

The Baptist CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

VOL. XXXX, No. 4

April 2002

WHOLE NO. 450

It Does Make A Difference

By Norman H. Wells

The eighth chapter of 1 Samuel tells a very familiar story. From the time of their beginning until the time of the event recorded in this chapter, the Israelites had lived under a theocratic type government. The dictionary tells us that a theocracy is a government recognizing the immediate sovereignty of God. This was God's will for Israel. They were continually to look to Him as their King.

In this chapter a strange thing happens. Israel demands a king! Many reasons were advanced for this action. First, Samuel's two sons, Joel and Abiah, had proved a great disappointment to their father and to the nation. Samuel had made his two sons judges in Israel and they had corrupted the office. The people protested against this and because of the failure of Samuel's sons they wanted to reject God's form of government.

Secondly, the nations bordering on Israel now

gave signs of renewed uprisings to threaten Israel. The people were fearful of the situation as it stood and they clamored for a strong king with a strong army. God's way didn't look strong enough for them.

Thirdly, they wanted to be like the nations around them. "That we also may be like all the nations," was their cry. They coveted the grandeur, pomp, regality

and power of the surrounding nations.

These, then, were the excuses Israel gave for demanding a king. Bear them in mind. They claimed God's way had failed, that God's way wouldn't get the job done and it just wasn't fancy enough.

It seems obvious that Christians in general, and Baptists in particular, are still guilty of using the same

old excuse for rejecting God's way. Seemingly no effort has been put forth even to invent new excuses.

Jesus Christ established the church and until He comes again God has chosen to accomplish His work on earth through the churches. His program for evangelization, maintenance of the ordinances, teaching, benevolence, etc. were all entrusted to the churches. The New Testament will be searched in vain for any organization other than a local church to accomplish God's program. This, then, is God's way — God's will!

Man has never been satisfied with God's way! They have continually rejected the church and tried to build something better and, as has been said, they still use the same old tired excuses! See if they don't sound familiar. We will confine our remarks to Baptists.

Few Baptists have ever

17,862 "Hits" For March

The Baptist Challenge began publication in January 1961, and during that time, the most circulation that we had was around 7,000. This went to all the 50 States, and only a few foreign countries and was very expensive due to the high postage rates, even though it was published as second-class mail.

We were forced to discontinue publishing **TBC** for a few months, but last August we began to publish it again, this time using the Internet rather than the

Post Office. Little did we know what the result would be. The readership of **TBC** has grown tremendously, not only in the United States, but now in countries all over the world, some where missionaries cannot enter. Since August, there has been an increase every month, with this last March being the largest month of all.

What has made this growth possible is the number of "referrers", that is

(See **HITS** on page 24)

(See **WELLS** on page 22)

Quiz The Pastor -- #8

Why Is The Resurrection of Jesus Christ So Important?

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: Why is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ so important to the thinking of some?

Answer: The resurrection of our Lord is the very foundation of our salvation and our hope. Unbelievers have long sought to shut down the tomb of Christ and keep Him therein.

They know how vital His resurrection is to Christianity. There would be no Christianity if Christ be not raised from the dead. Let me briefly show the great tragedy if Christ be not raised from the dead:

(1) It would dishonor God and His Word, because He had promised to raise Him from the dead (Psa. 2:7), and therefore His "flesh (in the tomb) rested in hope" (Psa. 16:9-10). But if He didn't raise Him from the dead, He (Father) failed to keep His Word to

His Son. A person's word is his honor. If we don't keep our word, we are dishonest and dishonorable. Thus, if the Father didn't raise up Christ from the dead, then He has disgraced Himself because He didn't keep His Word.

(2) It would make Christ an impostor and a deceiver because He had promised many times He would be raised from the dead (Mt. 12:40; 17:22-23; Jn. 2:19; 10:17-18). If He wasn't raised as promised, He lied, and therefore all of His claims about Himself were false. He had instilled a false hope in His followers if He be not raised from the dead.

(3) It would make the Bible writers of both the Old Testament and the New Testament equal impostors and masters of deception. All these men are low, contemptible

men if our Lord's resurrection was only a made-up story.

(4) Believers in Him as Savior would yet be unsaved and in their sins (1 Cor. 15:12-19). We would be of all men most miserable. His death then becomes of no value at all. It was a needless tragedy. A "dead" Christ cannot come back for us (Jn. 14:1-3): a "dead" Christ cannot be the Head of the church (Col. 1:18), our advocate (1 Jn. 2:1), our High Priest (Heb. 10:21), give us strength (Phil. 4:13), keep us safely in His hand (Jn. 10:26), be the future judge of the lost (Rev. 20:11), etc. Baptism pictures His resurrection while the Lord's Day speaks of His resurrection. I hope by now you can see the importance of the resurrection of Christ.


Thanks be unto God, He has "risen from the dead, and has become the first fruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). By His resurrection, we have the assurance that He is the Christ (Rom. 1:4), and that it is safe to trust Him as Savior (Acts 16:31), and that He will keep us by His divine power (Jn. 10:28), and as saved ones we have the promise that we shall be raised as certainly as He was (Jn. 14:19), and the ordinances do symbolically speak the Truth. "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Rom. 10:9). Christianity stands or falls with


Scientists Solve A Sea-Riddle

Scientists who have been stumped for years over how to invent better tiny lenses for optical computers have found the answer in one of God's marine creatures.

The brittle-star, a type of starfish, puzzled scientists because it seems to have no eyes but can escape quickly from predators. After some study, they found that the brittle-star's body is covered with crystals that act as lenses. The crystals form a wonderful visual system for the creature that seems to be unique among life on earth. The researchers are now using the brittle-star's crystal idea to fashion new micro-lenses.

Results of their study were published in the journal **Nature** on August 23. Lead author of the paper, Dr. Joanna Aizenberg, said, "This study shows how great materials can be formed by nature, far beyond current technology."

It is interesting that it took some of the best scientific minds in the world to find a solution to the lens problem. Yet most evolutionists think the solution, the brittle-star's ingenious lens system, evolved without a Creator. Crazy! 

regard to the resurrection of Christ. "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8). 

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

M. L. Moser, Editor

Pastor Emeritus
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH
15600 Taylor Loop Rd.
Little Rock, Arkansas 72223
Email: mlmoser1@juno.com
Editor's Phone: (972) 617-6966

Articles carrying the author's byline do not necessarily reflect the Editorial policy of the paper.

Jesus Christ, God's Passover Lamb Was Slain On the 14th Nisan As All Other Lambs Were Slain

Dr. R. A. Torrey, in his book **"Difficulties And Alleged Errors And Contradictions In The Bible,"** a Moody Press book says that Jesus Christ exactly and completely fulfilled the requirements of the *Passover Lamb*.

Dr. Torrey traces the movements of our Lord and says that He came into the City of Jerusalem on the 10th Nisan, which in the year 32 was on a Saturday. Jesus was crucified on the 14th Nisan, which was on Wednesday, and was in the grave by sundown on Wednesday.

The Passover Lambs were brought in from the field on the 10th Nisan, and sometime during the day of the 14th Nisan, were slain, and everything pertaining to this slaughter was completed before sundown on the 14th.

Jesus was in the grave before sundown on the 14th Nisan, which was Wednesday. From sundown Wednesday to sundown Thursday was one full day and one full night, according to Jewish reckoning; to sundown Friday was two full days and two full nights; to sundown Saturday was three full days and three full nights.

In Matthew 12:40 we read: "For as Jonas was three days and three nights

in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." While the King James Version reads "whale," the original word is "ketous," which simply means "great fish."

When the women appeared at the tomb of Jesus at sunrise on the first day of the following week, they found Him already gone from the tomb. He thus fulfilled Matthew 12:40 in exact detail.

Chaldeans, Persians, Israelites of Old Testament days, and others in that part of the world, reckoned 12 months to the year and thirty days to the month. This seems to be the year period used in the Scriptures. Genesis 7:11 gives the beginning of the Great Flood as the 17th day of the second month, and Genesis 8:4 tells us that the Ark rested on Mt. Ararat on the 17th day of the seventh month.

We read in Genesis 7:24 and 8:3 that the waters prevailed 150 days. Therefore, between the beginning and the ending were just five months of 30 days each. Other time periods bear this out, so 360 days is taken as the length of the Scriptural or prophetic year.

Using this as our num-

ber, we divide the 173,000 days into years of 360 days each, and we have 483 years between the issuing of the decree of Artaxerxes and the time of Jesus entering into the City of Jerusalem on the colt of an ass, with the entire population hailing Him as King, and strewing the road with palm branches. This was the first time He had publicly recognized His claim to be the Messiah.

In His triumphal entry, He fulfilled the prophecy in Zechariah 9:9. the people went out to meet Him, crying, "Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord." The prophecies of Daniel 9:25 and Zechariah 9:9 were both fulfilled in that one event.


On that memorable day He rode into the City of Jerusalem on the colt of an ass, the humblest of all beasts of burden. When He comes into Jerusalem the second time, it will be on a "white horse," and bringing with Him the armies of heaven, as we learn from Revelation 19:11-21.

If the Pharisees of Jesus' day had been students of their own prophecies, they would have understood Daniel's prophecy, and known that Jesus was indeed the "Messiah." They would have been on the alert for His appearing. Teachers and preachers of our day, who make light of Bible prophecy, should be rebuked by these facts.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ will find them as unprepared as the Phari-

sees were at His First Coming. In Daniel 12:10 we read that Daniel's informant said: "none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand." The "wise" are those who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and are looking for His return.

The period of "seven weeks and three score and two weeks," making a total of sixty-nine weeks of years or 483 years, having elapsed from the time of the decree of Artaxerxes to the time our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, entered Jerusalem, also marked the time of His "cutting off" or death, for His crucifixion occurred within four days of His arrival in the City.

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the focal point for the ages, and since it was for our redemption, is important for us. 

Interpretation More Popular Than Application

"Some of our hearers do not desire to hear the whole counsel of God. They have their favorite doctrines, and would have us silent on all besides. Many are like the Scotch woman who, after hearing a sermon, said, 'It was very well if it hadna been for the trash of duties at the hinner end'"

-- Charles H. Spurgeon



The Bible tells us that “There is no new thing under the sun.” I am constantly reminded of this as I read my correspondence. Whenever I think I have an original thought, I usually find that someone has considered it long before I have.

Recently, I discussed, in the newsletter, the time that would be required for “natural selection” or “blind chance” to have created the infinite complexity of existing living things. I stated that I do not have sufficient faith to believe that a large tribe of monkeys, jumping about on the keys of a large number of typewriters, would ultimately write Shakespeare’s plays, or that a wind of unlimited velocity blowing across the Sahara Desert for a limitless period, would sooner or later erect the Empire State Building.

