded by Greeks and to Be Opposed to the Historic Text of All Ages*, 1882), Edward Miller (*A Guide to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*, 1886), Solomon Malan (*A Vindication of the Authorized Version of the English Bible*, 1856). In the 20th century, the textual issue has been dealt with by Herman Hoskier (*Codex B and Its Allies: A Study and an Indictment*, 1914), the publications of the Trinitarian Bible Society; Alfred Martin (doctoral dissertation, Dallas Seminary, "A Critical Examination of the Westcott-Hort Textual Theory," 1951); Edward F. Hills (Ph.D., Textual Criticism, Harvard, *The King James Version Defended: A Christian View of the New Testament Manuscripts*, 1956); D.A. Waite (*Defending the King James Bible: A Four-fold Superiority*, 1992), and David Sorenson (*Touch Not the Unclean Thing: The Bible Translation Controversy and the Principle of Separation*, 2001), to name a few.

The Greek text produced by modern textual criticism is shorter by 2,886 words, which is equivalent to removing the entire books of 1 and 2 Peter from the Bible (Jack Moorman, *Missing in Modern Bibles*, 1981). Modern textual criticism removes or questions dozens of entire verses: Matthew 17:21; 18:11; 23:14; Mark 7:16; 9:44, 46; 11:26; 15:28; 16:9-20; Luke 17:36; 23:17; John 5:4; 7:53-8:11; Acts 8:37; 15:34; 24:7; 28:29; Romans 16:24; 1 John 5:7. It further removes a significant portion of 147 other verses. There is a strong doctrinal element to these omissions, as the above-mentioned books have documented.

Samms ignores the theological liberalism that has permeated the field of textual criticism from its inception. We have already mentioned this, but it bears repeating as a separate point. I first learned of this when I researched the theological stance of the editors of the third edition of the UBS Greek New Testament which was our textbook at Tennessee Temple in the 1970s. I began this research in the early 1980s and pursued it for about three decades, building a large personal library on this subject and spending many days in the British Library, Regent College Library, Vancouver, etc. The result was published in the book *The Modern Bible Version Hall of Shame*. While not every adherent of modern textual criticism is a modernist or a unitarian or a skeptic, most of its chief architects and proponents have been. Evangelicals such as the Baptist A.T. Robertson and the Presbyterian B.B. Warfield did not develop textual criticism; they did not collate manuscripts or devise theories; they merely rehashed and passed along that which they had received from the rationalistic fathers in this field. Presbyterian scholar Robert Dabney in 1871 observed that evangelicals adopted the critical text “FROM THE MINT OF INFIDEL RATIONALISM” (Dabney, “The Doctrinal Various Readings of the New Testament Greek,” *The Southern Presbyterian Review*, April 1871). Consider a very **short list of the rationalistic fathers of modern textual criticism**: Johann Semler, Johann Griesbach, Karl Lachmann, George Vance Smith, Westcott and Hort, Philip Schaff, Ezra Abbot, Joseph Thayer, Eberhard Nestle, Hermann von Soden, James Moffatt, Edgar Goodspeed, Henry Wheeler Robinson, Frederic Kenyon, Kirsopp Lake, C.H. Dodd, Willard Sperry, Kenneth Clark, Walter Bauer, F. Wilbur Gingrich, Bart Ehrman, Eugene Nida, Bruce Metzger, Arthur Voobus, Matthew Black, Carlo Martini, Kurt Aland, Barbara Aland, and Johannes Karavidopoulos.

Samms ignores the theological liberalism that has permeated evangelical scholarship over the past 70 years. This is well-documented by evangelicals themselves, such as Harold Lindsell (*The Battle for the Bible*, 1976, and *The Bible in the Balance*, 1979), Richard Quebedeaux (*The Worldly Evangelicals*, 1978), Francis Schaeffer (*The Great Evangelical Disaster*, 1983), David F. Wells (*No Place for the Truth*, 1993), and Iain Murray (*Evangelicalism Divided: A Record of Crucial Change in the Years 1950 to 2000*). “Evangelical” Bible translators have been tainted in a myriad of ways, and this fact cannot must be prominent in any discussion of modern Bible versions.

Samms ignores the authority issue. A church’s authority is weakened by a multiplicity of versions. This issue was well stated in 1856 by Anthony Cooper, better known as the Seventh Earl of Shaftesbury. *He saw the issue of Bible revision particularly as it turned upon the matter of authority and the standard of absolute truth.* He understood that to multiply English versions and rob the people of the standard of an “authorized version” would leave them at the mercy of the scholars. Speaking before the British & Foreign Bible Society, May 1856, the Earl gave this rousing opposition to the revision of the Authorized Bible: **“Destroy that common consent to receive an ‘authorized version,’ and my belief is that you have inflicted a deadly wound on the cause of the propagation of the truth among all the nations that speak our language. ... At present we have the ‘Authorized Version,’ and we consent to receive it. We are, therefore, all on an equality; when we enter into a controversy we are on an equality; the laity can exercise the Berean privilege of examining the scriptures ‘to see whether these things be so,’ and cannot be told by those from whom they differ, ‘it may agree with your version, but I have another and a better one, and therefore, I can have no controversy with you.’ ... When you are confused or perplexed by a variety of versions you would be obliged to go to some learned pundit in whom you reposed confidence, and ask him which version he recommended; and when you had taken his version, you must be bound by his opinion. I hold this to be the greatest danger that now threatens us. it is a danger pressed upon us from Germany, and pressed upon us by the neological spirit of the age. I hold it to be far more dangerous than tractarianism or popery, both of which I abhor from the bottom of my heart. This evil is tenfold more dangerous, tenfold more subtle than either of these, because you would be ten times more incapable of dealing with the gigantic mischief that would stand before you”** (cited by Edwin Bissell, *The Historic Origin of the Bible*, 1873, p. 355). The Earl had great foresight. His testimony echoes down the corridors of time and gives me courage to resist the modern versions, which have produced precisely the confusion he prophesied.

Samms misstates the matter of Psalm 12:6-7. He says, “Let’s just be honest here. Psalm 12:6-7 has nothing to do with the Bible.” He is wrong to be so dogmatic about this. In *The Genius of Ambiguity--The Translational and Exegetical Rendering of Psalm 12:7*, Peter Van Kleeck demonstrates that there is an ambiguity in the Hebrew

text that allows for an interpretation of God's words *and* God's people. He cites many commentators and translators who interpreted Psalm 12:7 as a promise of the preservation of the words of God. These include Michael Ayguan, Martin Luther, Miles Coverdale, John Rogers (Matthews Bible), Geneva Bible, Henry Ainsworth, and Matthew Poole. Van Kleeck's report was completed in the process of pursuing an M.A.R. at Calvin Theological Seminary. Others who have held the position that Psalm 12:7 is a promise of the preservation of God's words (or both God's people and God's words) are John Wesley, Adam Clarke, Joseph Benson, William MacDonald, Robert Alden (*Everyman's Bible Commentary*), Stuart Briscoe (*The Preacher's Commentary*), and Warren Wiersbe. Further, even without Psalm 12:6-7, the promise of the preservation of God's Word is a clear teaching of Scripture. See, for example, Ps. 100:5; 111:7-8; 119:89, 152, 160; Pr. 30:5-6; Isa. 40:8; 59:20-21; Mt. 5:18; 24:35; Joh. 10:35; 1 Pe. 1:23-25.

