

# FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

## ANCIENT GARDENS FOUND IN PETRA

Archaeologists have discovered the ancient gardens of Petra with its amazing aqueduct system. “Recent excavations at Petra have revealed a startlingly advanced irrigation system and water storage system that enabled the desert city’s people to survive--and to maintain a



2,000-year-old forgotten irrigation system unearthed at ancient Petra gardens

magnificent garden featuring fountains, ponds and a huge swimming pool. The engineering feats and other luxuries attest to the ancient Nabatean capital’s former splendor and wealth some 2,000 years ago” (Monumental forgotten Gardens of Petra,” *Haaretz*, Sept. 28, 2016). The water, channeled from a spring located in the hills outside of Petra, irrigated a large garden with trees, date palms, plants, fountains, and a 44-meter wide

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## THE PASSION: MIXING HOLY WITH UNHOLY

“And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean” (Leviticus 10:10). God’s Word commands separation between the holy and the unholy, yet that is exactly what is *not* found in contemporary Christianity.

It is a dangerous, heretical mixing of sacred and secular, and any Bible-believing church or home that messes with contemporary Christian music in any fashion is most foolish. Consider *The Passion*, a two-hour FOX television special scheduled to air on March 20. It purports to “tell the story of the last hours of Jesus Christ’s life on earth through passages from the Bible and a variety of well-known pop songs” (“The Passion: New Orleans Soundtrack Set for Release,” Fox.com). One



of the actors is Michael W. Smith, a prominent CCM artist. Jesus Christ is played by Jencarlos Canela, a sensual rocker, dancer, and actor who announced in 2011 that he and his girlfriend, Gaby Espino, were expecting a baby out of wedlock. Canela

rose to fame for his role in the morally filthy soap opera *Más Sabe el Diablo* (*The Devil Knows More*), which was recorded in 2009-2010. Canela played the part of Angel, though he is known as *El Diablo* (the devil), who supposedly has a good heart even though he is a foul-mouthed thief, fornicator, etc. The violent series “features lovers embroiled in intrigue, betrayal, vengeance and unbridled passion.” In *The Passion*, Mary, the mother of Jesus, is played by the thrice-divorced Trisha Yearwood. The soundtrack to *The Passion*

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## ANCIENT GARDENS FOUND IN PETRA

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swimming pool. Petra was located in the midst of the mountains of Edom, and the Edomites who built the mysterious city were called Nabateans. Later the Romans controlled Petra when they conquered the Negev and part of Arabia. Petra was a wealthy city on the Spice Route from southern Arabia to Egypt, Israel, and beyond. The distance from Southern Arabia to Israel is 2,400 kilometers (1,490 miles). This is the distance the queen of Sheba journeyed on her visit to Solomon. There were 65 camel stations along the way, and the Nabataeans controlled them in their day. The Nabateans engaged in trade and collected taxes from the camel caravans that traveled across the deserts. Petra had idolatrous temples devoted to many false gods. They worshipped a goddess called Allat, which was similar to the immoral Roman goddess Aphrodite. They also worshipped the sun. The altar to the sun is located high above Petra at the top of 600 steps.

## THE PASSION:

### MIXING HOLY WITH UNHOLY

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is by Adam Anders and Peer Astrom, who have previously produced the Backstreet Boys and the incredibly filthy, anti-Christ singer Madonna. Songs for *The Passion* include hits by exceedingly unholy musicians. Consider Katy Perry, whose “Dark Horse” promotes ancient Egyptian occultism and idolatry, complete with serpents, demonic animals, spells, the god Horus, and the filthy goddesses Isis and Aphrodite. Perry says that her album *Prism* was influenced by the New Age universalist Eckhart Tolle’s *The Power of Now* (“Katy Perry’s Prism,” *Billboard*, Sept. 27, 2013). “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?” (2 Cor. 6:14).

## STUDENT DEMANDS TO BE CALLED “HIS MAJESTY”

The following is from “Preferred Pronouns Done Right,” *Truth Revolt*, Sept. 30, 2016: “A conservative student at the University of Michigan brilliantly worked the school’s new pronoun policy in a way that shows just how absurd things have gotten on college campuses. From now on, Grant Stroble’s professors have to address him as ‘His Majesty.’ It’s genius, really. Recently, U of M caved in and announced a policy of inclusiveness through allowing students to choose the preferred pronouns with which they’d like to be addressed: ‘Students can designate pronouns in Wolverine Access through the new Gender Identity tab within the Campus Personal Information section. This page can be used to enter, update or delete pronoun information. Designated pronouns will automatically populate on all class rosters accessed through Wolverine Access.’ Stroble, a member of Young Americans for Freedom, saw an opportunity to capitalize on the absurdity and entered ‘His Majesty’ as for how he would like to be addressed on campus.”