Dr. Thayer Smith, a friend and colleague of long standing, had previously grappled with the problem of the typewriters and the monkeys. He wrote to a distinguished professor of mathematics to ask how long it would take, according to the theory of probability, for monkeys on typewriters to type the opening paragraph of the novel, “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens. That paragraph is:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of

times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven, we were all going direct the other way — in short the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”

The mathematics professor made the following assumptions:

1. One billion monkeys at one billion typewriters, randomly striking keys one at a time 100 times per minute, untiringly and incessantly hour after hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

2. For simplicity assume 65 possible key strikes only; all letters lower case (26), upper case (26), and 13 additional: space, period, comma, colon, semicolon, quote (same character for both ends), question mark, exclamation, dash, underline, apostrophe, parentheses (2).

THE PROBLEM: With each punch of key having a 1/65 chance of being correct, what is the chance that randomly all 603 characters making up Mr.

How Many Monkeys?

Dickens’ first sentence in proper sequence will come out of one monkey’s typewriter?

“How long would it take given the speed postulated?”

Dr. Smith writes:

“The reply I received is staggering. The mathematical calculation led to the conclusion that, if we assume that the universe had been in existence for 15 billion years, the time required would be 6 fol-

lowed by 888 zeroes times as long as the universe has been in existence.”

The only possible rational conclusion is that evolution, without intelligence, could not possibly have created the present diversity of life.

It is much more reasonable to believe the simple statement of the Bible: “In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth.”

— Christian News

It Got Up And Went

How do I know my youth is all spent?
My get up and go has got up and went
My joints are stiff and filled with pain.
The pills that I take they give me no gain.
I rub in the ointment like fury, I do.
Each pain when it leaves, comes back with two.

When I was young and my slippers were red,
I could kick up my heels high over my head.
When I grew older and my slippers were blue,
I could still stay up the whole night through.
But now I am old and my slippers are black,
I creep to the store and puff my way back.
Yet, “I really don’t mind” I say with a grin
“When I think of the places my get up has been.

Old age is golden I have heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
My “ears” on the dresser, my “teeth” in a cup.
My “eyes” on the table until I wake up.
Ere sleep comes each night I say to myself
“Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?”
But in spite of it all I am able to grin
When I think of the places my get up has been.

Since I have retired from life’s competition
Each day is filled with complete repetition.
I get up every morning and dust off my wits,
Go pick up the paper and read the “o-bits.”
If my name isn’t there I know I’m not dead
I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed
The reason I know my youth is all spent—
My get up and go has got up and went.

Dinks Have Double Incomes And No Kids

By G. Russell Evans
Captain U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.)

The clever acronym “DINKS” appears in Pat Buchanan’s best selling book **The Death of the West** (Dunne Books, 2002). It stands for “Double Income, No Kids,” meaning plenty of money for couples to live it up and no brats to tend to at five o’clock in the morning. It can also mean: Sleep in ‘til 10:30 AM Saturdays, followed by a champagne lunch, lobster dinner and whatever pleasure the weekend has to offer.

The DINKS life of no kids can be a shallow one, adding nothing to the propagation of the race and family line, and contributing to the decline of Western civilization. DINKS will never know the joy and pride of bringing up sons and daughters, seeing them develop into productive citizens, educated and trained in the fields that make America special, and faithful to the old folks when the time comes.

Sinister Warning. Pat Buchanan’s subtitle is “How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization” — a sinister warning, backed up by irrefutable documentation and impressive and historic examples. He calls it: “Depiction, not prediction.”

It is a depiction with

statistics of countries with slowly dying populations and others, including the United States and Britain, turning into Third World countries because of runaway immigration.

President Bush seemed to say as much in his inaugural address, “And sometimes our differences run so deep, it seems we share a continent, but not a country.” The President should think about that instead of being so buddy-buddy with his pal, Mexican President Vincente Fox, about amnesty for three million Mexican illegals now in the United States.

On the other hand, there was President Clinton in 1998, telling cheering students at Portland State University that “diversity” will make a better America when we all are minorities, i.e., a conglomeration of people with *nothing in common*, not history, language, culture or ancestors, drifting to world government and dilution of our sovereignty.

What’s Happening?

In 1960, 94 percent of Americans could trace their ancestors to Europe. Today, it is only 72 percent and, unchecked, will be 50 percent by the year 2050. Then, we will be the first nation in history to turn its majority indigenous popula-

tion into a minority.

California, our largest state, is already 52 percent Third World, and Texas, our second largest, is now almost 50 percent Third World, and increasing rapidly. Moreover, on March 1st, Texas became the first state to hold a gubernatorial debate in Spanish — “evidence of growing political clout,” boasted the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Are our leaders concerned about this alarming influx? Hardly. Politicians want more immigration for more votes for their side. Industry wants cheap labor. Labor unions want it for more members, more dues, more political clout. Educators want it for more student grants and diversity. None care about diluting the American heritage into a Third World culture. This is greed on all sides.

In London, England, ethnic minorities are 40 percent of the population, and will be 50 percent in the year 2010 at the present rate. British birth rates are dropping three percent per year, the lowest since records began in 1924. To maintain a population, a birthrate of 2.1 per woman is required.

Populations are shrinking in 17 European countries, including Italy, Germany, Spain, Russia and Portugal. As for Germany, feared for its roles in two world wars, the population will be halved by the year 2100 at the present rate,

and its war-making potential drastically reduced.

Why so many DINKS? Mr. Buchanan lists six factors that contribute to the DINKS life style and why today’s culture mocks “the old idea that the good life for a woman means a husband and a houseful of kids.” He says that powerful collateral forces are “pulling American women away from the maternity ward forever.” Here are the six factors:

1. The New Economy. Professor James Kurth of Swarthmore calls the move of men from the farm to the factory the greatest movement of the second half of the 19th century — and the greatest in the 20th century was the movement of women from the home to the office.

Industry offers pay and benefits to lure talented women who compete with men in the market place. Many choose careers or one-time motherhood and love the work challenge. They stay.

With women working, poor families get richer and begin to downsize, and as nations get richer, history shows, they begin to die. Meanwhile, poor families are growing. Jesus said, “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Mt. 5:5).

2. End of the “Family Wage.” Before the sweeping Civil Rights Act

(See **DINKS** on pg. 15)

Lord, Send Us Prophets

By R. Nelson Colyar

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord” (Isa. 54:17).

Mortal, yet deathless, does indeed seem paradoxical. That it is appointed unto men once to die is true (Heb. 9:27). That men are mortal is a fact known to all men. Moreover it is written: “Bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days” (Psa. 55:23). But there is another class of men whom death cannot touch till their work is done. They are the servants of the Lord, including the prophets. Though as mortals it is appointed unto them as unto others, once to die; yet they are, as touching their mortal state, deathless till their work is done. Doubtless there are many who doubt that their manifestations of life in mortal frame has any assurance above the ordinary expectancy of life, so frail is the flesh and so precarious is their work. Nevertheless it is true that none can touch the life of God’s prophet to take it until his work is done. Concealed behind the curtain of mortal state is the restraining hand of divine preservation. Were it not true, no prophet

of God could live on earth, so powerful for destruction is the adversary.

It will be awful to behold the wicked dead of all ages, when they stand up in the resurrection, and the books are opened, and they are judged out of those things written in the books, even according to their works (Rev. 20:12), how that kings will be called up to give account for their treatment of the prophets which God sent to speak to them, how that kingdoms came to naught for their having rejected the counsel of the prophets, how that ecclesiastical overlords must hear the doomful imperative “Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity” and how that individuals, who with wicked intent scorned the Word of God and mocked the preachers of righteousness, shall together gnash with their teeth at the flames of their punishment, as it is written: “And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Therefore let every man hear and heed these words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: “Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying,

Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, we have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out” (Lk. 13:24-28). Yes, all the prophets of God will be there in the Kingdom of God; but for them who despite the work of the prophets there will be nothing but weeping and gnashing of teeth in the day of their judgment.

No Weapon Formed Against Them Shall Prosper

The Lord Himself declares that no weapon formed against the prophets of the living God shall prosper. If that means anything, it means that the Lord will, by whatever means He may choose, fight for the life of His prophet. No hellish scheme promoted by evil spirits and instrumented by wicked human hands can touch the life of the servant of God, to take it, without God’s permission. This is true because “The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them” (Psa. 34:16).

So Heaven intervenes when the life and the work of His servants are under threat of injury and of death. Again and again angry mobs and infuriated ecclesiastical officialdom tried to lay their hands upon Jesus, the Prophet of Nazareth. But they never could. At Nazareth they sought to do Him violence, but “he passing through the midst of them went his way.” The chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to fetch Him; but they returned without Him, giving as their reason for not taking Him this word: “Never man spake like this man.” Though His enemies made many attempts upon His life, none of their schemes prospered. *His hour had not yet come.* Finally, Judas the betrayer came with the band of officers to take Him. When He said to them, “**I AM,**” they fell back to the ground as dead men. They could not *take* Him: for His hour, the hour when, by the determinate counsel of God, He should be delivered into the hands of His enemies to be crucified, had not yet come. Therefore, by the intervention of Heaven, they could not take Him. But, almost immediately, He resisted them not, but voluntarily yielded Himself up to them. Then they laid hands on Him and bound Him. Why could they take Him now? Because His hour, right to the very minute, had come that He should be delivered up according to the Fa-

(See COLYAR on page 16)

Is There A Personal Devil?

By the late M. L. Moser, Sr.

(As Preached Over the Radio)

Last month we discussed: “Is there a Devil?” This month we are going to take up the question: “Is There A Personal Devil?” We want to call your attention to the fact that just as certain as there is a God, there is a devil. The Bible reveals that God is a person, the sovereign God of the universe, but the Bible also reveals that just as certain as there is a God, there is a devil. As long as you are in this world you are going to come into contact with both these beings, God and the devil. But in the world to come, you will find contact with only one. If in this world, before you die, or before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, you repent of sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, then you will spend an eternity with God in heaven. On the other hand, if you should die in your sins, you will spend an eternity in hell.

Now there is great contrast between God and the devil, and we want to bring you a comparison and a contrast. Read James 4:18.

The seventh verse tells us that if we submit ourselves to God that He will draw nigh to us and that if we resist the devil he will flee from us.

What does it mean to submit ourselves unto God? Let’s remember this — that we are sinners by nature and we are sinners by

choice. To submit ourselves unto God is to recognize, first of all, that we are out of fellowship with God, that we have been in rebellion against God. It is to acknowledge the fact that we are sinners and need the forgiveness of sin.

Second, to submit ourselves unto God means that we are willing to recognize God’s authority over our lives. God owns us; we belong to Him by creation. It matters not whether you are saved or lost, my friend, you belong to God. Every single created thing belongs to God. God is the sovereign owner of the universe. You may have lived a life of rebellion against God, but you belong to God, and ultimately you are going to have to stand before God and answer for your life lived in the flesh. Now to submit yourself unto God means not to only recognize the fact that you are a sinner and that you have rebelled against God, but that God has a right to control your life.

Third, to submit yourself unto God means that you submit yourself to the will of God. Now what does it mean for a sinner to submit himself to the will of God? It means repentance and faith because it is God’s will for sinners to turn from their sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. When sin-

ners acknowledge the fact that they are sinners, acknowledge the fact that God has a right to govern their lives, acknowledge the fact that they need Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and submit themselves to God, then God draws nigh unto them. In fact, God receives them. They are His children. They have their sins forgiven and they find fellowship with God the Father, with God the Son, and with God the Spirit.