Samms illustrates the non-dogmatism and slippery slope of the modern version position. He distinguishes between versions on the basis of formal equivalence and dynamic equivalence, but he does not clearly warn about any version. He says, "For me, I wanted to be more safe in the reliability, the formal. So, you can go over to the NIV or the New Living Translation or the CEB, there are tons of them, but I'm not going to want to use those predominantly for worship. Again, I'm not against people that do. I'm just saying, for me I have the conviction that formal equivalence is a priority..." Those who follow the leadership of men like this are cast upon the tumultuous sea of modern versions ("there are tons of them") with no Pole Star to guide them.

Samms illustrates that the New King James Bible is a bridge to the contradictory, ever-changing world of modern versions and to the corrupt field of textual criticism. When Samms led his church away from the King James Bible, he chose the New King James Bible, but he admits that it is not a standard. It is only one of a multiplicity of versions that he recommends to his people. Those who move away from the King James Bible to the New King James are lulled into a sense of security that they have moved merely to an updated and improved King James, but actually they are being weaned away from the King James and its underlying Hebrew and Greek texts toward accepting the modern versions. Kirk DiVietro, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Franklin,

Massachusetts, attended one of the Thomas Nelson planning meetings that prepared for the publication of the New King James. He testified to me that **the Thomas Nelson representative plainly stated that their goal with the NKJV was to create a bridge to the modern versions, to break down the resistance of those who still revere the KJV.** Following is Pastor DiVietro's testimony as he gave it to me by email on January 9, 2005: "Over 20 years ago I attended a pre-publication meeting of the NKJV held by the Thomas Nelson People and hosted by the Hackman's Bible Bookstore in Allentown, PA. I am personal friends with the owners who took great delight in seating me next to the brother of the main translator of the NIV. The meeting was attended by over 300 college professors and pastors. At the meeting we were treated to a slide presentation of the history of the English Bible and in particular the King James Bible and its several revisions. During the presentation of the NKJV the Thomas Nelson representative made a statement which to the best of my memory was, 'We are all educated people here. We would never say this to our people, but we all know that the King James Version is a poor translation based on poor texts. But every attempt to give your people a better Bible has failed. They just won't accept them. So we have gone back and done a revision of the King James Version, a fifth revision. Hopefully it will serve as a transitional bridge to eventually get your people to accept a more accurate Bible.' Because of the years, and because I did not write it down, I cannot give you the speaker's name and I cannot promise you that this is word for word correct, but the meeting so seared my spirit that I have never picked up and opened a NKJV. I can tell you that this is absolutely the substance and nearly the exact words of what was said."

CONCLUSION

The majority of independent Baptist churches, in our experience, are frightfully uneducated in fundamental issues of the day, such as sacred vs. contemporary worship, the Bible text-version issue, and Bible separation and associated principles of evangelicalism vs. fundamentalism.

A large number of pastors are not serious educators. They are not serious students themselves, and they do not educate their flocks. The standard philosophy is that any sort of serious Bible education is for a few only, whereas the Bible gives the example of *all* of the saints being

educated to be students and teachers. See Psa. 1:1-3; Joh. 8:31-32; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 3:16; 2 Ti. 3:15-17; Heb. 5:12-14; Tit. 2:3-5. **We are convinced that a typical Bible Institute education is *the mere beginning* to equip EVERY born again child of God for the great business God has given him in this present world: as a priest, an ambassador of Christ, a teacher, a soldier, a prayer warrior, an exerciser of spiritual gifts, as the father as the spiritual head of the home, and as the mother as the keeper of the home.**

Baptist churches that are uneducated in the Bible and in the fundamental issues of the day are ripe for the devil's picking, and they are falling away from the truth on every hand.



SOME RECOMMENDED MATERIALS ON THE BIBLE VERSION-TEXT ISSUE

The Revision Revised by John Burgon, 1881
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/36722>

A Guide to the Textual Criticism of the New Testament by Edward Miller, 1886
<https://archive.org/details/guidetotextualcr00mill>

Codex B and Its Allies: A Study and an Indictment by Herman Hoskier, 1914
<https://archive.org/details/codexbanditsalli02hoskuoft>

***"A Critical Examination of the Westcott-Hort Textual Theory" by Alfred Martin*, doctoral dissertation, Dallas Seminary, reprinted in *True or False*, edited by D.O. Fuller**
<https://gullions.com/true-or-false-fuller/>

The King James Version Defended: A Christian View of the New Testament Manuscripts by Edward F. Hills, Ph.D., Textual Criticism, Harvard, 1956
<https://archive.org/details/TheKingJamesVersionDefended>

***Text and Time: A Reformed Approach to New Testament Textual Criticism* by Dr. Edward F. Hills**
https://www.amazon.com/Text-Time-Reformed-Testament-Criticism-ebook/dp/B07DB7ZBLC/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=text+and+time+hills&qid=1634576243&s=books&r=1-2

Touch Not the Unclean Thing: The Bible Translation Controversy and the Principle of Separation by David Sorenson, 2001
<https://northstarministries.com/product/touch-not-the-unclean-thing/>

The Modern Bible Version Hall of Shame
https://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/modern_bible_version_hall_of_shame.php

Identity of the New Testament Text by Wilbur Pickering. "I believe a Majority Text position is insufficient, but in terms of textual transmission a perfect preservation TR/KJV position is very similar in terms of what happened in the transmission of the text of Scripture; what would change is a recognition of the role of pre-reformation Anabaptists and a recognition that in about 1% of textual variation a reading in use by God's people was not in the majority of the copies made mainly by Greek-speaking monks. For that reason, books like Wilbur Pickering's *Identity of the New Testament Text* are helpful for those who are more advanced Christians, as Pickering deals with the nitty-gritty of textual matters in a way that is not found in some of the more introductory level defences of the TR/KJV. The works of Scrivener, Hoskier, and Burgon are also valuable for more advanced students, who, grounded in what Scripture teaches about preservation and Biblical ecclesiology, can see from their works how God preserved the text while not believing whatever they say that conflicts with Scripture's promises" (Thomas Ross).

Wilbur Pickering's Textual Apparatus - "For someone who wants a textual apparatus, Pickering's apparatus in his published *Greek NT according to Family 35*, or the free version at his **prunch.org** website (Christians need to watch out for the Pentecostal stuff on his website), actually gives the percentages of Greek MSS that have various readings. That is far superior to, say, Metzger's *Textual Commentary*, which gives the reasons the Nestle Aland editors chose their readings but does not say something like "by the way, 97% of the MSS read with the TR here but we don't care about that." Someone who wants a deep dive into the actual MSS can get Reuben Swanson's books where for Matthew through 2 Corinthians the actual readings of the various MSS unbelieving critics think are important can be seen. Swanson documents that the apparatus in the NA27, UBS4, etc. is full of inaccuracies" (Thomas Ross).

Thomas Ross maintains a list of resources on the Bible text-version issue at <https://faithsaves.net/Bibliology/>



“Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding” (Ps. 47:6-7).

The following is excerpted from [The Way of Life Commentary Series](#), *Psalms*, which is scheduled for publication in the second half of 2023.

God’s Word exhorts and commands the redeemed to sing praises. Note that we are to sing **“unto OUR King.”** To be worshipped properly, God must be known personally through redemption in Christ Jesus. It is amazing that God would enjoy the singing of fallen creatures, even in their redemption. We are so frail in “the body of this death”; our voices are so imperfect; our conceptions of God and the things of God so limited; we are so affected by the “old man.” Yet God has mercifully condescended to and adapted Himself to our frailty. He receives us “in Christ” and for Christ’s sake.

