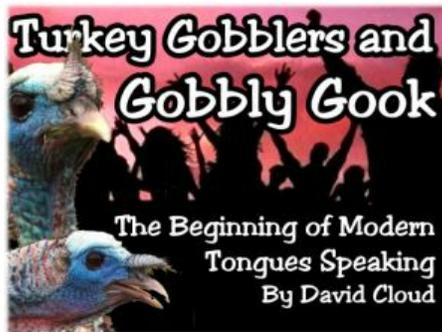


O Timothy

“Keep that which is committed to thy trust...”

A Monthly Newsletter for Spiritual Protection and Edification

Volume 33 - Issue 3 - March 2016



“Parham was convinced that Christ’s return would be preceded by a Latter Rain outpouring of signs and wonders, and he believed that tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He further believed that the tongues are real earthly languages that would enable missionaries to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth without having to learn foreign languages. According to Parham’s teaching, those who received the Latter Rain baptism would form the bride of Christ and would rule with Him at His coming.” Page 6.

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



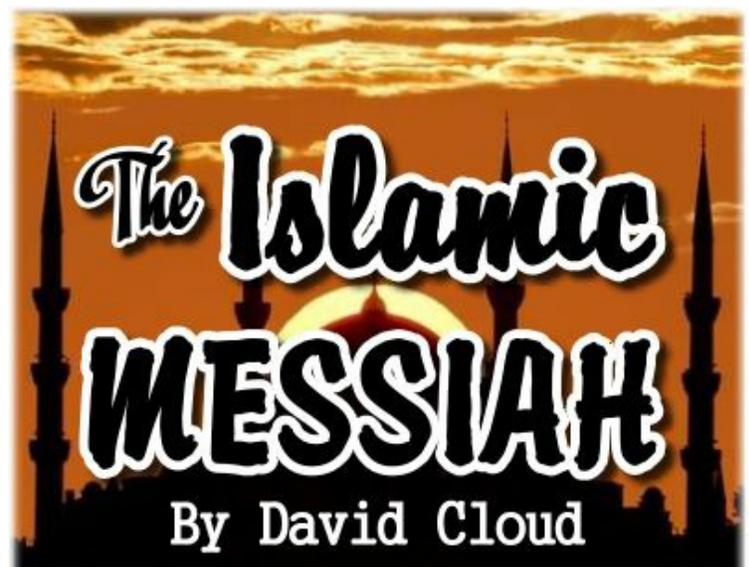
THE ISLAMIC MESSIAH - *By David Cloud* Excerpted From *“The Future According to the Bible”*

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Members of both Sunnis and Shiites believe in an Islamic messiah, the Mahdi, who will appear at the end of the world to establish Allah's kingdom on earth.

Both Sunnis and Shiites accept hadiths (writings of Muhammad collected after his death) which predict the coming of a Mahdi who will establish a global caliphate in Allah's name and rule for a period of time (seven, nine, or nineteen years, according to varying interpretations), ridding the world of evil before the day of judgment.

The coming of the Mahdi is believed to coincide with the second coming of Jesus, whom they call Isa, who will join hands with the Mahdi against a false messiah or antichrist.

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The Shiites have developed this theology more extensively and emphasize it more forcefully.

As we have seen, **"Twelver" Shiites** (and Sufis) believe that the 12 Imams who succeeded Muhammad inherited Muhammad's spiritual perfection and wisdom and are therefore interpreters or trustees of the light of Islam.

They believe that the 12th Imam, Muhammad ibn Hasan al-Mahdi, was the prophesied Mahdi. He is believed to have died or otherwise disappeared in AD 941 and to be hidden by God until he will reappear at the end of time. The hiding is called the *Occultation*. (This is "an event that occurs when one object is hidden by another object that passes between it and the observer," such as a sun eclipse.)

Other groups of Muslims, such as the Druze, the Mustaali, the Zaidi, and the Nizari, believe in a different Mahdi and are not "Twelvers."

The Sunnis believe that the Mahdi has not yet been born but will be named Muhammad and will be a descendant of Muhammad.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, former president of Iran, has zealous faith in the coming of the Imam Madhi, and Iranian radio has broadcast prophecies of his coming.

"In short, when he reappears, peace, justice and security will overcome oppression and deceit and one global government, the most perfect ever, will be established. ... Another beautiful moment of the Savior's appearance is the coming down of Prophet Jesus (PBUH) from heaven. Hazrat Mahdi receives him courteously and asks him to lead the prayers. But Jesus says you are more qualified for this than me. We read in the book *Tazkarat ol-Olia*, 'the Mahdi will come with Jesus, son of Mary, accompanying him.' This indicates that these two great men complement each other. Imam Mahdi will be the leader while Prophet Jesus will act as his lieutenant in the struggle against oppression and establishment of justice in the world. Jesus had himself given the tidings of the coming of God's last messenger and will see Muhammad's ideals materialize in the time of the Mahdi" ("Police Storm Home," *WorldNetDaily*, June 23, 2007).

We see that Islam's "Jesus" is given a subordinate position in these prophecies. The following is from the *London Telegraph*, Jan. 14, 2006:

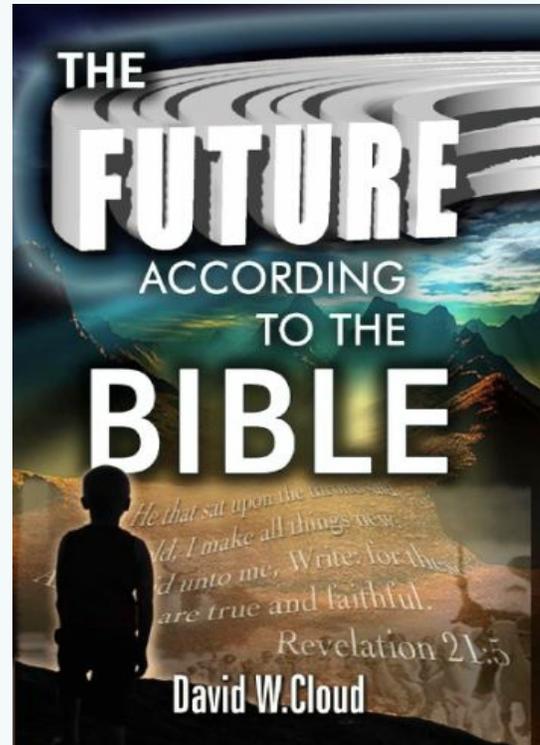
"As Iran rushes towards confrontation with the world over its nuclear programme, the question uppermost in the mind of western leaders is 'What is moving its President

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to such recklessness?' ... **The most remarkable aspect of Mr. Ahmadinejad's piety is his devotion to the Hidden Imam, the Messiah-like figure of Shia Islam,** and the president's belief that his government must prepare the country for his return. One of the first acts of Mr. Ahmadinejad's government was to donate about £10 million to the Jamkaran mosque, a popular pilgrimage site where the pious come to drop messages to the Hidden Imam into a holy well. ... A common rumour--denied by the government but widely believed--is that Mr. Ahmadinejad and his cabinet have signed a 'contract' pledging themselves to work for the return of the Mahdi and sent it to Jamkaran."

From time to time, various individuals have claimed to be the Mahdi and have gotten large, enthusiastic followings. One of these was Siyyid Ali Muhammad Shirazi, who was called the Bab ("gate") and is one of the central figures of the Baha'i. They consider the Bab to have been the Mahdi, Elijah, and John the Baptist. Others who have claimed to be the Mahdi are Muhammad Jaunpuri, founder of the Mahdavia sect, Muhammad Ahmad, founder of the Mahdist state in Sudan in the late 19th century, and Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, founder of the Ahmadiyya sect.

In this way, we probably see what will happen in the time of the Antichrist, in that either he or his prophet or both will be accepted as the fulfillment of prophecy by Muslims, and they will obey him.

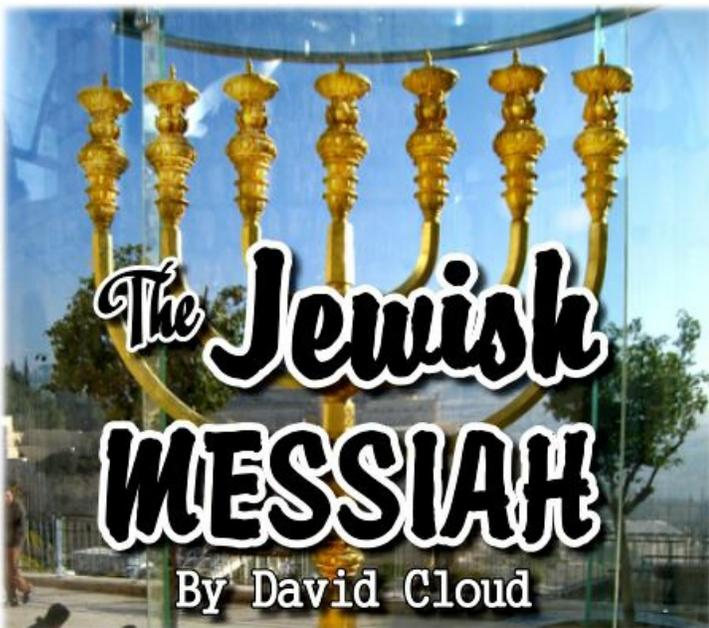
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THE JEWISH MESSIAH - By David Cloud
 Excerpted From *"The Future According to the Bible"*



The Jews are also looking for the Messiah, and the Messiah they are looking for is actually the Antichrist.

The Jews are not looking for a Messiah who will save them from sin. They have no sacrifices, and they are content with that, thinking that they don't need a blood atonement. They celebrate the Passover and the Day of Atonement without a lamb and without the shedding of blood.

We asked a Reformed Jewish rabbi in Jerusalem, "How do you purge your sins?" and he replied, "We ask God for forgiveness through prayer and through actions." When queried about Leviticus 17:11--"it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul"--the rabbi said that to interpret that to mean that man needs a literal blood sacrifice is a false interpretation.

A representative of the Temple Institute told us the same thing:

“God knows that we don’t have the sacrifices. That is why He has given us a different way of atonement, and that’s by prayers. We have prayers that great rabbis wrote just after the destructions, and we say these prayers and that’s as if we are sacrificing.”

The Jews stumbled at the Suffering Messiah 2,000 years ago. They were looking for a Messiah to save them from Rome, not a Messiah who would die for their sins. They wanted a king, not a Saviour.

Since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD, the Jews have been looking for a Messiah that will rebuild the temple. In Jewish tradition that has developed since then, the rebuilding of the temple is associated with the coming of the Messiah. According to Maimonides (also called Rambam), the highest rabbinical authority, any Jew that starts rebuilding the Temple is a potential Messiah.

Shimon ben Kosiba was considered a Messiah in the second century when he led a revolt to recapture Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. He was named Bar Kokhba (“Son of the Star”) based on the Messianic prophecy of Numbers 24:17, and a coin was struck by the Jews that depicted the temple with the ark of the covenant inside and the Messianic star on the roof.