When men submit themselves unto God, at one and the same time, they resist the devil and he flees from them. When men rebel against God, they submit themselves to the devil.

Now I want to make a comparison and a contrast.

First of all, we want to say this. God is love, truth and purity. Satan is falsehood, hate and uncleanness. God is the creator. Satan is the created. God is your advocate. The other is your accuser. One is your redeemer. The other is your destroyer. One is the life giver. The other is the death dealer. Whatever God is, Satan is not, though Satan attempts in every way to counterfeit the character of God and all of the works of God. But when the mask of hypocrisy is stripped from his face, then we see, my friend, that everything that God is, Satan is not; that Satan is wicked, that he hates God, and that he hates the things of God, and that he will do everything in his power to destroy the works of God.

Now the Bible teaches

over and over and over again that Satan is a personal being. Jesus certainly teaches that in all of His ministry. Over and over and over again Satan is referred to by the Lord Jesus Christ as a person. Now by person, I do not mean a human being. Satan is not a human being. A person is that which possesses personality. God is a person but God is not a human being. God is one God but manifested in three persons — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. All angels are persons. There are angels that are confirmed in their goodness and that serve as ministering spirits under God. They are persons. Satan is a fallen angel. Understand we have demons or evil spirits. They are all fallen angels. They are persons though they are not human beings.

Now human beings are persons but they are not angels. In no sense of the word will human beings ever be angels or ever become angels. We’ll deal with that as we go further into these articles.

Now Jesus referred to Satan as a person over and over and over again. One instance we call your attention to is Matthew 13:39: “The enemy that sowed them is the devil.”

Paul in the book of Ephesians, the sixth chapter, writes about Satan, referring to him very definitely as a personal individual. Read verses six through eighteen of the

(See **DEVIL** on page 19)



British Study Links Single Parenthood, Social Problems.

— A study released by a British think tank found a link between family instability and social problems that probably won't be broken by giving legal rights to cohabiting couples. Report author Jill Kirby said legislation recently introduced in the U.K parliament to give legal recognition to unmarried partners would do little to prevent the breakdown of the British family. "It would bring the problems of cohabitation without giving the gains of marriage," she said. Kirby's report, *"Broken Hearts: Family Decline and the Consequence for Society,"* was commissioned by the Center for Policy Studies and examined a wide range of statistics from government sources and charity groups. The study found correlations between family break-ups and "child homelessness, drug abuse among the young, the physical abuse and neglect of babies and children, high rates of teenage pregnancy and a continuing cycle of broken relationships. ... We can see a sharp rise in children born out of wedlock in the U.K.," Kirby

World News Roundup

said in a phone interview. "The report also identifies that children born outside of marriage experience the break up of their parents at a much faster rate than those born to married couples." From a high of about 400,000 in the early 70s, the number of marriages in Britain has steadily gone down. — CNS

Death of the West, Homosexuality A Sign?

-- Pat Buchanan has a new book titled **The Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigration Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization.** The 1/28 *Christian News* notes that: "The general acceptance of homosexuality is another sign of the death of the West. Homosexuals die much sooner than others. They don't have children." -- CC

Abortion Boat Denied Medical License.

— A Dutch women's organization that used a boat operating in international waters to circumvent national abortion laws has lost its license to provide reproductive health services aboard the converted fishing trawler. Women on Waves

gained extensive media coverage last summer when the boat sailed from the Netherlands to Ireland, where abortion is heavily restricted. The Dutch Ministry of Health last week refused to grant a permit to the boat, saying that officials were unable to regularly inspect the ship's medical and safety standards. Health inspectors were also worried about the ship's lack of access to emergency services. — CNS

Minnesota Pro-Lifers Aim To Topple Abortion.

— Pro-life legislation with the capacity to change the Minnesota Constitution and nullify a state Supreme Court ruling that forced the legislature to pay for abortions could go before voters in the November election. A simple majority vote in the legislature is needed to place on the November ballot a referendum that would effectively eliminate existing pro-abortion provisions in the state constitution. — CNS

Homosexual Network Coming?

— MTV and Showtime are seriously considering an "all gay, all the time" cable network which could be launched



within the next year. These two networks have been at the forefront of homosexual programming in recent years. Has America sunk to such a depth to accept such? — CC

Dr. Pepper Skips "Under God" On Patriotic Cans.

The Dr. Pepper/Seven Up soft-drink company (DPSU) is under fire for skipping the phrase "under God" in a partial quotation of the Pledge of Allegiance on its "patriot can." The graphic design of the can, created "to show the world that we are a united nation of people who place a high value upon freedom" according to the company, includes an artist's rendering of the Statue of Liberty and the phrase "One Nation ... Indivisible." The American Family Association learned of the omission of the phrase "under God" when a 12-year-old girl wrote the group to complain. "I am very concerned with Dr Pepper's new design on their cans," wrote Alyssa Haynie of Colt, Ark., whose letter is posted on

(See WNR on page 11)

La Voz Del Desierto

¿Qué Tiene De Malo El Baile?

El baile es el medio que se ha usado desde tiempos muy remotos para celebrar los grandes o pequeños acontecimientos sociales o políticos en la vida de los hombres. Al principio el baile era suelto. Hombres y mujeres danzaban en las calles, en salones, en terrazas o en los patios, para celebrar algún acontecimiento. Pasando el tiempo, el baile, estimulado por la música erótica, pasó del suelto al baile promiscuo. La nueva forma del baile se practicaba en parejas de ambos sexos y en grandes salones en los cuales los invitados celebraban algún aniversario o día festivo. El baile promiscuo es tan excitante y se ha apoderado tan fuertemente de la mente de las personas, que no puede haber fiesta sin baile. Ha llegado a tal extremo que aún algunos cristianos bailan y defienden el baile, creyendo que es una buena forma de divertirse. El baile ha llegado a tal grado de aceptabilidad en el mundo, que conviene preguntarnos: *¿Qué tiene de malo el baile? Bíblicamente tiene mucho de malo.*

En el Antiguo Testamento el pueblo de Dios bailaba porque estaban regocijados y llenos

de gozo por la provisión, la victoria e intercesión que Dios les hacía a su favor. Sin embargo en el Antiguo Testamento el pueblo de Dios también llegó a bailar, pero no con un propósito santo y de adoración como el que les exhortó el rey David en el Salmo 150, sino con propósitos inmorales, idólatras y paganos, como es el ejemplo que tenemos en Exodo 32. Esto provocó la ira de Dios haciendo que Moisés intercediera por Israel para que la ira y el juicio de Dios no los consumara. Note cuidadosamente lo que Moisés oyó y vió. En el versículo 17 se oyó alarido de pelea y en el versículo 18 voz de candar. Mientras que en el versículo 19 se nos dice que cuando Moisés "... vió el becerro y las danzas, ardió la ira de Moisés ...". Lo que se ha descrito aquí por la Palabra de Dios es una fiesta pagana no muy diferente a la música y el baile que tenemos hoy en día en las escuelas públicas y en los club nocturnos.

El evangelista Mateo también nos cuenta que en el cumpleaños de Herodes, a éste se le ofreció un baile en los salones del palacio donde habían hombres de la aristocracia que estaban con él a la mesa. En el

versículo 6 del capítulo 14 nos dice que "*la hija de Herodias danzó en medio, y agradó a Herodes.*" ¿Fue esto un baile inocente y apropiado ante un rey inocente y honesto en su cumpleaños? ¿Estaría él fascinado por los movimientos voluptuosos de la muchacha? Herodes vivía en adulterio con Herodías, mujer de su hermano Felipe, y aunque no sabemos cuánto duró este baile, sí sabemos que duró lo suficiente para inflamar la pasión de Herodes a tal punto que le ofreció darle cuanto pidiese. Aquello le costó la cabeza de Juan el Bautista (Mateo 14:1-12). Es en esta clase de fiestas donde los esposos pierden a sus esposas, donde las esposas pierden a sus esposos, donde las jóvenes pierden su honra, y donde los hogares quedan destruidos. Sin duda alguna, Mateo nos cuenta este episodio para mostrar que el baile no es la mejor forma de celebrar un cumpleaños.

No hay fiestaailable donde no haya profusión de licor. Siendo esto así, ¿puede un cristiano ser partidario del baile? ¿Puede un cristiano después de una noche de baile y de licor tener comunión con su Dios? ¿Bailaría Cristo? La

Biblia enseña que el ambiente y la compañía del baile no agradan a Dios. Note las palabras de Proverbios 23:20, "*No esté con los bebedores de vino ...*" y Efesios 5:18, "*No os embriaguéis con vino, en lo cual hay disolución; antes bien sed llenos del Espíritu.*" El cristiano no debe tener parte en el licor ni en la embriaguez que acompaña el baile. El baile también ha sido responsable de celos descontrolados que han conducido a la violencia, y hasta la muerte. ¿Y eso por qué? En el baile nadie quiere que alguien baile con su esposa o esposo, novia o novio. La Biblia dice en Santiago 3:16, "*Porque donde hay celos y contención, allí hay perturbación y toda obra perversa.*" Claramente, el estímulo del baile no es un estímulo espiritual ni agradable al Señor.

El contacto con el sexo opuesto al son de la música, el beso secreto, el roce de las mejillas, el calor del abrazo insinuante durante el baile, le provoca al hombre emociones íntimas, reacciones sexuales que lo predispone a cualquier actitud erótica. El apóstol Pablo escribió a Timoteo las


(Vea **BAILE** en la pág 10)

¿Debo Ser Un Ejemplo Para Mi Esposo Inconverso?

Sabemos que el Señor nos manda a que seamos ejemplo para nuestros esposos, cumpliendo en todo nuestro deber conyugal. Es por esto que debemos ser luz en todo momento delante de ellos, porque quizá hagamos salvos a nuestros esposos por medio de nuestro ejemplo y testimonio (1ra Corintios 7:16).

Es nuestro compromiso mantenernos firmes en oración, pidiendo dirección y sabiduría al Señor en todo momento exhortando y llevándole el mensaje de

salvación (2da Timoteo 4:2). Para que todo esto pueda dar fruto, debemos mantenernos en oración constante sin desmayar, confiando en la misericordia del Señor, sabiendo que el Espíritu Santo hará su parte en su tiempo.


Por lo pronto, nosotras las esposas, debemos seguir su encomienda en obediencia como el Señor nos manda, sin enojo con mucho amor y fe trabajando para el Señor. A El sea la gloria siempre amén. — Por Jemar Montes, Redactora 

El Amor Hacia Los Hermanos

Todos sabemos que Dios nos amó primero y que sacrificó a su hijo unigénito para darnos salvación y vida eterna (1 Juan 4:9). Sabemos también que nuestras obras deben hablar más que las palabras (1 Juan 3:18). Así lo manda Dios que nos amemos, siendo el mismo amor, la fuerza que nos una y nos mueva a hacer las cosas para el agrado de Él.

Debemos examinarnos, ¿estamos dando amor, estamos cumpliendo con toda ley, estamos trabajando para el Señor? (2 Tim. 2:6). Demostremos

genuinamente nuestro amor con el corazón sin fingimientos, sin contiendas, sin hipocresías, compartiendo los sinsabores en las necesidades, llevando paz en todo momento.

