

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING WITH JUDICIAL REFORM IN ISRAEL?

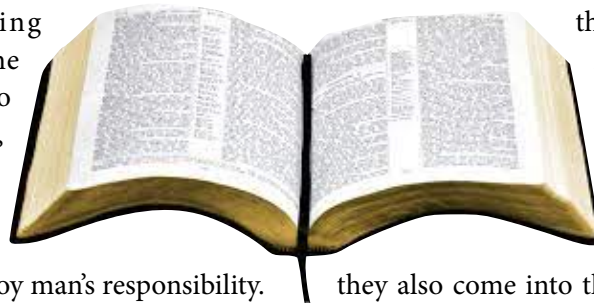
IT'S
ABOUT
POWER

The following is excerpted from “Here’s What Is Really Happening,” *The Federalist*, July 24, 2023: “The alleged authoritarian ‘backsliding’ by Israel’s ‘far-right’ government would actually make the country far more democratic. ... *The New York Times* reports, ‘Israel’s Parliament passed a deeply contentious law limiting the Supreme Court’s ability to overturn decisions made by government ministers.’ What the *Times* means is that there is a new law limiting the judiciary’s ability to unilaterally declare legislation ‘unconstitutional’ without using *any* legal justification whatsoever. Because, as it stands, Israel has a strong *anti-democratic* system overseen by a high court that is probably the most

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SUFFICIENCY OF THE EVIDENCE FOR THE BIBLE’S DIVINE INSPIRATION

For the unbiased, God gives more than enough evidence to prove that the Bible is divinely inspired, but enough is left unproven and enough questions remain to give the willful unbeliever rope to hang himself, so to speak. As the renowned Harvard law professor Simon Greenleaf stated: “Christianity does not profess to convince the perverse and head-strong, to bring irresistible evidence to the daring and profane, to vanquish the proud scorner, and afford evidences from which the careless and perverse cannot possibly escape. This might go to destroy man’s responsibility. All that Christianity professes, is to propose such evidences as may satisfy the meek, the tractable, the candid, the serious inquirer” (Greenleaf, *The Testimony of the Evangelists Examined by the Rules of Evidence*). In His story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16, the Lord Jesus Christ warned that no amount of evidence will convince a committed



skeptic. The Word of God itself is the ultimate evidence, and men are required to believe it. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is...” (Heb. 11:6). A committed skeptic would not be convinced if he saw Noah’s ark with his own eyes and if Noah himself rose from the dead to tell the story. “Then he [the rich man in hell] said, I pray thee therefore, father [Abraham], that thou wouldest send him to my father’s house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And he said unto him, **If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead**” (Luke 16:27-31).

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powerful judiciary in the free world. ... The court's decisions are often arbitrary, politically expedient, constantly evolving, and sometimes contradictory. The court regularly blocks laws passed by center-right governments simply because judges claim policy is unreasonable. Why only center-right governments? Because the entrenched judges (with their allies in the Israeli bar) appoint their own successors in perpetuity. There is no accountability to either the popular will or a constitutional tradition. ... 'Only in Israel do judges confer the power of abstract review on themselves, without benefit of a constitutional or legislative provision,' Richard Posner once described the nation's system. ... The system is so insane that not only can the court lord over the legislative branch without explanation, but it can remove ministers and elected officials at will. The attorney general is empowered to bar officials--even the prime minister--from *participating* in national debates. This is not, by any real standard, 'democratic' governance. It is illiberal. ... As of now, protestors from both sides are out on the streets. And so far, they haven't engaged in the defenestration of their opponents or any violence. The debate is an illustration of a 'democracy' working, not one sliding into tyranny. ... The reality is that virtually everything we do in politics is 'divisive' and 'deeply contentious.' That's why politics exists. And in Israel, the time of day is a deeply contentious issue. ... Of course, if the Israeli Supreme Court was packed with right-wingers instead of left-wingers, American media, the Democratic Party, and the protestors would be on the reform side. None of this has anything to do with governing principles or justice or norms or 'democracy.' Like those destroying the American judiciary at home, it's about power."