“Sing” is repeated five times in these two verses. Sing, sing, sing, sing, sing! God loves sacred singing issuing from redeemed hearts. The largest book of the Bible is a song book. “Sing” and “song” are mentioned 115 times in the Psalms. Two major passages in the New Testament epistles instruct the churches about singing (Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16).

God made man’s amazing singing voice, and like all things, man’s singing voice is of him, and through him, and to him, and for His glory (Ro. 11:36). In this present world, the most beautiful voices, typically, are devoted to self-pleasure, self-glorification, and unholiness. It is idolatry. Let God’s people refuse to follow the way of the

world. Let them use their God-given voices for their Redeemer’s glory and pleasure. Let them *never* use their voices to satisfy the lusts of the flesh and the pride of life. Let them *never* seek to glorify themselves as an “American idol.” Let them, rather, present their bodies, including their voices, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God (Ro. 12:1).

The individual believer is to sing unto God. The Christian family is to sing unto God. The New Testament assembly is to sing unto God.

For the redeemed of the Lord, this is not tedious. It is not dead religion. At the very thought of God’s greatness and goodness, the redeemed saint is stirred to praise his God.

There are countless reasons to praise God, but in Ps. 47:7, God’s sovereign authority and power is emphasized. “For God is the King of all the earth.”

Note that we are to sing praises **“with understanding.”** This is what Paul taught, as well. “I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also” (1 Co. 14:15). In the New Testament assembly, the congregational singing must not be a mindless routine. The songs and hymns must be chosen with wise purpose. They must have solid theological content, and the people must be well instructed in the things of God so they can sing with understanding to God and to one another.

(For more on this, see [“Congregational Singing According to Ephesians and Colossians”](#) and [“Lessons on Congregational Singing from the Old Testament”](#) and [“Singing the Psalms”](#) at www.wayoflife.org.)

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?



BIBLE SCHOOL FIRES, THREATENS PROFESSOR FOR HIS STANCE ON HOMOSEXUALITY

(Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from Ken Ham, *Answers in Genesis*, Apr. 6, 2023: "A Methodist Bible college located in the UK fired one of its professors, Dr. Aaron Edwards—and then threatened to report him as a 'terrorist'—for a simple tweet warning evangelicals about the invasion of homosexual behavior into the church and saying that this is severe. Dr. Edwards tweeted, 'Homosexuality is invading the Church. Evangelicals no longer see the severity of this [because] they're busy apologising for their apparently barbaric homophobia, whether or not it's true.' He later defended his tweet with: 'This is a Gospel issue, by the way. If sin is no longer sin, we no longer need a Savior. That is the conservative view. The acceptance of homosexuality as 'not sinful' is an invasion upon the Church, doctrinally. This is not controversial. The acceptance is controversial. ... It is not homophobic to declare homosexuality

sinful.' The school claims he was 'harming the reputation of the institution through his social media activities'—so, yes, this Bible school was concerned that it might have the reputation of believing the Bible and believing that sin is sin if this man kept tweeting! Shouldn't they rather have been proud to embrace such a 'reputation'? What have we come to as a church when someone proclaiming the obvious truth from God's Word is fired and threatened by those who claim to be followers of Christ—and if they make that claim, they are obligated to be obedient to his Word? After all, God's Word says, 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments' (John 14:15). But it seems these professing Christians fear men, not God, and prefer the praise of men and their own 'reputation' to the praise of the King of kings—who will one day sit as the ultimate Judge! Sadly, we are seeing a number of churches and Christian institutions cave to the LGBTQ movement."

NETHERLANDS CONTINUES DOWN EUTHANASIA'S SLIPPERY SLOPE

(Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Netherlands to broaden euthanasia rulers," *The Guardian*, Apr. 14, 2023: "The Netherlands is to widen



its euthanasia regulations to include the possibility of doctors assisting in the death of terminally ill children aged between one and 12. The new rules would apply to between five and 10 children a year who suffer unbearably from their disease, have no hope of improvement and for whom palliative care cannot bring relief, the government said on Friday. ... The Netherlands became the first country in the world to legalise euthanasia under strict conditions in 2002. All cases must be reported to medical review boards. The law already provided possibilities for euthanasia involving terminally ill babies until their first birthday and for children over 12. ... The Netherlands will not be the first to allow doctors to assist in the death of children of all ages. Belgium has allowed it since 2014.”

THE PASSING OF JACK MOORMAN (Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Jack Moorman, pastor, author, and evangelist, died in May 2021. He wrote several books and a number of articles in defense of the King James Bible and its underlying Greek and Hebrew texts. Moorman graduated from Tennessee Temple Bible College in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in the 1960s, and traveled to South Africa to begin a missionary church-planting ministry. He was there from 1968-88



and started five churches, a Bible Institute, and a tract printing ministry. In 1994, Moorman took the pastorate of Bethel Baptist Church in Wimbledon, a suburb of London, England. He also carried on a daily gospel tract ministry to more than fifty market areas across the city, using the London Tube for transportation. Bethel Baptist Church is currently located in Tooting, south London, and is pastored by Alex Madley, who served as a long-time deacon at Bethel. The church's web site is <http://www.bethelbaptistlondon.com>. Pastor Moorman's books on the Bible Version issue include *Forever Settled; Conies, Brass, and Easter: Answers to 'Problem' Passages in the Authorized Version; A Closer Look: Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version; Early Church Fathers and the Authorized Version: A Demonstration; and When the KJV Departs from the "Majority" Text*. These are available from The Bible for Today, <http://www.biblefortoday.org>. Moorman's *Modern Bibles—the Dark Secret* contains a good overview of the Bible's teaching on the preservation of Scripture. It is available in print from Plain Paths Publishers, <https://plainpath.org/collections/books-in-print>. It is also available online at http://www.alcorne.free-online.co.uk/jm_tds00.htm.

HAMAS OFFICIAL CALLS ON ALLAH TO ANNIHILATE JEWS (Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “ Hamas Official,” *Israel National News*, Apr. 12, 2023: “ Hamas official Sheikh Dr. Hamad Al-Regeb in a sermon in Gaza this past Friday



prayed for Allah to bring annihilation and paralysis upon the Jews ... Al-Regeb also said that the Jews are ‘filthy animals’ ... who spread corruption, injustice, and evil at the Al-Aqsa Mosque. His remarks were translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI). ... ‘We see the hordes of foreigners, the brothers of apes and pigs, spread corruption, injustice, and evil [at the Al-Aqsa Mosque]. According to the tradition, [the Jews] killed 70 of the Israelite prophets in one hour during the daytime, and they did not even close their markets,’ claimed Al-Regeb. ... ‘All the Palestinians and Muslims should make preparations. They should prepare for a day when they will heed a call to arms,’ declared the Hamas official. ... ‘We will pay no attention to the price, no matter how high. Are they trying to intimidate us with killing? What can possibly taste better than martyrdom? What can be more beautiful than ending your life by dying for the sake of Allah? ... Oh Allah, enable us to get to the necks of the Jews. Oh Allah, enable us to get to the necks of the Jews. Oh Allah, enable us to get to the necks of the Jews,’ concluded Al-Regeb.”