Recordemos y tengamos presentes que al Señor no le agradan las contiendas y que, el que no haga su voluntad dará cuenta al Señor de sí. Todo lo que hagamos debemos hacerlo con amor (1 Cor. 16:14). Porque ese es el fruto del Espíritu. Que el Señor les bendiga. Amén. -- Por Jemar Montes, Redactora 

Iglesia Bautista El Redentor
Central Lafayette #17, Arroyo, PR 00714
(787) 839-3669 y (787) 839-5792
Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

Hay Que Estar Contentos En El Templo


El pastor R. Watson estaba predicando un domingo por la mañana en la iglesia, cuando observó a un hombre que se levantaba ligeramente de su asiento y miraba el reloj de la sala, como si tratara de dar al predicador la idea de que tenía que concluir.

Al observar estas miradas, dos o tres veces consecutivas, el pastor Watson, dando cierto giro a su discurso dijo: “Entre los cambios que han tenido lugar en la religión cristiana, he observado uno que es digno de ser notado.” Y agregó: “Nuestros antepasados ponían sus relojes en la fachada de los templos para que los asistentes no llegaran con retraso a la casa de Dios. Nosotros los tenemos en el interior, a fin de no dar a Dios un minuto más de lo convenido y salir corriendo del templo. ¿No os parece que es un cambio lamentable?” (1ra Timoteo 3:15)

BAILE . . .

(Viene de la página 9)

siguientes palabras: “*Huye también de las pasiones juveniles, y sigue la justicia, la fe, el amor y la paz, con los que de corazón limpio invocan al Señor*” (2da Timoteo 2:22). Es imposible mantenerse libre de las pasiones emocionales siendo partícipe del baile. No queda duda que el baile es nocivo para la vida moral y espiritual.

Es posible que el baile lo practique la gente del mundo, que le importa mucho estimular sus bajos deseos, y que no medita en el futuro de sus almas, ni en el prestigio y estabilidad de sus hogares; pero que el cristiano, cuya vida ha sido rescatada al enorme precio de la sangre de Cristo, para una actividad más útil y más digna, se ocupe en un pasatiempo tan destructivo para los valores más elevados de la vida, es lamentable (Santiago 4:4-8). -- Por Felix M. González Bulgalá, Redactor 

Pass It On!

We would appreciate it if our readers would pass the information on to others that **The Baptist Challenge** is now available on the Internet.

A mention in your church bulletin or paper giving the Internet address would be appreciated and if you can send out Emails, please notify those on your mailing list about TBC being available.

-- Thanks.

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 8)

the AFA website. "I noticed they have 'one nation ... indivisible' on their cans and left out 'under God'." Haynie had emailed the company, and was told there was not room on the can to include the complete phrase. But Randy Sharp, director of special projects for AFA, doubts that reasoning. "Because they're trying to be politically correct they're alienating a major portion of the nation." Dr Pepper (the period was dropped from the name in the 1950s) has been hearing from its customers, as well, based on the home page of the soft drink's corporate website. "Dr Pepper responds to consumers regarding its patriot can," is the headline stretching across two-thirds of the page. "The special packaging was designed to reflect our pride in this country's determination to stand together as one. The Statute of Liberty and Pledge of Allegiance were chosen as two of the greatest symbols of American freedom," the site explains. "Due to space limitations on the can, only a few of the 31 words from the Pledge of Allegiance could be used." The explanation continues describing the "verbiage limitations" imposed by the size of the graphics on the can, echoing the reason Haynie was given. It also notes that 90% of the Pledge's content was omitted. ... Despite the contro-

versy, the soft-drink maker believes it accomplished its goal with the special edition container. "We at Dr Pepper/Seven Up strongly believe that the message on these cans is a resoundingly patriotic, bipartisan message that we are a united nation," the letter to consumers concludes. Forty-one million of the cans were distributed in a dozen states. The regular Dr Pepper can design will return later in February. — CNS

* * *

Catholic Pedophile Priests Scandals.

-- A former parish priest was convicted in January of sexually assaulting a 10-year-old boy a decade ago. Records depict the "loathsome deeds of a sexual predator who allegedly preyed on over 100 innocent children over three decades." The Catholic Church already has paid over \$10 million to settle 50 civil lawsuits against this priest alone. The Boston archdiocese has quietly settled child sex-abuse claims against at least 70 other priests in the past 10 years. Church leaders could have stopped the abuse but didn't. Instead, they quietly shuffled the predatory priest from parish to parish where he continued to prey on children. A \$120 jury award in Dallas in 1997 was later reduced to \$23 million. Catholics in Ireland agreed last month to pay \$110 million to settle cases involving hundreds of people who

claimed they were sexually abused as children by priests, nuns, and other church officials over decades (2/11 USN&WR). The Catholic "forbidding to marry" rule (1 Tim. 4:3) is a main causal factor. -- CC

* * *

Teachers' Union To Seek To Protect Homosexuals.

— The nation's largest teachers' union will ask school districts to protect homosexual students and staff by adopting policies that punish harassment and discrimination. Under a plan adopted by the National Education Association's board of directors, schools also will be encouraged to develop factual materials for classroom discussions on homosexuality. All staff and students will be encouraged to speak up when they see or experience discrimination based on sexual orientation. "I think it's a pretty clear signal that the organization recognizes there are some pretty serious needs for gay and lesbian children in school — and employees," said Penny Kotterman, president of the Arizona Education Association. She is chairwoman of the NEA's Task Force on Sexual Orientation, which was created this fall to develop the plan. Kotterman, a middle school special education teacher in Kyrene, Ariz., said the plan will help schools with difficult issues of student sexuality. "Staff do need help,"

she said. "They need professional development; they need good, factual data that helps them deal with these issues," she added. The union said it could provide "accurate, objective and up-to-date information" on the needs and problems of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered students and staff. A statement by the NEA said the information schools provide would be age-appropriate, nonjudgmental and relevant to subject matter being studied. Studies indicate that homosexual students have higher dropout and suicide rates and sometimes are treated with hostility by fellow students. NEA President Bob Chase has said gay and lesbian teachers in some states face losing their jobs because of their sexual orientation. "It is clear that, in too many places, students and education employees who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered face a hostile environment," Chase said Friday in the statement. A study last year by the University of North Carolina estimated that 5 percent to 6 percent of students 17 or younger, or more than 2 million students, are gay, lesbian or bisexual. The NEA represents 2.6 million teachers and other school employees. — AP

* * *

Why Japan Did Not Invade Hawaii.

— In 1960, Robert Menard was

(See WNR on page 12)

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 11)

a commander aboard the USS Constellation when he was part of a meeting between United States Navy personnel and their counterparts in the Japanese Defense Forces. Fifteen years had passed since VJ day, most of those at the meeting were WWII veterans, and men who had fought each other to the death at sea were now comrades in battle who could confide in one another. Someone at the table asked a Japanese admiral why, with the Pacific Fleet devastated at Pearl Harbor and the mainland U.S. forces in what Japan had to know was a pathetic state of unreadiness, Japan had not simply invaded the West Coast. Commander Menard would never forget the crafty look on the Japanese commander's face as he frankly answered the question. "You are right," he told the Americans. "We did indeed know much about your preparedness. We knew that probably every second home in your country contained firearms. We knew that your country actually had state championships for private citizens shooting military rifles. We were not fools to set foot in such quicksand." — *Christian News*.

* * *

SBC Church In Mississippi Names Woman

as Pastor. — For the first time, a church affiliated with the Mississippi Convention of Southern Baptists has named a woman as pastor. Carla Street was installed as pastor of Rivercrest Fellowship, a small church in Jackson that is focused on young adults, on January 20, reported Associated Baptist Press, an independent news service. Street had been co-pastor since she and her husband, Steve Street, began the church in 1993 and had been listed in an official convention document as associate pastor. Her husband recently resigned to become coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Mississippi, a moderate organization. — RNS

* * *

Lesbian Gets Child Support When "One Mom" Leaves. — When lesbians break up, who gets the child? A recent court case in Delaware has expanded the definition of a parent. One woman sued her former partner for child support, even though her ex-lover has no biological connection to the four-year-old boy they were both raising. The woman with custody of the boy conceived him through artificial insemination. She says her former lover owes child support because they both agreed to have the child. The court agreed that both women should be considered mothers, and therefore, the lady

who left owes child support. The former lover argues that because she and the other woman were not legally married, the state can't force her to support the boy. According to wire reports, if an appeals court upholds the ruling, it will set a precedent in Delaware on who can be legally held responsible for a child. "It's another step toward the day when those children of gay couples have the same legal protections as children whose parents are heterosexual," said Shannon Minter, the legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco. — CNS

* * *

Connecticut To Decide on Same-Sex Marriage. — The cultural and political battle over same sex unions will now be fought in Connecticut with the introduction of two bills, one that would allow homosexuals the unprecendented right to marry one another. The legislation has been introduced in the state House Judiciary Committee. The second bill would mirror a Vermont law and allow residents to enter into same-sex civil unions with many of the benefits and protections that are granted to spouses in traditional marriages, but it would stop short of allowing marriage between homosexuals. Should either of the bills pass the Connecticut General Assembly, they would end up on the desk of Re-

publican Gov. John Rowland. "[Rowland] has not been favorable with us on the abortion issue, but has shown some interest of sympathy concerning same-sex relationships," said Rev. Lou Sheldon, chairman of the Traditional Values Coalition. "Again, we have to realize the homosexuals have an agenda and they want to overhaul straight America and remove the one-man, one-woman relationship from center stage," Sheldon said. Sheldon prefers the issue to be placed in a referendum for voters to decide rather than as legislation for the General Assembly to decide. A similar bill recently died in the California Legislature.

* * *

One-World Religion Gets Boost. — The Muslim religion has received good press since Sept. 11. Even while Christians are the targets of an Islamic jihad, schools are inviting Muslims to talk about their religion. "Muslim clerics are joining Christian leaders at multi-faith prayer meetings" (Agape Press). It seems the Islamic religion now is peaceful, and is not a religion attacking a Christian (?) nation. This Agape Press quote from World magazine is disbelieved by many, although it is true. "There is a growing body of belief that the solution to religious intolerance is to create a world

(See WNR on page 13)

WNR . . .

