This month is the centennial of the Battle of Beersheba which saw the British capture of this strategic town from the Ottomans. It opened the way for the defeat of the Ottomans at the Battle of Megiddo the next year, which sounded the death knell of 700 years of Muslim control of “Palestine.” The way was thus paved for the Jews’ return to the land in significant numbers and the founding of the modern state of Israel 30 years later. In the Battle of Beersheba, October 31, 1917, a force of 800 Australian light horse made a frontal assault against roughly 4,000 Ottoman forces who were well dug in and led by German officers. (Light horse are different from cavalry in that they are mounted riflemen, using their horses as transportation rather than attack.) The 4th Light Horse Brigade had already ridden 60 miles across the desert that day, but in the late afternoon they attacked, riding more than two miles across desert in the face of artillery, rifle, and machine gun fire. They rode their horses at a walk the first mile, then charged at a full gallop, supported by British artillery. The defenders wrongly expected them to dismount and attack with rifles, since they were not cavalry. Though sustaining many killed and wounded, they broke through the defenses, jumped two trenches, then dismounted and engaged in hand-to-hand fighting with the Turks, using handheld bayonets. Lieutenant Colonel R.M.P. Preston described the charge: “In front, the long lines of cavalry swept forward at racing speed, half-obscured in clouds of reddish dust. Amid the deafening noise all around, they seemed to move silently, like some splendid, swift machine. Over the Turks they went, leaping the two lines of deep trenches, and, dismounting on the further side, flung themselves into the trenches with the bayonet.” The city was captured before nightfall. This gutsy Australian cavalry charge is considered the last successful one in military history.

**NFL PLAYERS ARRESTED EVERY SEVEN DAYS, ON AVERAGE**

The following is from “Who Needs Rules? NFL Players Arrested Every 7 Days on Average” by Joseph Curl, *Daily Wire*, Sep. 25, 2017: “The National Football League is in a golden age right now: It’s been 23 days since one of its players has been arrested. The average time between arrests is just seven days, while the record without an arrest is slightly more than two months, at 65 days, according to NFLarrest.com, which provides an interactive visualized database of National Football League player Arrests & Charges,” the site says. Players get arrested for a variety of crimes: drunk driving, drug offenses, domestic violence, assault and battery, gun violations, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, theft, burglary, rape and even murder. The NFL virtually embraces...
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players who abuse women. Take this report in the Chicago Tribune: ‘In the first round [of the 2017 draft], the Oakland Raiders drafted Gareon Conley, who has been accused of rape. In the second round, the Cincinnati Bengals selected Joe Mixon, who in a much-viewed video punches a woman so hard that she falls down unconscious. In the sixth round, the Cleveland Browns selected Caleb Brantley, who was accused of doing pretty much what Mixon did.’ ... The top team—at least in arrests—is, weirdly, the Minnesota Vikings, according to NFLarrest.com. Rounding out the Top 5: Denver, Cincinnati, Tennessee and Jacksonville. ... The most arrests: Adam Jones, with 10. Jones has played for both Tennessee and Cincinnati, and he’s been accused of poking a hotel worker in the eye, punching a woman, spitting in a woman’s face at a nightclub, and was ‘charged with felony coercion in connection to strip club shooting that paralyzed a man’ ... So, maybe—just maybe—NFL players aren’t the best ones to be preaching to America about the perils of police brutality.”

CHRISTIAN ZIONIST LEADER CALLS FOR END TO “MISSIONIZING” JEWS

Tommy Waller, founder of the Christian Zionist organization Hayovel, has condemned the “missionizing” of Jews. He calls on “the Christian community to totally and completely replace anti-Semitism and replacement theology with unconditional support for Israel and the Jewish people without trying to change who they are” (“Christian Zionist Leader Calls for End to Missionizing,” BreakingIsraelNews, Sep. 25, 2017). John Hagee is another example of this confusion. Hagee says, “I’m not trying to convert the Jewish people to the Christian faith. ... trying to convert Jews is a waste of time. The Jewish person with his roots in Judaism is not going to convert to Christianity” (Houston Chronicle, Apr. 30, 1988). We would remind Hagee that Paul did. Christian Zionists support the Temple Institute and fund the building of Israel’s third temple, though it will not be occupied by Christ but by the antichrist. All of that is blatantly unscriptural. We love Israel and denounce replacement theology in no uncertain terms, but the gospel of Jesus Christ is for both Jew and Gentile. The Lord’s apostles were not Christian Zionists. They preached the gospel to the Jews and suffered greatly at their hands because of it. “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).
PRIESTS AND SCHOLARS CHARGE POPE WITH HERESY