A representative of the Temple Institute told us in 2010 that they are looking for a temple builder:

“We are waiting for a Messiah. In Jewish tradition, we believe that in every generation there is someone who can be the Messiah. The question is who will he be. The answer is only someone who does specific things can be called the Messiah. The one who brings Israel back to Israel. The one who builds the temple again.”

By this tradition, it is simple to see how the Antichrist will be looked upon as the Messiah. He will come as a peacemaker, and by his satanic power he will make a way for the Jewish temple to be rebuilt in spite of Muslim animosity.

The Jews are looking for a Messiah that will solve their problems and bring peace when things look dark.

In a video interview in Jerusalem in 2010 a Reformed Jewish rabbi told us that the Messiah will come when

things look really dark and will establish peace. He said:

“Jerusalem is to be whole, and when the Messiah comes the temple will be returned to us. But that can’t happen until there is eternal peace. Ultimately we have to go deeper into destruction before we come out into the light and until God redeems not only the Jewish people but also the rest of the world. Peace has to come, but peace can only come when things get really dark.”

But the Jewish prophets said there is no peace to the wicked (Isa. 57:21). There can be no peace for Israel until she is in right relationship with God, until she repents of her sin and is forgiven and converted. Until then, any so-called peace will turn out to be a false peace, which is exactly what the Antichrist will bring.

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

Thus, the Jews are not looking for a Saviour from sin; they are looking for a Messiah that will bring peace, that will solve their problems, that will help them to rebuild the Temple, that will not rebuke them as sinners but will help them follow their “positive inclinations.”

Though they don’t know it, they are actually looking for the Antichrist, and the Bible says they will accept him when he comes.

The world is crying out for peace today, and the nations will believe the Antichrist’s lies and lying wonders. The nations will rejoice, thinking that the world’s greatest problems have been solved and the long-awaited “Age of Aquarius” has arrived, but the global peace party will be short-lived and the Antichrist will soon show his true colors, setting himself up as God in Israel’s temple and requiring worship at the point of death.

The Antichrist will make a way for the Jewish Third Temple to be built on the Temple Mount, something that seems impossible today.

Bible prophecy associates the Antichrist with the building of the Third Temple.

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the

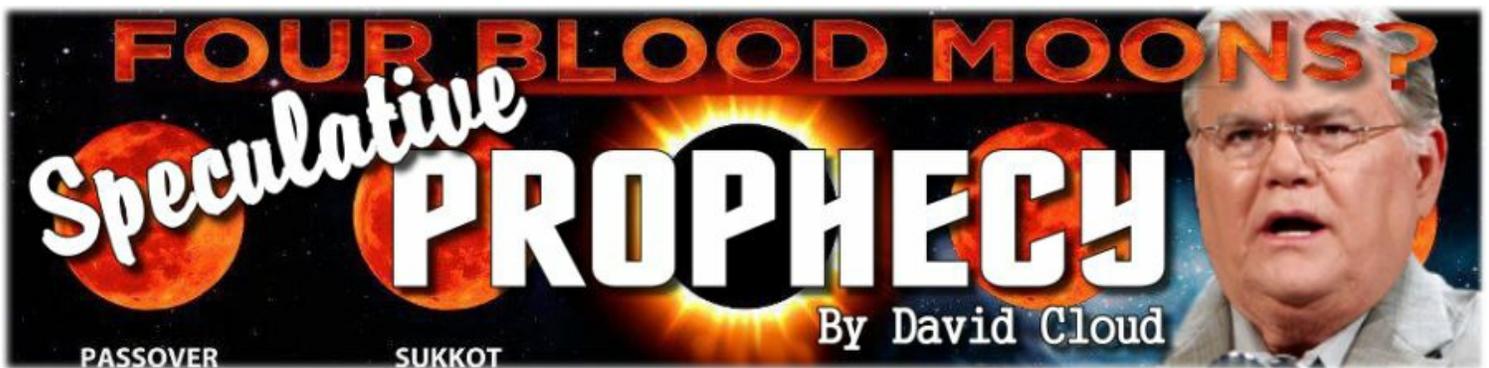
temple of God, shewing himself that he is God" (2 Thesalonians 2:3-4).

(The First Temple was built by Solomon, and the Second Temple was built after the Jews returned from the Babylonian captivity and was extended and glorified by King Herod, so that it was called Herod's Temple.)

Great preparations are being made in Israel for the building of the Third Temple.

The Temple Institute, founded in 1986, has prepared all of the articles, including a menorah (candlestick) fashioned from 95 pounds of gold (valued at \$2 million) and the high priest's golden crown costing \$30,000.

When I visited Jerusalem in 2010 and 2013, the menorah was on display on the Western Wall Plaza across from the Temple Mount. In December 2014, the Temple Institute also completed an altar of sacrifice intended for the Third Temple.



There are dozens of ministries that focus almost exclusively on prophecy. They are keen Middle East watchers; they delve into the New Age; they find signs in the heavens; they speculate about the mark of the Beast and keep track of computer technology.

I call this speculative prophecy.

Sometimes they set dates. A prominent example is Harold Camping, founder of Family Radio. He set dates for the Lord's return in 1988, 1994, and 2011. Finally in 2012, not long before he died, he repented of his dating-setting schemes. But by then he had confused a lot of people!

More often, they are "semi-date setters" in that they come *near* to setting a date.

For example, in 1999, Jack Van Impe published a video entitled *A.D.2000--The End?* Note the question mark.

Though Van Impe didn't say for sure that the Lord would return in 2000, he came very close.

In 2015, Tom Horn published *Zenith 2016*, in which he presents his case that the Antichrist "might" appear in 2016.

This type of thing is unscriptural and wrong, but it tends to sell materials and draw a lot of traffic to blogs.

There are some fundamental biblical reasons why I know that all date setters and semi-date setters are wrong and not worth listening to.

First, Christ said that no man knows the day of His return (Mat. 24:36; Mark 13:32). If it is not possible to know the day of Christ's return, then it is not possible to know the time of the Antichrist's appearance, since Christ's return can be prophetically dated from events in the Antichrist's ministry.

Second, the Rapture is imminent, meaning that it is always at hand but its exact time cannot be known (Mat. 24:42, 44; 25:13; Mk. 13:33; Phil. 4:5; Tit. 2:13; Jam. 5:8-9; 1 Pet. 4:7). The apostle Paul instructed the church at Thessalonica that they did not need to heed signs and times, because the New Testament believer has been promised redemption from the "day of darkness" that shall overcome the whole world (1 Th. 5:1-9).

The New Testament believer is not waiting for the Antichrist, but for Christ Himself. The imminency of Christ's return for the church-age believer means that we

will not and cannot know the day, the week, the year, or even the decade. If we could know any of that, Christ's return would not be imminent.

Third, the Bible says that “he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way” (2 Th. 2:7). The context is the devil's mystery of iniquity program to put the Antichrist on the throne of the world, and the One who restrains this program is God the Holy Spirit. Paul is saying that the Spirit of God will restrain the forces of evil until He is ready to allow the final events to proceed to fulfillment. The times are always in God's hands (Dan. 2:21).

2 Thessalonians 2:7 has some wonderful implications. For one, regardless of how brightly the prophetic signs glow, we can never know when the church age will end and Daniel's Seventieth Week will begin. Another implication of 2 Thessalonians 2:7 is that God's people need never fret about the times (Psalm 37:1-4).

Fourth, Jesus taught His people to focus on the Great Commission, not on speculative prophecy (Acts 1:6-8). Christ's words here don't mean that the study of prophecy

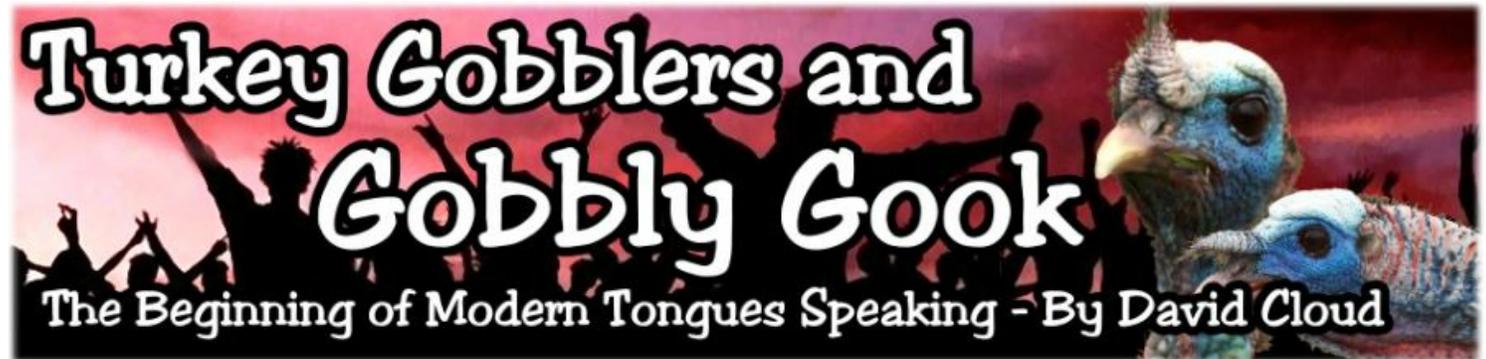
is without value. In fact, a large part of Scripture consists of prophecy, and it has great value. It is a great light and motivator in the Christian life. But Acts 1:6-8 is a warning that constant speculation about the “times and seasons” is the wrong emphasis, at best.

These biblical truths have helped me immensely through the years. Not only have they enabled me to reject every date setter but also to avoid being swept up in various hysterias, such as Y2K.

In October 11, 1998, I published “Y2K Hysteria,” stating,

“There should be no hysteria about this. I have no survivalist plans. I do not plan to pull my money out of the bank or stockpile food and water. I do not believe planes will fall out of the sky or the electric grid will fail or the water system will cease to flow or the banking system will collapse or the military will dissolve into confusion. I would not be afraid to be on a commercial flight at midnight on December 31. ... Many of those who are sounding the Y2K hysteria are the same scaremongers, the same prophetic speculators, the same ‘Chicken Little’ crowd that have been proven wrong many times before.”

I made that statement on the basis of the aforementioned biblical truths.



