

The Baptist CHALLENGE

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WHOLE NO. 454

Who Owns The Land?

By Ken Adams

Almost 3,000 years ago King David urged his people to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem ...” (Psa. 122:6). I am glad he could not have known how tearfully his people have cried that prayer throughout the Jewish nightmare of the past 30 centuries. For two-thirds of these years the Jews have wandered aimlessly throughout the earth, their race barely surviving the indescribably

cruel persecutions with which “enlightened” humanity has self righteously scourged them.

Since Israel returned to its ancient land in 1948 the world has increasingly pressured the Jews to justify their claim to Palestine. If any nation has a right to its land, Israel does. Like many other nations, Israel can point to history and show how they first conquered and subsequently defended

the land many times. But only Israel can claim that God personally gave them their Promised Land. What other nation can produce title deeds proving that they purchased their country a plot at a time? Who else can pull out various treaties — even resolutions from the United Nations — that show in writing that most of the world agrees that Palestine belongs to Israel?

Ratings War

The media survives to telecast another day by splashing increasingly stupendous images across our screens. Israeli soldiers bull-doing Palestinian homes makes for great television. But it does not tell the whole story.

A recent *U.S. News & World Report* (May 20,

(See **LAND** on page 16)

How To Ruin Your Children

1. Begin with infancy to give the child everything he wants. In this way he will grow up to believe the world owes him a living.

2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. This will make him think he’s cute. It will also encourage him to pick “cuter” phrases that will blow off the top of your head later.

3. Never give him any

(See **RUIN** on page 24)

Would You Rob God?

Have you robbed God lately? That may seem to be an absurd question. But apparently church members nationwide have been robbing God.

Last year the editors of *Religion Today* reported findings of Empty Tomb, a research group in Champaign, Ill., indicating that church members are giving an increasingly smaller share of their incomes to the church.

The percentage of income the average evangelical Christian gave fell from 3.1 in 1968 to 2.5 in 1998. That means church members gave \$4 billion less in 1998 than they would have if they were giving at the same rate they did in 1968. The study, which tracked 30 mainline evangelical denominations, noted that if U.S. church members had

(See **TULGA** on page 20)

The Jehoiakim Family Beware of Jehoiakim!

“Who is Jehoiakim, that I should beware of him?”

Is this not the first thought that our headline brings to your mind?

There are many Jehoiakims” today, but their proto-type was a ruler of the Jews of whom it is written:

“Now the king (Jehoiakim) sat in the winter-house in the ninth

(See **JEHOI** on page (15))

Quiz The Pastor -- #12**Why Did God Create The Devil?**

By the late Nick Michalinos

Question: If the devil causes so much trouble in the world, why then did God create the devil?

Answer: Yes, the devil has always caused problems in heaven as well as on earth, and I assure you, he's far from through. To be as simplistic as possible in answering your question, the truth is, God did not create the devil.

The word "devil" means "accuser" or "slanderer," but this does not by any means completely describe this malignant personality. His vile character is described by the various names given to him in the Bible. To name a few, he is called "Satan" 54 times, which means adversary or opponent. He is called "Beelzebub," the prince of evil spirits. He is called a "liar," a "murderer" (Jn. 8:44), "Apollyon" (destroyer), "Dragon" (monstrous), "Serpent" (subtle,

clever, sly), "roaring lion" (animal of prey), "angel of light" (thing of beauty in order to deceive), etc. Is it no wonder that he is so capable of causing so much trouble in the world?

Permit me to give you more details about the "prince of darkness." He is a created spirit that had the name Lucifer. He is a cherub that is said to be anointed. His original position was near the very throne of God (see Ezk. 28:13-17). Being a free moral agent, he exercised a rebellious will against God his creator by desiring to take over the throne of God, and by so doing, he fell and became the immediate adversary (Satan) of God, and then in time, of man (See Isa. 14:14-16).

