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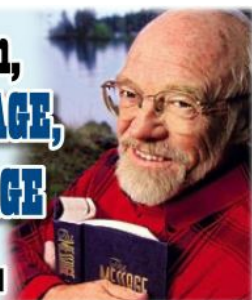
"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 41 - Issue 1 - January 2024

Eugene Peterson, The MESSAGE, & The NEW AGE

By David Cloud



"Gaia is acknowledged to be part of the 'Green Agenda' for a united 'Green Religion.' The all-encompassing 'Green Movement' is presently and actively promoting current environmental policies. Popular with progressive politicians and New Age spiritualists, a 'Green New Deal' is already in the works." **Page 6.**

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



BARON ROTHSCHILD AND THE RETURN OF ISRAEL ~ By David Cloud

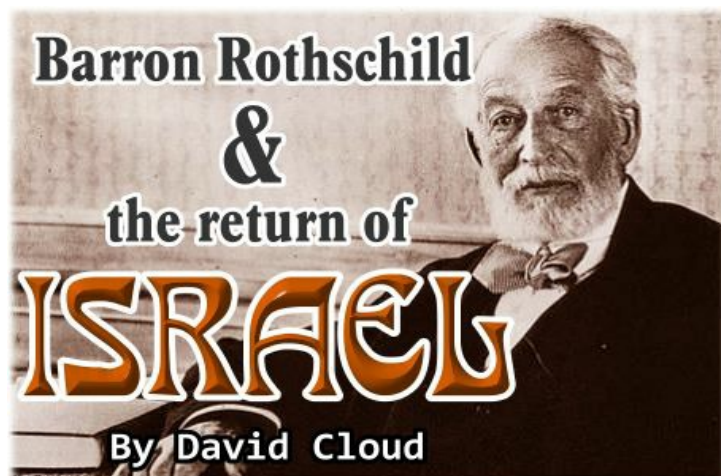
The following is excerpted from:

Jews in Fighter Jets: Israel Past, Present, and Future,
<https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/all.php>

Baron Edmond James de Rothschild (1845-1934) was a prominent figure in the founding of modern Israel. He is known as "the Father of the Yishuv," which means "settlement" and refers to the pre-state pioneering Jews of the aliyahs.

The son of James Mayer de Rothschild of Paris, Edmond was a member of the French branch of the Rothschild banking family, and his main interests were in art, science, archaeology, and philanthropy.

The Rothschild (pronounced roth-child, ross-child or roth-schild) dynasty began in the 18th century with Mayer Amschel Rothschild (1744-1812), who was able to rise out



of the poverty enforced upon Jews by the ruling Catholics and become a court Jew to the German Landgraves of Frankfurt.

"A court Jew handled the finances of wealthy, high-ranking Christians, including monarchs, and made loans to the crown, in exchange for which he was given privileges

usually denied to Jews, sometimes including noble rank. Usury, the practice of charging interest on a loan, was forbidden by law for Christians, but not for Jews--thus the practice of outsourcing wealth management to Jewish financiers" (Michael Simmons, *The Rothschilds: The Dynasty and the Legacy*).

At the time, Frankfurt was one of the many principalities that comprised the Holy Roman Empire, and Jews were restricted to a small ghetto, as we have seen in the chapter "The Diaspora."

Mayer and his wife were not orthodox Jews. If they had a god, it was the god of luck, and this continued to be the main religion of the Rothschilds.

"Gutle [Mayer's widow] had a superstitious belief that if she ever left the *Judengasse* [ghetto], all the good luck that [had] come to her family would reverse, and her sons would be ruined" (Simmons, *The Rothschilds*, p. 74).

When Nathan Rothschild died, he prayed as follows:

"I acknowledge unto thee, Lord my God and God of my fathers, that both my cure and my death are in thy hands. May it be thy will. [after pausing] It is not necessary that I should pray so much, for believe me, according to my convictions I have not sinned" (Simmons, p. 76).

Edmond Rothschild, who funded much of the early development of modern Israel, used a humanistic device to disregard God's law to let the land rest every seven

years. Before the start of the seventh year, he sold his farmland in Israel to Gentiles, who then sold it back to him at the end of the year. This way the Gentiles could work the land during the sabbath, because *technically* it did not belong to Jews, and pay Rothschild for the use of the land. This Pharisaical device to ignore God's holy law was approved by one of the highest rabbinical authorities.

"Edmond [had asked] for the judgment of Rabbi Isaac Elchono of Lithuania, who was recognized as the greatest authority on orthodox Judaism in the world. Elchono approved the scheme, and the [other] rabbis had to be satisfied with his pronouncement" (Simmons, *The Rothschilds*, p. 131).

Mayer's objective in life was fame and fortune. His "goal was to make money" and "to become the father of a family banking dynasty" (Simmons, pp. 17, 48).

The first step toward this objective was being made a Crown Agent by Prince William of Hesse-Hanau, the eldest son of Frederick, the Landgrave of Hesse. Mayer Rothschild gained the prince's confidence by selling him valuable coins for his collection at inexpensive prices.

The Landgrave had amassed a fortune by drafting one-third of the young men in his principality into the military and selling their services to England. Famously, King George III used them in America's War of Independence.

"This practice was known as 'trafficking in valor.' Not only did the prince charge the English for the use of the soldiers, he charged them for their maintenance for a full year after they returned home, with additional penalties to be paid for soldiers who were wounded or killed. When Prince William succeeded his father upon Frederick's death in 1785, he discovered that the old Landgrave had made a sum equaling about twelve million dollars in today's currency" (Simmons, *The Rothschilds*, p. 49).

Prince William set out to increase this great fortune. In fact, he, too, was obsessed with making money.

"When he grew old, he filled the numerous rooms in his palace with bags of silver and gold, which he pored over, paralyzed with anxiety that they should be stolen" (Simmons).

Rothschild eventually became William's chief banker, and in this capacity he amassed a fortune and divided it among his five sons, who established Rothschild banking

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centers in London (Nathan), Paris (James), Frankfurt (Amschel), Vienna (Salomon), and Naples (Carl).

Mayer had 19 children, 10 of whom survived to adulthood, and the children had to sleep in a single attic room in the ghetto at Frankfurt since they could not live outside.

Rothschild's will dictated that the Rothschild business be led exclusively through the males of the family. "The daughters would receive fine dowries, but neither their husbands nor their sons would take part in the family business."

Nathan Rothschild became the head of the family upon Mayer's death, and he continued his father's policy of putting money first.

"A friend of his wife's once remarked innocently that she was sure Nathan would not wish for his children to care only about business, to the exclusion of the more important things in life. Nathan found the comment extremely irritating: 'I wish them to give mind, soul, heart and body--everything to business,' he exclaimed. 'It requires a great deal of boldness and a great deal of caution to make a large fortune and, when you have got it, you require ten times as much wit to keep it'" (Simmons, *The Rothschilds*, p. 65).

During the 19th century, the Rothschild family possessed the largest private fortune in the world (*The House of Rothschild: Money's Prophets*). In fact, it has been called the largest private fortune in history. Together with other Jewish banking dynasties, the Rothschilds long controlled a large share of international finance.

The extremely secretive Rothschilds owned fabulous palaces and mansions in many countries, including the Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire, England, which is a museum today.

In England, the Rothschilds were one of the controller families of the East India Company. Among other things, they owned railroads, grape vineyards, and were heavily involved in the oil business in the region known today as Azerbaijan. By 1900, their Caspian and Black Sea Oil Industry was producing more oil than any country in the world.

The Jewish Rothschilds were able to demand respect from the old established Gentile bankers and rulers and

to give a bit of a "comeuppance" from time to time.

"On one occasion, Amschel Rothschild sent a bill to his brother through the Bank of England, expecting them to use Nathan's money, which was invested there, to pay it. When the bank's directors informed the brothers that they did not provide this service to 'private persons,' Nathan was incensed. Eleven million pounds of Rothschild gold was housed in the Bank of England; the bank could not function without it. Nathan immediately proceeded to the bank, along with a number of Rothschild clerks, and began exchanging notes for gold coins, one sovereign at a time. His clerks were going the same at all the other windows. Every teller at the bank was thus occupied in changing notes to gold, leaving them unable to serve any other customers. When the bank managers hurried out of their offices to find out what was happening, Nathan made it known that he had eleven million pounds in the bank, and it would take about two months to change it all--during which time no other business could take place. Quailing at the prospect of losing all the Rothschild investments, the board of directors had no choice but to apologize to Nathan profusely and promise that, in the future, Rothschild bills would be discounted like their own" (Simmons, *The Rothschilds*, pp. 67-68).

The Rothschilds built an intricate and effective communication network in the 19th century that enabled them to control markets.

Nathan Rothschild received word of the Duke of Wellington's victory over Napoleon at Waterloo a full day before the British government in London. At the time, Nathan used his financial acumen to vastly increase his fortune.