(Continued from page 12)

religion. No doubt, the cornerstone of that religion will be that any doctrine which divides — such as salvation through faith in Jesus Christ — will not be tolerated.” It is not too late to adorn the believer’s armor (Eph. 6:14-18). — WWM

* * *

MTV: A Large Evil Network. -- MTV is now the largest network in the world. It affects the teen culture of the world more than any other institution. It now reaches 342 million households worldwide in 17 languages in 140 countries. It boasts an audience of 78 million households in the USA, captivating 12 to 24 year-olds. The editor of *Rock & Rap Confidential* says MTV is evil and its effects are evil. A *Chicago Tribune* critic says: “MTV is the single most powerful force in popular music, and also the most ruinous.” -- CC

* * *

Animated Characters & Vulgarity For Children. — This is not comedy. Central’s South Park animated characters used the same vulgarity 162 times. A study by the Parents Television Council released recently that South Park averages 106 instances of foul language per 60-minute episode (World, 2/9/02). “South

Park” creators, Trey Parker and Matt Stone, have no interest in entertainment of anyone, but are the embodiment of satanic forces against family, children, and the way of American life and heritage. This is the kind of visual rot that too many parents hire for baby-sitters. Is it any wonder that new editions of Webster’s Dictionary have to be printed regularly? Modern dictionaries give “gay” and words used by South Park characters, a new meaning, while new (per)-versions of the Bible attack our Lord’s holiness. — WWM

* * *

Astrology More Popular Than Religion. — According to Nielsen/netRatings service, astrology Web sites have received more hits in ’01 than any other. Astrology took the #1 spot with 868,000 surfers. The Church of Latter-Day Saints came in second with 181,000 (Reuters). This reveals at least two things. The general public are looking to the stars but not to God who made them, and that the Mormons are more successful in mission work than the Lord’s church. It is always easier for fallen humanity to believe in error than truth. — WWM

* * *

Groups Ask FCC To Probe Fox TV. — The Southern Baptist Ethics &

Religious Liberty Commission has joined other organizations in asking the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to enforce federal decency laws, beginning with the Fox Network. In a letter to FCC Chairman Michael Powell, the 14 organizations cited the Fox program “*Boston Public*” as an especially blatant violator of the decency standards. Last year, the show was rated by the Parents Television Council as the worst on network TV. Its plots have included strong sexual themes involving students with students, teachers with students and a parent with an administrator. “Shows like ‘*Boston Public*’ and its like do not belong in prime time when any child ... can see them,” the Feb. 5 letter said. — ABN

* * *

Researchers Awarded UK’s First Embryo Experiment License. — Two research groups have been granted Britain’s first licenses to perform stem cell experiments on human embryos, the country’s fertility regulator announced. A report approving stem cell and cloning research on embryos released by a governmental committee earlier this week cleared the way for the licenses to be issued by the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA). The first two research teams to take advantage of the new

rules were a group at Edinburgh University’s Center for Genome Research searching for a cure for Parkinson’s disease and researchers at the London-based Guy’s Hospital who are investigating infertility and miscarriages. Pro-life groups argue that using embryos for research is unethical and that similar cures could be found using stem cells taken from adults. Britain’s main pro-life groups attacked the government report after its release Wednesday, calling the panel biased in favor of cloning researchers. The pro-life charity called Life has called for the leader of the government committee, Anglican bishop Richard Harries, to be censured. Life chairman Jack Scarisbrick said the report reflected the “relentless dechristianization” of British society. “It is scandalous that a Christian bishop led the way,” he said. “Cloning ... involves the manufacture of a new kind of human being. Anyone who revered human life and its creator would tremble before taking such a step — and refuse it. — CNS

* * *

New Zealand Hospital At Heart Of Organ-Removal Scandal. — A leading New Zealand hospital has admitted removing and keeping more than 1,300 hearts of babies and

(See WNR on page 14)

WNR...

(Continued from page 13)

children who died of heart disease, mostly without parents' consent. Hundreds of the hearts were removed from aborted babies. The news has unleashed a national furor, as parents of babies who died during the period when the practice occurred — between the 1950s and 1990 — try to discover whether they unknowingly buried a child without a heart. Auckland's Green Lane Hospital undertook a survey of its "heart library" last year, following a similar scandal at a British hospital. It admitted Thursday that it had stored the organs, many of them sent by other hospitals, for research purposes. Medical law specialist Prof. Peter Skegg, was quoted as saying that if a body is in a hospital, the hospital manager, rather than the relatives, had the rights to it. Changes in the law were needed so that relatives' rights were respected, he said. — CNS

Homosexual Adoption. -- The American Academy of Pediatrics now says moms *or* dads raise children as well as moms *and* dads do. It last month endorsed homosexual adoption, claiming that children raised by homosexuals can be as well adjusted as those raised by heterosexuals. The AAP ignored abundant

contrary evidence and based its findings on disputable research. This is another coordinated assault upon the traditional family by cultural revolutionaries of the left. -- CC

The Feminized TNIV.

-- As a concession to political correctness, the *Today's New International Version* dangerously tinkers with God's Word. It reduces the presence of words such as *he* and *man* that feminists find objectionable and mistranslates and changes the meaning of some Greek words. Paige Patterson calls it "dishonest and grossly unfair." David W. Cloud says it pushes "gender inclusive" language at the expense of the purity of God's Word, and promotes women deacons. -- CC

Universalism. -- Universalism is the false teaching that everyone will be saved in the end. *Christian News* states: "Universalism, the doctrine that Jesus Christ is not the only way to heaven and that Christianity is just one of many man-made religions, has now thoroughly permeated every major Protestant denomination, Roman Catholicism, and the Orthodox church." The Pope has made it clear that he believes that Muslims, Jews, Hindus,

and even Voodooists all worship the same God only call him by a different name. Popes and the RCC since Vatican II have not taught the truth about Islam, and do not call for the conversion of Muslims. Pope John Paul II kissed the Koran to show his high regard for it. -- CC


Catholic Church Agrees To Pay 86 Sex Plaintiffs.

-- The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston has tentatively agreed to pay as much as \$30 million to 86 people who say they were molested by now-defrocked priest John Geoghan, *The Boston Globe* reported Tuesday, citing unidentified sources. The 86 plaintiffs would get an average of \$232,000 to \$348,000 each, with an arbiter deciding the amount in each case. The church has already paid an estimated \$15 million to 100 alleged Geoghan victims since the mid-1990s. Mr. Geoghan was sentenced to nine to 10 years in prison last month for groping a 10-year-old boy, and he faces two more criminal trials. He has been accused of molesting more than 130 children in six parishes over 30 years. -- 3/6/02 Dallas Morning News.

NAMB Will Not Endorse Ordained Female Chaplains. -- North American Mission Board

trustees decided Feb. 6 that while the agency's Chaplains Commission "is committed to endorse chaplains, both men and women," it will no longer endorse women who have been ordained. The action came in response to a motion from the 2001 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in New Orleans. "The Chaplains Commission has not required or considered ordination in the endorsement of chaplains in the past," trustees said in their response. "However, in the future we will refrain from endorsing ordained women to the office of chaplain. We recognize ordination as a local church action, but endorsement and its requirement is the action of a national agency." The Chaplains Commission, which operates under the auspices of NAMB, is the SBC body recognized by the military and other institutions for granting formal denominational endorsement to chaplains. -- ABN

Homosexual Network Coming?

-- MTV and Showtime are seriously considering an "all gay, all the time" cable network which could be launched within the next year (1/19 *World*). These two networks have been at the forefront of homosexual programming in recent years. Has America sunk to such a depth to accept such? -- CC 

DINKS . . .

(Continued from page 5)

of 1964, brainchild of President Lyndon B. Johnson, employers paid fathers a “family wage” so wives and children wouldn’t have to work, a matter of “simple justice.”

The feminists had “sex” added to the protections under this Act and the rights of individuals took precedence over family requirements. As women’s pay soared, men’s dropped, and marriage and family size suffered. Young men earned too little for marriage and a family. Young women found independence and delayed marriage, or just didn’t marry at all. Some settled for the DINKS role — and the end of the “family wage” was a factor.

3. The “Population Bomb” Hysteria. Dire predictions by environmentalists in the 1960s and 1970s of coming world starvation because of population growth and inadequate food production caused wide-spread hysteria and brought on population control programs — promoted by First World elitists and mostly ignored by the Third World poor who continued turning out big families.

Heading up another of his Chicken Little operations was former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Strange McNamara, the man who micromanaged the Vietnam War into disaster. This time, he was warning that the population growth would

cause poverty, crowding and frustration that would threaten social, economic and military stability. And this time, he was wrong again, as the poor continued to multiply.

4. Feminism. “Women’s liberation” has become the rage. It would free women of their role of wife, mother and homemaker. Margaret Sanger of Planned Parenthood fame declared, “The most merciful thing a large family can do to an infant member is to kill it.”

But, earlier feminists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony opposed abortion as disgusting and degrading — a burden to a woman’s conscience in life and to her soul in death.

Modern feminists would like to abolish marriage altogether. Here are a few of them: Gloria Steinmen, Andra Dworkin, Robin Morgan, Valerie Solanis, Nancy Lehmann, Helen Sullinger, Vivian Gornick, Christina Sommers and Catherine MacKinnon. MacKinnon says, “Feminism stresses the indistinguishability of prostitution, marriage and sexual harassment.” Adds Sheila Cronin, “Freedom for women cannot be won without the abolition of marriage.”

Feminists have had successes: A 10-fold increase in unmarried couples living together since 1970. Husband-wife families are now only one in four. Singles living alone are now 26 percent.

In her book **Empty Hearts and Empty Homes**, British author Katarina Runské addressed the feminists’ anti-marriage rhetoric as a “Darwinism blind alley,” warning, “(A)n immediate consequence of feminism is ... an irreversible decline in the birth rate. Nations pursue feminist policies at their own peril.”

5. The Popular Culture “puts the joys of sex far above the happiness of motherhood.” Indeed, sex, career and the single woman dominate in advertisement and entertainment. Marriage and family are down-played and the DINKS are helping.

Anthropologist Julian D. Unwin says society can choose either *great energy* or *sexual freedom*, but, “it cannot do both for more than one generation.” Brokaw’s so-called Greatest Generation chose energy for the Depression and World War II — and gave us an America of “unrivaled preeminence.” Baby boomers chose “sexual freedom.” In due time, we shall see who is right!

Columnist Jenkin Lloyd Jones wrote, “Great civilizations and animal standards of behavior coexist only for short periods.”

6. The Collapse of the Moral Order. In the 1950s, divorce, “shacking up” and abortion were scandals. Today, “shacking up” is just a “relationship,” half of all marriages end in divorce and abortion is a “fallback” position, and women and daughters will

vote against any politician or party that threatens to take it away.

Belgian author Ron Lesthaeghe has noted the West’s shift away from Christian values toward a militant “secular individualism” focused on self.

Pope John Paul VI’s 1968 encyclical against contraception brought on four consequences of man’s use of contraceptives, all predicted by the Pope: (1) Widespread infidelity and lowered morals. (2) Less respect for women. (3) Misuse by public authorities in ignoring moral exigencies. (4) Dehumanization of the race by treating people as objects, and unborn children as a disease to prevent.

These predictions came true, with the explosions of pornography, promiscuity and divorce — not unlike pagan Rome when unwanted babies were simply tossed on the dung-heap. In this case, the feminists got more than they bargained for: They got selfish men who benefited from contraceptives and abortion; they used women and then, tossed them aside.

Buchanan For President! Pat Buchanan has written a powerful book, full of unshakable documentation, historic backup and well-chosen anecdotes. Critics have called him “alarmist,” probably without considering the whole book, but any thoughtful reader, within a few pages, will see

(See **DINKS** on page 16)

DINKS . . .