For the first time in 684 years, a pope has been charged with heresy. On August 11, Pope Francis was presented with “A Filial Correction Concerning the Propagation of Heresies,” which was signed on July 15 by 62 “clergy and lay scholars.” It accuses the pope of holding seven heretical positions on “marriage, the moral life, and the reception of the sacraments” (“Clergy and Lay Scholars Issue Filial Correction,” National Catholic Register, Sep. 23, 2017). The heresies include allowing some divorced or remarried Catholics to receive the eucharist and calling for the acceptance of “non-traditional lifestyles” (homosexuality). The document blames the influence of “modernism.” It also expresses concern that the pope has expressed “explicit and unprecedented praise” for Martin Luther. This is the first “filial correction” to be issued since Pope John XXII was charged in 1333 for saying that those who “died in grace” do not see God face-to-face until the Last Judgment. We would agree that the pope is a heretic and it is high time he were charged with such. We would highlight the heresies of a sacramental gospel, baptismal regeneration, infant baptism, papal supremacy, the Catholic priesthood, prayers to and for the “saints,” indulgences, purgatory, Mariolatry, and a host of others.

OPRAH MAGAZINE SAYS GOD APPROVES OF ABORTION

The May issue of Oprah magazine, namesake of Oprah Winfrey, includes an article claiming that God is “in” abortions. The article is “Parker’s Choice: How a doctor’s Christianity led him to perform abortions” by Natalie Beach. She quotes Willie Parker, MD, as follows: “Alleviating needless suffering is a Christian’s sacred responsibility. If God is in everything, and everyone, then God is as much in the woman making a decision to terminate a pregnancy as in her Bible.” Thus Parker holds to a panentheistic view of life, that God is in everything and thus He is in a woman’s decision to kill her baby. This conforms to Oprah’s New Age views, but it would make God the author of evil and would produce utter fatalism. Oprah’s female fans need to think this through. If God is in you when you “terminate” your unborn child, then God is in the thief who steals your purse and the rapist who defiles your daughter and the murderer who takes your best friend’s life. If God is in everyone in the sense that He is in everyone’s decisions, that would mean that whatever man decides is God’s will, which is nonsense. For a Bible believer, the issue of abortion is not a complex one. Consider some clear Bible truths: First, God is in control of conception (Genesis 20:18; 29:31-30:22) and forms the child in the womb (Psalm 139:13-16). The Bible says children are the heritage of the Lord (Psalm 127:3). The child in the womb does not belong to the mother; it belongs to God. Second, the law of God demanded punishment if an unborn baby was harmed (Exodus 21:22-23). The injury or death of an unborn child was treated as a serious crime. Third, twenty times the Bible forbids the shedding of “innocent blood” (e.g., Deuteronomy 19:10-13; 2 Kings 21:16). This refers to killing a person without a just cause (1 Sam. 19:5). To put a murderer to death, for example, is a just cause, but to kill an innocent person is unjust. God hates those who shed innocent blood (Prov. 6:16-17). What person is more innocent than an unborn child?
THE FINCH’S NIGHTLIGHT

The following is from CreationMoments.com, August 9, 2017: “Have you ever tried to get a bottle in a baby’s mouth in a dark room? It would be handy if the baby had a glowing target on its mouth. God has given the Gouldian finch, a native of Australia, a unique solution to this problem. The Gouldian finch sports bright, parrot-like colors. A single bird may carry feathers in up to six brilliant colors, including sky blue, dark blue, yellow, green, purple and black. The finch’s face may be red, orange or black. Found mostly in the grasslands of northern Australia, the finches usually build their nests of loosely woven dried grass. These nests are usually built in a tree hollow, a termite mound or in the grass itself. Consequently, finches often find themselves having to feed their young in low-light conditions. But God, knowing the behavior He built into these birds, has provided a solution for this problem. You might put a night light in the baby’s room so you can find her mouth at night. God has done about the same for the Gouldian finch. Their young have two pairs of iridescent nodules marking the margin of their beaks. These nodules don’t generate light. Instead, they are highly efficient reflectors that glow purplish-blue in all but total darkness. Lest anyone question whether these nodules were specially designed to help the parents feed their young, we note that the nodules disappear as the young birds mature into adulthood. God can claim ownership over all living things because He made them. Because He made you and me He has not only claimed ownership over us, but even though we ruined His perfect creation with our sin, He sent His Son to save us. Notes: Carl Wieland, ‘Purple Pearls of Creative Wisdom,’ Creation magazine, 21(3) June-August.”