He wants to take God's place, he desires to be worshiped, honored, adored and glorified. His exact words are, "I will be like


the Most High" (Isa. 14:14). He tempted Eve with the same principle of attaining god-hood by declaring, "Ye shall be as gods" (Gen. 3:5). He boldly stated to our Lord that he would give Him the kingdoms of this world if He (Christ) would only "bow down and worship me (Satan)," (Mt. 4:9). As you can see, he desires creature worship.

During the tribulation period, Satan's "man" known as the antichrist will exhibit Satan's god-seeking desires by setting himself up "as God" (2 Thess. 2:4). Through the permissive will of God, he is presently in charge of this world's system (Kosmos), a civilization without the true and living God. To show his authority over the world, he is called "the god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4), the "prince of this world" (Jn. 12:31), and the "prince of the air" (Eph. 5:8).

The foolish notion that he is penned-up in "hell" is quickly done away with when we read scriptures like Job 1:7 where we are told he goes "to and fro in the earth ... walking up and down in it" and "he goeth about as a roaring lion" (1 Pet. 5:8).

We need to know how to "resist the devil" (Jas. 4:7). To "resist" successfully, we must not be "ignorant of his devices (purposes, thoughts) (2 Cor. 2:11). We must be aware of his intentions. He hates God, and therefore, to get to God, he persecutes and seeks to corrupt the lives of God's people (2 Tim.

3:12; Jn. 17:14). Our real enemy is not "flesh and blood," but spiritual in nature (Eph. 6:10-17). We can "stand against the wiles (trickery, craftiness, cunning) of the devil" (Eph. 6:11), if we depend upon the power of God's might (Eph. 6:10).

Satan "deceiveth the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). He blinds the eyes of unbelievers to the truth of salvation (2 Cor. 4:3-4), by taking the Word of God out of their hearts (Mt. 13:19), and skillfully attacks the Bible full time in various ways through the agency of his ministers (2 Cor. 11:13-15). He is the enemy of our souls. The lost will spend eternity with him in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10, 15). 

Where Is Thy God?

By R. Nelson Colyar

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?" (Psa. 42:1-3)

The author of this Forty-second Psalm is not known. Whether it was "David during the time of Absalom," or "one of the (See **PSALM** on page 13)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Critics Say “Intelligent Design” Is Creationism Masquerading as Science

Is “intelligent design” theory just old-fashioned creationism dressed up as science or is it a legitimate scientific challenge to Charles Darwin’s evolutionary theories?

This is the question facing the Ohio state school board.

Board members will vote this fall on whether to allow 10th grade high school teachers to tell students about the intelligent design theory. If Ohio OK’s intelligent design, the matter could be up for debate in other states, reigniting the battle between evolutionists and creationists.

Intelligent design proponents want Ohio’s high school science teachers to be allowed to tell students about what they say is a scientific debate concerning alleged flaws in Darwinian theory.

They claim Darwin’s evolutionary theories cannot explain the complexity in all the Earth’s biological systems. Intelligent design theory holds that some natural systems are too complex to have randomly evolved into their current form and that there is an intelligent designer at work.

But intelligent design theorists are quick to point out that they do not necessarily call that “intelligent designer” God. They do not tie their theory to any sa-

cred text, or the creation account in Genesis, but intelligent design theory includes some kind of divine spark.

“I do think God is real and created the universe, but I don’t know how,” says Jonathan Wells, author of “Icons of Evolution”. In his book, Wells challenges some of Darwin’s theories about natural selection and random mutation. He claims there are structures and natural systems that defy Darwin.

Take for example flagellar motors, the mechanism that powers the flagellum, a tail-like structure that moves bacteria through water. Intelligent design proponents claim the motor has so many parts, and is so complex, that it could not work unless all the pieces are assembled in their proper places, all at the same time. That, they say, does not allow for a slow evolutionary process, and makes room for some kind of unknown designer.

“Scientists require that we focus all our attention on this physical world; well, I think this physical world is only part of the story,” Wells said. “Students are often told that this physical world is all there is.”

Wells, who holds a doctorate in theology from Yale and a second Ph.D. in molecular biology from

Berkeley, is one of the leaders of the intelligent design movement. He spoke to the Ohio school board in March about the controversy between intelligent design and evolution.