(Continued from page 15)

that Pat gets to the heart of an extremely serious crisis that is closing in on our nation while our leaders are fiddling.

Pat ran for President twice. He would have made a great President, but will never be elected. (Editor's Note: We certainly would not vote nor endorse him for president.] Modern voters want peace, prosperity, fat pocketbooks and promises of goodies galore rather than character, smartness and dedication. They proved that in 1996 with Bill Clinton.

Our Founding Fathers gave us a Christian nation. George Washington told us from the beginning, "(R)eligion and morality are indispensable supports." John Adams agreed, "Our Constitution is made only for a moral and religious people."

Pat Buchanan reminds us that Western Man is casting off Christianity and now believes he can go-it-alone, since he knows virtually everything there is to know. For example, Western Man knows how to prevent life, how to prolong life, how to create life and how to clone life. He knows how to win wars without losing a single soldier. He knows how to prevent depressions and how to guarantee prosperity through free markets and free trade. He knows how to create peace and world government. Western Man,

therefore, knows it all and no longer needs God.


It is not too late. Whitaker Chambers in his famous book **Witness** wrote, "History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations that became indifferent to God, and died." And Jim Nelson Black, "Civilization arises from religion, and when the traditional religious beliefs of a nation are eroded, the nation dies."

Pat Buchanan has underscored our weaknesses. America today has leaders who can use this road map and lead us back. Analyst William Rusher thinks the loss of religious faith can be reversed when science acknowledges, as it is now doing, that science is incapable of answering the truly ultimate questions about the nature and origins of the universe. Mr. Rusher is talking about the God of Creation.

A powerful surging revival of religious faith and morality can give us the kind of America our Founding Fathers constructed. It is not too late — even with the handwriting on the wall and with the lessons of history in our faces. It can be done, of course — with continuing great resolve and tireless dedication. The events of September 11th gave us a start — and a resolve that has to continue, we pray without more catastrophes. Which can happen!

Meanwhile, the Scripture that may fit best is the admonition given to King

Solomon by the Lord one night in the 5th century B.C. when the people of Judah needed Divine guidance. It is the famous and well-known verse 14 of Chapter 7 of Second Chronicles:

"If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." 

COLYAR . . .

(Continued from page 6)

ther's will. The hour of His enemies had come. Hence further resistance would have borne Him outside the Father's will.

So it is with the servants of God that fear Him and walk in His will. Mortal, yet deathless till their work is finished, no weapon that is formed against them shall prosper.

We have noticed in previous articles that the work of the prophets of God are one with the word and work of the Prophet Eternal. Now we shall observe that their personal experiences are also one with His. Jesus said to His disciples, "If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you." So it is, the experience of the prophets of God is like that of their Master's. "It is given in behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake" (Phil. 1:29).

Take for an outstanding example one of the proph-

ets of the Old Testament, Elijah. He was a mighty man of God. His works were wrought in faith. He lived and worked in the perilous times of wicked Ahab, king of Israel. Wickedness was rampant. The prophet prayed that it rain not in Israel, and it rained not for the space of three years and six months (1 Ki. 17; Jas. 5:17). A mighty drought it was; but Elijah was fed by the ravens by the brook Cherith. He was the Lord's charge, for he had spoken in His name. The king sought the prophet to slay him, but could not find him by diligent search. Then the prophet revealed himself to the king and challenged all his lying prophets to a showdown with the Lord. The Lord heard His prophet, answering by fire, whereupon the prophet slew the 450 prophets of Baal. The prophet prayed again, and the rain came in abundance. Jezebel's threat to kill the man of God scared him nearly to death, or till he wished to die at any rate, yet no hand could touch his life to take it. The Lord would see to that. But when it was done the chariot of fire and horses of fire came for him, and "Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven."

Paul, the mighty apostle and prophet of the New Testament, is another example of what our text says. He was called of the Lord to share the suffer-

(See **COLYAR** on page 17)

COLYAR . . .

(Continued from page 16)

ings of Christ as a prophet. The Lord says of him, "he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15). When he turned from the "Jew's religion" and began preaching Christ, whom he had met on the way to Damascus, the Jews of Damascus sought to kill him (Acts 9:22-25). He escaped in a basket over the city wall. They stoned him at Lystra, leaving him for dead. But this weapon meant for destruction did not prosper: he rose up and went on preaching Christ. Lewd fellows sought his life at Thessalonica, but his brethren sent him away by night. Upon his last visit to Jerusalem, Paul was seized in the temple and was borne outside to be killed. But the Lord gave him words in the nick of time which divided his persecutors against themselves. It saved his life. Again he escaped a plot on his life by his appeal to Caesar, before Festus. On the way to Rome he suffered shipwreck, but was safely delivered. In the prison at Rome he preached Christ to both Jews and Gentiles. These incidents of great danger to his life are but a few which befell him. But no weapon ever forged against him prospered. He triumphed through faith in the ministry of the word of God. When his work was at last finished he said in calm and triumphant spirit:

"I am now ready to be offered, and my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Tim. 4:6-7). Then, and only then, could his enemies lay their hands upon him to lead him to his execution. His work was finished.

Looking to the time when the Man of Sin shall rule over his world kingdom, two of the Lord's witnesses will suddenly appear upon the scene in Jerusalem (Rev. 11:1-8). Elijah will doubtless be one of them (Mal. 4:5). They will have great power for 1260 days, or three years and six months. "And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devourth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will" (Rev. 11:5-6). Thus they will have their appointed service. But when it shall have been finished their enemies will prevail over them. "And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of

the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and a half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth" (Rev. 11:7-10). Though dwelling in mortal flesh, these witnesses will be deathless till their work is done.


But the rejoicing of their enemies will be short-lived indeed. Only for three and a half days do they gloat over the death of the Lord's two witnesses. "And after three days and a half the spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them" (Rev. 11:11-12). They shall sit in judgment over their enemies.

Lord, Send Us Prophets Mighty In Deeds

We are living in a day of great falling away from the faith of Jesus Christ. The world looks for peace. Will peace come? Yes, peace will come with the Prince of Peace at His coming. But unless there be a turning to God upon the part of the nations in sack-

cloth and ashes of repentance, there will be no enduring peace. A nation of religious reprobates as touching the faith cannot expect anything but peace of strong delusion which the Lord will give in the rise of the Antichrist.

May the Lord send us some mighty prophets, rising up early and sending them, as he did in days of old. He has always done it; He will surely do it again. Washington needs a Daniel now. The churches of Christendom need an Apostle Paul now. We need a multitude of prophets like unto the seven thousand who bowed not the knee to Baal. No weapon formed against them shall prosper. This is the *heritage* of the servants of the Lord. But all too many prophets have turned puppet, having sold this precious heritage for a mess of denominational pottage. They have turned to forging weapons against churches and pastors and prophets and evangelists who dare to do the will of the Lord.

I know some young preachers who are looking this situation squarely in the face. All machine-minded Baptists are against them. But the Lord said, "No weapon formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn." If that can be depended upon, and it and, Baptist machinery is headed for trouble with the God of the prophets. 

Pro-Family Groups Worry About Effects of International Court

Just eight more countries must ratify the statute setting up the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the body to become a reality, and pro-ICC campaigners believe this could happen within just two months.

Critics fear the court will infringe on nations' sovereignty, and could even become a forum for the United Nations to impose pro-abortion and anti-family measures on member-states.

The ICC comes into force once 60 signatory countries have ratified the 1998 Rome Statute, its founding document. Portugal and Ecuador on February 5 became the 51st and 52nd to do so.

Around two dozen countries are in the process of getting the go-ahead for ratification from their respective parliaments. Canada and most European Union members already have ratified.

Because the first 60 countries to ratify will play a defining role — including nominating judges and prosecutors — William Pace of a coalition of non-governmental organizations promoting the ICC predicted in a statement that the remaining eight ratifications would occur very soon.

Once the target has been reached, the Rome Statute will enter into force within two to three months, and then the court's frame-

work and officials will be finalized over a period of around 12 months, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (ICC) explained.

The CICC is a network of more than 1,000 NGOs supporting the creation of the court which will be located in The Hague.

The tribunal will be modeled on those set up after World War II and following the conflicts in Bosnia and Rwanda. Supporters say it is essential to have such a court for cases where a country is unable or unwilling to place suspects on trial for major crimes committed there.

A full-time prosecutor will be empowered to initiate investigations, and 18 judges, from 18 countries, will hear cases. Individual nations may also bring cases, as may the U.N. Security Council. It will be empowered to hand down sentences up to a maximum of life imprisonment.

Anti-life, Anti-family Fears

Crimes within the court's jurisdiction include genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Crimes of sexual violence including rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, *enforced pregnancy* and enforced sterilization are also covered.

It is the inclusion of

"enforced pregnancy" that most concerns pro-life campaigners.

Despite claims that it only refers to rape for the express purposes of impregnation — this was alleged to have occurred during the Bosnian war — the term has been used before in legal proceedings to mean *denial of abortion*.

The pro-life group Real Women of Canada has pointed out that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and Planned Parenthood, in a 1992 legal challenge against abortion legislation in Utah, described "enforced pregnancy" as "forcing women to continue pregnancy against their will for the purpose of serving the state's declared interest in preserving unborn human life."

"Forced pregnancy [as covered by the Statute] is not rape," said Pat Buckley of an ad-hoc No to ICC campaign. "It is the denial of access to abortion, in certain circumstances. *It is the denial of access to abortion that is the new crime.*"

He warned that individual nations may eventually be forced to include this on their statute books. Indeed, campaigners like the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice have pointed out that countries' domestic laws may need to be amended to be brought in line with the ICC Statute.

Scott Weinberg, the PRI's director of governmental affairs, said "We're

concerned about violations of the sovereign rights of nations, and the inalienable rights of women and families to determine for themselves the timing and spacing of their pregnancies. ... The imposition of anti-natal views on the poorest of the poor by corrupt governments or through an international criminal court, and the prosecution of individuals who heroically oppose coercion, is something which must be opposed with the utmost vigilance."

Prof. Richard Wilkins, managing director of the World Family Policy Center and law professor at Brigham Young University, said it was inevitable that issues like abortion, homosexuality, children's rights and religious freedom would come within the ICC's jurisdiction.

Sovereignty Concerns

When the treaty was hammered out in Rome, the U.S. joined a handful of other countries in opposing it. Most of the others were authoritarian dictatorships such as Iraq and China.

Washington's key concern was that its forces engaged in actions abroad could find themselves hauled before the tribunal. ...Its vague language allowed for an expansion of offenses way beyond conduct now considered "within the customary reach of 'genocide,' 'war crimes,' and 'crimes against humanity,'" he said.

(See ICC on page 24)

The Heresy of the Fatherhood of God

By Roy Mason

The doctrine of the “Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man,” is a lie out of whole cloth!

When some speaker wants to gain favor with his crowd, and wants to say something designed to sound religious, he puts in something about the “Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.” Magazines, newspapers, popular speakers, modernists, preachers, fraternal orders and the like, teach the Universal Fatherhood and Brotherhood.

Why Did The Devil Start This Lie?