"Nathan Rothschild calculated that the future reduction in government borrowing brought about by the peace would create a bounce in British government bonds after a two-year stabilisation, which would finalise the post-war restructuring of the domestic economy. In what has been described as one of the most audacious moves in financial history, Nathan immediately bought up the government bond market, for what at the time seemed an excessively high price, before waiting two years, then selling the bonds on the crest of a short bounce in the market in 1817 for a 40% profit. Given the sheer power of leverage the Rothschild family had at their disposal, this profit was an enormous sum" ("Rothschild Family," *Wikipedia*, citing *The Ascent of Money: A Financial History of the World*).

One thing is certain, though: the Rothschilds of that era are all in the grave, and they took nothing with them, neither fame nor fortune. They should have taken heed to the book of Psalms in their Hebrew Scriptures.

“They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption. For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought *is*, *that* their houses *shall continue* for ever, *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names. Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish. This their way *is* their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling” (Psalm 49:6-14).

The Rothschilds’ lack of spiritual wisdom aside, we can see the hand of God in their history in that part of the Rothschild fortune was used to finance the return of Jews to the land of Israel at the end of the 19th century and to purchase land for settlements.

Between 1882 and 1889, at a time when the fledgling Jewish settlements were in danger of folding due to lack of funds, Edmond Rothschild covered the expenses of Rishon LeZion, Zikhron Yaaqov, Rosh Pinna, and Ekron (Ekron), and donated five million pounds for other settlements (“Baron Rothschild,” knesset.gov.il).

Edmond “poured more money into the Jewish settlements than all the rest of the Jews in the world combined.” It is estimated that he spent more than \$50 million on Israel’s development, a truly massive amount of money for that day.

The first settlement he funded was in Ekron.

“He sent twelve Russian Jews to be educated at a French agricultural school, to teach them how to become successful farmers. When they completed their education, he sent them to Ekron, in Palestine, with money, equipment, and overseers picked from the Rothschild vineyards to supervise the work. He guaranteed the harvests--if the crops grew, the Rothschilds would buy them, every year, albeit for a fixed sum” (Simmons, *The Rothschilds*).

In 1924, Edmond Rothschild established the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association, which purchased more than 125,000 acres of land.

He funded the development of the first electric generation station.

Leslie Stein well summarizes the work of Edmond Rothschild

“Rothschild’s first commitments to Palestinian settlements were rather tentative, but he soon became financially entangled in almost the entire enterprise, giving generously in furtherance of both economic activities and of social needs. His involvement was not simply a fiscal one; as a devout Jew, he soon identified more closely with the New Yishuv, realizing that it would play a major role in his people’s future. ...

“Admittedly, he was impervious to unsolicited advice. He made many mistakes in the choice of the corps that he selected for cultivation, in the inappropriate use of expensive machinery and in pampering his wards with living conditions that did not reflect their productivity. Needless to say, such miscalculations were met at his own cost and while other magnates looked on him with incredulity as he seemingly squandered his family fortune, he alone among his wealthy peers in support of the Yishuv. Had he not stepped into the breach and stretched out a helping hand, early pioneering endeavors would probably have come to naught and Zionist aspiration may never have materialized” (Stein, Leslie Stein, *The Hope Fulfilled: The Rise of Modern Israel*).

Rothschild was not a secular Zionist. He wanted to develop a religious Israel. He even wanted to build the Third Temple. The following is excerpted from “Baron Edmond Rothschild,” *Israel Today*, July 21, 2023:

“Did you know that a prophecy-minded Jewish philanthropist apparently tried to build the Third Temple over 100 years ago? A rather obscure news item resurfaced some time ago on the Internet provides opportunity to address the matter of Baron Edmond de Rothschild and his efforts to build the Third Temple. The news item relates to an extremely rare book published in 1889, *The Temple of Jerusalem and the House of the Forest of Lebanon*. The book is the painstaking work of two French scholars, Charles Chipiez and Georges Perrot. ... Together, the two produced a comprehensive book that was a daring attempt to produce a kind of a blueprint for the Messianic Temple described by the prophet Ezekiel (chapters 40-42). ...

“Baron Edmond Rothschild’s contribution to the Zionist project is immense and is beyond the scope of this article. Suffice it to say that by 1914, 56% of lands owned by Jews were bought with the Baron’s money.

“Though many view him as a philanthropist, Edmond Rothschild was an avid Zionist who invested so heavily in the Holy Land because he believed Jewish immigration to this region was a realization of prophecy. ... unlike many

of the early Zionists, Rothschild objected to the secular version of Zionism. ... he explained that his vision was ‘to create the proper conditions that would allow the existence of Judaism and Jewish life ... such a thing is possible only in our Holy Land, where our Holy Law was given and where our prophets and spiritual teachers ... lived and worked.’ ... We know for a fact that in 1887 he tried [unsuccessfully] to purchase the Western Wall.”

Baron Edmond de Rothschild died in 1934, and in 1954 his and his wife’s remains were transported by ship to

Israel for burial in Ramat HaNadiv Memorial Garden near towns that he had helped establish. The ship bringing the bodies was met in Haifa with a 19-gun salute, and David Ben-Gurion delivered the eulogy at a state funeral.

In the 1950s, Edmond’s son James donated 6 million Israeli liras for the construction of the Knesset building.

The Rothschild name adorns many streets and buildings in Israel, including Rothschild Boulevard in Tel Aviv.

A MISSIONARY WHO UNDERSTANDS SAVING GRACE

(Friday Church News Notes, December 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

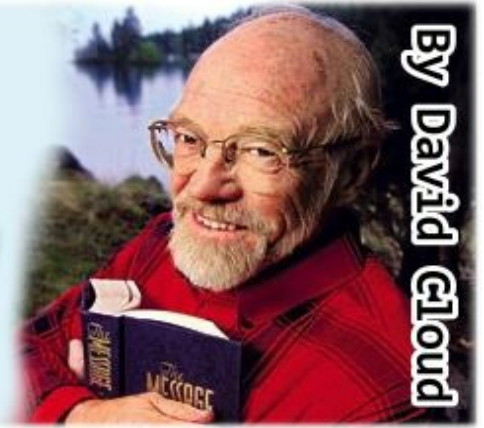
The following is from a recent prayer letter from a missionary to the Philippines. It is refreshing to see a biblically sound understanding of salvation in contrast to the Quick Prayerism error that is so prevalent. Salvation is not a mere sinner’s prayer or a ticket to heaven. It is a dead stone being miraculously converted to a living stone (1 Peter 2:5). The missionary writes, “Pray for God’s word to take root and to flourish in the hearts of our guests and visitors (and non-visitors). Many attend the services, some respond acknowledging their need for salvation but very few follow through with genuine repentance and saving faith. We must see a real-deal life change. Salvation changes the entire human condition. And while we know that God does the saving, we are convinced that we must do our part in sowing and praying, and patiently coming alongside and witness to those who are lost in sin.” “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

THE BEETLE WHO IS A CHEMIST (Friday Church News Notes, December 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 28, 2023: “Imagine a beetle that can move across the surface of water without any body movement. Some creatures have been given such ability and skill that it should be clear to even the most skeptical person that their Maker and Teacher is greater than any human being. One such creature is the large-eyed rove beetle. Like many other insects, this beetle can walk on water. The surface tension of the water is enough to support the beetle on top of the water, given the special structure of his legs and feet. Should you see the large-eyed rove beetle, you will notice that he moves across the water, stops, turns, and starts up again without moving any part of his body. How does this work? The large-eyed rove beetle has special glands that produce a chemical--something like detergent--that changes the surface tension of the water. When the surface tension of the water near his back feet is different from the surface tension of



the water near his front feet, the beetle is pulled forward. Such a unique method of movement requires sophisticated knowledge of both hydrodynamics and chemistry. Since the beetle is obviously not that smart, it is no wonder that evolutionists often speak of evolution as though it were intelligent and able to create such wonders. However, it makes a lot more sense to talk about a wise, personal Creator than it does to speak of the wisdom of a mindless force like evolution. Ref: *Science Digest*, Aug., 1983. p. 74.”

Eugene Peterson, The MESSAGE, & The NEW AGE



The following is a small excerpt from Eugene Peterson's *Mixed Message: A Subversive Bible for a New Age* by Warren B. Smith, available in booklet form from Lighthouse Trails

<https://www.lighthouse trails research.com/blog/new-booklet-eugene-petersons-mixed-message-a-subversive-bible-for-a-new-age/>



Golden Circle

Revelation 2:5

KJV - Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

MSG - Do you have any idea how far you've fallen? A Lucifer fall! Turn back! Recover your dear early love. No time to waste, for I'm well on my way to removing your light from the golden circle.