He and other scientists, mostly from the Discovery Institute in Seattle, are not asking that intelligent design be given equal time in classrooms, or even that teachers be required to teach it. They say they are asking that teachers simply be allowed to tell students about what they call flaws in Darwinian theory.

Intelligent design proponents say “teachers who tell classes about the theory are often censored, punished or reassigned by school boards that want to avoid any controversy over the issue.” Are you even going to censor criticism of Darwinian theory? There is this idea that you teach Darwin, only Darwin and nothing but Darwin,” said the Discovery Institute’s Mark Edwards.

Evolutionists vow to stop teachers from telling students about the intelligent design theory; they claim it is nothing more than souped-up creationism.

“Religious theories of creation should not be included in science classes because they are unconstitutional and are bad educational policy,” says Steven Sheinberg, assistant direc-


tor of legal affairs for the Anti-Defamation League. “Intelligent design is just another species of creationism. It seeks to bring God into the classroom,” Sheinberg said.

What’s more, opponents say, intelligent design is bad science, and isn’t much of a theory when held up against Darwin. “As far as evolution is concerned, the debate is closed, as much as any debate in science can be closed,” said Skip Evans, network project director for the Oakland, Calif.-based National Center for Science Education.

Evans said he suspects that intelligent design proponents are not being honest about their true beliefs and aims.

But if intelligent design is creationism masquerading as science, it is well disguised; creationists don’t like it.

“It doesn’t go far enough,” said Kenn Hamm, leader of Answers in Genesis. Hamm and his organization believe in the Genesis creation account.

“To me they don’t have the same foundation. I think there is value in getting people to think about a creator and intelligence behind things, but ultimately, if we are not talking about the creator God of the Bible, what good is that?” Hamm asked. — RNS 



Petroleum In Minutes, Coal In Hours

By Duane T. Gish, Ph.D

Theories concerning the formation of coal based on the assumptions of uniformitarian geologists generally postulate that coal was formed from trees and other vegetable matter growing in extensive peat bogs found in tropical areas. It is assumed that dead organic material accumulated in these forests for thousands to many tens of thousands of years, depending on the thickness of the seam, before the material was buried by a rise in the level of nearby seas. Compression under a vast weight of overlaying sediment through millions of years resulted in the coal deposits found today, it is said.

This *in situ* theory or autochthonous theory as it is called, is preferred by most evolutionary geologists. There are some geologists who, even though committed to the evolutionary hypothesis and geological ages, argue that the evidence indicates that the organic material which contributed to the formation of the coal did not grow where the coal is now found, but was deposited there by water transport. They have

proposed that this plant material was carried by rivers into lakes or estuaries where it was buried. This is known as the allochthonous theory of coal formations.

The allochthonous or transport theory of coal formation is advocated by catastrophist geologists who believe that the earth and the life on it were the result of a recent creation rather than the product of evolutionary changes through immense stretches of geologic time. Of the 20th Century catastrophists, George McCready Price **The New Geology**, 1923 was the pioneer. James C. Whitcomb and Henry M. Morris **The Genesis Flood**, 1964 inspired a great modern revival in creationist catastrophism. Price and Whitcomb and Morris maintained that the great Noachic Flood accounted for the transport and sudden burial of the vast amounts of vegetal material required for the formation of the coal seams found in the earth today.

Melvin Cook **Prehistory and Earth Models** 1966 has also advocated a catastrophic allochthonous (transport) process for the burial and conversion of

plant material into coal. His ice cap model of continental drift postulates sudden thrusting and deep vegetal burial under variable loads of strata.

It has generally been supposed by uniformitarian geologists that oil and gas were generated largely from marine type organisms during compaction of a sedimentary basins. Again it is asserted that geologic ages were required for its formation, following which the oil collected in traps.