IN OREGON, CHRISTIANS MUST CELEBRATE TRANSGENDER OR THEY CANNOT ADOPT (Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2023, www.wayoflife.org



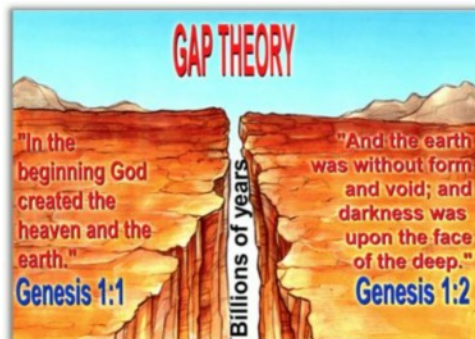
fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Christians Must Take Children," *The Washington Stand*, Apr. 6, 2023: "The state of Oregon refused to allow a Christian mother of five to adopt two children after she said her religion would not let her take a young minor to receive cross-hormone injections--a policy that could prevent up to 78% of Americans from adopting children. Requiring adoptive parents to facilitate transgender procedures acts as a form of religious discrimination against many world religions, her attorneys say. Jessica Bates has sued five Oregon state employees for adoption guidelines that effectively say, 'Conservative Christians need not apply,' according to her legal brief. Oregon state law requires all would-be adoptive parents to 'respect, accept and support' the adoptee's professed 'sexual orientation, gender identity, [and] gender expression.' Bates said mandatory classes in the state's adoption application process said this included using a child's preferred pronouns, presenting same-sex relationships in a positive light, and taking children who identify as LGBT to transgender procedures. ... Bates, whose late husband perished in a car accident in 2017, is a mom of five children between the ages of 10 and 17. She feels inspired to adopt children based on the Bible's commandment 'to visit orphans and widows in their affliction' (James

1:27); she also volunteers twice a week at a pro-life pregnancy resource center. She would like to adopt two siblings, who are younger than nine years old. ... When Bates enrolled in the Resource and Adoptive Family (RAFT) program, she says a RAFT instructor told her good parenting required 'allowing a child to dress however they want and taking them to a Pride parade.' ... Parents should avoid 'forcing youth to attend activities [including religious activities] that are ... unsupportive of people with diverse SOGIE [sexual orientation, gender identity and expression],' it said. ... 'Oregon's policy amounts to an ideological litmus test,' said Jonathan Scruggs of ADF, which represents Bates in the court case, *Bates v. Pakseresht*."

THOMAS CHAMBER'S GAP (Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, Mar. 23, 2023: "In 1814, Thomas Chalmers was a young Scottish clergyman with an interest in geology. He had grown up with the deep-time views of James Hutton, and the work of more contemporary geologists seems to have caused Chalmers difficulties in accepting these ideas along with the book of Genesis. So it was that in 1814, Chalmers wrote a review of Georges Cuvier's book *Theory of the Earth*. Cuvier was a catastrophist.



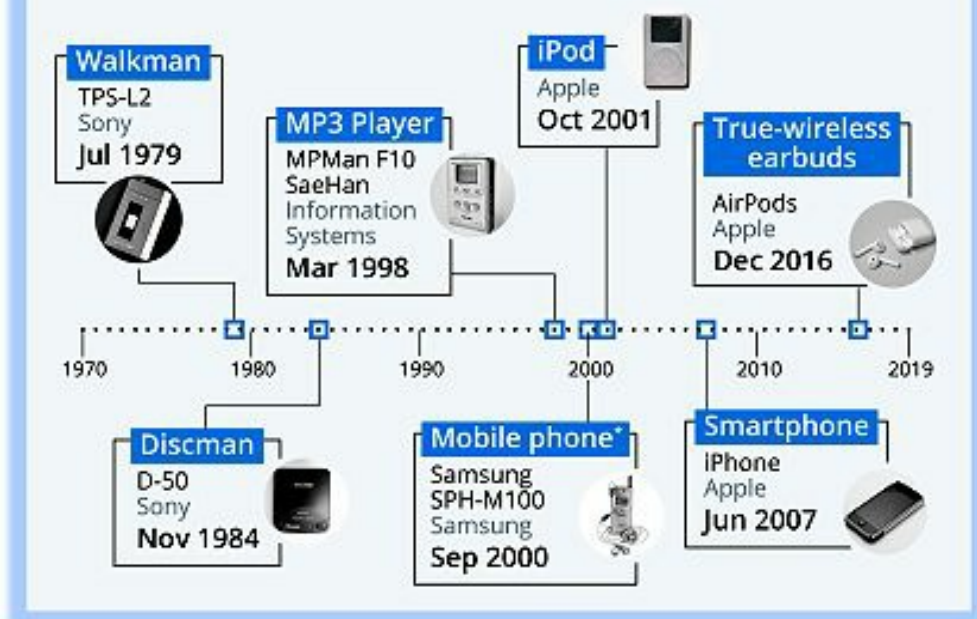
That is, he believed that fossils were caused by flooding. However, to accommodate Hutton's views on long ages, Cuvier accepted multiple floods rather than one Flood, equating the last of these floods with that of Genesis 6 through 8. Chalmers wrote: 'It is true that his theory approximates to the book of Genesis more nearly than those of many of his predecessors.' While that may indeed be true, it should be noted that Cuvier was still prepared to accept long ages because of opinions from outside the Bible, and the young Chalmers accepted these ages. So Chalmers developed his own idea. Instead of multiple catastrophism, he had two--the actual Flood and an earlier flood, thousands or even millions of years earlier, caused, so he said, by Lucifer's sin in heaven. This early Luciferian flood had to be fitted into Scripture, so Chalmers believed that these events must have been after God had set the world going but before the events of Genesis 1:2 onwards. For this reason, Chalmers' ideas became known as the Gap Theory. Exodus 20 reminds us that the initial creation of everything was part of the six-day creation week. So we see that Chalmers' elegant compromise is not possible. Ref: Mortenson, T. (2004), *The Great Turning Point*, (Master Books)."

THE AGE OF MUSIC (Friday Church News Notes, May 5, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- If ever there were an age when God's people need to take heed to the issue of music, it is today! This could be called "the age of music" because technology has made it ubiquitous. Moderns typically are immersed in music every day of their lives. This is a brand new thing in human history. There was no music on demand from

The History of Portable Music

Launch date of selected milestone portable music products



Eden until the 20th century, except for kings and the most wealthy who could afford to have musicians on their payroll. The music revolution began with the phonograph. It was invented in 1877 by Thomas Edison and he rightly predicted, "The phonograph will undoubtedly be liberally devoted to music." Twenty years later he observed that "people are willing to pay to be amused more than anything else." How right he was! Modern communications technology has made this the age of amusement, and music is at the very heart of the amused culture. By the turn of the 20th century, record companies were popularizing the use of music recordings. The explosion of commercial radio in the 1920s hastened the popularity of listening to music and increased record sales. In 1920, "Crazy Blues" by Mamie Smith sold one million copies. Music pieces began to be written to fit the time available on a record. The result was the three-minute pop song. It was the first time in history that an individual

could listen to whatever music he pleased and the first time that an individual could immerse himself in music in isolation. It was the dawn of the age of "me." RCA's 45 rpm vinyl record of 1949 was another major step in the music revolution. The players were small and more portable than anything that had previously existed, and some featured tall spindles that would automatically play stacks of records one after the other. It was the inexpensive, portable 45 that propelled the rock & roll revolution of the 1950s. It was the record of the rock party, the record shop, and the ubiquitous jukebox. In 1955, Bill Haley's "Rock Around the Clock" sold 3 million copies. When I began my personal venture into the world of rock in about 1962, the 45 was still a prominent technology of the pop culture. The popularity of 45 rpm records peaked in 1977 with 200 million sales. Beginning in the 1950s, television furthered the music listening craze, particularly of pop

music, with shows such as *American Bandstand*. The handheld, battery-powered transistor radio of the 1950s took portability of music to a new level. The Sony Walkman of 1979, that played the compact cassette tape, was revolutionary in making "my music" available 24/7, even while walking, running, etc. The iPod digital music player (2001) and then the iPhone (2007), with its instant connection with the internet, took this to an even higher level. The iPhone plugged the listener into the vast world of streaming services and on demand music such as iTunes, Spotify, and Amazon. The technology-empowered music revolution is the heart and soul of the global pop culture with its licentious "me first" philosophy. (We recommend the following free books and videos at www.wayoflife.org - [*What Every Christian Should Know about Rock Music*](#), [*A Plea to Southern Gospel Music Fans*](#), [*The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music*](#).)