The term "golden circle" is not found in the original manuscripts. In fact, the single word "circle" is found only once in the KJV and refers to the circumference of the earth (Isaiah 40:22). An Internet search for "golden circle" does not bring up anything that equates to being biblical. But it does connect the term to, among other things, a Masonic ritual, a secret society, and modern-day witchcraft. "The Order of the Golden Circle" is the women's auxiliary of the 33 degree Scottish Rite of Freemasonry.²⁵ The "Knights of the Golden Circle" was a radical secret society in mid-nineteenth century America,²⁶ and Wiccans—with their "golden chalk" and "golden energy"—often invoke the term "as above, so below" to seal their "ritual circles":

When Witches seal a circle casting, sacred space or a spell, they often say the words "As above, so below."²⁷

The Maxim "As above, so below" (as well as others you'll study in the future) does tell us that Wicca carries with it into the twenty-first century a heavy coil of very old, very ancient, golden energy.²⁸

Golden chalk is used to draw the heart glyph at the center of a ritual circle. Golden chalk is crafted in a witches' cauldron.²⁹

God of Green Hope

And just as Peterson added the term "golden circle" in translating Revelation 2:5, he added the word "green" to his translation of Romans 15:13.

Romans 15:13

KJV - Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

MSG - Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

The word "green" for most people has come to mean recycling, reducing our carbon footprint, and overall good stewardship of the earth. However, in recent times, the word "green" has also come to represent some of the more extreme environmental activism and earth worship identified with Paganism, Witchcraft, and the New Age movement. One online site straightforwardly states that the word "green" is synonymous with the term New Age:

Not everyone who came to be associated with the New Age phenomenon openly embraced the term "New Age"

... Other terms that were employed synonymously with “New Age” in this milieu included “Green.”³⁰

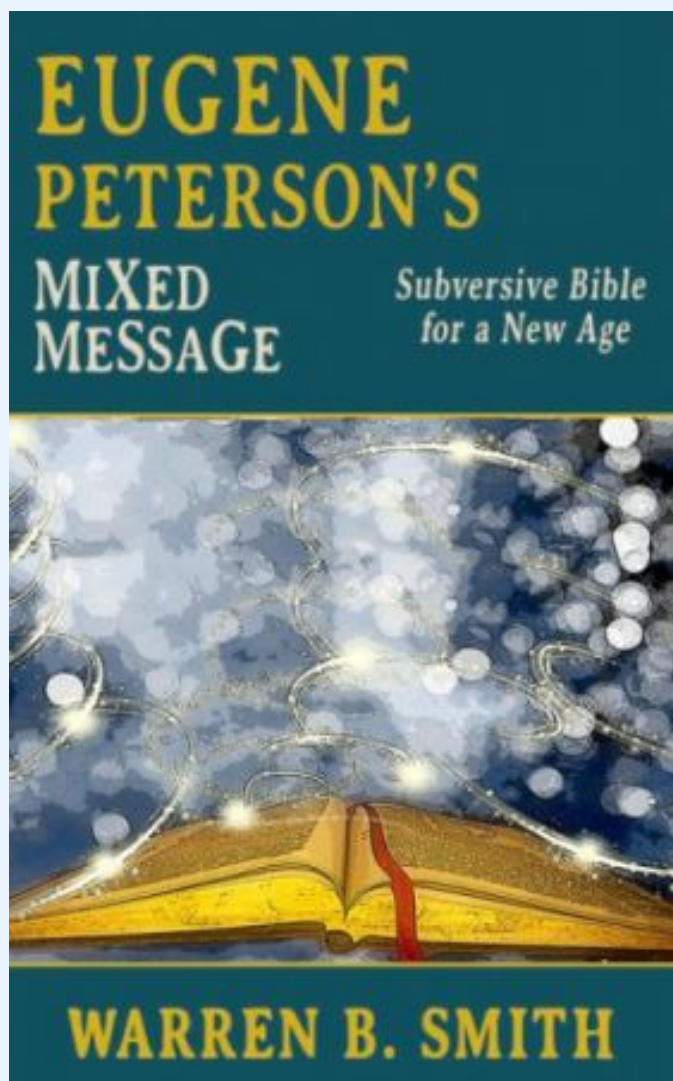
The “Green Movement” is commonly associated with Gaia and earth worship and has been described as being “at the very heart of the Global Green Agenda.”³¹ Consistent with New Age teachings, Gaia philosophy is the belief that humanity can save “Mother Earth” by recognizing its “Oneness” with “her.” Gaia is acknowledged to be part of the “Green Agenda” for a united “Green Religion.” The all-encompassing “Green Movement” is presently and actively promoting current environmental policies. Popular with progressive politicians and New Age spiritualists, a “Green New Deal” is already in the works. There is also a “Green Witchcraft,”³² and the “Green Horned God” of Wicca is frequently referred to as the “Green Man.”³³

Peterson’s “God of green hope” translation lends itself to all of the above as it conveniently meshes with Paganism, Witchcraft, and the New Age movement. The Bible warns that we cannot just add words like “golden circle” and “green” that are not in the original manuscripts and call it a translation (Proverbs 30:6). It is as wrong as describing God’s creation as “God-craft.”

<https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/new-booklet-eugene-petersons-mixed-message-a-subversive-bible-for-a-new-age/>

For more about *The Message*, see “Eugene Peterson and the Message,”

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/eugene_peterson_and_the_message.html



Eugene Peterson’s Mixed Message: A Subversive Bible for a New Age

By Warren B. Smith

Eugene Peterson placed great emphasis on being—in his own words—“subversive.” In a 1987 interview with Christianity Today, Peterson stated:

“So what I have tried to develop first of all, in myself, is the mentality of the subversive.”

“The Subversive Pastor” is the title of a chapter in his book *The Contemplative Pastor* (1989). *Subversive Spirituality* is the title of a book he released in 1994 while he was writing *The Message*. And if anyone doubts Peterson being a bit subversive, one need only look at his enthusiastic endorsements of three books with serious New Age implications—William Paul Young’s *The Shack*, Rob Bell’s universalistic *Love Wins*, and Sue Monk Kidd’s *When the Heart Waits*.

**To order copies of “Eugene Peterson’s
Mixed Message: A Subversive Bible for a
New Age” Go To:**

<https://www.lighthouse Trailsresearch.com/blog/new-booklet-eugene-petersons-mixed-message-a-subversive-bible-for-a-new-age/>

The SUN as WITNESS to the GLORY of GOD

By David Cloud

The heavens witness of God's "glory" (Ps. 19:1). The glory of God that is seen in the heavens is His infinite wisdom and almighty power and artistry.

Consider the sun, which is the focus of Psalm 19 ("In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun," Ps. 19:4). Modern science is gaining a massive amount of new information about the sun through space probes. In December 2021, NASA's spaceship *Parker* actually flew through the Sun's upper atmosphere, the corona, sampling particles and taking complex measurements. Though the research is largely interpreted through the lens of evolution, because of man's rebellion to God, the scientific facts themselves refute evolution and point to intelligent design at an infinite level. The sun is a massive nuclear reactor that converts hydrogen into helium and provides heat, energy, and gravity for our solar system. It is nearly a perfect sphere that would hold about a million earths. Its surface temperature is about 5,500 degrees Celsius (10,000 degrees F), and the interior temperature is about 15 million degrees Celsius (27 million degrees F).

"It has a diameter of 864,000 miles, but it is all gas. Two billion billion billion tons of gas. Over every square inch of the core there presses down a crushing weight of a million million pounds of matter. The only thing that keeps the sun's core from collapsing is energy, inconceivable floods of energy that raise the sun's internal temperature to twenty-five million degrees Fahrenheit. Consuming 657 million tons of hydrogen each second, the sun can still go on burning for another fifty billion years" (John Phillips).

For life on earth, the sun is the right size, the right orbit, the right stability, and the right distance from the earth; it has the right amount of energy and gravity and magnetism; it is the right temperature; it emits the right type of radiation and visible light. "It produces 386 billion, billion megawatts of energy each second or 6.4 billion Horse Power (HP). However, of all that energy moving out into space, the earth captures only a small percentage of it (0.0000000462 of 1

percent). But this very tiny percentage, no more and no less, is 'somehow' exactly the right amount the earth needs to maintain the average temperatures that support all forms of life" ("The Young Sun," creationstudies.org).

"[The sun] is actually an ideal size to support life on earth. There would be little point in having a red supergiant star like Betelgeuse, because it is so huge that it would engulf all the inner planets! Nor would we want a star like the blue-white supergiant Rigel, 25,000 times as bright as the sun, and emitting too much high-frequency radiation. Conversely, a star much smaller than our sun would be too faint to support life" ("The Sun: Our Special Star," creation.com).

There is perfect harmony between the sun and the earth for the maintenance of life. "A related example of the unbelievable sun-earth harmony is the process of photosynthesis in green plants. Life on our planet depends on vegetation and the O₂/CO₂ cycle (animals breathe oxygen/plants 'breathe' carbon dioxide) for its existence. 'Surprisingly,' the sun contains the specific radiation wavelength needed to activate photosynthesis! The sun also provides the necessary amount of energy to evaporate water and keep the hydrological cycle operating, along with many other life cycles, so that resources that living organisms need are continually renewed. It has been said that the earth has the perfect surface to support life, but without the sun's delicate interaction, it would be void and desolate. One can only logically conclude that the sun-earth relationship is the work of an amazingly wise and loving Creator" ("The Young Sun," creationstudies.org).

Sir Isaac Newton, one of the preeminent scientists of all times, observed, "This most beautiful system of sun, planets, and comets could only proceed from the counsel and dominion of an intelligent and powerful being."