The following is excerpted from [*THE PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS: THE HISTORY AND THE ERROR*](#). ISBN 1-58318-099-0. Author David Cloud. The 5th edition of this book, November 2014, is significantly enlarged and revised throughout. The Pentecostal-charismatic movement is one of the major building blocks of the end-time, one-world “church,” and young people in particular need to be informed and forewarned. The author was led to Christ by a Pentecostal in 1973 and has researched the movement ever since. He has built a large library on the subject, interviewed influential Pentecostals and charismatics, and attended churches and conferences with media credentials in many parts of the world. The book deals with the history of Pentecostalism beginning at the turn of the 20th century, the Latter Rain

Covenant, major Pentecostal healing evangelists, the Sharon Schools and the New Order of the Latter Rain, Manifest Sons of God, the charismatic movement, the Word-Faith movement, the Roman Catholic Charismatic Renewal, the Pentecostal prophets, the Third Wave, and recent Pentecostal and charismatic scandals. The book deals extensively with the theological errors of the Pentecostal-charismatic movements (exalting experience over Scripture, emphasis on the miraculous, the continuation of Messianic and apostolic miracles and sign gifts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of fire, tongues speaking, physical healing guaranteed in the atonement, spirit slaying, spirit drunkenness, visions of Jesus, trips to heaven, women preachers, and ecumenism). The final section of the book answers the question: “Why are

people deluded by Pentecostal-Charismatic error?” David and Tami Lee, former Pentecostals, said: “Very well done! We pray God will use it to open the eyes of many and to help keep many of His children out of such deception.” A former charismatic said, “The book is excellent and I have no doubt whatever that the Lord is going to use it in a mighty way. Amen!!” 487 pages. Available in print and eBook editions from Way of Life Literature, www.wayoflife.org.

By any reckoning, Charles Parham (1873-1929) is a key figure in the birth of Pentecostalism. He was ordained as a Methodist, but “left the organization after a falling out with his ecclesiastical superiors” (Larry Martin, *The Topeka Outpouring of 1901*, p. 14).

In a restless search for religious instruction he visited the ministries of a number of strange holiness, faith-healing, and Latter Rain teachers, picking up various heresies along the way, which he eventually merged together into his Pentecostal theology.

Prior to the turn of the century, Parham observed the meetings of Benjamin Irwin, founder of the Fire-Baptized Holiness Church, and was deeply influenced by Irwin’s “third blessing” doctrine (the blessing of salvation, the blessing of power, and the blessing of sinless perfection). As we have seen, Irwin taught that it was necessary for the Christian to seek the “baptism of fire” for power and perfection. Pentecostal historian Vinson Synan describes this connection:

“THE FIRE-BAPTIZED HOLINESS CHURCH SERVED AS AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE CHAIN THAT LATER PRODUCED THE MODERN PENTECOSTAL MOVEMENT. By teaching that the baptism of the Holy Ghost was an experience separate from and subsequent to sanctification, it laid the basic doctrinal premise of the later movement. It is probable that Charles F. Parham, the man who initiated the Pentecostal revival in Topeka, Kansas, in 1901, received from Irwin the basic idea of a separate baptism of the Holy Ghost following sanctification. Indeed, for a time in 1899, Parham promoted the ‘baptism of fire’ in his *Apostolic Faith* magazine” (Synan, *The Holiness-Pentecostal Tradition*, p. 59).

Parham adopted the heresy of annihilation from his Quaker grandfather-in-law, David Baker, denying the eternal punishment of the wicked and believing, rather, that the unsaved would be annihilated in hell.

In 1898, Parham came under the influence of the aforementioned Frank Sandford, and in 1900 Parham

traveled to Chicago to study the ministry of John Dowie and to examine Zion City.

Like Sandford and Dowie, Charles Parham taught that physical healing is the Christian’s birthright and railed against the use of medicine and doctors. He claimed that it was always God’s will to heal sicknesses. In the September 13, 1899, issue of his *Apostolic Faith* magazine, Parham replied to the question of whether the Bible forbids the use of medicine by exclaiming, “We say yes, most emphatically YES” (emphasis his).

An issue of *Christian History* magazine (Issue 58, Vol. XVII, No. 2, 1998) contains a photo of Parham and seven of his followers standing on the steps of the Carthage, Missouri, courthouse. The year was 1906, and Parham is holding a flagpole with banners reading “Apostolic Unity.” The others are holding banners proclaiming “Truth, Faith, Life, Victory, HEALTH.”

They were making a statement of their doctrinal faith that health is a guaranteed part of the Christian life.

Parham was the first Pentecostal preacher to pray over handkerchiefs and mail them to those who desired his ministrations (James Goff Jr., *Fields White Unto Harvest*, p. 104).

In spite of his teaching that it was always God’s will to heal and that medicine and doctors must be shunned, one of Parham’s sons died at age one of a sickness that was not healed. He died, in fact, two months after the outbreak of “tongues” at Parham’s Bethel Bible School in Topeka. Another son died at age 37.

Most of those who attended Parham’s meetings were not healed. In October 1904, a nine-year-old girl named Nettie Smith died. Her father was an avid follower of Parham and refused medical treatment for his daughter. The little girl’s death turned local public opinion against Parham because her sickness was treatable and the community considered her death unnecessary.

Parham himself suffered various sicknesses throughout his life and at times was too sick to preach or travel. For example, he spent the entire winter of 1904-05 sick and bedridden (James Goff Jr., *Fields White Unto Harvest*, p. 94), in spite of his own doctrine that healing is guaranteed in Christ’s atonement.

In the March 22, 1899, issue of *Apostolic Faith* magazine Parham listed his beliefs as follows: “salvation by faith; healing by faith, laying on of hands, and prayer; sanctification by faith; coming (pre-millennium) of Christ; the baptism of Holy Ghost and Fire, which seals the Bride and bestows the gifts.”

Thus we see the combination of the various heresies he had collected in his travels.

Parham also believed in the annihilation of the unsaved. He taught that there were two separate creations, and that Adam and Eve were of a different race than people who allegedly lived outside of the Garden of Eden. The first race of men did not have souls, he claimed, and this race of people without souls was destroyed in the flood.

Parham believed that only those who received the latter day Spirit baptism and spoke in tongues would make up the bride of Christ and would be “sealed for the Marriage Supper of the Lamb” and that these would have a special place of authority at Christ’s return. He believed in a partial Rapture composed of tongues speakers.

From John Dowie, Parham adopted the heresy that Anglo-Saxons are Israelites.

He associated often with the Ku Klux Klan and believed that interracial marriages caused the flood of Noah (Martin, *The Topeka Outpouring of 1901*, p. 19). Parham did not believe that black people could be sealed as part of the bride of Christ.

After his visits with Dowie and Sandford, Parham established the **BETHEL BIBLE SCHOOL IN TOPEKA, KANSAS**. It was patterned after Sandford’s ministry and was opened in October 1900 in a thirty-room building called “Stone’s Folly.” It was so named because the owner, whose name was Stone, was unable to complete the building before going bankrupt.

Parham was convinced that Christ’s return would be preceded by a Latter Rain outpouring of signs and wonders, and he believed that tongues is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He further believed that the tongues are real earthly languages that would enable missionaries to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth without having to learn foreign languages. According to Parham’s teaching, those who received the Latter Rain

baptism would form the bride of Christ and would rule with Him at His coming.

Parham urged his students to seek this experience, and in this context he laid hands on one of his Bible school students, AGNES OZMAN, on January 1, 1901, and she allegedly began to speak in Chinese and later in Bohemian. She spoke while in a trance (*Topeka State Journal*, Jan. 9, 1901).

Subsequently, Parham and others at the small Bible school also allegedly began to speak in tongues. They even claimed that cloven tongues of fire appeared over the heads of the tongues speakers.

Parham said that language professors and other linguistically educated people confirmed that the tongues the students were speaking were languages, but this has never been confirmed. Newspaper reporters of the day described the phenomenon merely as “gibberish.”

The only actual record we have of one of the “tongues” spoken by Parham’s students was written by a reporter of the *Topeka State Journal*. I found a copy of this during a visit to the Kansas State Historical Society.

“Mr. Parham called Miss Lilian Thistlethrate [Thistlethwaite] into the room and asked her if she could talk some. She at first answered that the Lord had not inspired her to say anything but soon began to utter strange words which sounded like this: ‘Euossa, Euossa, use rela sema calah mala kanah leulla ssage nalan. Ligle logle lazie logle. Ene mine mo, sah rah el me sah rah me.’ These sentences were translated as meaning, ‘Jesus is mighty to save,’ ‘Jesus is ready to hear,’ ‘and ‘God is love’” (“Hindoo and Zulu Both Are Represented at Bethel School,” *Topeka State Journal*, Jan. 9, 1901).

Ligle logle lazie logle!!!! Ene mine mo!!!! This is exactly the type of “tongues” I have heard dozens of times at Pentecostal and charismatic meetings in various parts of the world, but it is childish nonsense.

In 1914, Charles Shumway diligently sought evidence to prove that early Pentecostal tongues were real languages, but he failed to find even one person to corroborate the claims that had been made (James Goff, Jr., *Fields White Unto Harvest*, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1988, p. 76).

“In his 1919 Ph.D. dissertation, Shumway censured the local *Houston Chronicle* for credulous reporting and stated that ‘letters are on hand from several men who were government

interpreters in or near Houston at the time [when Parham conducted a Bible school there], and they are unanimous in denying all knowledge of the alleged facts” (Goff, p. 98).

After examining the “tongues” spoken at the Azusa Street mission led by William Seymour, Holiness leader W.B. Godbey concluded that they were not languages (G.F. Taylor, *The Spirit and the Bride*, Falcon, NC: by the author, 1907, p. 52).

The *Rocky Mountain Pillar of Fire* (a holiness publication) for September 12 and November 14, 1906 contained the following accounts:

“This Hindu can talk in six different languages and says he has never heard any of them at the ‘Tongue meeting.’ One of the languages he can talk is Arabian and some of the people at those meetings claim to talk that language, but he said it sounded like a lot of turkey gobblers” (Sept. 12, 1906).

“A gentleman, who has for years been at the head of a missionary work in India, has just been to Los Angeles with the view of securing some missionaries for his field who profess to have the gift of tongues. He came back stating he could find no one who could really speak in any of the languages of India with which he is acquainted” (Nov. 14, 1906).

Many linguists who have studied the “tongues” of Pentecostals and Charismatics have come to the same conclusion. William J. Samarin, professor of linguistics at the University of Toronto, summarized his research as follows:

“Over a period of five years I have taken part in meetings in Italy, Holland, Jamaica, Canada, and the United States. I have observed old-fashioned Pentecostals and neo-Pentecostals; I have been in small meetings at private homes as well as in mammoth public meetings; I have seen such different cultural settings as are found among the Puerto Ricans of the Bronx, the snake handlers of the Appalachians ... Russian Molakans in Los Angeles. ... It is extremely doubtful that the alleged cases of xenoglossia [languages] among charismatics are real. Any time one attempts to verify them he finds that the stories have been greatly distorted or that the ‘witnesses’ turn out to be incompetent or unreliable from a linguistic point of view. ... GLOSSOLALIA IS INDEED LIKE LANGUAGE IN SOME WAYS, BUT THIS IS ONLY BECAUSE THE SPEAKER (UNCONSCIOUSLY) WANTS IT TO BE LIKE LANGUAGE. YET IN SPITE OF SUPERFICIAL SIMILARITIES, GLOSSOLALIA IS FUNDAMENTALLY NOT LANGUAGE” (Samarin, *Tongues of Men and Angels*, 1972, pp. xii, 112, 113, 227).