The models of creation catastrophists, such as those of Whitcomb and Morris and of Cook, on the other hand, account for the conversion of marine or vegetal matter into oil and gas in a relatively short time. As these authors point out (Cook has presented an especially well-documented case), the time required to convert cellulosic matter into coal, and cellulosic or marine organic matter into oil and gas, is determined by the temperature and pressure. The process would be quite rapid at the high temperatures and pressures generated by a combination of burial and friction which would have resulted from the flooding and earth movements postulated in their models.

It has now been experimentally demonstrated that *cellulosic (plant derived) material, such as garbage or manure, can be converted into a good grade of petroleum in 20 minutes*. In other experiments, *wood or other cellulosic*

material was converted into coal or coal-like products in a matter of hours. These experiments conclusively demonstrate that the formation of coal and oil did not necessarily require millions of years or even thousands of years to form, but that such products could have formed easily within the relatively short time since the Flood.

The Formation of Oil

The experiments of Bureau of Mines scientists in which cow manure was converted to petroleum are described in *Chemical and Engineering News*, May 29, 1972, p. 14. The process could also utilize other cellulosic materials such as wood, bark, corn husks, rice hulls, wheat straw, sewage, sludge, and garbage. Two methods were used. In the first method a pyrolytic method was used. In the second method, the material was heated under pressure in the presence of steam and carbon monoxide, with or without a catalyst.

In the first method, manure or other material was heated in a closed system at 900 degrees centigrade (1652 degrees Fahrenheit) for about six hours. The products were gas, oil and solids, all of which can be used for fuel. This experiment probably has less relevancy to the formation of oil and gas in the earth because of the very high

(See **COAL** on page 5)

COAL...

(Continued from page 4)

temperature used. The same results might be obtained, however, with the non-cellulosic material of marine organisms at a much lower temperature by extending the heating period to days, weeks, or months.

In the second method, the manure was heated at 380 degrees C (716 degrees F), at 2000 to 5000 p.s.i. for 20 minutes in the presence of carbon monoxide and steam. The product was a heavy oil of excellent heating quality. The yield was about three barrels of oil per ton of manure.

As Cook has pointed out, protoplasm and chlorophyll are present in marine organisms. These components readily decompose, so there should be no difficulty in getting the reaction started, even at relatively low temperatures, during the conversion of these organisms to gas and oil. The heat generated by compression, the increase in temperature with depth, and the heat generated by friction of crustal thrusting caused by the tremendous cataclysmic burial and earth movements which occurred at the time of the Flood would have caused the temperature to rise sufficiently to initiate the exothermic reaction (heat is given off during this chemical reaction). The reaction would then, under the temperature and pressure gen-

erated, have proceeded to completion. The nature of the products would have been determined by the particular conditions of temperature and pressure under which these products formed.

The Formation of Coal

The formation of coal from woody or other cellulosic material in a very short time was demonstrated by experiments performed by Dr. George R. Hill of the College of Mines and Mineral Industries of the University of Utah. His report may be found in Chem. Tech., May, 1972, p. 296.

In these experiments the material was heated under high confining pressures. The reaction was exothermic, and had a negative pressure coefficient, that is, the lower the pressure the lower the temperature required to initiate the reaction. Some special features of Dr. Hill's experimental results have very important implications for the formation of coal under the catastrophic conditions proposed by flood geologists, or by Melvin Cook with his ice cap model of continental drift, which would have occurred catastrophically shortly after the time of the Flood, presumably.

Dr. Hill found that when the rate of heating was increased from 0.5 degrees C per minute to 5 degrees C per minute, a dramatic temperature rise occurred

in the temperature range of 220 degrees to 260 degrees C. This sudden rise in temperature, which amounted to 200 degrees to 400 degrees, indicate the onset of a highly exothermic reaction. Properties of the products were similar to those found in anthracite and low volatile bituminous coals.


The significance of these results with reference to the flood and other catastrophic models is evident from Dr. Hill's remarks. He stated that, "These observations suggest that in their formation, high rank coals, i.e., anthracite and low volatile bituminous, which contain large concentrations of multi-ring carbon-hydrogen structures, were probably subjected to high temperature at some stage in their history.