Newton studied the Bible with as much zeal as he studied science, and he saw no conflict between the two.



THE BIBLE'S STRONG EMPHASIS ON PRAYER

By David Cloud



The following is excerpted from [*Effectual Prayer in Perilous Times*](#), a new Bible course available from: www.wayoflife.org.

Nothing is more important in the Christian life and ministry than effectual prayer.

In light of the following Bible facts about prayer, it has rightly been said, “No prayer, no power; little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power.”

Prayer is mentioned at least 550 times in the Bible, 174 times in the New Testament, 35 times in Acts.

Prayer is a major emphasis of Christ’s teaching (Mt. 5:44; 6:5-15; 9:38; 17:21; 21:22; 26:41; Mr. 13:33; Lu. 11:5-13; 18:1-6).

Prayer is mentioned 48 times in Paul’s epistles. Paul taught something about prayer in practically every one of his epistles.

James, Peter, John, and Jude mention prayer 11 times.

The prominent saints in the Bible were praying people (e.g., Enoch, Abraham, Hannah, Deborah, Samuel, David, Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Nehemiah, Paul, Lydia).

Prayer is one of the four foundational characteristics of the first church in Jerusalem (“they continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, and breaking of bread and PRAYERS,” Acts 2:42).

Prayer is to be “first of all” in the churches (1 Ti. 2:1-2).

Prayer is the first ministry of church leaders (“But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word,” Ac. 6:4).

Note that prayer is to be continual. And note that prayer is put first, and that is because prayer is necessary for the ministry of the word to be most effectual. This is God’s plan. Paul plainly taught this.

God’s people are to continue instant in prayer (Ro. 12:12), to pray always (Eph. 6:18), to pray in everything (Php. 4:6), to continue in prayer (Col. 4:2), to pray without ceasing (1 Th. 5:17).

We are told that “ye have not, because ye ask not” (Jas. 4:2). This means that God requires His people to pray for everything they need, and lack of prayer results in lack of provision. In the life of every individual, home, and church, there are continual needs, and each one should be brought to God in prayer. His help and provision must not be presumed. In every church, for example, there is the need for love and unity, for spiritual growth, for spiritual victory, for power, for wisdom, for conversions, for the families, for the children, for the youth, for the pastors, for the preaching and teaching, for the evangelism, for workers for the harvest, for resources, etc. This requires a lot of prayer. It requires setting aside a lot of time for prayer.

The prayers of the saints are kept before the throne of God as sweet odors before Him and are effectual in producing His great works on earth. Prayers are mentioned at the opening of the seven-sealed book which contains God’s plan for overthrowing the rebellion on earth and establishing Christ’s eternal kingdom (Re. 5:8; 8:3-4). These are not the selfish prayers of nominal believers; these are not the prayers of those who pray for comfort and help while they live lukewarm, worldly lives; these are the prayers of the saints who are living according to God’s will and praying according to God’s will, like the saints recorded in Scripture.

Prayer is a major part of spiritual warfare in the battle for truth and righteousness in this present world. Paul mentioned prayer prominently in his description of the whole armor of God. “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints” (Eph. 6:18). The devil does everything he can to stop or hinder effectual prayer. He tries to make the saint think that his prayers won’t change anything, that it doesn’t matter whether or not he prays, or how much he prays. He tries to focus the saint’s attention on his sin and failings and cause him to become too discouraged to pray.



In spite of claims of contemporary Catholic propagandists, the Roman Catholic Church worships Mary. They use the term “venerate,” but it is the same thing.

According to Rome, she was immaculately (sinlessly) conceived, participated in Christ’s suffering for mankind, ascended bodily to Heaven, was crowned Queen of the universe, and intercedes for sinners.

During a radio message concluding the Jubilee of the Redemption, April 28, 1935, Pope Pius XI gave the Catholic Mary the title Co-redemptrix. At least five times Pope Paul II referred to her by this title in his papal statements.

In his general audience in 1997, he said that Mary “collaborated in obtaining the grace of salvation for all humanity” (Vatican Information Service, April 9, 1997). This pope dedicated himself and the whole world to Mary.

The influential book *The Glories of Mary* by Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, a Catholic saint, calls Mary our Life, our Help, our Advocate, our Guardian, our Mediatrix, our Salvation, and the Hope of Sinners.

Chapter 5 says “Mary’s intercession is necessary for our salvation.”

This book was tested 20 times by the rules of Pope Urban VIII and Pope Benedict XIV and was said to contain not “one word worthy of censure.” It was pronounced to be without error by Pope Pius VII and by Pope Leo XII. Pope John Paul II acknowledged Liguori’s influence in his own idolatrous affection for Mary. Liguori’s book continues to be published today with the *imprimatur* [Latin meaning “let it be printed”] of various Catholic authorities.

MARY ON THE CROSS

In the Church of the Mother of God of Polish Martyrs in Warsaw, Poland, Mary is depicted hanging on the cross holding the child Jesus.

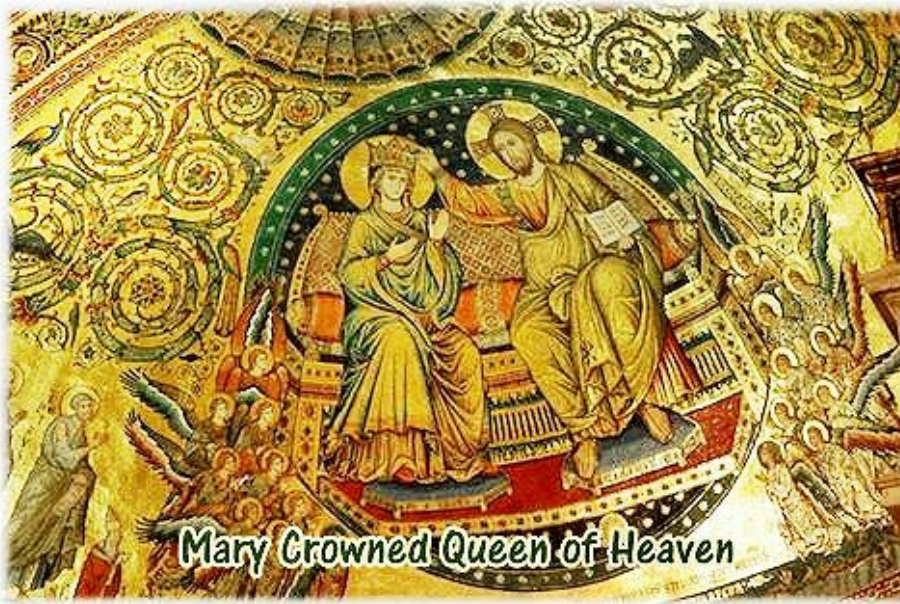
Outside of the main Mary basilica in Rome (Santa Maria Maggiore) there is a large crucifix with Jesus hanging on one side and a crowned Mary hanging on the other.

This statue depicts Rome’s dogma that Mary is the co-redemptress with Christ and that she intercedes for men from Heaven and aids in their salvation.

Note the following quotations from the Vatican II Council:

“As St. Irenaeus says, she being obedient, became the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. Hence not a few of the early Fathers gladly assert with him in their preaching ... ‘death through Eve, LIFE THROUGH MARY.’ This UNION OF THE MOTHER WITH THE SON IN THE WORK OF SALVATION is made manifest from the time of Christ’s virginal conception up to his death” (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, chap. 8, II, 56, pp. 380-381).

“Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but BY HER MANIFOLD INTERCESSION CONTINUES TO BRING US THE GIFTS OF ETERNAL SALVATION. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of ADVOCATE, HELPER, BENEFACTRESS, and



MEDIATRIX” (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, chap. 8, II, 62, pp. 382-383).

A plaque in the Chapel of the Virgin of the Grace at Saints Vincent and Anastasius Church in Rome says, “Cardinal Benedetto Odescalchi, who became the pope with the name of Innocent XI, initiated THE WORSHIP OF THE IMAGE, placed on the altar in 1677, and wanted his heart to be buried here, not in the main chapel.”

This is only one example of many that could be given of the term “worship” used in regard to Mary in Rome’s churches.

MARY ADORED BY THE APOSTLES

In the Church of the Mother of God of Polish Martyrs in Warsaw, Poland, Mary is also surrounded by the 12 apostles who are adoring her rather than Jesus Christ.

MARY ON THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

The Saint Stanislaus Kostka Catholic church in Chicago features an image of Mary on the very Ark of God. She is sitting above the Ark in the place that was occupied by God’s presence in the Tabernacle, and she is surrounded by adoring cherubim. This blasphemous image occupies the central altar where Mass is performed. The church’s official literature says that the image depicts the Catholic doctrines that Mary was immaculately conceived and sinless, that she participated in Christ’s suffering for mankind, and that she was bodily assumed into glory and crowned Queen of Heaven. The icon depicting Mary as

the Ark of Mercy was dedicated in May 2008. Since then the church has been open 24 hours a day as an invitation for “pilgrims from all around the world to immerse themselves in the spring of grace, mercy, and power” that is supposedly flowing from the image.