THE TRANSFORMATIONAL POWER OF CONTEMPORARY PRAISE MUSIC



The Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music is a multimedia video presentation describing the power of Contemporary Worship Music to change the character of a "traditional" Bible-believing

church. The presentation features a wealth of still pictures, audio and video clips. It examines the reason why this music lies at the heart and soul of the dramatic changes that are coming to Bible-believing churches. The transformational power is two-fold: It lies in the music's underlying philosophy, and it lies in the character of the music itself. We first document the philosophy of CCM, which is a doctrine of license under the guise of a more relaxed, grace-filled approach to Christian living and theology. On the musical side, we examine the elements of contemporary worship, every aspect of which is designed to create a sensual, mystical, emotional experience. As Michael W. Smith puts it, contemporary music "helps you enter into the presence of God." The major elements of this experience are the addictive syncopated dance rhythms, unresolving chord sequences, sensual vocal techniques, electronic modulation, and the repetition. We analyze each of these elements. This presentation is available as a free eVideo at

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

FUNDAMENTALIST PREACHING VS. EVANGELICAL SCHOLARSHIP

Before the onslaught of New Evangelicalism in the 1950s, evangelicals and fundamentalists were basically the same. The term “evangelical” was more popular in Britain, while the term “fundamentalist” was more popular in America and Canada. Old evangelicals obeyed the Bible’s command to separate from false teaching. They marked them and avoided them (Ro. 16:17). They called them heretics and wolves. They considered them enemies, not friends. They understood that their words are dangerous (Ro. 16:18; 2 Ti. 2:16-18). They were spiritual warriors who earnestly contended for the faith according to Jude 1:3. They had a fiery passion for the truth. They had the spirit of Psalm 119:128, “Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; and I hate every false way.” In the 1950s, the New Evangelicals rejected this type of Christianity. They don’t separate, they associate. They don’t mark and avoid false teachers. They consider them friends, not enemies. They are scholars, not spiritual warriors. They deal with error softly and gently. They don’t earnestly contend for the faith. They say they love the truth, but they have

no fiery passion for it. Pride of scholarship is a major motivation among evangelicals today. They want to be known as scholars rather than simple Bible believers. They want credentials that are recognized by the broad stream of Christianity. Princeton-educated David Otis Fuller called this “scholarolatry.” Humble biblical scholarship is important, but pride of scholarship is damning. The New Evangelical spirit and philosophy permeated the old evangelicalism so thoroughly that today “evangelical” refers to “new evangelical.” The men who refused to go along with it no longer call themselves evangelical. The Bible warns against associating with false teachers. “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (1 Co. 15:33). This is exactly what has happened to “evangelicalism” since the last half of the 20th century. (We document the warrior zeal of old-time fundamentalists and evangelicals in *The History and Heritage of Fundamentalism and Fundamental Baptists*, https://www.wayoflife.org/publications/books/history_and_heritage_of_fundamentalism.php)

THE BABY WHO DIDN'T GROW UP

Brooke Greenberg was 20 years old when she died in 2013, but she had never grown beyond the toddler stage. She was 30 inches tall, weighed 16 pounds, and had the mental age of about 1 year. She had a rare anti-aging disease doctors called Syndrome X. This sad case reminds us that babies are cute but when they don’t grow up, something is seriously wrong. The spiritual lesson is huge. There are multitudes of professing believers who have not matured beyond the spiritual toddler stage. Their Christian lives remain self-centered. They require a lot of attention, but they don’t contribute to the family business. They throw spiritual temper tantrums when things don’t go as they like. Brooke couldn’t help her condition, but the child of God has no excuse for not maturing in Christ. “Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:1-2).



*Brooke Greenberg
at 20 years of age.*

LIVING STONES AND FLYING FLOWERS

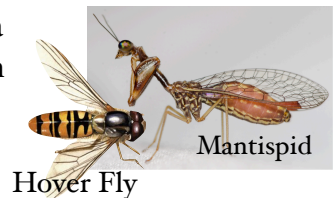
THE FOLLOWING IS FROM CREATIONMOMENTS.COM, AUGUST 9, 2023:

“If, of all the millions of living things on Earth, a few creatures happened to look like something they are not and this helped protect them, we might put it down to chance. However, the creation is filled with too many creatures who practice look-alike deception to put it down to chance.



Africa's southern deserts have a plant called **LIVING STONES**. In a desert, any vegetation can be a welcome source of food or moisture. In this setting, a plant that doesn't look like a plant has an advantage. And living stones look like nothing more than just another rock in the sand.

Wasps can be some of the nastiest insects in nature. An insect in Costa Rica called the **MANTISPID** looks very much like the feared wasp, even up close. Then again, the **HOVER FLY** looks like a wasp and sounds like a wasp because the frequency of its wing beats is almost identical to a wasp.



TREEHOPPERS have a very odd body shape that comes to a point on top. Not only do they look like thorns, but they usually stay on bushes that have thorns, orienting their bodies on the branches just like true thorns. This effectively hides them from hungry birds.

LARVAL PLANT HOPPERS use a different form of deception. They attach themselves in groups on branches, orienting their frilly and feathery bodies together so they look like a flower! The clever forethought and planning involved in nature's deceptions rule out any thought that these creatures designed themselves. Ref: 'Four masters of deceit,' *National Geographic*, Mar. 1980, p. 410."



Larval Plant Hoppers

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.