He did it to discredit the necessity of the “*new birth*.” Because if one is by nature a child of God, then there is no need to become a child of God, for one cannot become what he already is. But Jesus said “Ye must be born again ... and except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3).

What The Bible Says

1. The Bible says that one becomes a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ. (See Gal. 3:24; Jn. 1:11-12).

2. The Bible says that some are children of the devil. “Ye are of your fa-

ther the devil” (Jn. 8:44). If some are children of the devil — and Jesus says so — then away goes the universal fatherhood of God.

3. The Bible says that by nature we are *not* the children of God, *but* “children of wrath” (Eph. 2:3). That means persons deserving wrath — deserving punishment.

4. The Bible pointedly says that those who are the children of the flesh, are *not* the children of God (Rom. 9:8). That means those who have been born the first time — born of the flesh.


There is no escape from this plain teaching of the Bible. One cannot believe the Scriptures just cited, and believe in the universal Fatherhood of God.

Of course there is such a thing as brotherhood that takes no cognizance of the spirit. Men are brothers in the sense of physical kinship. Then people organize different kinds of “brotherhoods.” Added to that, there is the brotherhood of the children of the devil — and it is a big one. But in the spiritual sense, no one is a child of God save those who have received Jesus as Savior. Then when we become the children of God, we are brothers to all who are His children.

Implications Of The

False “Fatherhood” Doctrine

The implications of this false doctrine are far reaching, and likewise undermining.

1. It undermines the doctrine of Hell. If the universal fatherhood doctrine were true, then to believe in Hell one would have to believe that God sends His own children to Hell. That is one of the main arguments of those who don’t want to believe in Hell. They say, “It isn’t reasonable to believe that God would ever let His own children go to Hell.” No it isn’t! But all are not His children. The truth is all of God’s children are either in Heaven or on the way there, and not one will ever fail to reach home. but only the born again are His children. 

DEVIL . . .

(Continued from page 7)

sixth chapter of the book of Ephesians. Here Paul tells the believer that he ought to put on the whole armor of God because he is going to have to stand against the devil. I want to say to you, my friend, that every believer in Jesus Christ must be constantly on guard against the wiles of the devil. And the only way to be on guard against the wiles of the devil is to put on the whole armor of God. And so Paul refers to the devil as a personal being.

And then the Apostle


John in writing the Gospel of John tells us “And after the sop Satan entered into him” (Jn. 13:27). And so again we see John referring to the devil as a personal being.

In Matthew 4:1, we find: “Then was Jesus led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.” And so Matthew tells us that Satan was a personal being.

In 1 Peter 1:8, we read: “Be sober, be vigilant, for your adversary, the devil, goeth about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he would devour.”

Now certainly Peter was talking about a malignant personality, a person, not a figure of speech, not somebody’s wild imagination. But he tells us that we are to be sober, to be vigilant, for our adversary, the devil, goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

And then James said, “Submit yourself to God: resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

These passages of Scripture prove beyond any question of a doubt to a man or woman who believes the Bible to be the infallible word of God, that there is a devil, and that we must be constantly on guard in our lives against the devil, that we who love the Lord Jesus Christ, who have been saved by the grace of God and washed in the blood of the Lamb, must put on the whole armor of God if we are to withstand the wiles of the devil in this present evil age. 

The Doctrine of Uniformitarianism

By Philip Marquart

[The late Dr. Marquart was an honor graduate from both the University of Wisconsin and Harvard University. He was a psychiatrist. He was baptized in the Central Baptist Church in 1942 while stationed at Camp Robinson during World War II.]

When the scientists of the world formulate their laws of nature, they frequently have to revise them because of the intellectual depravity of which they all partake. However, when we find the hid treasure in the Word of God, there is no need to change these laws, for they were Authored by the One who knows what is in man (Jn. 2:24-25). He is the One who searches the heart.

When I was taking a course in Physics in high school, I was taught a time honored principle which was never expected to change. It was the Law of Conservation of Matter. Everyone knew that atoms could not possibly be either destroyed nor changed to something else which was not matter. By definition, an element cannot be pulled apart. We should have known better, because Einstein had already formulated his theory and his famous principle of $E=MC^2$ and if we had believed it,

we would have known that atoms could be split and the result would be energy and not matter. In 1919, some astronomers observing an eclipse, found that Einstein was right in at least one principle, that the universe is curved and that a straight line bends. Thus when I took a course in physics in college, Professor Snow used to say that a straight line bends and curves, and if it goes far enough, and it would go on and on and finally come back again from the opposite direction. Finally, after fifty years, Einstein saw man split his first atom, in Operation Manhattan, in the old Chicago University stadium.

But the Word of God could have told us the same thing, "By him (Christ) *all things* consist (hang together)" (Col. 1:17). The Lord is actually holding all of your atoms together until the time when atoms shall be destroyed. But this means that He can also let them fly apart at any moment He chooses. He is also "upholding *all things* by the Word of his power" (Heb. 1:3). Then His power can cease to hold things together when He chooses. In fact, 2 Peter 3:9 indicates that there will be a time when "the elements shall melt with fervent heat." Everything will blow up in one universal atomic blast, but we will not be in an inflammable condition in that day, but will be secure spectators. Atoms will melt and dissolve away and that is far more than merely splitting atoms. But the

Lord has been melting atoms continuously on the sun for eons of time. Here we see that the Word gives more on the subject of matters of science than men of science are able to find out. In fact, we men fail to make scientific discoveries and applications, unless the Lord *reveals* to men from the common revelation of nature.

There is no more a Law of Conservation of Matter, for matter has been proven to be one form of energy. However we still have the Law of Conservation of Energy. They find that no energy has ever been lost in the sense that it ceases to exist. This Law seems to be so well proven that it is now known as the first law of Thermodynamics. This Law is the result of a man-made method, the scientific method. However, it must be true because the Word confirms it, after a fashion. The passages we have given above in Colossians 1 and Hebrews 1 would also be true for all forms of energy, as well as the atoms of matter. But since all these things are upheld by the Lord, He is able to destroy any part of His own universe, if He pleases. But for the present the Law of Conservation of Energy holds.

Energy may be changed from one form to another or be dissipated out into space, but none of it is ever lost from the universe. In fact, the term Thermodynamics implies a relationship between heat energy and the other forms of en-

ergy such as light, sound, magnetism, electronics, chemical energy, mechanical energy, but especially kinetic energy, which is the action of particles in motion. When gasoline is oxidized (burned) in your motor, there is a production of heat and mechanical motion.

Some have cited 2 Corinthians 4:18 to the confusion of logic. The things that are seen (sensed) are here said to be temporary. No one can see energy, but only the results of its action and hence they claim that energy is eternal. Rather God is eternal, but energy, physical things, and any created thing is not referred to here in this text. We should be warned not to press this Law too far, for the texts above suggest that the "all things" that hang together are in the hands of God and under His power, and He may change them at will. Some have even denied that prayers could be answered, or miracles occur, because it would break, they say, the sacred scientific Law of Conservation of Energy.

This brings up the closely related false Uniformitarian doctrine. This is not a doctrine which you might find in the text books of Theology and most theologians would know far more about the Monroe Doctrine than the Uniformitarian Doctrine. It is merely a theory that the men of science have dreamed up for their own

(See **SCIENCE** on page 21)

SCIENCE . . .

(Continued from page 20)

benefit. It is false because it fails to take into account the plain teaching of the Word of God. It is being much talked about in our own generation, but it was first promulgated over a century ago by a geologist named Lyle. He tried, by means of this theory, to explain how the surface of the earth got into the shape in which we find it in modern times. He took for granted that the Laws of science never change, and hence, it would have to take countless ages for the river valleys to have been carved out and for the mountains to have been piled up and carved away. Everything was supposed to have proceeded at the same rate as at the present time. There were no cataclysmic epochs of disaster. This would make Genesis in error in its apparent timing and hence it must have been nothing but legend and myth.

From this doctrine, geologists have formulated their time-tables of the ages, with some kind of man going back a mere hundred thousand years, the dinosaurs living several million years ago. Even that date, they say, is recent because the first simple fishes appeared on the globe several billion years before that. Finally they reached the depths of the pre-Cambrian layer, which has no fossils, but there chemical evidences that simple sponges, jellyfishes

and amoebae may have been there. Needless to say, if these things be true, then the Word of God is false.

Another consequence of the Uniformitarian Doctrine was its influence upon the thinking of Charles Darwin. Darwin was led to build his theory of evolution by natural selection upon the framework of the Uniformitarian Doctrine. He saw that, if there are such long stretches of time available to him, that he could derive one species from another by minute, gradual changes, which were to be explained by natural selection and the survival of the fittest.

1. DISPLAY

Thus we find that the men of many sciences displayed their ignorance of the One who knows all science. It spread from science to science. The astronomers set up their theory of the evolution of the solar system. Such theories deny creation, the Creator and the Word. The Lord knows what happened in His own universe better than the man of science.

According to the Geological timetable, the dinosaurs never lived at the same time that man was upon the earth. Yet I have seen, with my own eyes, the gigantic tracks of two huge dinosaurs in a layer of rock near Fort Worth, Texas. In the same layer of rock there was the track of a gigantic human foot. Remember that there were giants on the earth before

the Flood. However, this would upset the geologist sacred timetable, so they destroyed the human foot print.

Indeed, if we accept the Uniformitarian Doctrine, the following theses must also be accepted:

(1) There could have been no Noachian Flood.

(2) There was no change in the water distribution at the time of the Flood, a canopy theory.

(3) There was no change in human nature with the Fall.

(4) There could have been no influence of the Fall to corrupt all of nature.

(5) There would be no Second Coming of Christ, with its coming changes in the economy of all nature.

(6) There could be no miracles at all, no answered prayer, no Providence.

(7) The Lord Himself is thus denied the privilege of manipulating His own universe.

(8) Since there could be no sudden changes, creation itself is ruled out.

(9) There could be no change in the gradual breakdown of radium, strontium and Carbon 14.

Once this is accepted, then these elements may be used to measure the age of things upon earth. But how can we be sure of this?

(10) Finally, there could be no change in the application of the so-called Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law says that everything is changing for the worse, decaying and dying in nature. Has this been true from the beginning and

will it continue throughout all the eons of time in the future? Entropy, as this is called, will then bring us finally into the same desert condition as that which prevails on the moon and on Mars.

2. DECAY

The universe is running down. We know that this law of Entropy is true at the present. All is decay, rotting, stinking, corrupting. Everything dies. We are already in a dying condition. We are also in the bondage of corruption and the fear of death. However, we know, from what we have learned from the Word, that this decay first set in, not in Genesis One, but after Genesis Three and because of Adam's sin. We also know that this Law will be changed when our vile bodies shall have been changed and fashioned like unto His own glorious body (Phil. 3:21). This trend to tragic deterioration will be liquidated in a lake of fire.

3. DISMAY

Meanwhile the worldly wise men continue to question: "Is there knowledge in the Most High?" They do not yet know that "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in him (Christ)" (Col. 2:3). He is the source of all the intellectual life. They will be surprised when they learn the Truth, and they will

(See **SCIENCE** on page 23)

WELLS . . .