This is pure blasphemy. The Ark of the Covenant was located in the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament tabernacle and was the place where God’s presence dwelt (Exodus 25:22). Angels do not worship creatures (Acts 14:11-15; Rev. 19:10).

Roman Catholic churches are filled with idols. Mary is revered with far greater fervency than Jesus. Every “evangelical” or “Baptist” or “Protestant” who has said positive things about Rome and who has participated in ecumenical relations with Rome or who has failed even to lift his voice against Rome’s gross heresies will answer to God for the refusal to “earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 3) and for keeping silence in the face of evil.

MARY QUEEN OF THE UNIVERSE

The Roman Catholic Basilica of Mary, Queen of the Universe is located in Orlando, Florida, near Disney World. The basilica’s official brochure says it “emphasizes devotion to the Mother of God as one of the God-given gifts enabling us to reach that salvation for which Christ gave us His life on the cross.” Thus, according to this Catholic document Mary plays a role in salvation, which is a blasphemous lie. That Rome’s Mary is worshipped as queen of heaven is clear evidence that she is a Christianized pagan idol, for the only queen of heaven mentioned in the Bible is a goddess that the Jews were worshipping at the time of the destruction of the First Temple (Jeremiah 7:18; 44:17-25). The ancient mother-goddess worship, which began at Babel and spread throughout the world, was baptized by the Roman Catholic Church as the Madonna-Child.

For photos of Mary on God’s throne, Mary the Queen of Peace, Mary hanging on the cross, Mary adored by the apostles, and Mary on the ark of the covenant see the following:

<http://www.wayoflife.org/maryolatry/index.html>

Too Strict ~ By David Cloud

The individual, home, and church that seeks to take the Bible seriously in Christian living is widely criticized today, even in “Christian” circles. “They are too strict. They are too serious. They need to lighten up. We shouldn’t be fanatics.”

But how is it possible to obey the following Scriptures without being exceedingly “strict” in doctrine and living?

“... teaching them to observe **ALL THINGS** whatsoever I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:20). This is Christ’s description of a New Testament church. A church that doesn’t take “all things” seriously is not obeying Christ.

“Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in **ALL THINGS**, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you” (1 Corinthians 11:2). This passage deals with hair length, head coverings, and the Lord’s Supper, which are widely considered to be “non-essentials,” yet Paul praised the church for remembering him in **ALL** things.

“Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a **LITTLE LEAVEN** leaveneth the whole lump?” (1 Corinthians 5:6).

“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in **ALL THINGS**. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible” (1 Corinthians 9:25).

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do **ALL** to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

“Give **NONE OFFENCE**, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God” (1 Corinthians 10:32).

“Let **ALL THINGS** be done unto edifying” (1 Corinthians 14:26).

“Let **ALL THINGS** be done decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40).

“For to this end also did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in **ALL THINGS**” (2 Corinthians 2:9).

“Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, **ALL THINGS** are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“... let us cleanse ourselves from **ALL** filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Co. 7:1).

“But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in **ALL THINGS**, which is the head, *even* Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).

“Let **NO** corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).

“And have **NO FELLOWSHIP** with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*” (Ephesians 5:11).

“Do **ALL THINGS** without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (Philippians 2:14-15).

“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man **PERFECT** in Christ Jesus” (Colossians 1:28).

“Children, obey *your* parents in **ALL THINGS**: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord” (Colossians 3:20).

“Servants, obey in **ALL THINGS** *your* masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men” (Colossians 3:22-23).

“Prove **ALL THINGS**; hold fast that which is good” (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Paul instructed Timothy, “that thou mightest charge some that they teach **NO** other doctrine” (1 Ti. 1:3). That is a most strict standard of holding to sound doctrine and separating from false doctrine.

“Even so *must their* wives *be* grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in **ALL THINGS**” (1 Timothy 3:11).

“That thou keep this commandment **WITHOUT SPOT**, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Ti. 6:14). A spot is a small thing. Everything will be judged at Christ’s judgment seat. God’s people are to have their eyes on His coming and on pleasing Him in all things, not pleasing themselves and living for this world. This epistle contains commandments about such things as the woman’s modest apparel and her role in ministry (1 Ti. 2:9-14), which are widely considered to be “non-essentials,” but Paul does not treat them as non-essentials.

For a more comprehensive list of Scriptures pertaining to this subject, see the original article on the [Way Of Life Website](http://www.wayoflife.org/reports/too_strict.php) at:

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/too_strict.php

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?



THREE-FOLD CORD: A NEW APP TO HELP PROTECT CHRISTIAN MEN FROM THE MORAL DANGERS OF THE INTERNET (Friday Church News Notes, November 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In the smartphone era, wise churches will do everything they can to help protect their men (young and old) from the moral dangers of the internet and social media. The **Cord App** is a tool for this purpose. It is designed to connect three men in a partnership to help one another stay pure. It is based on the truth of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." I recently learned of this app from Pastor Courtney Lewis of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Chicago. He has had an accountability program among his men for a couple of years that has had good fruit, and he is happy with this app so far. He told me that it has taken their program to a higher level. It was developed under the direction of Ryan Swanson who ministers in music and youth at Fellowship Baptist Church of Taylors, South Carolina. According to his online testimony, he was addicted to porn for 12 years before his marriage and he is passionate about helping other men. I don't know anything else

about the app developers and cannot give any further recommendation of that ministry, but we are glad to see every effort to combat this wickedness.

<https://www.thecord.app>

We have not used the app in our church, but we see value in it. At the same time, a major problem is that the app requires that

young men, even teens, own a smartphone in order to be in the program. In our church, we *strongly* discourage teens from having smart phones and *any* access to the internet from *any* device without adult supervision. That might sound extremely strict to this smartphone generation, but God's standard is "touch not the unclean thing" and "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness" (2 Co. 6:17; Eph. 5:11), which is a *very* strict standard. Cord App or no Cord app, we believe that smartphones in the hands of teens is a recipe for spiritual and moral disaster. If we do use Cord App, we will use it with the older single young men and married men. See "A Church Smartphone Accountability Program,"

https://www.wayoflife.org/reports/a_church_smartphone_accountability_program.php.

MASSIVE PRO-ISRAEL RALLY IN WASHINGTON D.C. (Friday Church News Notes, November 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Massive pro-Israel rally," *The Washington Times*, Nov. 14, 2023: "Tens of thousands of demonstrators assembled on the National Mall in Washington on Tuesday to show support for Israel and to condemn mounting antisemitism as the Jewish



state wages war against the terrorist organization Hamas in Gaza. Called the 'March for Israel' and organized by the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the rally's purpose was to show solidarity and support for Israel and its people. The gathering was in response to those still being held by Hamas since its deadly Oct. 7 attack against Israel, in which terrorists killed about 1,200 civilians and abducted about 240 hostages back to Gaza. The massive crowd waved Israeli and American flags, signs announcing their respective city's support for Israel and laminated posters of kidnapped hostages. They chanted 'Bring them home.' Attendees came from all over the country and told *The Washington Times* that the recent events in Israel and attacks on Jewish Americans in the U.S. motivated them to show up."

BIDEN'S NEW POLICY TO MANDATE "GENDER PRONOUNS" AT HHS (Friday Church News Notes, November 24,



2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Biden's New Radical Policy Forces Federal Workers to Salute to the Rainbow Flag," *Townhall*, Nov. 9, 2023: "On Thursday, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new rule that will force all employees to comply with the chosen gender pronouns of people despite their biological sex. ... Speaking to *Fox News Digital*, Roger Severino, the Heritage Foundation's vice president for domestic policy and the former head of civil rights at HHS during the Trump administration, said that the 'federal government is requiring its employees to speak falsehoods.' The First Amendment, however, protects federal employees from being required to speak falsehoods. It also protects Americans from 'being compelled to adopt a state-approved ideology and requiring people to deny their own faith.' In a social media thread, Severino exposed the Biden Administration's progressive agenda, saying that the Democrat Party is forcing 'pure ideological conformity' on Americans. ... He told the outlet that the 'Orwellian' policy means that 'misgendering' someone would be considered as violating the anti-discrimination law, which can 'get you fired.'"

STREET PREACHER SHOT IN THE HEAD (Friday Church News Notes, November 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from "Street Preacher," *Church Leaders*, Nov. 17, 2023: "Hans Schmidt, a 26-year-old outreach director at Victory Chapel First Phoenix, was shot in the head while he was street preaching in Glendale, Arizona.



Schmidt, who is a military veteran [medic], a husband, and a father of two young children, was on the corner of 51st Avenue and Peoria around 6 p.m. Wednesday evening and was preaching through a megaphone. According to Paul Sanchez, a nearby worker who has witnessed the outreach director street preach many times, there was a car filled with people who were screaming at Schmidt. 'There was a lot of everything, really, hateful comments, people yelling at him, Get off the street, all sorts of mean things,' Sanchez told a local news outlet. ... Victory Chapel First Phoenix's website says that Schmidt is 'in critical condition and in desperate need of a miracle.'"