NUMBER OF ACADEMICS PUNISHED FOR SPEECH SOARS OVER LAST THREE YEARS (Friday Church News Notes, May 5, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbs@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Academics," *The Post* by UnHerd, Apr. 21, 2023: "Attempts to sanction academics for their speech have



soared over the last three years, a new report has found. Research by FIRE (Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression) shows that the number of college and university scholars subjected to attempted punishment in the past three years (509) almost matches the corresponding number for the 20 years prior to 2020 (571). The astronomical rise coincides with Donald Trump's election and the #MeToo movement, which sparked a surge in sanction attempts. Between 2017-2019, there were 252 sanction attempts, compared to a total of 319 over the previous 17 years. But these figures are dwarfed by what the report describes as a 'tsunami of sanction attempts' shortly after George Floyd's murder in 2020. In 2020 alone there were 151 sanction attempts, with 87 occurring in response to race-related expression (58%). A sanction attempt constitutes anything from open letters and petitions to outright termination of employment. Its targets are varied, but among the most prominent are the humanities disciplines (402 attempts) and white and/or male scholars. Nearly four-fifths (845) of sanction attempts involved white scholars (78%), compared to 92 involving black scholars (9%), the next highest group. ... 'Cancel culture is particularly pernicious when it targets people charged with discovering and disseminating knowledge,' said FIRE Director Komi Frey. 'Vocal, dogmatic minorities on the left and the right are trying to restrict the range of acceptable ideas in institutions of higher education, and this should alarm us all. You do not need to agree with a scholar's teaching, research, or extramural speech to recognize that censorship is not the answer.'"

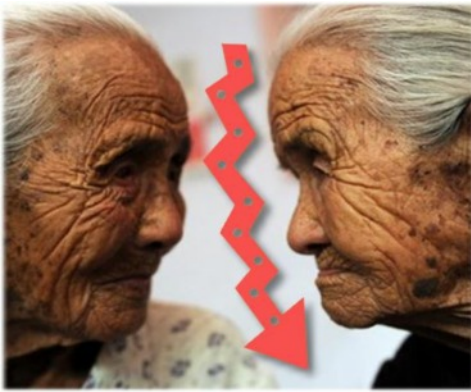
CHRISTIAN TEACHER FIRED FOR OPPOSING HOMOSEXUAL BOOK HAS WON HER CASE



(Friday Church News Notes, May 5, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Christian Substitute Teacher," CBN, Apr. 28, 2023: "A Christian substitute teacher has been reinstated to her job and awarded \$181,000 in damages and attorneys' fees after a Georgia school district settled her lawsuit Monday. The district has also publicly apologized to her. Last August, Lindsey Barr was fired by Bryan County Schools officials as a substitute teacher after she raised concerns about a book that was going to be read to her three children at McAllister Elementary School during a library read-aloud program. The book titled *All Are Welcome*, contains several illustrations of same-sex couples parenting and expecting children. The book caused Barr concern because it contained depictions that conflicted with her sincerely held religious views on marriage and family. She believes the book is inappropriate for young children and that it appeared to be part of an effort to indoctrinate young children into a progressive ideology. Barr brought her concerns as a teacher and parent to the school principal and asked that her own children be excused from this reading time. The very next day, she was unable to access the Bryan County Schools portal she used to accept substitute teaching assignments. Five

days later, she was informed by the school that they had terminated her ability to substitute at any Bryan County School. Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorneys representing Barr first sent a demand letter last September explaining that her termination was in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution and urging the district to reinstate her as a substitute teacher. When district officials refused, the law firm filed a federal lawsuit arguing, 'The First Amendment clearly prohibits BCS from engaging in *viewpoint discrimination*, or the punishment of speech where *the opinion or perspective of the speaker* is the rationale for the punishment.' ... As part of the settlement agreement, Dr. Paul Brooksher, superintendent of Bryan County Schools, issued a letter to Barr announcing the reinstatement of her teaching position. ... ADF Senior Counsel Tyson Langhofer, director of the ADF Center for Academic Freedom, [said], 'Terminating a teacher for engaging in First Amendment protected expression creates an atmosphere of fear and sends a message to the teacher and others in the community that, if they criticize the school's approach to cultural or political issues or express viewpoints contrary to the school's preferred viewpoints, they will face consequences. That's unlawful and why we had to file suit in Lindsey's situation. The settlement the school district agreed to is a victory for Lindsey, the families of Bryan County Schools, and every parent's fundamental right to speak out concerning their children.'"

JAPAN'S DEPOPULATION BOMB (Friday Church News Notes, May 5, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from *The*



Post by Unherd, Apr. 15, 2023: "This week saw the unsurprising news that Japan's population has fallen again. A sombre Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno told the nation that there are now 556,000 fewer people in the country, a twelfth consecutive decline, and a record fall offset only by an influx of 175,000 immigrants in 2022. For the world's third largest economy, the declining population is now being treated as a national emergency. Japan is now 'on the brink of not being able to maintain social functions,' Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told his countrymen earlier this year. The leader of the conservative Liberal Democratic party now regards 'child rearing' as one of the country's most important economic policies. ... Last year, the UN reported the lowest population growth since 1950. Europe, North America and China are now all facing a future of declining and ageing populations. By 2030, one billion of the world's population will be aged over 65. There are even signs that population growth may be slowing in Africa."

CORONATION OF KING OF ENGLAND FEATURES BUDDHIST, HINDU, JEWISH, MUSLIM, AND SIKH LEADERS (Friday Church News Notes, May 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Charles III, newly crowned king of

England, is the well-fitted head of the apostate Church of England. He makes no profession of personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. He is a radical environmentalist who serves the creature more than the Creator. He holds to the myth of man-made climate change (including pushing global depopulation) while rejecting the Bible as the infallible Word of God. His coronation on May 6 featured a Roman Catholic cardinal, plus Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, and Sikh leaders, not as guests but as participants ("The Last Christian King?" *Religion News Service*, May 5, 2023). "It is the first time in nearly 500 years that Catholic prelates were present at a Coronation, in marked contrast to 70 years ago, when Catholics were not permitted to attend any services in a Protestant church" ("Catholic Cardinal," *Zenit.org*, May 6, 2023). Hindu Prime Minister Rishi Sunak read a Scripture passage. The sovereigns of the Church of England claimed that the British Empire was the kingdom of Christ. Even today, when the empire is a nonentity, the king was handed an orb (globe) and scepter with the words from the Archbishop of Canterbury, "Receive this orb, set under the cross, and remember always the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ." It has been a very long time since an Archbishop of Canterbury has believed the gospel of Jesus Christ. In 1953, William Temple, in his book *Nature and God*, said, "... there is no such thing as revealed truth." In 1961, Michael Ramsey said, "[H]eaven is not a place for Christians only. ... I expect to see many present day atheists there" (*London Daily Mail*, Oct. 2, 1961). In 1982, Robert Runcie said he was an agnostic as to why Jesus suffered



on the cross (*Sunday Times Weekly Review*, London, April 11, 1982). In 1996, George Carey lashed out at "fundamentalists" who place the Bible "above and beyond human inquiry" (*Christian News*, Dec. 9, 1996). A YouGov poll conducted in August-September 2014 found that 17% of Anglican clergy in England do not believe in a personal God. In January 2020, Justin Welby apologized for a decree published by his own House of Bishops stating that sex should be limited to heterosexual marriage. Britannia did not convert the world; the world converted Britannia.