A Possible Mechanism For Formation of These High Rank Coals Could Have Been a Short Time, Rapid Heating Event

Here, then, is experimental evidence that these coals may not only have formed rapidly, but that *their formation may have required catastrophic short time events*. Such events would be required to generate the rapid rise in temperature which apparently is necessary for the initiation of the highly exothermic reaction involved in the production of these coals. The tremendous catastrophic earth movements associated with the

"breaking up of the great deep" (Gen. 7:11) during the Noahic Flood, or with the catastrophic continental breakup proposed by Cook, would provide the mechanism necessary to produce such conditions.

On the other hand, the uniformitarian geological model, the evolutionary model postulating billions of years for the age of the earth and geological processes proceeding at rates visible today, has no mechanism for generating such conditions, certainly not on the worldwide scale required. According to presently accepted theories of evolutionary geologists on mountain buildings and continental drift, these processes were very shallow, requiring tens of millions of years. Such processes would thus have resulted in very slow, gradual change and could not have provided the short time, rapid heating event indicated by Dr. Hill as necessary.

We must emphasize that the evidence discussed in this article does not prove that oil and coal were produced by a catastrophic event such as the flood. Science has no way of ever proving anything that has occurred in the past. Such evidence is persuasive evidence in support of Flood geology, however, and certainly does prove that millions of years were not necessary for the formation of these products, but that they could have formed in an extremely short time, geologically speaking. 

Baptists and Interdenominational “Essentialism”


One of the most disturbing matters facing our Baptist churches today is the interdenominational movement. Since it is creating confusion in most places and open division in others, it forces us to raise the question as to our attitude toward it.

While frankly admitting that many benefits have come from interdenominationalism, the writer's opinion is that it is found wanting on several points:

First, the very heart of this movement is that only some truths of the Bible are essential, and therefore important. For example, according to this view, baptism is regarded as a non-essential.

Consider, as a contrast, the procedure of our churches. Requiring, as they do, a regenerate, immersed membership, their very practice makes of this ordinance an essential truth for fellowship and co-operation within the church! We have never found the answer as to how some who are members of churches which practice this truth as an essential can so easily lay it aside to cooperate with others outside the church who disregard this accepted Scriptural practice.

There is a point of consistency here that should be determined. The limited nature of this article forbids citation of the many of

our spiritual forbears in history who suffered physical hardship and even death rather than compromise on this one truth alone. They did not regard it as a non-essential! — Baptist Bulletin. 

The Great God Statistics: The Modern Book of Numbers

When the structural pre-empts the place of the spiritual, a materialization of the faith results. The spiritual content of the Gospel becomes a possession which can be assessed by statistical analysis and quantitative measurements.

Missionary thrust is gauged by the number of conversions; Christian nurture is gauged by the number who attend church school; Christian piety is gauged by the number who attend the preaching service and prayer-meeting; Christian stewardship is gauged by the size of the budget; Christian efficiency is gauged by whether one technique is used, in preference to another. And the criterion for the selection of one technique over another is whether it produces a more statistical result.


The spiritual content of the gospel thus becomes a commodity which can be distributed and promoted. The gospel can be “spread” just as though it were salad dressing or peanut butter.

The Inadequate Pastor

A pastor could spend twelve hours a day, seven days a week calling on the lost and the unchurched. Or he could spend those hours calling in the homes of members who are sick or inactive. Or he might spend all these working hours on administration inside the church. Or he may spend his time ministering to the troubled, distressed, humanity that needs his message, somehow managing to handle funerals, weddings, and countless other obligations. Or he may spend

twelve hours a day in his study with great profit to himself and the church. Other activities and meetings he must work in somewhere.

So a pastor must forever remain inadequate. He may attempt to cover five fields of endeavor, devoting about twenty percent of his time to each, leaving each job eighty percent undone!

Hence, the term “inadequate pastor.” Inadequate, desperately busy, always behind in his work, yet the preacher thinks his job is the best on earth. Pray for him and bear with him 

NOT ONCE

Africa, China, The Islands of the Sea,
Mexico, Peru and the nations that be.
The need is so great we cannot delay;
Behold! Costa Rica, Brazil and Uruguay

The nations of the world before us unfold;
The gospel they need ... the truth must be told!
You will not move when the Lord bids go!
You still linger there and slowly say no!