VATICAN COMPARES JESUS WITH BUDDHA (Friday Church News Notes, November 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- In its ongoing efforts to build a one-world "church," the Roman Catholic Church has issued an interfaith statement comparing Jesus with Buddha. The objective of the Seventh Buddhist-Christian Colloquium was "Healing a Wounded Humanity and the Earth." The Final Statement proclaimed, "As Buddhists and Christians, we see the Buddha and Jesus as Great Healers. The Buddha pointed to greed and Jesus to sin as the cause of suffering. On many



levels, Jesus and the Buddha proposed love and compassion as medicine to drive out the darkness in the human heart and the world. Nourished by their respective spiritual teachings, Buddhists and Christians, for thousands of years, have adopted compassionate ways of living to address the suffering of life” (Holy See Press Office, Nov. 16, 2023). This is blasphemy. Jesus Christ is the incarnate, sinless Son of God, the Creator of all things, the only Lord and Saviour. He alone made the vicarious atonement to redeem sinners. Buddha is none of that. The Roman Catholic Church has a false gospel and a false christ and another spirit and has long played a major role in the formation of the Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17.

BRITISH JUDGES POMPOUSLY PULL THE PLUG ON BABY INDI AND REFUSE ITALY’S OFFER OF SANCTUARY (Friday Church News Notes, November 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is excerpted from “Indi Gregory dies,” *Christian Post*, Nov. 13, 2023: “An 8-month-old baby girl in England died early on Monday after a court ordered her off life support and transferred to an in-patient hospice last week against the wishes of her parents. Indi Gregory, who suffered from an incurable mitochondrial disease and had been in pediatric intensive care at the

Queen’s Medical Centre in Nottingham since she was born in February, died at 1:45 a.m. local time, the girl’s father, Dean Gregory, said in a statement released by the family’s lawyers at the London-based Christian Concern. Lord Justice Peter Jackson, Lady Justice Eleanor King and Lord Justice Andrew Moylan shot down an appeal from Indi’s parents last Friday that sought permission for them to remove her from life support at home. Gregory said he and Indi’s mother, Claire, ‘are angry, heartbroken, and ashamed’ in the wake of her death. ‘The NHS and the Courts not only took away her chance to live a longer life, but they also took away Indi’s dignity to pass away in the family home where she belonged,’ Gregory said. ... Indi’s case drew the intervention of Italian political leaders, who granted her emergency citizenship on Nov. 6 and offered to provide specialist treatment at the Vatican-run Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital in Rome at no cost to the NHS or U.K. taxpayers. Dr. Matteo Corradini, who serves as the Italian consul in Manchester, urged British authorities to grant him jurisdiction over Indi’s case under Article 9 of the 1996 Hague Convention, given her new citizenship... Shortly after news of Indi’s death, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni tweeted, ‘We did everything we could, everything possible. Unfortunately it wasn’t enough.’”



POPE CHARACTERIZES ISRAEL’S GAZA CAMPAIGN AS “TERRORISM” AND CALLS FOR WORLD PEACE (Friday Church News Notes, December 1, 2023,

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

- Speaking separately to a Palestinian delegation and an Israel delegation on Nov. 22, Pope Francis called Israel’s Gaza campaign “terrorism,” and in his general audience that day he called for world peace. He said, “[H]ere we have gone beyond wars, this is not waging war, this is terrorism” (“Pope calls Gaza war terrorism,” *Crux*, Nov. 22, 2023). The 10 Palestinian delegates said the pope called the war “genocide,” but the Vatican denied that. In his general audience and in a video appeal, the pope called “for peace in the Holy Land and in the world.” The pope is ignorant of the fact that he is fulfilling prophecy, not only as preaching a false christ and a false gospel, and as a chief element of the Mystery Babylon of Revelation 17 (e.g., names of blasphemy, arrayed in purple and scarlet, decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication), but also the prophecies of the call for peace. “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a

A DESERT FULL OF FROGS (Friday Church News Notes, November 24, 2023, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, October 31, 2023: “Even though many frogs live much of their lives out of the water, they need water to reproduce. This can be a problem since some frogs live in trees and some even live in the desert! For a tree frog, the trip from the treetops to a nearby pool is a long and dangerous journey. However, the Creator cares about all of His creatures. The leaves of the bromeliad that grows in the branches of many trees in the tropical forest form a private pool far above the ground. As a result, mama frog can raise her young without ever leaving the treetops! The desert would seem to offer an even greater challenge for a frog. However, since it pleased the Creator to place frogs in the desert--maybe to challenge the evolutionists--He has also provided for their needs. It may rain only once every two years in the deserts of central Australia. When it does rain, the water-holding frogs emerge from their underground hideaways to lay their eggs in the puddles. Before the puddles disappear, not only do the eggs hatch, but the young grow and develop into frogs that are able to store water until the next rain. As the desert again



takes over, the frogs dig themselves back into the ground and go into suspended animation until the next rains come. A year or two later, the new generation will emerge after the next rain to raise their young. Neither chance nor the smartest frog in the world could design or create these abilities. Only a wise Creator could. And if the Creator has provided this much care for frogs, just think of how much more He cares about you and me in our everyday lives! Ref: Wilder, Rachel. “Flying frogs.” *Science Digest*, Nov. 1983, p. 120.”

woman with child; and they shall not escape” (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3). The hour is very late.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES SAME-SEX PARTNERS OF FALLEN TROOPS AS “WIDOW/ERS” (Friday Church News Notes, December 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- There is no clearer evidence of Israel’s current apostate condition than its acceptance of homosexuality and same-sex “marriage.” Israel recognizes same-sex marriages from other nations and allows homosexual couples to adopt. Tel Aviv’s annual gay pride festival is one of the largest in the world. Jerusalem has its own gay pride festival, fulfilling the

prophecy of Revelation 11:8 which calls Jerusalem “Sodom.” The following is excerpted from “Same-sex partners of fallen troops,” *Israel21c*, Nov. 12, 2023: “Israel’s Knesset recently passed an amendment that allows recognition of same-sex partners of fallen soldiers as IDF widows or widowers. The existing law was amended after criticism from Omer Ohana, whose fiancé--IDF Reserve Captain Sagi Golan--was killed in



battle with Hamas on October 7. The commander in Lotar, a special counter-terrorism unit, fell in Kibbutz Be’eri, where around 70 Hamas militants massacred more than 100 civilians. Ohana and Golan were scheduled to get married on October 13. Shortly after Golan’s death, Ohana slammed the exclusion of same-sex couples from the Families of Fallen Soldiers Law. ... Earlier this week, the law was finally amended, leaving gender entirely out of the legislation. The amendment allows people whose spouse or partner of the same sex was killed in combat to be eligible for financial compensation and support.” “So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld,

lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but *there was* no breath in them” (Ezekiel 37:7-8).

FEAR IS A SIGN OF THE TIMES

(Friday Church News Notes, December 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

Fear is one of the many signs of the end times. The Lord Jesus described the “beginning of sorrows” as a time of wars and rumors of wars, of famines and pestilences and earthquakes which will produce **troubled minds** (Matthew 24:6-7). In the Gospel of Luke, Christ described these things as “fearful sights” (Lu. 21:11). The beginning of sorrows is the beginning of the day of the Lord, and though we are not officially in that time, these things are also signs of *the approach* of the day of the Lord. Hebrews 10:25 says we can “see the day approaching.” Covid was a pestilence that was accompanied by great fear. Large numbers of people worldwide still wear masks, even driving alone in an automobile or walking alone in a private place, living in a strange realm of fear. It is a day of troubled minds. God’s people have the light of God’s Word and are instructed by Christ “be not troubled” at end times events (Mt. 24:6). If you are born again, don’t let the world’s fear be your fear. Don’t be shaken and troubled and fearful. How can you have a testimony of faith in Christ in such a condition? Christ

taught His people to “fear not” (Mt. 8:26; 10:26, 31; Lk. 12:7, 32) and “let not your heart be troubled” (John 14:1, 27). In the Tribulation itself, men’s hearts will fail “for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26). That will be a reasonable fear, for billions will perish in that day.