FRANKLIN GRAHAM'S EDENTON CRUSADE (Friday Church News Notes, May 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Franklin Graham held an evangelistic crusade in Edenton, North Carolina, on May 7, attended by 7,600. It featured Christian rockers Newsboys and others. Graham preached on biblical marriage and warned against transgenderism. He said, "Our nation has turned its back on God. We have taken God out of the schools, we have taken the Bible out of schools. The (U.S.) Department of Education has destroyed our country. We spend millions of dollars on program after program after program and we take God out of everything. Are we better for it? No. It's the human heart and only God can change

RETRACTING MOSQUITO ANTENNAE

(Friday Church News Notes, May 5, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com: “Most people are aware that it is only the female mosquito that feeds on blood. The male feeds on plant juices. It is also easy to see the difference between males and females in most species. The male has a distinctive pair of antennae. While the female mosquito’s antennae are difficult to see, the male’s looks like a pair of branched feathers coming out of its head. And if it weren’t for a very special feature, these large, feathery antennae would make it difficult for him to fly. Each antenna is planted in a socket, next to which there is a pad made out of special protein. This pad is actually a water-powered engine. When flying, the mosquito’s antennae are flattened against its head. But when he lands, he raises the antennae so that he can hear. To raise the antennae, a small amount of water from his system is pumped into the pad which increases its size by 25 percent and causes the pad to unfold,

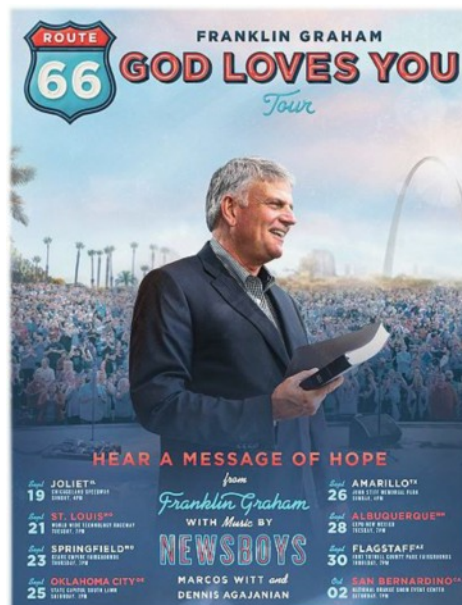


Male Mosquito Antennae by MicroscopyU

raising the antennae. Nature is full of so many wonders that it would be easy for us to get lost in them. But every one of these wonders is designed by God to lead us to desire to learn more about Him--especially to learn from His Word that He wants a relationship with you through His Son, Jesus Christ. Notes: Steven Vogel. ‘Life’s Devices: The Physical World of Animals and Plants.’ Princeton University Press, 1988, p. 255.”

the human heart” (“Graham’s ‘God Loves You’ Tour,” *Newsbreak*, May 8, 2023). Instead of blaming the Department of Education for America’s apostasy, he should first blame the very churches that support his crusades, for their lukewarmness, worldliness, Biblical shallowness, and spiritual powerlessness. More than 135 churches joined hands with the crusade. Franklin is more outspoken than his dad, Billy, but he is just as ecumenical. One man wrote the following: Franklin Graham had his ‘God loves you’ tour event here in Edenton on Sunday. My pastor refused to participate even though they received several visits from members of the Graham Evangelistic Organization. Pastor said that someone else in the community called him a ‘dinosaur’ for not participating.

The pressure to be involved was intense.” Back in 1999, Franklin told the *Indianapolis Star* that his father’s ecumenical alliance with the Catholic Church and all other denominations



“was one of the smartest things” his father ever did. He said, “In the early years, up in Boston, the Catholic church got behind my father’s crusade. That was a first. It took back many Protestants. They didn’t know how to handle it. But it set the example. ‘If Billy Graham is willing to work with everybody, then maybe we should too’” (“Keeping it simple, safe keeps Graham on high,” *The Indianapolis Star*, Thurs., June 3, 1999, p. H2). The vice-chairman for the Franklin Graham Festival in Lubbock, Texas, April 28-30, 2000, was Paul Key, evangelism director for the Catholic Diocese of Lubbock. Roman Catholics participated in Franklin Graham Festivals in Corpus Christi, Texas, in 2005, and in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2004. Many Roman Catholics were trained as

counsellors for the Franklin Graham Festival in Baltimore, Maryland, July 7-9, 2006. The Graham organization delivered the names of 300 people to the Roman Catholic churches for “follow up,” where they are taught, among other heresies, that it is acceptable to pray to Mary. In fact, some of the counsellors were from the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. Roman Catholics also participated in the Franklin Graham Festival in Winnipeg, Canada, in October 2006. Many more examples could be given. On one hand, it is encouraging to see well-attended evangelistic crusades in this day and time, and we are glad for the biblical truth that Graham stands for; but it must be understood that the Graham crusades are very shallow: the preaching is shallow, the gospel is shallow (just “receive Jesus into your heart”), the follow-up is shallow, the supporting churches are shallow. Thus, the power is shallow.

ATHEIST SAYS HUMAN SEXUALITY IS BINARY (Friday Church News Notes, May 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Is Human Sexuality Binary,” Creation.com, May 2, 2023: “In a recent interview with British



Piers Morgan

broadcaster and journalist Piers Morgan, well-known author and atheist Professor Richard Dawkins argued for a traditional understanding of human sexuality: ‘As a biologist, there are two sexes and that’s all there is to it.’ Of course, this is precisely what the Bible has always taught. Dawkins’ response was in the context of claims by transgender campaigners who wish to abolish terms such as ‘man, woman, mother and father.’ Morgan agreed with Dawkins, commenting that it is ‘from a completely false pretext that you can somehow pretend biology doesn’t exist, particularly when it comes to someone’s sex. It’s incontrovertible, there’s no scientific doubt about this, and yet a small group of people have been quite successful actually in reshaping vast sways [sic] of the way society talks and is allowed to talk.’ During the interview, Dawkins referred to attempts to silence some women, such as J.K. Rowling (author of the Harry Potter books) and philosopher Kathleen Stock, as a form of bullying. He has also previously supported campaigns to end the practice of dispensing puberty blockers to children, which we would agree with. ... Dawkins, ought to ask himself whether he shares part of the blame for the rise of a confused moral perspective, especially when we consider comments such as this: ‘The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference’ (*River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*). Such sentiments by this influential evolutionist and author may have certainly resulted in many people’s rejection of the Bible and Christian morality. Dawkins’ dogmatic atheism was especially evident in his book

The God Delusion ... Is it any wonder that some consumers of his writings, especially children, experience crises of identity and purpose, which leads to confusion?”