The Gospel Message, published in Kansas City, in October 1906, contained the following testimony:

“We were acquainted with Mr. Chas. Parham many years ago, and when he visited Kansas City with his workers after

he had made his statements regarding the wonderful blessing that had come to his school in Topeka, we invited him to visit us with his followers and tell us about this experience. They accordingly came, and before the meeting we told him that there were those present that could speak Spanish, German, Arabic, and Swedish, and that if any of his people could speak in other tongues, we would be glad to hear them in one or more of these: they had, however, no liberty that night but told something of their past experience, and their strange writings which had been reported as the work of the Holy Spirit. When, however, we asked Mr. Parham pointedly and publicly if he knew certainly whether these writings were of the Holy Spirit, or just scribbblings, he candidly said he did not know, but that he was having them, or would have them, investigated, but a report of such investigation has never reached us” (reprinted from Larry Martin, *Skeptics and Scoffers*, pp. 47-48).

This reminds us that every time someone attempts to test Pentecostal tongues or healings or other “signs and wonders” objectively, the phenomena prove to be either completely bogus or strangely illusive. The most amazing signs and wonders always occur some place far away or long ago and are otherwise not verifiable.

I visited the Kansas State Research Library in Topeka in 2002 and got a photo of the building where Parham had his Bible School. (It was destroyed by a fire in December 1901). I also found some old newspaper articles and other documents about Parham’s school, which I cite in the following part of this report.

Two articles give the testimony of S.J. Riggins, a student who left the school, claiming that the other students were merely speaking “gibberish.”

“‘I believe the whole of them are crazy,’ said Mr. Riggins to a *Capital* reporter. ‘I never saw anything like it. They were racing about the room talking and gesticulating and using this strange and senseless language which they claim is the word from the Most High. ... I do not believe their senseless jargon means anything. I am trying to be an earnest Christian. ... When I left the congregation today, I told why I did so, with all the earnestness at my command.’ ... Mr. Riggins said that some of Miss Auswin’s [Ozman’s] writing, which she claimed to be inspired, was submitted to a Chinaman here in Topeka with the honest intention of seeing if he could translate it. The Celestial threw up his hand and said: ‘Me no understand. Takee to Jap.’ Mr. Riggins told this story without a suspicion of levity and if he put any humor in it at the last it was done unconsciously, for he seemed terribly in earnest” (*Topeka Daily Capital*, Jan. 6, 1901).

“They began to claim the gift of tongues and the gift of discernment, and each talked a different kind of gibberish, claiming to be inspired by God, and that they talked one of the foreign languages. ... I was not under the influence, and could see that the students of the school had been led to this extreme through their fanaticism, and finally decided to leave the school. Accordingly last Saturday morning I went away, but before going, I called the inmates of the building together

and explained to them my reasons for leaving. I told them they were under the influence of the evil one, and that the best thing they could do would be to leave the school, as I was doing. They all laughed at me, and I left the school, and do not intend to return.'...

"About fifteen members of the colony have now been given the gift of tongues and when a State Journal reporter called at the school this morning each of the favored ones were called up and spoke a few sentences in strange and unnatural way outlandish words which they neither know the meaning of nor the language to which they belonged. ... It is a peculiar sight to see a whole room full of the men and women of the school sitting around, occasionally breaking out with brief outbursts of talk in one of the many languages which they claim to speak, and writing the quaint and indistinguishable hieroglyphics which they believe to be the characters for words in the Syrian, Chinese, Japanese, Arabic and other languages" (*Topeka State Journal*, Jan. 7, 1901).

We are convinced that Riggins was correct in his assessment that Parham and his students were speaking gibberish and practicing fanaticism under the influence of the evil one.

Consider this description by Parham of what his students were doing the day after Ozman began her tongues speaking career:

"The next day I went down town and upon my return found ALL THE STUDENTS SITTING ON THE FLOOR TALKING IN UNKNOWN TONGUES, NO TWO TALKING THE SAME LANGUAGE, AND NO ONE UNDERSTANDING HIS OR HER NEIGHBOR'S SPEECH" (*Topeka Mail and Breeze*, Feb. 22, 1901).

This is strictly contrary to the Bible's instruction about the use of tongues. The Bethel Bible School "tongues" in January 1901 was confusion, which the Bible says is not of God (1 Cor. 14:33).

The Bible says that tongues are not to be used unless they are interpreted and even then, the gift is to be exercised by only one speaker at a time (1 Cor. 14:23-28). Further, women are not to speak (1 Cor. 14:34).

Parham claimed that Ozman was unable to speak in English for three days after her initial tongues experience. Her own testimony was that "many times we could only talk in other tongues" (Martin, *The Topeka Outpouring of 1901*, p. 88).

To the contrary, the Bible says a genuine prophet or tongues speaker is in control of himself. "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (1 Cor. 14:32).

Ozman's uncontrollable "tongues" were not of God.

The lack of control over the "tongues" was also described by Lillian Thistlethwaite, another student at Parham's Bible school.

"My tongue began to get thick and great floods of laughter came into my heart. I could no longer think words of praise, for my mind was sealed, but my mouth was filled with a rush of words I didn't understand. I tried not to laugh for I feared to grieve the Spirit. I tried to praise Him in English but could not, so I just let the praise come as it would in the new language..." (Martin, *The Topeka Outpouring*, p. 61).

This is contrary to what we see in the book of Acts and the Epistles.

As we have seen in the previously quoted newspaper accounts, Parham's students not only claimed to speak in tongues but also to write in them. They claimed these writings were foreign languages, such as Chinese, but when they were examined by knowledgeable people, they were found to be mere indecipherable scratchings (Goff, p. 76).

The *Topeka Daily Capital* printed an example of Ozman's "inspired writings," and it can still be seen in the Kansas State Research Library. It was nothing more than childish scratchings.

The people were deluded, plain and simple. The press called the writings "quaint and indistinguishable hieroglyphics" (Goff, p. 80).

A reporter for the *Topeka State Journal* observed Agnes Ozman when she was allegedly writing by inspiration:

"Miss Ozman sat at a desk writing some letters which were to be posted that morning. Shortly after finishing the letters she sat down to write again and immediately announced that her hands utterly refused to write the characters of the English language. And with her hands unconsciously formed the characters of some language, but she was not able to state which. She did not interpret the marks. IN WRITING THE CHARACTERS, THE MUSCLES OF MISS OZMAN'S HANDS SEEM TO CONTRACT AND SHE MADE THE MARKS IN A SPASMODIC FASHION, HER HAND RATHER JERKING BACK AND FORTH to make the scrawls" ("Hindoo and Zulu Both Are Represented at Bethel School," *Topeka State Journal*, Jan. 9, 1901).

This is the same phenomenon that occurs with New Age automatic writing, which is clearly demonic. There is not a hint of such a thing in the New Testament Scriptures.

The early Pentecostals thought they would be able to preach in foreign languages through the gift of tongues. Parham is quoted as follows in a newspaper article from that day:

“It is a wonderful work, coming as it does on the eve of the twentieth century. We have for long believed that the power of the Lord would be manifested in our midst, and that power would be given us to speak other languages, and that the time will come when we will be sent to go into all the nations and preach the gospel, and that THE LORD WILL GIVE US THE POWER OF SPEECH TO TALK TO THE PEOPLE OF THE VARIOUS NATIONS WITHOUT HAVING TO STUDY THEM IN SCHOOLS” (*Topeka State Journal*, Jan. 7, 1901).

“We have received several messages to go into all the world and preach the gospel, and we must obey the command. A PART OF OUR LABOR WILL BE TO TEACH THE CHURCHES THE USELESSNESS OF SPENDING YEARS OF TIME PREPARING MISSIONARIES FOR WORK IN FOREIGN LANDS WHEN ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS TO ASK GOD for power and then have faith that the power will come” (Parham, quoted in *Kansas City Times*, Jan. 27, 1901).

As it turned out, they were deceived in this as they were in everything else.

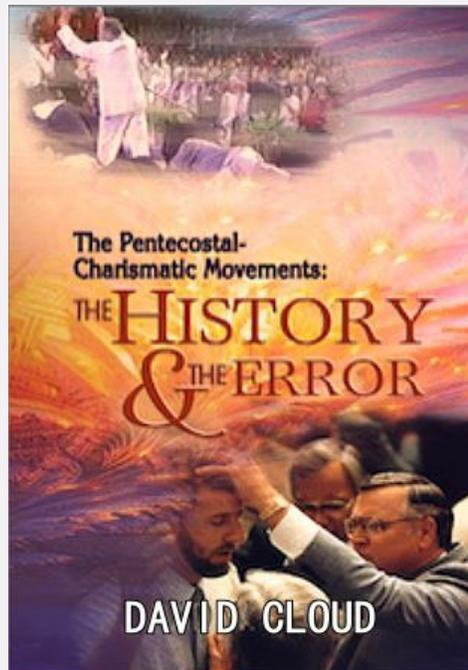
Alfred Garr and his wife went to India expecting to speak in supernatural languages, but they quickly learned that it was a delusion. May Law and Rosa Pittman went to Japan expecting to preach in Japanese; but when they found that no one could understand their “tongues,” they moved on to Hong Kong, thinking that they must have the gift of Chinese instead, but they were no more successful there. T.J. McIntosh was the first Pentecostal missionary to Macau, and though he fully expected to speak fluent Chinese, his hopes were soon dashed.

“Numerous other Pentecostal missionaries went abroad believing they had the miraculous ability to speak in the languages of those to whom they were sent. These Pentecostal claims were well known at the time. S.C. Todd of the Bible Missionary Society investigated eighteen Pentecostals who went to Japan, China, and India ‘expecting to preach to the natives in those countries in their own tongue,’ and found that by their own admission ‘in no single instance have [they] been able to do so.’ AS THESE AND OTHER MISSIONARIES RETURNED IN DISAPPOINTMENT AND FAILURE, PENTECOSTALS WERE COMPELLED TO RETHINK THEIR ORIGINAL VIEW OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES” (Robert Mapes Anderson, *Vision of the Disinherited: The Making of American Pentecostalism*).

Parham’s Bible school in Kansas closed down within months, and he moved to Texas to establish churches. He also started a new Bible school in Houston.

THE PENTECOSTAL-CHARISMATIC MOVEMENTS

The History and the Error



An historical examination of the Pentecostal-Charismatic Movements.

Available from www.wayoflife.org

CREATION SCIENCE MATERIALS TEACH ANALYTICAL THINKING AND SOUND ARGUMENTATION

The writer of Hebrews says that the spiritual and moral senses must be trained through use. (Hebrews 5:14)

SALE!