BAPTIST BIBLE FELLOWSHIP AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

(Friday Church News Notes, December 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - High Street Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri, is the “flagship” church of the Baptist Bible Fellowship International (BBFI). It provided classroom space for the founding of Baptist Bible College in 1950. Today High Street is on the high road to the apostate “broader church.” In 2017, High Street joined the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and is dually aligned with the BBFI and the SBC. High Street’s Pastor, Eddie Lyons, who was International President of the BBFI at the time, said, “We have the same heart, the same calling” (*Baptist Press*, Feb. 15, 2017). Lyons said, “There is no difference between us” (BBFI and Southern Baptists). He is right. Consider just some of the frightful facts about the Southern Baptist Convention today: Church discipline is almost unknown. The churches are incredibly worldly. Pointed preaching against worldliness is extremely rare. Christian rock is universally accepted. Deacons exercise unscriptural authority. Every strange Bible version is accepted. There is theological modernism in the liberal arts colleges. The heresy of textual criticism is widely embraced. Modern Bible versions of the greatest



depravity (e.g., Today’s English Version, The Message, The Living Bible) are found everywhere. Charismatic heresies are rampant. New Reformed Calvinism is spreading like wildfire. Women preachers are accepted (e.g. Beth Moore and Anne Graham Lotz). Ecumenical evangelism with Rome is accepted (the SBC is Billy Graham’s denomination). Hundreds of thousands of SBC members are yoked with the Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star. The non-judgmental *Shack* god is widely accepted. Contemplative prayer has leaped from the darkness of Roman Catholic monasticism to the Southern Baptist Sunday School class. Southern Baptist churches are being leavened with the heresy that unrepentant homosexuals can be received as church members. In his book, *Breaking the Islam Code*, two-time SBC President J.D. Greear says that Christians and Muslims worship the same God. The root problem in SBC congregations is unregeneracy. In 2005, SBC evangelist Jim Elliff said, “Our denomination, as much as we love it, is on the main, unregenerate” (www.ccwonline.org/sbc.html; see also *Founder’s Journal*, Feb. 7, 1999). (That he would love an unregenerate denomination is evidence of the weird and shocking blindness that accompanies denominational loyalty.) Elliff presented the fact that only 10% or fewer of the members of the typical



SBC congregation show up for anything other than a Sunday morning service. Such an entity, regardless of what it calls itself, is certainly not a New Testament church. The Southern Baptist Convention is a fulfillment of 2 Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (For more documentation, see "[Why I Am Not Southern Baptist](https://www.wayoflife.org/database/whynotsbc.html)," <https://www.wayoflife.org/database/whynotsbc.html>)

BAPTIST CHURCH IN CANADA WON'T ALLOW TEACHING AGAINST CCM (Friday Church News Notes, December 1, 2023,

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

- I received the following recently: "In my Sunday School class, I was about to embark on the topic of CCM in the new year giving out two of your books to my students that I already have with me now ([The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](#) and the [Baptist Music Wars](#)) as well go over your CCM videos that you have on your website (all 18 of them). The *Baptist Music Wars* is actually out of print but I talked to Bethel Baptist print ministry (since I am from Canada) and they printed copies of that book for me for my Sunday



school class. However, I was informed today by the head of the Sunday school ministry at my church that I will not be allowed to show your videos on CCM. Our church is apparently not in agreement with them. This was very sad for me to hear. This would also mean that I probably won't be allowed to give out your books that I have already purchased. I am heartbroken with the state of our churches. The day an IFB church isn't allowed to show your videos in Sunday school is a sad day. That day has already arrived at many IFB churches and that day has now arrived at my church. I just thought that I would inform you of this sad development." (Note: The eBook edition of [Baptist Music Wars](#) is available for free download and viewing at www.wayoflife.org.)

PLANTS THAT FOOL INSECTS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 1, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 15, 2023: "Many plants, especially orchids, offer different ploys to fool insects into pollinating them. Each of these ploys shows planning, design and the ability to create the design that will work. That there are so many examples makes it impossible for any rational person to believe that mindless, impersonal forces could have made these plants. Four different groups of orchids produce flowers that look so much like the female of the insect that pollinates them that pollinators will try to mate with them. The *Brassia* orchid found in southern Florida produces a flower that mimics the prey of its pollinator, the spider wasp. The flower is so designed that as the wasp stings its supposed prey--really the flower--



pollen is deposited on his head. The pollen is then carried to a nearby female flower and deposited in just the right place during another attack. Another orchid imitates an aggressive swarm of bees as it blows in the wind. The strongly territorial bees that live in the area swarm and attack the flowers. In the process, they transfer the pollen from male to female flowers. The female flowers of at least 50 species of Mexican orchids offer fake pollen to lure pollen-eating insects that have been feeding on male flowers. Many of these insect-orchid relationships are so tightly interlocked that neither could survive without the other. This speaks of a planned creation. It also bears witness that all forms of life came into being in a relatively short time, not over millions of years as evolutionists would have it. Ref: Batten, Mary. "Sex & plants," *Science Digest*, Oct. 1983."

TIKTOK JESUS (Friday Church News Notes, December 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- TikTok has dozens of videos with



computer-generated Jesuses quoting Bible verses in synthetic voices. They promise the viewer some vague blessing, such as “good news soon” or “blessing in an hour,” in exchange for likes, comments (“amen,” “I believe”), or sharing. There are also threats. One of the videos that has been watched 22 million times says, “Send this video to all your friends and family, if you reject, remember what he said: ‘If you deny me before men, I will deny you before the father.’” The *Daily Believer*, with 70 of these Jesus videos, has over 800,000 followers and 9.2 million likes. The statistics mean the *Daily Believer* is raking in money through the TikTok Creator Fund that pays creators with over 10,000 authentic followers (as evidenced by likes, comments, and sharing). The Jesus images are the typical Anglo-Saxon hippy Jesus variety. The “gospel” is a vague “believe in the power,” “discover God’s unconditional love,” etc. Matthew 24:24 - “For there shall arise false Christs...” 2 Corinthians 11:4 - “For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or *if* ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with *him*.”

UN AND “FAITH LEADERS” CALL FOR DRACONIAN CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION

(Friday Church News Notes, December 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - This month religious leaders joined hands with their secular one-worlder counterparts at the United Nations Climate Summit (COP28) in Dubai. The “faith pavilion” demonstrated “the pivotal role of faith communities in tackling the climate crisis” (“Faith



Leaders Can Influence the World,” Religion News Service, Nov. 30, 2023). Blaming everything from hurricanes to drought and famine on “climate change,” the UN and their religious partners called upon wealthy nations to pony up yet more money. It’s the best scam the UN has yet devised. Pope Francis had to cancel his scheduled appearance at COP28 for health reasons, but he has issued an encyclical on saving the planet. He said, “Our relationship with the environment can never be isolated from our relationship with others and with God.” Cardinal Joseph Tobin, archbishop of Newark, NJ, a delegate to COP28, said, “World leaders must keep their promises to provide more financial support for these communities [developing countries]. The clock is ticking. We must act soon and with unity.” Tobin is correct about “the clock ticking,” but the only “global warming” the Bible warns about is the rapidly approaching day of the Lord when the opportunity for salvation will be finished. “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. *Seeing then that* all these things

shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Peter 3:10-13).

BAPTIST CHURCH HOSTS DRAG QUEEN

(Friday Church News Notes, December 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- Grace Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, hosted a “drag queen” on Dec. 2 to show support for “the LGBTQ+ community.” It was part of the Grace Concert Series. Flamy Grant, a man who dresses like a woman, was advertised by the church as “a shame slaying, hop-swaying, singing-songwriting drag queen.” In June, Flamy performed at the Drag Queen Bible Story Hour at Calvary Presbyterian Church in San Francisco. A Facebook post said, “For the gift of Drag Queens, O God, we give you thanks!” This apostate church advocates for using third-person pronouns for God. A banner hanging above the church entryway reads, “GOD: the original they/them.” Flamy’s *Bible Belt Baby* (2022) “is the world’s first full-length contemporary Christian album by a drag performer.” It hit number one on



the iTunes Christian album chart. The single “Good Day,” featuring Derek Webb of Caedmon’s Call, charted at No. 20 on Billboard’s Christian Digital Song Sales. On Twitter, Oct. 13, 2023, Webb promoted the sale of a cup bearing an image of him in a dress (drag queen attire) and the slogan “but i say unto you, you’re beautiful and free” from his song “God in Drag.” Webb presumptuously uses the words of Jesus (“But I say unto you”) from the Gospels to claim Christ’s support for homosexuality.

HOW THE BIBLE CONNECTS FALSE TEACHERS WITH HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE LAST DAYS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

- “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. ... For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment ... And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned *them* with an overthrow, making *them* an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly ... Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. ... Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children ... These are wells without water, clouds that

are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage” (2 Peter 2:1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 17-19).

JUDGE REJECTS TEACHERS UNION’S EFFORT TO CANCEL VOUCHER PROGRAM

(Friday Church News Notes, December 15, 2023,

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

- School choice is the only program that can have a significant impact in reducing the power of America’s propagandizing public school system, and school choice is growing. At the same time, the government remains in ultimate control of the money in these schemes, which could always spell danger at some point. The best thing Bible-believing parents can do, in our estimation, is to home school or church school and don’t take a dime from the government. God has promised to take care of those who trust Him. At the same time, the school choice movement is an encouraging sign in these times. We believe it is an answer to prayer. The following is excerpted from “Judge tosses,” *Fox News*, Nov. 19, 2023:



“The New Hampshire Superior Court on Wednesday dismissed a teachers union’s challenge to the state’s voucher program, which argued that the use of public money to fund private schools was unconstitutional. Merrimack County Superior Court Judge Amy L. Ignatius ruled that the AFT [American Federation of Teachers-New Hampshire] failed to prove the measure violates the Constitution. According to *In Depth New Hampshire*, who procured notes from the case, Ignatius said that ‘the burden of proof is on Howes to prove it is unconstitutional.’ Howes had failed to do so. ... The Education Trust Fund, which was established to distribute education grants to school districts, was amended this year to include vouchers. The vouchers are facilitated through Education Freedom Accounts [EFA]. ... Reacting to the outcome of the case, American Federation For Children Senior Fellow Corey DeAngelis told *Fox News Digital* that ‘power-hungry teachers unions were just dealt a major L[oss] in New Hampshire.’ ‘Education freedom is here to stay, and there’s nothing Randi Weingarten and her union stooges can do about it,’ he said. He went on to say, ‘Teachers unions should hang their heads in shame after this attempt to trap kids in their failing government schools. Parents deserve the right to direct the upbringing of their own children, and school choice gives them real power. Kids don’t belong to the government. With this win in New Hampshire, parents will continue to be in charge.’”