I haste to ask you then does it suffice
That they hear not once, when you have heard twice!
Twice ... and again, yea, A thousand-fold more!
Wait! Hear ye the cry from the Amazon shore.

Those ever-grasping hands; the heart-rending plea;
The spiritual hunger you can't fail to see.
That darkened soul for whom Jesus died
Must now be pointed to the Crucified.

Yea, the Risen One, who with love intercedes
For the man who humbly comes and mercy pleads.
Oh, God, haste the day when You will return;
But first let us win souls for whom we yearn!

Mistakes God Did Not Make

By B. H. Shaddock, Ph.D.

Life on earth depends on the good behavior of snowflakes. Just a little mistake by the Creator, and the earth would be as dead as the other planets.

Many astute minds have overlooked the fact that if life had evolved on the earth without a master mind it would have evolved its own destroyers.

If the Holy Scriptures had not been inspired, some of the hundreds of mistakes that are found in all other ancient books would have gotten into the Bible, and it would be as easily discredited as they are.

Many visionary theories would not be taken seriously if men realized that, through the centuries, subtraction and addition must play together or break up the game. If, for the last 3,000 years, the annual birth rate of mice and men had exceeded the death rate by *only one half of one percent*, a million more worlds would have been needed for colonization.

The Delicate Adjustment of Nature

Honest thinkers must see, if they investigate, that only an infallible mind could have adjusted our world and its life in its amazing intricacies. The purpose of this article is to show that it would have been a mistake if God had done any other

way than the Bible says He did.

The God of the Holy Scriptures is the only God whom scientists seriously consider — all others have been discredited. He is the only God whom free-thinkers, rethinkers, and methinkers regard as a worthwhile target. Yet the nominal church has leaders who apologize for the mistakes of the Bible — the only source of authority the church has.

Of course, if, through the ages, God has sponsored a religion that needs to have its discredited theories replaced every century, *as science does with its own theories*, He must have made many mistakes.

Man is the mistake-maker of the universe. He has made more trouble for God and himself than within the bounds of human calculation. A colony of ants makes fewer errors. A library could be filled with details of silly and even appalling superstitions that have shackled the race — many of them with us yet.

All other ancient books accepted the delusions of their times. You would expect a God to know better. He did. If the Bible warned against black cats, planting in the wrong phase of the moon or when the signs of the zodiac are not propitious, if the Bible had sponsored any of the hoodoo,

voodoo, powwow, and jinx-defeating rites that are popular with many, ignorance would be a Christian asset. Those who insist that much of the Bible is folklore have yet to explain why the Bible disapproves of “old wives’ fables,” sorcery, enchantment, soothsaying, witchcraft, necromancy, and the fleet of superstitions that enslaved the world.

Old-fashioned Medicine

It is not so long ago that the treatment of many sick people started with the *bleeding of the patient*. In my youth, children with measles were dosed with a tea made from the refuse of the sheep barn, and children with croup were given a drink so revolting that I shrink from naming it. If the Bible prescribed any of a hundred old-time remedies now discarded by science, atheists would make much of it. In the Bible we have figs for poultice, wine for disinfectant, and oil to anoint damaged tissues — good medicine yet.

The Bible is the only ancient sacred book that has emphasized prophecy and has staked its case on the forecasts of the prophets. Prophecies that do not come true *ought to discredit their purveyors*; but unfortunately, multitudes come back for a second and third helping. Since my days in a little brick schoolhouse I have heard and read the forecasts of teachers, philosophers, states-

men, poets, politicians, and some preachers, who with amazing unanimity have prophesied the speedy moral uplift of the nations. For a few decades it seemed evident to many that reform forces working in and with the church might Christianize society, *before the order of events foretold by our Lord could reach consummation*. But the forecasts of a million volunteer prophets have now been discarded by present world conditions — the Bible is unimpeached. Surely no student of the Bible will say that God ever promised peace, prosperity, and stability to any nation when its show houses, stadiums, arenas, grandstands, night clubs, and saloons are crowded and its churches comparatively empty. Just now it takes a deal of credulity to blow the whistle for Utopia as the next station stop. We have had prophecies from every stratum of society, — from poolroom to pulpit, — and those not in harmony with the Word of God have failed.