Seeing the Non-Existent: Evolutions Myths and Hoaxes
by David W. Cloud

REFUTES EVERY MAJOR ARGUMENT USED IN DEFENSE OF EVOLUTION

IN PREPARATION FOR WRITING THIS BOOK, DAVID CLOUD READ AND REVIEWED AT LEAST 200 BOOKS AND DVDS, AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF ARTICLES. HE ALSO VISITED MANY OF THE PREMIER NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUMS IN AMERICA, AUSTRALIA, AND ENGLAND.

Titus 1:9-11 says that preachers and teachers are necessary to stop the mouths of false teachers. This is the first purpose of creation science materials.

Young people need to see that Darwinism can be rejected because there are no proven scientific facts supporting it.

We do not naturally know how to refute error. Like most other things in life, this must be learned and we must grow in it.

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There is a vast difference between biblical contemplation and the contemplative prayer that is sweeping through evangelicalism. It is the difference between “silence” and “the silence.”

In biblical contemplation, silence refers simply to a quiet place in which the soul can effectively seek the Lord. In Scripture it is called seeking the Lord (Psalm 105:3; Isaiah 55:6), waiting on the Lord (Psalm 69:6), meditating on the Lord (Psalm 104:34), meditating on God’s Word (Psalm 1:2).

In these times, when most of us use computers and smart phones and our waking hours are filled to the brim with distracting busyness, it is important to have daily periods of silence for spiritual devotion. During these times we don’t sit with an EMPTY MIND and DO NOTHING; rather we open the Bible and read and meditate on its teaching, and we pray IN WORDS to God the Father through Jesus Christ by the wisdom and direction of the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, “the silence” of contemplative prayer refers to pursuing God beyond the Bible, beyond thinking. It refers to putting aside thoughts through mechanisms such as mantras.

It has been popularized by contemplative gurus such as Richard Foster and Dallas Willard and is promoted by many evangelical leaders today, including Rick Warren, Bill Hybels, Chuck Swindoll, David Jeremiah, Beth Moore, Mark Driscoll, Max Lucado, Ed Young, Sr., Gary Thomas, Philip Yancy, Lee Strobel, and Charles Stanley. (See “[Evangelicals Turning to Roman Catholic Contemplative Spirituality](#)” at the Way of Life web site.)

Harry Plantinga, director of Christian Classics Ethereal Library, describes contemplative prayer as follows: “As I was growing up, my church experience seemed some-

what heady to me--concerned more about correct belief than about actually loving God. Whether or not that was a correct perception, I wanted more. I wanted not just to know about God, I wanted to know God ... Christian mysticism addresses that longing of the heart. ... Webster defines mysticism as ‘the doctrine that it is possible to achieve communion with God through contemplation and love WITHOUT THE MEDIUM OF HUMAN REASON.’ That definition captures what I have in mind by the term” (*CCEL Times*, April 1, 2008).

In his pursuit of contemplative mysticism, Plantinga promotes Roman Catholic mystic writings such as *The Cloud of Unknowing*. This book, which came out of the darkness of Roman Catholic monasticism, encourages the use of a mantra to drive away conscious thoughts with the objective of entering into an experiential communion with God in “the nothingness.”

The Cloud of Unknowing says:

“... DISMISS EVERY CLEVER OR SUBTLE THOUGHT no matter how holy or valuable. Cover it over with a thick cloud of forgetting because in this life only love can touch God as he is in himself, never knowledge” (chapter 8, pp. 59, 60).

“Focus your attention on a simple word such as sin or God ... and WITHOUT THE INTERVENTION OF ANALYTICAL THOUGHT allow yourself to experience directly the reality it signifies” (chapter 36, p. 94).

“For in this darkness we experience an intuitive understanding of everything material and spiritual WITHOUT GIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR” (chapter 68).

Richard Foster, one of the most prominent gurus of contemplative mysticism, says repetitious contempla-

tive prayers such as breath prayers “BIND THE MIND” (*Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*, p. 124).

This is not biblical meditation; it is a dangerous recipe for demonic delusion.

We must seek God through faith, and faith comes only by God’s Word.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

If we try to know and “experience” God beyond the pages of Scripture, beyond the teaching of the Bible, we are walking in disobedience and unbelief and are setting ourselves up for spiritual deception from the hands of the one who appears as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

The Scriptures instructs the child of God to be “sober” and “vigilant” (1 Peter 5:8), which means to be in control of one’s mind and heart in order to protect oneself from spiritual error. Sober-mindedness is the opposite of the empty-mindedness of contemplative prayer.

The late Roman Catholic Buddhist Thomas Merton, one of the most influential contemplative writers, described his own delusion in these frightful words: “In the end the contemplative suffers the anguish of realizing that he no longer knows what God is” (Merton, *The New Seeds of Contemplation*).

Merton’s contemplative mysticism at a Cistercian monastery in Kentucky led him to Buddhism. He traveled to Sri Lanka to meditate before Buddhist images before traveling to Thailand to participate in an interfaith dialogue. There he died of electrocution.

Contemplative practices, such as the Jesus Prayer, visualizing prayer, and centering prayer are exceedingly dangerous. Many who practice these things end up believing in a pagan concept of God such as pantheism (God is everything) and panentheism (God is in everything). Through these practices, people typically become increasingly ecumenical and interfaith in thinking.

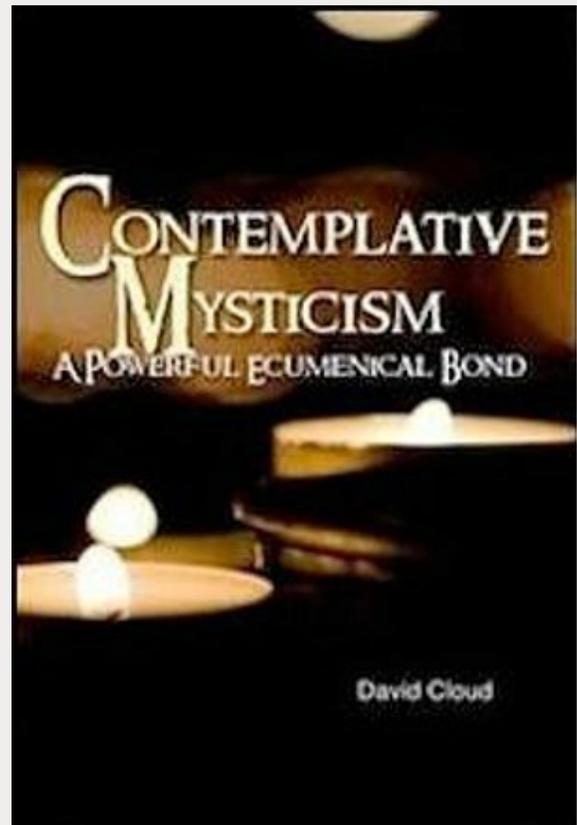
One does not have to choose between knowing *about* God and knowing God personally. GOD IS KNOWN IN CHRIST THROUGH HIS WORD. The study of the Bible is not an end in itself and should never be a mere dry intellectual exercise; it is the means whereby we know God, and this is something we can grow in year by year.

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2).

“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).

For more on this see the book [CONTEMPLATIVE MYSTICISM](#), which is available in print and eBook editions from [Way of Life Literature](#).

CONTEMPLATIVE MYSTICISM A Powerful Ecumenical Bond



A Biographical Catalog of Contemplative Mystics.

Available from 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?



ISRAEL APPROVES INTEGRATED PRAYER SITE AT WESTERN WALL

(Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has announced a plan to build a new worship site at the Western Wall that will accommodate both sexes. Currently there are segregated worship areas at the Wall, a large one for men and a smaller one for women, with the sections divided by a wall. For years, the Women of the Wall organization, which represents the "liberal streams of Judaism," has been demonstrating for mixed-sex prayer. In Herod's Temple women were restricted to the Court of the Women. It was also called the Middle Court, because it was between the Court of the Gentiles and the Court of Israel which was for Jewish men. The synagogues were also traditionally divided into men's and women's sections until recent times when the more liberal ones integrated worship. The Israeli government plans to build a mixed-sex worship area to the south of the existing worship areas in a place currently occupied by an archaeological dig. The Western Wall Plaza was built in 1967 immediately following the Six-Day War when Israel gained access to eastern Jerusalem. The area of the plaza near the Wall, known as the lower plaza, functions as a synagogue.

THE ANCIENT BABYLONIANS' "FANCY MATH" (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Recent research by astrophysicist

Mathieu Ossendrijver, using ancient tablets at the British Museum, has found that from about 1800 BC the Babylonians used a "complex geometrical model that looks like a rudimentary form of integral calculus to calculate the path of Jupiter" ("Babylonians tracked Jupiter with fancy math," *Live Science*, Jan. 28, 2016). The tablets analyzed by Ossendrijver date from about 1800 BC to 50 BC. The Babylonians developed "abstract mathematical, geometrical ideas about the connection between motion, position and time that are so common to any modern physicist or mathematician" ("Math whizzes of ancient Babylon figured out forerunner of calculus," *Science*, Jan. 28, 2016). Alexander Jones of New York University says, "Such concepts have not been found earlier than in 14th century European texts on moving bodies. Their presence testifies to the revolutionary brilliance of the unknown Mesopotamian scholars who constructed Babylonian mathematical astronomy."



The path of Jupiter was important to the Babylonians, as their chief god Marduk was identified with this planet. "And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth" (Genesis 11:4).

ENGLAND APPROVES GENE EDITING (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Scientists get 'gene editing' go-ahead," *BBC*, Feb. 1, 2016: "UK scientists have been given the go-ahead by the fertility regulator to genetically modify human embryos. It is the first time a country has considered the DNA-altering technique in embryos and approved it. The research will take place at the Francis Crick



Institute in London and aims to provide a deeper understanding of the earliest moments of human life. It will be illegal for the scientists to implant the modified embryos into a woman. But the field is attracting controversy over concerns it is opening the door to designer--or GM--babies. DNA is the blueprint of life--the instructions for building the human body. Gene editing allows the precise manipulation of DNA. ... The experiments will take place in the first seven days after fertilisation. During this time we go from a fertilised egg to a structure called a blastocyst, containing 200-300 cells. ... The work will be led by Dr. Kathy Niakan, who has spent a decade researching human development. Earlier this year, she explained why she had applied to edit human embryos: 'We would really like to understand the genes needed for a human embryo to develop successfully into a healthy baby. The reason why it is so important is because miscarriages and infertility are extremely common, but they're not very well understood.'"

KUWAIT AIR ENDS NEW YORK SERVICE OVER REFUSAL TO CARRY ISRAELIS (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Kuwait is supposed to



be a "moderate" Muslim nation, but it has shut down a coveted London to New York service rather than carry Israelis as ordered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait does not allow Jews even to visit the country. The following is from *The Times of Israel*, Jan. 17, 2016: "Kuwait Air is ending its New York to London service over the carrier's refusal to carry Israeli passengers.' The U.S. Department of Transportation will not tolerate unlawful discrimination, and has mandated that the airline immediately cease that practice and allow Israeli passengers to travel between the U.S. and London,' Anthony Foxx, the transportation secretary, said in a statement on Friday. 'In light of our demands, Kuwait Airways has chosen to cease passenger service from New York JFK airport to London Heathrow by January 18.'"