FREE VIDEO ON BOB JONES, MAJESTY MUSIC, REFORMED CALVINISM, AND THE GETTYS

(Friday Church News Notes, December 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org,



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

- "Bob Jones, Majesty Music, Reformed Calvinism, and the Gettys" is one of the video classes in [The Satanic Attack on Sacred Music](#) series. In this presentation we document the great change in music philosophy at Bob Jones University and Majesty Music. We also document the influence wielded by the Gettys and Getty/Townend music as a bridge from "old-fashioned" Bible-believing churches to the world of contemporary music and the "broader church," including Roman Catholicism.

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

BE NOT CONFORMED TO THE SELFIE AGE (Friday Church News Notes, December 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The selfie craze began in 2010 with the appearance of the iPhone 4 with its front-facing camera. "Selfie" became *Oxford Dictionary's* Word of the Year in 2013. By 2022, an estimated 33 billion selfies were taken. Social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok are deluged with them. The word itself was invented in Australia, a land that loves catchy little words expressions, such as barbie (barbecue), biccyy (biscuit), brekky (breakfast), cupper (cup of tea), maccas (McDonalds), rellie (relatives), runners (running shoes), sickie (a sick leave), sunnies (sunglasses), lappy (laptops), and

Facey (Facebook). Many have died in pursuit of the perfect selfie. A study by Carnegie Mellon University found that 127 died from 2014 to 2016, which is 63 per year. If that number has held true, it means about 440 died from selfie misadventure from 2017 to 2023, and a great many others have been injured. They have died by falling off of cliffs and high buildings, being run over by trains, by automobile crashes and drownings, by being attacked by bears and wild animals, and many other ways. A spokesman for the Lake Tahoe Basin of the U.S. Forest Service said, "We've had mobs of people that are actually rushing toward the bears trying to get a 'selfie' photo" ("Seriously people, stop taking 'selfies' with bears," *Reno Gazette Journal*, Nov. 28, 2018). Yellowstone asks park visitors to take a "safe selfie pledge." In July 2023, Queensland authorities fined two women \$1500 each for taking selfies with dingos (wild dogs). Death is not the only danger associated with selfies. Tourists in Venice recently capsized a gondola by ignoring the pilot's warnings not to stand up to take selfies. A selfie enthusiast in Salt Lake City caused \$200,000 in damage while pursuing her passion in a museum. Local authorities in some places have erected barriers to thwart selfie enthusiasts. These include Hallstatt, Austria, thought to be the inspiration for Disney's *Frozen*, and Grenfell Tower in London, the site of a multi-fatality fire. Portofino, Italy, fines tourists \$300 for loitering in popular selfie spots. What are selfies all about? Me, of course. It's me taking photos of me (perhaps including some other people, but always me). Dr. Mariann Hardey, marketing expert, says, "It's about continuously rewriting yourself. It's an extension



of our natural construction of self. It's about presenting yourself in the best way" ("How selfies became a global phenomenon," *The Guardian*, July 14, 2013). Right. It is another sign of the times. "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves..." (2 Timothy 4:1-2).

CLIMATE CHANGE MOGULS ARE AFTER YOUR MEAT

(Friday Church News Notes, December 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "First They Came for Your Car," Powerlineblog.com, Dec. 6, 2023: "First they came for your car, now they are coming for your meat. Global warming, the universal excuse for left-wing policies designed to make your life worse, demands that modern agriculture be shut down. If you think that is an exaggeration, talk to anyone in Sri Lanka or the Netherlands. The UN's COP28 global warming conference



BEAVERS BUILD MORE THAN DAMS (Friday Church News Notes, December 8, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 29, 2023: “Beavers are widely known for their huge constructions. However, beavers build more than just dams. The beaver is quite an engineer. When building a dam, a beaver first rams poles into the bed of his waterway. The poles are placed on an angle to increase holding power and are then rammed into the waterway bed, thick end first. This basic skeleton is then reinforced with twigs, leaves, mud and stone. It’s not unusual for the beaver to use forked branches to further anchor his construction to trees and boulders. One beaver dam was over 1,800 feet long, 9 feet high and 18 feet wide. It was strong enough for a horse and rider to use as a natural bridge. Large trees brought down for use in construction are not dragged by the beavers to their project. Instead, beavers dig overland channels and float the trees to the main body of water where they are working. These channels can be 1,000



feet long. Our wise Creator gave so much intelligence and wisdom to the animal kingdom that often we can learn some things from the animals. Rather than supporting the idea of evolution, with its claim that there is progressively greater intelligence in higher creatures, the beaver supports the idea that the Creator is the source of all intelligence. Ref: *Science Digest*, Aug. 1983. p. 73.”

in Dubai is turning its attention to agriculture: ‘Climate advocacy groups are pressuring world governments gathered at this year’s United Nation’s COP28 climate conference in Dubai to commit to cutting global food sector emissions, as the conference host promises to put agriculture in the spotlight. Global food systems—including farming and land use, livestock production, household food consumption and waste, and energy used in the farm and food retail sectors—account for 31% of human-made greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, according to the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).’ How do you cut down on those emissions? Basically, by doing away with meat and substituting insects as a protein source for the masses. ... One thing you can be sure of: the liberals who are telling you to eat insects instead of steaks, pork chops, bacon and

hamburgers will do no such thing themselves. Their plan is to drive up the price of meat to the point where you, and most people, can’t afford it, but they can.”

ANCIENT SLING STONE FACTORIES IN ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, December 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Two ancient sling stone factories have been discovered in Israel (En Esur in the northern Sharon plain and En Zippori in the lower Galilee). The 424 smooth, egg-shaped stones



discovered there were manufactured from hard limestone/dolomite and are uniform in length, width, and weight (60 g). The archaeologists say, “The stones, that were intended to be projected from a sling, are smoothed, with a specific biconical aerodynamic form, enabling exact and effective projection” (“Archaeologists discover ancient sling stone factory,” *Israel365 News*, Nov. 26, 2023). “In Old Testament times, slingers were regular components of an army and were often used together with archers; during siege warfare their role was to pick off the enemy from the besieged city’s ramparts. Such slingers were capable of hurling a projectile at over one hundred miles an hour and their effective range was well in excess of one hundred yards” (Alfred Hoerth, *Archaeology and the Old Testament*). “Among all this people *there were* seven hundred chosen men lefthanded; every one

could SLING STONES at an hair *breadth*, and not miss” (Judges 20:16). “And Uzziah prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and SLINGS TO CAST STONES” (2 Chronicles 26:14). See also 2 Kings 3:25; 1 Chronicles 12:2

CANADIAN LAWMAKERS CONDEMN COMMISSION THAT SUGGESTS CHRISTMAS IS RACIST (Friday Church News Notes, December 12, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Christmas Isn’t Racist,” *The Christian Post*, Dec. 6, 2023: “In a motion unanimously adopted Nov. 30, the House of Commons, the lower chamber of the Canadian Parliament, voted in favor of condemning a paper from the Canadian Human Rights

Commission (CHRC) that cited Christianity’s two biggest holy days as examples of ‘present-day systemic religious discrimination’ because they are statutory holidays in Canada. The motion included language which called on all the House to ‘denounce all attempts to polarize events that have been part of Quebec and Canadian heritage for generations’ and ‘invite all Quebecers and Canadians to unite as we approach the Christmas season,’ according to Canada’s *Global News*. Lawmakers adopted the motion just one day after a tense exchange between Bloc Quebecois House Leader Alain Therrien, who introduced the motion, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.”

GOD ADDRESSES THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, AND THE UNIVERSE WILL HEAR (Friday Church News Notes, December 15, 2023, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Isaiah’s great prophecy is not just for Israel. It is addressed to the entire heavens and earth. “Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken” (Isa. 1:2). “Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the



world, and all things that come forth of it” (Isa. 34:1). These words were not spoken in vain. All things are made by God and exist by God and are for God and are accountable to God, and all sensible creatures, angels and men, *WILL* hear God’s Word, either in repentance or in judgment. Since Isaiah first wrote these living words on scrolls, multitudes have heard them and believed them; they have received the Suffering Messiah as their own and have lived and died in hope of His coming in glory. In Christ’s kingdom, these words will again be proclaimed to the nations. At the Great White Throne, these words will witness against the unsaved (“and the books were opened,” Re. 20:12). And for all eternity, they will stand as a testimony of God’s compassion, wisdom, power, and sovereignty. “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Ps. 119:89).



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- 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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