(Continued from page 1)

been satisfied with God's way through individual local churches. It just never seems to measure up to the world's standard of success. Individual local churches scattered all over the world with no organizational ties binding them together would seem, by man's standards, certain to fail. So rather than risk failure with God's way, most Baptists have tried to build something bigger and stronger than local churches. It is reasoned that individual Baptist churches would never get the job done — there must be some powerful, central government holding these churches together. God's plan can't work, it must be improved upon, is the conclusion the majority reaches!

Again, Baptists have reasoned, if we were all bound together in a real organization we would be so much stronger, so much better equipped to oppose the enemy. This excuse for rejecting God's way has been used over and over. It seems to make good sense according to man's reasoning. By organizing all the Baptist churches together, it is argued, a great force is presented, elaborate publications can be sent forth, missionary boards formed, great schools built, etc. Why, after a while we'll even become a force in politics! All of this sounds fine and the purpose is good, except this is not God's way. Regard-

less of how good the purpose is, it is a grievous wrong to reject God and His plan. It is a calamity to reject God's plan of salvation and it is also a calamity to reject God's plan for service.

Again, the same bug that bit Israel has bitten Baptists. The majority of Baptists desire the pomp and grandeur of other religions. "That we also may be like all the denominations," is the cry heard today. Prosperity and popularity which the world will accept has become the goal of many. The world's standards are met in order that Baptists might be accepted with the same favor as other denominations.

It is not too difficult to see that the same reasons Israel used for rejecting God's way and demanding a king are the same reasons that Baptists now use for rejecting God's way through local churches and demanding conventions, associations, fellowships and other means of binding Baptist churches together under one central authority. The amazing thing is that this is so obvious, and yet is so vigorously denied! It would be amusing, if it were not so tragic, to listen to one organized group of Baptists condemn another organized group for being organized!

Is all this important? Does it make any difference how the job is done? Notice the expression in verse 7 where God speaks, "They have rejected me." For Israel to demand a

worldly king was to reject God! For local Baptist churches to bind themselves together in unscriptural organizations is to reject God! Christ is the head of each local church, but headquarters are changed in large organizations of churches.

Through Samuel God warned Israel concerning an earthly king. In verses 11 through 18 conditions under such a king are described. The king would ride with great pomp and dignity in a chariot. There would be chariots and horsemen which would ride in great style before the king. The king's organization would be highly organized, captains over thousands and captains over hundreds. The king's organization would be extremely costly with heavy taxes and conscription!

Can anyone fail to see how this picture not only fits what was going to happen to Israel under a king but also what happens to Baptists under organizational rule of denominations, conventions, associations, fellowships, etc.?

Saul, riding in all his pomp and glory, is a fitting picture of the convention, association or fellowship president! The Big Wheel!

"Captains over thousands, and captains over fifties" — state presidents, field secretaries, board chairman, directors, etc. — The picture is too clear not to fit!

Costly! Is there anything more costly or more demanding upon the churches than the support

of the machine? Every year a greater percentage of the money given is needed to run the machine and less gets to the work!

It is well to note that for a while there was great success under Israel's kings. Under David and Solomon the nation reached great heights. It is also well to note that nearly every Baptist organization of churches that has ever existed started out well! Great things are accomplished — for a while! Israel did fine as long as David was on the throne. It continued to do well under Solomon, but when these two passed on the trouble began. So it has ever been with Baptist machines. Strong men with strong personalities will bind Baptists together and flourish for a while, but with their passing, lesser men can only fight over the remains!

After the temporary success in Israel, the decline and decay began. They made treaties and intermarried with the pagan nations around them. Idolatry again reared its ugly head. Compromise and cowardice were on every hand. Israel lost its purpose! They divided and died! Israel has never come back. Her glory will only be restored when she again accepts her rightful King!

Temporary success nearly always comes in the attempt to organize Baptists. Just like Israel of old,

(See **WELLS** on page 23)

WELLS . . .

(Continued from page 22)

however, decay and decline begin almost immediately. When Baptists become successful in their organizations, success itself demands compromise: treaties, compromise and intermingling with all other religions. Compromise becomes a necessity. It produces a complicated method, a compromised message and a corrupted mission! They lose their purpose. They live and die. They never come back.

Almost without exception every organized group of Baptists will recognize the truth of what has been said thus far. However, most of them will prefer to remain blind to the fact that what has happened to others is also happening to them.

When will we learn that huge, ecclesiastical machines are man's way and glorify man and that the simple organization of a local church is God's way and glorifies God.

As editor of this paper (The **Central Contender**) and author of this article I would like to digress from my usual procedure and interject a personal word or two. For several years now, through this paper and my pulpit, I have been humbly trying to show the error and danger of Baptists organizing themselves into conventions, associations, fellowships, etc. The response in the majority has been favorable. There have been

some, well, not so favorable. Not one single time has anyone from any organization even attempted to deny the truth we have published concerning their error. Those who have vigorously protested, however, almost without exception, made the same accusation. They seem to think that machine Baptists with their missionary boards are the only ones getting missionaries on the field and that true, independent Baptist churches are not getting the job done. I submit the following truths:

One of the biggest of these organizations requires over 300 churches to get one missionary on the field. Another organization, new and aggressive though it be, still takes over 100 of the churches to get one missionary on the field. Hundreds of unsung and unheralded, independent Baptist churches all over this country are easily beating that kind of record and many others would equal it!

Again, over and over, I have heard it stated that it doesn't matter how you do it as long as you get the job done.

God has a plan of salvation and it makes a difference whether we follow that plan.

God had a plan for the ark and Noah was expected to follow.

God's plan for Moses the second time was to speak to the rock and water would be supplied. It made a difference when

Moses disobeyed.

It made a difference when Israel did not follow God's plan and possess all of Canaan.

It made a difference in Israel when Achan did not follow God's plan.

The whole book of Leviticus is given to God's plan of worship for Israel to follow. It made a difference how they came.

God gave the plan and method for handling the ark and men lost their lives by failing to follow God's plan. It made a difference.

God gave minute instructions for building the temple and tabernacle. It made a difference.

Jesus Christ carried out in minute detail God's plan of redemption. It made a difference.

Christ established the church to carry out God's plan for this age and it makes a difference whether we follow this plan or substitute another.

Our humble prayer is that God will touch hearts with the kind of conviction that will cause Baptists to return to Bible methods. ☞

SCIENCE . . .

(Continued from page 21)

know it within the next hundred years. But some of these men of science have taken up their complacent seat with the scornful.

Sneeringly, they are now scoffing: "Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, *all things* continue as they were from the be-

ginning of the creation." Note that this is a Biblical statement of the Uniformitarian Doctrine and this is one of the outstanding issues of the present moment. Did Peter know when he wrote this passage in 2 Peter 3:4 that this would describe our present controversy better than at any other time? No, but the Author knows. Notice the word "creation." It suggests that this will be a controversy among those who call themselves Christian, believing in creation but not in a second coming. That is exactly what is happening today. The church is now beginning to reject the pre-millennial doctrine at the same time that they are calling the Genesis development a myth. Note also the refutation of the Uniformitarian Doctrine in the context.

First it says that they are willingly (willfully) ignorant of the Word. The historical fact of the Flood time is then described. Then the Lord's relationship to time is stated, "and a thousand years as a day." The Lord is not limited by time. Rather He created this Fourth Dimension of time. The reason that the Lord is waiting is shown. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should be brought to repentance." He is not slack concerning His promise.

Better get wise, men of science. Why spend eternity in dismay, with murderers, harlots and them that slay? ☞

**Fellowships
And
Conferences**

LUBBOCK, TX

March 18-20, 2002, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX 79411, E. L. Bynum, Pastor.

LUDLOW, KY

April 1-4, 2002, Bethlehem Baptist Temple, 316 Adela Ave., Ludlow, KY., Bill Miller, Pastor.

LYNCHBURG, VA

April 14-20, 2002, Gospel Baptist Church, 1415 Florida Ave., Lynchburg, VA 24501, Carl B. Mills, Jr., Pastor.

BURKBURNETT, TX

May 27, 2002, Calvary Baptist Church, 108 N. Preston, Burkburnett, TX 76354, Johnny Dowell, Pastor.

WICHITA, KS

June 3-5, 2002, Lincoln Baptist Church, 7801 E. Lincoln, Wichita, KS 67207, Vernon L. Lindbloom, Pastor.

SIOUX FALLS, SD

October 7-9, 2002, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD 57104, Dr. Ron Tottingham, Pastor.

**Hiscox on
The Ordination of
Deacons**

“The Seven were set apart to the discharge of their duties by prayer and the laying on of hands by the Apostles, as indicating the sacred and important duties committed to them. In our older churches this practice was carefully adhered to, as it still is by some, particularly in the South. But in many parts, of late, it has fallen very much into disuse, and the diaconate is regarded as little more than a committee service. The office is coming to be far too little esteemed, and the scriptural qualifications of the men chosen, too little insisted on. Ordination, if generally practiced, would invest both with more importance. To much care cannot be taken to secure the right kind of men for the office, when we consider that the permanent influence of a deacon is scarcely surpassed by that of the pastor himself. A good deacon is a peculiar blessing both to the pastor and the church.

“The Seven were elected by the church, that is, by the multitude of the

disciples; they were chosen from among their own number, but their setting apart or designation to their work was by the Apostles with prayer and the laying on of hands. This is called their *ordination*, and gave added importance and impressiveness to the office, and the work to which they were chosen” (E. T. Hiscox, “The New Directory For Baptist Churches” pp. 113-114).

ICC . . .

(Continued from page 18)

Congress last month dropped legislation, which would have forbidden U.S. troops to participate in peacekeeping missions unless they were exempted in advance from any possible ICC prosecutions.

The American Servicemembers Protection Act (ASPA) would also have prevented all cooperation with the ICC by federal or state authorities, and would have empowered the president to use force to free any American servicemen held by the ICC. — CNS

HITS . . .

(Continued from page 1)

those who have put **TBC** as a link on their web site. During the month of March there were 185 sites that had posted a link on their web site, linking **TBC** to their site, and enabling others to learn of **The Baptist Challenge**.

We have been a little disappointed at some of those we consider our

friends that have refused to put a link on their site, but highly pleased at so many that we were not aware of until we were able to check the statistics that we receive at the end of each month.

To all of those who have placed a link, I wish to thank each of you. We could not have had such success if it had not been for the many of you that have helped us let others know that **The Baptist Challenge** is once again available and on the Internet, so that it can be read by people all over the world. Thanks to each of you!

We would appreciate it if you have a web site if you would simply place a link on it so that others might read **The Baptist Challenge** as well.

The following is the record for the month of March 2002:

**Record For March, 2002
Number of Hits**

17,862

The following 20 countries (not including the United States) were listed as “hitting” **The Baptist Challenge**:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Argentina | Australia |
| Austria | Belgium |
| Bermuda | Brazil |
| Canada | Denmark |
| Finland | Germany |
| Great Britain | Japan |
| Mexico | Netherlands |
| New Zealand | Poland |
| Saudi Arabia | South Africa |
| Spain | Taiwan |