CHINESE LEADER CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN STATE WITH JERUSALEM CAPITAL (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from "Chinese Leader," *Times of Israel*, Jan. 22, 2016: "Chinese President Xi Jinping called on Thursday for the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Speaking to the Arab League in Cairo while on a tour of the region, Xi said China supports the peace process in the Middle East and backs a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders with Israel. Xi also said his country would provide \$7.6 million to the Palestinians in support of a new solar power project. He announced billions of dollars in special loans and investments in the Middle East, as Beijing seeks to boost its economic ties and clout in the region."

POPE: BAPTISM UNITES ALL CHRISTIANS (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

The following is by Matt Costella, Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Jan. 26, 2016: "Baptismal regeneration--the belief that one becomes a member of the body of Christ through baptism rather than through faith alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ--is a false gospel embraced by many of the major 'Christian' denominations. Pope Francis recently stated that Christian baptism not only brings salvation to the sinner, but it is the key to unity with all Christians--Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant. In his general audience during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope declared that 'the mercy of God, which works in baptism, is stronger than our divisions' (Catholic News Agency, 'Pope



Francis: For Christians, Baptism Is Stronger Than Differences,' Jan. 20, 2016). According to the pope, baptism creates 'an indissoluble bond between us Christians, such that, by virtue of baptism, we can consider ourselves truly brothers.' The CNA report described how the pope pointed to a 12th century baptismal font in the Lutheran Cathedral of Riga in Latvia and said the font signals the origin of faith recognized by all Christians which 'is our common baptism.' The culprit for disunity, according to the pope, is 'egoism, which plants seeds of division, closure, and contempt in our minds and hearts.' Christians today need to understand--especially as evangelicals continue to laud the pope and strive for unity with Rome--that the false gospel of baptismal regeneration embraced and propagated by the Roman Catholic Church is truly a damnable heresy. Baptism is simply an ordinance to be practiced by those who have already trusted in Christ as Savior--an outward testimony of one's

relationship with God. And it should be noted that ‘egoism’ does not create division in the church--false doctrine does! God’s Word commands believers to not only separate from false doctrine and those who practice it, but it commands Christians to ‘earnestly contend’ for the faith and warn about the ‘wolves in sheep’s clothing’ who attempt to destroy the flock and draw away disciples after themselves.”

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BANS INTELLIGENT DESIGN INFORMATION (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org,



866-295-4143) - The very liberal United Methodist Church has banned the Discovery Institute from sponsoring an information table at its upcoming General Conference. The Discovery Institute promotes the intelligent design position. Dr. John West, Vice President of the Discovery Institute, observes, “Preventing United Methodist leaders from even hearing about intelligent design isn’t open-minded. It’s intolerant and exclusionary. Maybe United Methodist officials should change their slogan to ‘Closed Hearts, Closed Minds, Closed Doors’” (“United Methodist Church Displays Intolerance,” *Evolution News & Views*, Jan. 18, 2016). In 2004, the United Methodist Church passed a resolution stating that it “opposed the introduction of any faith-based theories such as Creationism or Intelligent Design into the science curriculum of our public schools.” Of this statement, the Bible says, “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is,

and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).

NOAH WEBSTER’S “PROPHECY” ABOUT 21ST CENTURY AMERICA (Friday Church News Notes, February 5, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Noah Webster, author of the *Blue-Backed Speller* and the *American Dictionary of the English Language*, was one of the most important and influential figures in early American history. His spiritual conversion in 1808 at age 48 had a dramatic impact on his thinking, and his passion from then to the end of his long life was to encourage Bible education in America. He was convinced that a free republic could only exist if the citizens were righteous and wise, and he believed that only the Bible has the power to produce such citizens. In 1835, he issued the following warning: “God has provided but one way, by which nations can secure their rights and privileges: by obedience to his laws. Without this, a nation may be great in population, great in wealth, and great in military strength; but it must be corrupt in morals, degraded in character, and distracted with factions. This is the order of God’s moral government, as firm as his throne, and unchangeable as his purpose; and nations, disregarding this order, are doomed to incessant internal evils, and ultimately to ruin” (Noah Webster, *Instructive and Entertaining Lessons for Youth*, 1835).

SPORTS IDOL GIVES SHOUT OUT TO BEER AND “THE MAN UPSTAIRS” (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The spiritual emptiness of professional sports was illustrated by Peyton Manning’s comments after his second Super Bowl win on February 7. Manning, quarterback for the Denver Broncos and idol of millions of boys, in a post-game interview with CBS’s Tracy Wolfson, said, “I want to go hug my family, I’m going to drink a lot of



Budweiser tonight. ... And I’m definitely going to say a little prayer and thank the man upstairs for this great opportunity” (“Peyton Manning Deflects Retirement Question,” New England Sports Network, Feb. 7, 2016). A few minutes later, on the winner’s podium, Manning again pushed beer. “What’s weighing on my mind is how soon I can get a Bud Light in my mouth.” These statements gave Budweiser millions of dollars in free advertising, and it might not be a coincidence that Manning is part-owner in two Anheuser-Busch distributors (“Why Peyton Manning Gave Budweiser \$3 Million in Free Advertising,” *Everyday Money*, Feb. 7, 2016). It was called “the most valuable endorsement in history.” We wonder how “the Man Upstairs” liked it. Manning has made \$385 million in career earnings, but he is only #32 among the world’s highest paid athletes. The 2016 Super Bowl was the third most-watched program in U.S. television history, with an estimated 115 million viewers. When America was truly great, a vast majority of the people filled their minds with God’s Word on Sundays. Now they fill their minds with things that are as void of eternal value as a pretty balloon.

INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH FEATURES HOMOSEXUAL ENTERTAINER (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Marcus Pointe Baptist Temple in Pensacola, Florida, illustrates the slippery slope of messing with contemporary music and embracing the accompanying heresy that *grace* equates with non-judgmentalism in matters such



as music. The pastor, Gordon Godfrey, spoke at Southwide Baptist Fellowship in 2006 and 2009. In fact, Marcus Pointe hosted the Southwide Fellowship meeting in 2009. Evangelist Tim Lee reported in his blog that year that the meeting “was awesome” and that Marcus Pointe is one of his supporting churches. This “awesome” church has been on the slippery slope of spiritual compromise for years, and the effect is obvious. This January the Marcus Pointe choir backed up entertainer Barry Manilow on his *One Last Time Tour*. The church’s choir accompanied Manilow in a worldly rock & roll show that included Manilow’s hit song “Copacabana.” The lyrics begin like this: “Her name was Lola, she was a showgirl/ With yellow feathers in her hair and a dress cut down to there/ She would merengue and do the cha-cha/ And while she tried to be a star/ Tony always tended bar/ Across the crowded floor, they worked from 8 til 4/ They were young and they had each other/ Who could ask for more?” When a concerned brother in Christ communicated to one of the Marcus Pointe choir members that Manilow is a homosexual who “married” his long-time partner in 2015, the choir member did know and “didn’t seem to care.” One day, it will be evident to such people that the true grace of God is not non-judgmental tolerance of sin and error. “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world” (Titus 2:11-12). “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*” (Ephesians 5:11).

A TRUE PAPAL APOLOGY (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Since John Paul II, there have been a string of “apologies” about Rome’s past that, upon examination, prove to be empty. The most recent is Pope Francis’ January 25 apology. It was characterized by *U.S. News & World Report* and many others as a “sweeping apology for Catholic wrongs committed against other Christians,” but it was nothing of the sort. Here is what the Pope said in St. Peter’s Cathedral: “As the bishop of Rome and pastor of the Catholic Church, I would like to invoke mercy and forgiveness for the non-evangelical behavior of Catholics toward Christians of other churches” (“Pope Francis ... makes sweeping apology,” *U.S. News & World Report*, Jan. 25, 2016). That is the sweeping apology! “Non-evangelical behavior” is a most amazing way to describe the imprisonment, robbery, torture, torment, burning, and crusading slaughter of millions of “Christians of other churches”! This is not an apology. It is arrogance; it is presumption; it is a lie; it is a further affront. John Paul II’s “apologies” were of the same caliber. Consider “Memory and Reconciliation: The Church and the Faults of the Past,” published in December 1999. It was written by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who later became Pope Benedict XVI, and it was approved by Pope John Paul II. The latter stated that the “apology” contained in this document would lead to a “new springtime of Christianity.” This report stated that “doubtful means were employed in the pursuit of good ends” and spoke of “intolerance and even



the use of force in the service of truth.” That’s it. That’s the “apology.” A genuine papal apology would go something like this: “I am the head of a false church that was formed from rebellion against God’s Word 1600 years ago and that is actually more akin to the whore of Revelation 17. I renounce my false and blasphemous claim to represent Christ on earth and to be the head of all churches. I renounce as heresies the priesthood, sacramental salvation, infant baptism, Mariolatry, purgatory, saints, relics, monasticism, and every other thing that is contrary to God’s holy Word and the doctrine and practice of the original churches that Christ founded. I accept the holy Scripture as the sole authority for faith and practice according to the teaching of the apostle Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17, and I renounce every Catholic tradition contrary to Scripture. I decry all claims of supremacy. I denounce all of the horrible things that the Roman Catholic Church has done to people throughout its history. I renounce all of the moral filth that has been committed by popes, cardinals, bishops, priests, monks, and nuns under the guise of Christianity. I repent of these things in sackcloth and ashes before the whole world. I renounce baptismal regeneration and cast myself wholly upon the blood of Jesus Christ for my salvation. May God have mercy on my soul for my participation of Rome’s false affairs.”

MEN CAN COMPETE IN OLYMPICS AS WOMEN UNDER NEW “TRANSGENDER RULES” (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Biological men can now compete against women,” *Natural News*, Jan. 27, 2016: “It has just gotten easier for Olympic-caliber male athletes who always found themselves just a couple ticks away from winning a medal, to finally bring home the gold, silver or bronze: Just deny your gender. That’s right. As noted by *Breitbart News*, all male Olympians have to do is declare that



they're women, and get some medical treatments that will allow them to reduce their testosterone levels to under 10 nmol/L for at least 12 months, before they will be permitted to compete. And then they'll be able to take on the real female athletes. ... Prediction: The Olympic world, in public at least, will applaud this 'progressive' rule change, but that may only last until a top-tier female athlete, who has given up everything to train for the opportunity of a lifetime, loses out to a bigger, faster, two-thirds male challenger. Then, these ridiculous rule changes won't seem so fair--or 'progressive.'"