KING JAMES BIBLE STILL THE MOST POPULAR ENGLISH VERSION (Friday Church News Notes, May 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The King James Bible has withstood the onslaught of modern Bible versions (beginning with the American Standard Version of 1901) and multi-million dollar advertising campaigns to remain the most popular version in America. “Though there are hundreds of versions and translations of the Bible, the KJV is the most popular. According to market research firm Statistica” (“Why Is the King James Bible So Popular?” *Live Science*, May 16, 2021). Statista Oct. 10, 2018: KJV - 31%, NIV - 13%, ESV - 9%, NKJV - 7%, Amplified - 7%, NAS - 3%, New Living - 2%, RSV - 2%, Contemporary English Version - 2%.

TEN MILLION UNBORN BABIES MURDERED IN THE U.K. (Friday Church News Notes, May 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org/fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “55



Years of Abortion,” *Premier Christian News*, Apr. 27, 2023: “On the anniversary of the passage of the Abortion Act, right to life activists say they estimate there have been over ten million procedures to terminate unborn lives in the 55 years since the law came into force. ‘The UK’s abortion law is failing both women and unborn babies’, commented Right To Life UK spokesperson, Catherine Robinson. ... According to Right to Life UK, more than one baby was lost to abortion every two and a half minutes across England, Wales, and Scotland in 2021; 26 lives were ended every hour. The group say the number of abortions in England and Wales reached a record high with 214,869 taking place in 2021, while 13,758 terminations were performed in Scotland in the same year. Right to Life UK link this significant rise in abortions to **the first full year that ‘DIY’ home abortion services have been operating in England and Wales.**”

MT. EBAL CURSE TABLET REFUTES LIBERAL VIEWS OF THE BIBLE (Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “And it shall come to pass, when the LORD thy God hath brought thee in unto the land whither thou goest to



possess it, that thou shalt put the blessing upon mount Gerizim, and the curse upon mount Ebal” (Deuteronomy 11:29). A small lead tablet found on Mt. Ebal single-handedly upsets liberal views of the Bible. The tablet was discovered during a 2019 wet-sifting project of detritus from an excavation led by Adam Zertal in the 1980s. Zertal believed that he had discovered Joshua’s altar (De. 27:4). The tablet could not be opened without damaging it, but “a team of experts performed X-ray tomography scanning in Prague as well as detailed photography” (“New Insights into Mount Ebal Curse Tablet,” *Israel Today*, May 12, 2023). The tablet reads, “You are cursed by the God, YWH [Jehovah], cursed. You will die cursed--cursed you will surely die. Cursed you are by YWH--cursed.” Consider the importance of this discovery: (1) The tablet is the oldest Hebrew writing ever found, proving that the Hebrews were literate at that time. Who would have guessed! It is 200 to 400 years older than the previous oldest text, which is the Khirbet Qeiyafa ostrakon found at ancient Beit Shemesh. (2) This is the oldest written name of Jehovah God ever found, predating by 500 to 600 years the previous oldest. (3) The tablet dates to 1400-1200 BC. The oldest date puts the tablet in the land of Israel at the very time indicated by Scripture. According to biblical dating, Joshua’s entrance into Canaan was 1451 BC. (4) The tablet was found on Mt. Ebal, the mountain where the curses of God’s law were spoken (De. 11:29; 27:4, 13; Jos. 8:33). The chance of this tablet *not* being associated with biblical Israel is zero. Peter van der Veen, associate professor at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in Germany and an epigrapher who reviewed the

inscription, said, “We have a Hebrew inscription of a curse found on the mountain of curses. I think the conclusion we reached last year is now confirmed by more in-depth study.”

THREE-PARENT BABY CREATED IN THE U.K. (Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “First Baby,” *The Guardian*, May 9, 2023: “The first UK baby created with DNA from three people has been born after doctors performed a groundbreaking IVF [In Vitro Fertilization] procedure that aims to prevent children from inheriting incurable diseases. The technique, known as mitochondrial donation treatment (MDT), uses tissue from the eggs of healthy female donors to create IVF embryos that are free from harmful mutations their mothers carry and are likely to pass on to their children. ... The process has led to the phrase ‘three-parent babies’, though more than 99.8% of the DNA in the babies comes from the mother and father. ... The procedure is not without risks. Recent research has



WHO TAUGHT THE BIRD SCIENTIFIC

FLIGHT? (Friday Church News Notes, May 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com: “You are the pilot of a Boeing 767 airliner, bringing the great ship in for a landing. Approaching the airport, you extend the slat on the leading edge of each wing so that you have more lift as your speed slows. As the runway nears, you raise the nose of the plane to catch more air. In the final moments of landing, you bring the feathers, which act as air brakes, out of the wing to reduce your lift and settle easily onto the runway. Yet, without any training, young birds do this very same thing every day. High-speed photography has revealed that birds follow each one of these sequences as they approach and land. First, as they prepare to land, they slow their speed and increase their lift by extending and lowering the front part of the wing. Then, to slow even more, they angle their body from a horizontal flying position to a more upright angle. Finally,



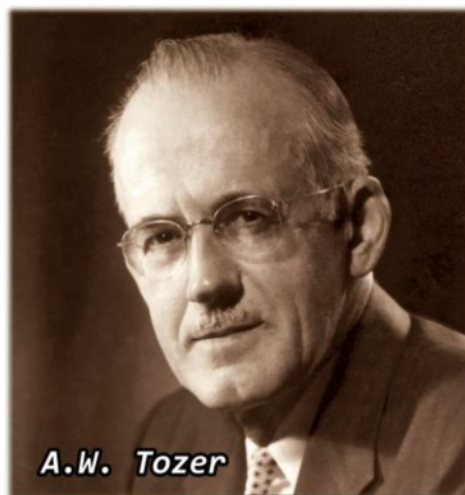
they drop the feathers on the back of their wing--after which the plane's feathers are named--to settle nicely on a tree branch, with virtually no effort at all. Yes, the principles of flight, refined by over 80 years of man's experience, were simply taught to the birds by our loving Creator. What a wonderful testimony birds offer to the work of our Creator! Notes: ‘A Lesson in Landing,’ *Time-Life, Flight.*”

found that in some cases, the tiny number of abnormal mitochondria that are inevitably carried over from the mother's egg to the donor egg can multiply when the baby is in the womb. So-called reversion or reversal could lead to a disease in the child.”

A.W. TOZER'S MYSTICISM

(Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “The Bottom Line of A.W. Tozer,” Lighthouse Trails, May 1, 2023: “[W]e have known about Tozer's affinity toward the mystics for some time now ... It does seem odd to think that a man of such apparent intelligence and spiritual insights in certain areas (as some of our readers and colleagues have pointed out) did

not have the discernment to see that these figures (whom he called ‘the great masters of the deeper life’) he was quoting and admiring (such as Meister Eckhart and John of the Cross, who were both panentheists) were indeed mystics and outside the realm of biblical Christianity. ... In an ‘authorized biography’ titled *The*

**A.W. Tozer**

Life of A.W. Tozer, the author quotes Tozer as saying: ‘As God's hungry bee, I'm able to suck nectar out of all sorts of flowers.’ One of those from whom he may have drawn ‘nectar’ was the mystic Thomas Merton, with whom he kept ‘correspondence for some time.’ Merton, a universalistic panentheist, believed there was no contradiction between Christianity and Buddhism and said he wanted to be the best Buddhist he could be. ... Tozer seemed to have an insatiable thirst for what he called ‘the deeper life’ (or what he also called ‘holy mysteries’) with God ... he seems to have spent much of his life seeking after experiences that would give him this deeper life ... Tozer's recommended reading list included a who's who of medieval mystics such as: St. John of the Cross (*Dark Night of the Soul*), an anonymous monk

(*The Cloud of Unknowing*), Bernard of Clairvaux, Julian of Norwich, Meister Eckhart, Thomas Kelly, Brother Lawrence (*Practicing the Presence of God*), Michael (Miguel) Molinos, Jacob Boehme, Richard Rolle, and Francis de Sales, to name about one third of the listed names. ... In Tozer's own writings, and in the biographies written about him, the words 'mystics,' 'mystical,' and 'mysticism' are treated as if they are everyday terms the Christian can and should utilize. And with today's contemplative prayer movement's energizing force being that of mystical meditation, Tozer's use of the words and the words commonly associated with him makes him a poster child for today's contemplative prayer movement."