## THE ISLAMIZATION OF EUROPE CONTINUES

Denmark and Germany have overruled their own marriage laws to favor Islamic law and practice. Though the legal minimum age for marriage in Denmark is 18, its immigration service has ruled that immigrants can have brides as young as 14. German courts have made the same ruling, allowing more than 1,000 child brides to immigrate (“Denmark Allows Migrants to Break Law,” *Breitbart*, Sept. 29, 2016).

## MAJORITY OF EVANGELICALS IN U.S. BELIEVE “EVERYONE WILL GO TO HEAVEN”

According to a new survey by LifeWay, 64% of “evangelicals” say everyone will go to heaven. But the survey also found that 84% of “evangelicals” believe that “hell is a place of eternal judgment, where God sends all people who do not personally trust in Jesus Christ.” Among non-evangelical Americans, 30% believe this (“More US Evangelicals,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 3, 2016). The survey shows that American “evangelical” Christians are confused about their faith

and that “contradictory and incompatible beliefs are OK for most people.” This is the fruit of 70 years of compromise and apostasy and compromise. Among other findings, about 70% of all Americans disagree that those who do not trust in Jesus Christ go to hell, 44% say sex outside of traditional marriage is not a sin, 40% say that abortion is not a sin, and 42% believe that the Bible’s condemnation of homosexual behavior doesn’t apply today.

## FARRAKHAN BLAMES SIN ON WHITE MAN

The following is excerpted from “Farrakhan to black congregation: White Americans Made You,” *Christian Examiner*, Sept. 19, 2016: “Blacks kill other blacks, push drugs, rape and lie because white Americans have made them do it, Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, told a packed and enthusiastic audience at a church in Washington, D.C., Sept. 18. During the hour-and-a-half address at Union Temple Baptist Church, Farrakhan said the idea that the white man is responsible for the sins of black people did not originate with him, but with his predecessor, Elijah Muhammad--whom he holds up as the messiah who will one day return to earth on a vehicle like a spaceship. According to Farrakhan, Muhammad said blacks were not violent and not guilty of the sins associated with whites until they were forced to ‘sojourn’ among them for nearly half a millennium. That is why Jesus didn’t come to save blacks from their sins, but from the sins of the white man. ... Elijah Muhammad was accused by Malcolm X of fathering multiple children with teenage staff members in the 1960s. Malcolm X was later assassinated for making the claim and supposedly challenging Muhammad’s leadership. ... Union Temple Baptist Church claims it was founded as a Missionary Baptist Church. It also offers an ‘Afro-Centric’ version of religion. On its web page, it describes its sanctuary which features a ‘30-foot by 19-foot mural depicting the Last Supper. It not only has the image of a black Christ, but also has the twelve disciples depicted as twelve significant Africans and African Americans, among them Martin Luther King, Jr., Rosa Parks, and Malcolm X.”

## THE SELFIE GENERATION

The selfie generation was on full display at an appearance of U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in Orlando, September 21. The backs of all of the supporters in the first rows were turned to the candidate so they could take selfies of themselves with her. The selfie generation doesn’t take photos of things; it takes photos of itself with things. It’s all about me, which is a fulfillment of Scripture. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves... (2 Timothy 3:1-2).





## SOME FAVORITE QUOTES

“Eternity of penalty rests on eternity of character, and if Scripture gives no hope of any change after this life, then equally is there no hope of limitation of penalty--varied however as this is by the measure of privilege enjoyed”.

*F.C. Jennings*  
*Studies in Isaiah*

“There is no success without sacrifice. If you succeed without sacrifice it is because someone has suffered before you. If you sacrifice without success it is because someone will succeed after”.

*Adoniram Judson*  
 missionary to Burma

“Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak and esteem to all”.

*George Washington*

“... public utility pleads most forcibly for the general distribution of the Holy Scriptures. Without the Bible, in vain do we increase penal laws and draw entrenchments around our institutions. ... Bibles are strong protections. Where they abound, men cannot pursue wicked courses and at the same time enjoy quiet conscience” (James McHenry, signer of the U.S. Declaration of Independence, cited from *One Hundred and Ten Years of Bible Society Work in Maryland*, 1921, pp. 13, 14).

“I love those that thunder out the Word. ... The Christian world is in a deep sleep. Nothing but a loud shout can awake them out of it”.

*George Whitefield*

### INFORMATION

The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature's Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God's will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord's coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org).