PASTOR WHO HELPED EX-LESBIAN FLEE COUNTRY WITH DAUGHTER ORDERED TO PRISON (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from ChristianNews.net, Feb. 3, 2016: "A Mennonite pastor who was convicted of providing assistance to an ex-lesbian who fled the country with her daughter has been ordered to report to prison next month after losing his appeal. As previously reported, Kenneth Miller of Stuarts Draft, Virginia, was convicted in August 2012 for helping Lisa Miller (no



relation) and her young daughter Isabella travel to Buffalo, New York, where they crossed the border into Canada and then escaped to Nicaragua. The situation began in 2000, when Lisa Miller, then a homosexual, joined in a civil union with lesbian Janet Jenkins in the state of Vermont. Following an artificial insemination procedure, Miller gave birth to baby Isabella in 2002. In 2003, Miller and Jenkins split, and Miller moved to Virginia. She renounced homosexuality and reportedly turned to Jesus Christ for salvation. When the civil union was officially dissolved, the court gave custody to Miller, while also granting visitation rights to Jenkins. ... family court judge Richard Cohen warned Miller that she must allow Isabella to visit Jenkins and threatened that if she did not do so, he would transfer full custody to Jenkins. In November 2009, Cohen followed through with his threats. However, Miller had fled the country with Isabella before he issued the transfer order ... It was alleged that Pastor Kenneth Miller had a part helping Miller flee the country. ... In 2013, months after Miller had been convicted of aiding in international kidnapping in federal court, Judge William Sessions gave Miller the maximum sentence of 27 months behind bars as requested by prosecutor Christina Nolan, plus one year of supervised federal probation."

MUSLIM PLANNED TO SHOOT UP CHURCH BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WOULD BE UNARMED (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - A Muslim man in Detroit, Michigan, who was arrested recently on federal firearms and illegal drug possession charges was planning to shoot up a church because he believed the people would be unarmed. Khalil Abu-Rayyan was arrested last week, but he has been under investigation by the FBI since May. Court records quote him as saying, "I tried to shoot up a church one day. I don't know the name of it, but it's close



to my job. It's one of the biggest ones in Detroit. ... A lot of people go there. Plus people are not allowed to carry guns in church. (If I) can't go do jihad at the Middle East, I would do my jihad over here" ("Feds: Dearborn Heights man supports ISIS," *The Detroit News*, Feb. 6, 2016). He said, "... it is my dream to behead someone." Abu-Rayyan has used Twitter to promote ISIS propaganda since 2014, including the posting of videos of ISIS atrocities such as the burning of a Jordanian pilot.

SOME FAVORITE QUOTES (Friday Church News Notes, February 12, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



"Now, more than ever before, the people are responsible for the character of their Congress. If that body be ignorant, reckless, and corrupt, it is because the people tolerate ignorance, recklessness, and corruption. If it be intelligent, brave, and pure, it is because the people demand these high qualities to represent them in the national legislature. ... if the next centennial does not find us a great nation ... it will be because those who represent the enterprise, the culture, and the morality of the nation do not aid in controlling the political forces" (James Garfield, "A Century of Congress,"

Atlantic, July 1877; Garfield was the 20th U.S. President).

“I have long been of opinion that the evidence of the truth of Christianity requires only to be carefully examined to produce conviction in candid minds” (John Jay, first Chief Justice of the United States, 1796, *Jay Papers*).

“Atheism is a ferocious system that leaves nothing above us to excite awe, nor around us, to awaken tenderness” (Robert Hall, *Modern Infidelity Considered with Respect to Its Influence on Society*, 1800).

HAWKING SAYS EARTH DOOMED, HUMANS MUST COLONIZE SPACE (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Stephen Hawking, “British physics superstar,” says that it is a near certainty that the earth will be wiped out by some disaster and that it is imperative that humans colonize space. In reply to questions at the BBC Reith Lecture in January, the author of *A Brief History of Time* said, “Although the chance of a disaster to planet Earth in a given year may be quite low, it adds up over time, and becomes a near certainty in the next thousand or ten thousand years. By that time we should have spread out into space, and to other stars, so a disaster on Earth would not mean the end of the human race. However, we will not establish self-sustaining colonies in space for at least the next hundred years, so we have to be very careful in this period” (“Hawking: Humans at risk of lethal ‘own goal,’” *BBC News*, Jan. 19,



2016). Since Hawking is a self-declared atheist and evolutionist, none of what he is saying about the importance of human survival makes sense. If man is an accident of evolution, human existence has no meaning. None. Zero. Nothing matters. It is divine Creation that gives true meaning to human life. We pray for Mr. Hawking, that God would open his eyes to the beauty of the Creator and of the gracious salvation that He has purchased at great cost. *Twice* the Bible says, “The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good*” (Psalm 14:1; 53:1)

ATHEIST HAS A STROKE, RECOVERS, THEN TWITTERS MORE BLASPHEMY AGAINST GOD (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



Richard Dawkins, the infamous Oxford atheist, had a stroke on February 6 that forced him to postpone a speaking tour to Australia and New Zealand that was scheduled for later this month. A few days later, his manager said he was “already at home recuperating” (“Richard Dawkins stroke,” *The Guardian*, Feb. 12, 2016). He immediately used Twitter to push a book entitled *God: The Most Unpleasant Character in All Fiction*, for which he wrote the foreword. Dawkins called it “a wonderful book.” The man has gotten rich and famous by preaching naturalistic evolution and blaspheming God. His book *The God Delusion* has sold more than three million copies. “As he came forth of his mother’s womb, naked shall he return to go as he came,

and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand” (Ecclesiastes 5:15).

SOLOGAMY (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



Sologamy, or self-marriage, is another sign of the times. “Apparently Linda Baker was the first person to marry herself back in December 1993. Others have followed suit, including Sara Sharpe, who wrote about her self-marriage in *A Dress, A Ring, Promises to Self*. And there’s Nadine Schweigert, a thirty-six-year-old woman from Fargo, North Dakota, who was interviewed by Anderson Cooper after marrying herself in front of some forty of her closest friends. ‘I, Nadine,’ she said to herself, ‘promise to enjoy inhabiting my own life and to relish a lifelong love affair with my beautiful self.’ Jennifer Hoes is a Dutch woman who did the same thing in 2003. Her same-self marriage was the subject of a recent ten-minute documentary by *Aeon Magazine*. ... In some ways same-self marriage is the logical outgrowth of what cultural critic Christopher Lasch described in his 1979 bestseller *The Culture of Narcissism*. ... The Narcissus of Greek mythology was a handsome young man with whom all the beautiful girls fell in love. But Narcissus spurned their affections in favor of his own attractive self” (“Same-Self Marriage,” *First Things*, Nov. 2014). A 2,000-year-old Bible prophecy says, “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be LOVERS OF THEIR OWN SELVES, covetous, boasters, proud,

blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy” (2 Timothy 3:1-2).

NASA BANS “JESUS” (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -

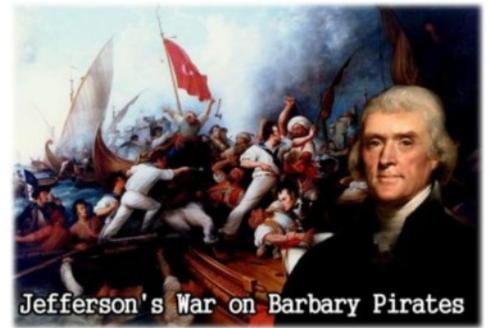


Buzz Aldrin's Communion Chalice

The following is excerpted from Todd Starnes, “NASA bans the word ‘Jesus,’” *Fox News*, Feb. 8, 2016: “The name of Jesus is not welcome in the Johnson Space Center newsletter, according to a complaint filed on behalf of a group of Christians who work for NASA. The JSC Praise & Worship Club was directed by NASA attorneys to refrain from using the name ‘Jesus’ in club announcements that appeared in a Space Center newsletter. ... Liberty Institute, one of the nation’s largest religious liberty law firms, threatened to file a federal lawsuit unless NASA apologizes and stops censoring the name ‘Jesus.’ The *JSC Today* newsletter is distributed electronically and includes a number of Space Center events--from salsa dancing lessons to soccer camp. ... Since 2001, employees had gathered during their lunch hour to pray and sing and read the Bible. There had been no censorship issues until last year. ... The club’s leadership was told that ‘NASA would be censoring all future club announcements that featured the name *Jesus*.’ ... On Christmas Eve, 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 read the Creation story as they orbited the moon. Astronauts Jim Lovell, Frank Borman and Bill Anders took turns reading from the Book of Genesis. ... And astronaut Buzz Aldrin received communion on the lunar surface during the 1969 Apollo 11 mission.”

AMERICA ONLY FOUR PRESIDENTS OLD (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - “When President Obama was born (1961), President Herbert Hoover was still alive (1874-1964). When Hoover was born, President Andrew Johnson (1808-1875) was still alive. When President Johnson was born, President John Adams (1735-1826) was still alive. And just like that, we’ve connected the present day to the Founding Fathers” (*Washington Post*, Mar. 12, 2016).

WHAT AMERICA’S FOUNDERS THOUGHT ABOUT ISLAM (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “What the Founders Thought,” Keith Farrell, The Federalist Papers Project: “President Obama has continually asserted that Islam was ‘woven into the fabric’ of the United States since its founding. Obama claims that Muslims have made significant contributions to the building of this nation. The claim is laughable to anyone who has studied US history. Historian David Barton ... found the first real contribution any Muslim made was in 1856 (80 years after the founding) when then Secretary of War Jefferson Davis hired one Muslim to help train camels in Arizona. ... But Muslims did have an influence on early America, and that influence was one of a foe. ... American vessels [were] raided and plundered by Muslim pirates from the Barbary Coast. After agreeing to pay 10% of the new nation’s dismal GDP in exchange for passage, attacks continued. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin were sent as representatives to mediate the problem. It was there that they discovered that the Islamic law the pirates followed made it their duty to attack non-Muslims. ... Ben Franklin wrote of his experience: ‘Nor can the Plundering of Infidels be in that sacred Book (the Qur’an) forbidden, since it is well known from it, that God



Jefferson's War on Barbary Pirates

has given the World, and all that it contains, to his faithful Mussulmen, who are to enjoy it of Right as fast as they conquer it.’ John Adams, in his report to John Jay, wrote of the Muslim prophet Muhammad, and called him a ‘military fanatic’ who ‘denies that laws were made for him; he arrogates everything to himself by force of arms.’ By the time Jefferson became president the Barbary Coast was extorting 25% of US GDP and attacks were still occurring. Jefferson wasted no time in signing a war powers request which launched the US’s entire naval fleet to wage war on the Barbary pirates.”