EU PARLIAMENT SLAMS HATEFUL PALESTINIAN TEXTBOOKS (Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "EU Parliament," *The Times of Israel*, May 11, 2023: "The European Parliament passed a resolution Wednesday condemning the Palestinian Authority over the 'hateful' content of its textbooks and conditioning future funding for education on the removal of antisemitic material. It is the fourth consecutive year that the parliament



has passed a resolution criticizing the PA for its school material. ... The wording of the resolution was 'noticeably more critical of the PA' compared to previous resolutions, according to a statement from the Israeli Institute for Monitoring Peace and Cultural Tolerance in School Education (IMPACT-se). For the first time, an EU resolution directly linked the content of PA textbooks with funds for Palestinian terrorism, and in particular attacks by young people, it said. The resolution also acknowledged that there is antisemitism in the textbooks and demanded that it be removed. ... The European Union, the PA's largest donor, helps to pay the salaries of the PA's many civil servants, constituting a significant chunk of the West Bank economy. Between 2008 and 2020, Brussels sent around \$2.5 billion in direct budget support to the PA."

THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDIZING THE "TRANS" AGENDA IN AMERICAN SCHOOLS (Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Is This Why Transgenderism Is Exploding?" *PJMedia*, May 13, 2023: "Writing for the Capital Research Center (CRC), Kali Fontanilla ... provided a graphic demonstration of just how deeply the transgendering movement has penetrated American society: 'Historically, gender dysphoria only affected a small percentage of children, less than 0.01 percent, and almost all the cases were boys. Today, the U.S. has seen an estimated 1,000 percent rise in gender dysphoria over the past decade, and the UK has reported a more than 4,000 percent rise in girls



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demanding gender treatments. And 70 percent of sex reassignment surgeries were done on girls.' ... more important [to this increase in dysphoria] are public school teachers and administrators and the Far-Left advocacy groups funding the movement's training and propaganda resources, especially the Human Rights Campaign (HRC). Ever heard of HRC's Thrive Conference? Odds are you haven't, but the influence of this program is undeniable. Every year, Thrive trains thousands of 'youth-serving professionals,' including teachers and counselors, on how to 'create safe, inclusive, and welcoming environments for LGBTQ+ youth.' According to Fontanilla, the materials provided by the Thrive event include comprehensive lesson plans now used in thousands of public school elementary and middle school classrooms. Lesson titles for some of their kindergarten–2nd-grade lesson plans include 'Jacob's New Dress: Understanding Gender Expression;' 'They, She, He, Easy as ABC: Understanding Names,

Pronouns, and Gender Expression;’ ‘Chimera Butterflies: Non-Binary Animals;’ and ‘I am Jazz: Understanding Transgender Children.’”

CATHOLIC CHURCH’S “GOD IS TRANS” DISPLAY

(Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Church’s ‘God Is Trans’ Display,” *Christian Headlines*,



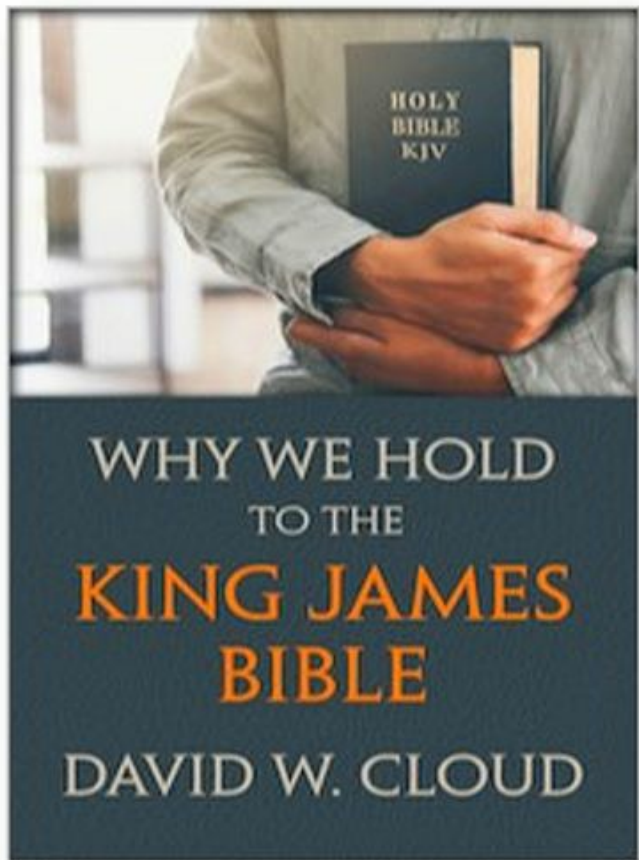
May 9, 2023: “The ‘God is Trans: A Queer Spiritual Journey’ display at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle, a Catholic congregation,

includes artwork that maps the ‘queer spiritual journey,’ according to a description of the artwork at the church. *The New York Post* first reported on the controversy. The Church of St. Paul the Apostle is the mother church of the Paulist Fathers. Patrick Egan tweeted: ‘This place is an absolute joke. They replaced the crucifix with a butterfly years ago! A friend use to call this church *Paul the apostate*. ... it is dying as the Paulists try to out gay the Jesuits.’”

BULLET-PROOF SPIDERS (Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, May 9, 2023: “The silk produced by spiders is very different from the silk produced by silkworms in some very important ways. While silkworm silk is strong yet not prone to stretching, spiders make silk that is both strong and stretchy. They also make several different kinds of silk, each with its own purpose. In fact, spider silk is stronger than an equal amount of steel and yet it stretches. Spider silk is made of nothing more than proteins. However, scientists are finding it extremely difficult to study the chemical structure of spider silk because it resists most of their efforts to break it down into its chemical parts. Scientists have finally resorted to hot, concentrated acids to break down the silk. They are learning that one type of spider silk is made up of lengths of very stiff amino acids, separated by segments of amino acids that form a springy helix. Together they contribute to the strength and stretchiness of spider silk. Scientists are exploring how spider silk is made, because this wonderful material promises new methods for creating stronger and lighter materials for human use. One possible use would be making cloth that is both comfortable



and bulletproof. God has done all things well. The fact that we can learn to design better things by learning how He designed things is a witness for His wisdom as well as a witness against claims that the creation designed itself by trial and error. However, there is much more to God’s plans for us, as you can learn from the Bible. REF: Amato, I. 1990. ‘Unraveling the biochemistry of spider silk’ *Science News*, v. 138, Oct. 6. p. 214.”



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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)
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