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH KEEPS NEIGHBORS AWAKE WITH ITS LOUD ROCK MUSIC (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Vintage Church of New Orleans is fighting an injunction by Jefferson Parish that requires that it not exceed 60 decibels of noise. The church is meeting in a tent while constructing a permanent building, and after neighbors complained of the noise of their rock music, the local government issued the injunction. After a district court judge refused to lift the injunction, the legal battle has now moved to the Louisiana Fifth Circuit



Vintage Church - New Orleans

Court of Appeal. One neighbor told the local newspaper, “My daughter’s a nurse, works a 13-hour shift, and she couldn’t get to sleep. This has been going on for four months. It’s frustrating. I’m not the only one complaining. We all can hear it. [Other neighbors] are complaining, too” (*Time-Picayunes*, Dec. 15, 2015). If the church would forego its imitation of the world’s music and sing hymns accompanied by non-electric instruments, it probably wouldn’t be having this problem and wouldn’t be offending its neighbors and having to spend money on legal fees.

ONLY ONE IN TEN ISRAELIS THINK PRESIDENT OBAMA IS PRO-ISRAEL (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016,



www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - In a 2015 poll, only 9% of Israelis surveyed believed that the Obama administration is “pro Israel” (Shmeul Rosner, “How bad do Israelis think Obama is?” *Jewish Journal*, April 28, 2015). That was down from 21% in 2012. The survey by Menachem Lazar of Panels Politics found that 81% of religious Jewish Israelis call the Obama administration “pro-Palestinian.” When asked what American president of the last thirty years was “worst for Israel,” Obama won hands down (with 63%). Jimmy Carter was a very distant second with 16%, with other presidents (George H. W. and George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton) were barely mentioned in the worst for Israel category.

THE BIBLE IS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA OF KNOWLEDGE (Friday Church News Notes, February 19, 2016,

www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Elias Boudinot (1740-1821), President of the Continental Congress and framer of the U.S. Bill of Rights, wrote to his daughter as follows: “For nearly half a century have I anxiously and critically studied that invaluable treasure [the Bible]; and I still scarcely ever take it up that I do not find something new--that I do not receive some valuable addition to my stock of knowledge or perceive some instructive fact never observed before. In short, were you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive both to the wise and ignorant. Were you to ask me for one affording the most rational and pleasing entertainment to the inquiring mind, I should repeat, it is the Bible; and should you renew the inquiry for the best philosophy or the most interesting history, I should still urge you to look into your Bible. I would make it, in short, the Alpha and Omega of knowledge” (*The Age of Revelation, or the Age of Reason Shown to Be an Age of Infidelity*, 1801, p. xv, from the “Dedication: Letter to his daughter Susan Bradford”).

LOSING FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN BRITAIN (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “British Police Arrest Man for Syrian Migrants Facebook Post,” *Breitbart*, Feb. 16, 2016: “British Police have promised not to tolerate any speech that could cause offence on social media regarding Syrian migrants, after arresting a man for *Facebook* comments made about recent arrivals on his small Scottish Island. The tiny Isle of Bute in the Firth of Clyde, which had a total population of just 6,498 in 2011, is expected to take in around 1,000 Syrian migrants, with 12 families already arriving since December last year. However, commenting on the comparatively huge and sudden influx of Muslim immigrants online just became a very risky business for local residents. Police have confirmed they



have arrested a 41-year-old local man under the Communications Act, after receiving a report of a supposedly ‘offensive’ comment made on *Facebook* regarding the migrants. A police spokesman was unequivocal, that any harsh criticism of the Muslim influx would not be ‘tolerated.’ Inspector Ewan Wilson from Dunoon police office told the *Guardian* following the arrest: ‘I hope that the arrest of this individual sends a clear message that Police Scotland will not tolerate any form of activity which could incite hatred and provoke offensive comments on social media.’ Some have taken the sudden arrest and draconian threat from the local Police as a sign that the European approach to policing discussion and critique of mass migration of social media may be coming to the UK.”

IRANIAN GIRLS AS YOUNG AS 10 FORCED TO MARRY (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from “Rising number of Iranian girls,” *Times of Israel*, Feb. 5, 2016: “A growing number of young girls are being forced to marry in Iran, UN rights experts warned Thursday, decrying laws permitting



sexual intercourse with girls as young as nine. ... A growing number of ‘girls at the age of 10 years or younger ... are subjected to forced marriages to much older men,’ the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) said. Compounding the problem were laws allowing sex with girls as young as nine, and a lack of criminalization for sexual abuse of even younger children, it said. ... The committee also raised a range of other disturbing issues, including the fact that boys in the country are considered criminally responsible at the age of 15, and girls at nine. This means children down to those ages can be subjected to ‘sentences involving torture or cruel, degrading treatment of punishment,’ it said.”

A \$7 SMARTPHONE (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



An Indian company has announced a new smartphone priced at \$7. Ringing Bells’ *Freedom 251* phone has 8GB storage and rear and front facing cameras. The smartphone age has brought every good and evil thing to people’s fingertips, including the fingertips of children. In Israel, 83% of children aged 8-15 are in possession of a smartphone; 93% use their mobile devices for at least four hours every day; half say they are online within 15 minutes after waking, connecting with friends via social networks like Facebook, Whatsapp, Instagram, and Snapchat. A typical teen exchanges 3,400 texts per month (116 texts per day). The smartphone and the Internet are simply tools, yet the moral and

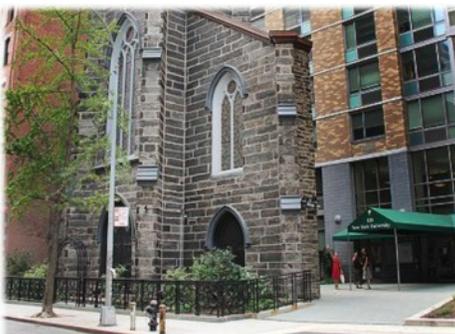
spiritual danger is great. In our new youth discipleship course, we show how that the home, the church, and young people can work together to protect God’s people from the pitfalls of the smartphone age. [The Mobile Phone and the Christian Home and Church](#) is available in print and a free eBook edition from www.wayoflife.org.

THE ESSENCE OF ROCK & ROLL ACCORDING TO THE ROCK & ROLLERS (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Many prominent rockers have described the essence of rock & roll as sex and rebellion. Rock’s “god” is the god of this world, and it is spiritual insanity to use this music in the worship of the God whose characteristics are the exact opposite of rock’s. When David Byrne of Talking Heads inducted the androgynous David Bowie into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1996, he described rock & roll as follows: “When David Bowie came along, well, rock and roll needed a shot in the arm and when I first saw him it was a shock, and yet it was very familiar. ... And like all rock and roll, it was tasteless, it was glamorous, it was PERVERSE, it was fun, it was CRASS, it was SEXY, it was CONFUSING. ... IT WAS ABOUT SEX AND DRUGS, it was about combining literature with rock and roll, with art, with anything you could name. It was about SEX as an idea, and SEX as a reality, and SEX as a liberating force. It was about REBELLION, it was about REBELLION as a cliché, it was REBELLION as an idea. It was about REBELLION as a billboard, as an advertisement. ... It was about SEXUAL



politics, SEXUAL theater” (rockhall.com). (For more quotes such as this see [What Every Christian Should Know about Rock Music](#), available from Way of Life in print and free eBook editions.)

AMERICA’S FAÇADE OF CHRISTIANITY (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Joel McDurmon, “Christian in Name Only,”



The American Vision, Sept. 20, 2012. Please note that we do not agree with McDurmon’s covenant theology. “The façade of Christianity: simply put ... it will never do to have the name of Christ written on the surface of things if the substance does not honor His Law. It will never do to have the Ten Commandments posted in the courthouse if those laws are not in the law books. It will not do to have ‘In God We Trust’ on currency that is not honest money, but instead is left to elite bankers to devalue continually at whim. It will not do to have prayer in schools that are founded on compulsion and coercive taxation, an unbiblical socialistic model. It will not do to put the name ‘God’ in a national Pledge that does not honor biblical social and political theory. It will not do to have ‘our Lord’ written on the very Constitution when that document empowers government to confiscate private property, take eminent domain, if it decides it is profitable for the State to do so. It will not do in a thousand instances for us to place the name of Christ upon a system of unbiblical laws

and morals. Not only will it not do, it is blasphemy, and it will be our *undoing*. ... We are prone, sometimes, to worship not God Himself but instead the phrase ‘God bless America.’ But only God is sacred, the phrase is not, nor is the country *per se*. We only receive God’s blessing when He gives us grace and we humble ourselves before Him. There is no other reason.”

FARMERS FORCED TO PAY \$13,000 FINE FOR REFUSING TO HOST HOMOSEXUAL WEDDING (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) -



The following is from *Charisma News*, Jan. 15, 2016: “A New York court Thursday affirmed a Division of Human Rights ruling against an upstate couple for declining to coordinate a same-sex wedding ceremony in their own backyard. ... Robert and Cynthia Gifford live in a barn they built on their farm and have occasionally hosted weddings on the first floor and the surrounding backyard area. Cynthia serves as a wedding coordinator for those events and does everything but officiate the

ceremony. After the agency ruled that the Giffords were guilty of ‘sexual orientation discrimination,’ it fined them \$10,000, plus \$3,000 in damages and ordered them to implement re-education training classes designed to contradict the couple’s religious beliefs about marriage. The New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, upheld that order and the fines, finding that the government can punish the Giffords for declining to coordinate a ceremony that conflicts with their conscience. ... On Sept. 25, 2012, Melisa McCarthy called Cynthia Gifford, inquiring about the use of the farm for her upcoming same-sex ceremony. Because of her Christian faith’s teachings on marriage, Cynthia politely told McCarthy that she and her husband don’t host and coordinate same-sex ceremonies but left open an invitation to visit the farm to consider it as a potential reception site. Instead, McCarthy and her partner filed a complaint with the Division of Human Rights.”

A WARNING ABOUT REIKI (Friday Church News Notes, February 26, 2016, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Reiki is a popular “alternative therapy” practice that is also called “healing touch.” According to the American Hospital Association for 2007, 15% of hospitals were using Reiki. A report in *The Washington Post* for May 16, 2014, was entitled “Reiki Goes Mainstream.” The practice has been praised by Oprah and Dr. Oz. The word

“reiki” is Japanese for “spiritually guided life force energy.” It is an occultic practice that allegedly channels “universal healing energy” for purposes such as relaxation and physical healing. The following warning is from “My Mother Is Doing Reiki,” *Lighthouse Trails*, Feb. 9, 2016: “My mom is into the New Age movement and has had Reiki done on her for years; recently she started practicing Reiki. She does it on friends and family members (I am the only Christian in the family). I live with back pain, and she has wanted to do it on me. I have always said no, but after researching Reiki I finally decided to tell her that my beliefs conflict with Reiki



and that the ‘energy’ is actually demonic (that was a difficult conversation). ... she regularly meditates and talks to ‘her angel,’ whom she credits with anything good happening. She is getting deeper into this. My mother says she prays to ‘Jesus’ before doing Reiki. ... She does not believe in the Bible or most of it anyway, nor Jesus’ deity, but rather He came to point the way to God. ... Obviously this is a false Jesus. ... one of her angels is ‘like a best friend’ and has a name.”

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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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