Let me put it mildly. I can understand how a misinformed prophet can continue popular *before* his prophecies are discredited, but I cannot understand how he can continue unabashed *after* the opposite of what he has promised comes true. If the Bible forecast is right and his forecast has been wrong, it

(See **MISTAKES** on page 15)



“Get Kids Out of Calif. Public Schools.” —

Most public schools today have become government indoctrination centers. James Dobson recently urged parents not to send their kids to public schools in California for fear they could be corrupted by a pro-homosexual agenda. His Focus on the Family last year singled out 10 “radical bills” that would “require [Calif.] teachers to tell children that homosexuality is normal and that anybody who objects is hateful” (5/02 *Baptist Banner*). Dr. Laura stood with Dobson and said: “Take your kids out of public schools.” Pat Buchanan said (3/28): “Anyone who teaches a child that homosexuality is a moral, natural and healthy lifestyle is lying to that child.” — CC

Bush Signs Housing Allowance Law. —

President Bush has signed into law a bill designed to protect a long-standing housing tax exemption for ordained ministers and other clergy. Bush signed the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act May 20 after the legislation sped

World News Roundup

through Congress in the face of a judicial challenge to the exemption’s constitutionality. The unusually rapid legislative action came after a panel of the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals announced in March it was reviewing the constitutionality of the allowance. Enactment of the measure came less than six weeks after the bill was introduced. The measure passed both the Senate and House of Representatives without opposition. The House adopted it with a 408-0 vote April 16, while the Senate agreed by unanimous consent to the same bill May 2. Since 1921, pastors and other religious leaders have been able to deduct from federal taxes a portion of their income for housing. The new law is intended to preserve the exemption by amending the Internal Revenue Code to make clear the allowance should not exceed the “fair rental value” of a house, including furnishings, accessories and utilities. — BP

Pro-gay Bishop In Lead For Canterbury Post. —

A nominating commission has picked Archbishop Rowan Williams of Wales as its first choice to be the new leader of the worldwide Anglican

Communion and the Church of England, *The London Times* has reported. Among candidates for archbishop of Canterbury, Archbishop Williams, 52, stands out for his liberal view on gay priests, a divisive issue among the world’s 77 million Anglicans. In 1998, 82% of the world’s Anglican bishops opposed same sex activity. But Archbishop Williams declined to endorse that decision before the 1998 vote, he had ordained a gay priest living with a partner, the *London Telegraph* said last month. After that report, the archbishop told an interviewer in Australia, “I am not convinced that a homosexual has to be celibate in every imaginable circumstance.”

Carter’s Trek To

Cuba. — Former president Jimmy Carter, in a five-day trip in May, became the first U.S. president since Calvin Coolidge to set foot in Cuba. He dined with Castro, praised his “superb systems of health care and universal education,” and called for the lifting of the 40-year-old U.S. embargo of the communist country. [Why didn’t *he* lift it when he was president?] White House officials said Carter’s visit was an undeserved public-relations coup for Castro (5/25 *World*).



Alina Fernández, the émigré daughter of the Cuban dictator, chastised Carter for playing into the hands of her father’s brutal and repressive regime. Forget Castro’s charm offensive. Cuba for nearly 10 years has been producing bio-terrorism weapons complicit with Russia (6/1 *World*). Pres. Carter is not only undiscerning politically, but also spiritually so. He, as a Baptist Sunday School teacher, said it is wrong to believe that Mormon doctrine is essentially non-Christian and that Mormons are in need of evangelization. — CC

Britain To Relax Marijuana Laws. —

The British government plans to make the use and possession of marijuana less serious crimes. Home Secretary David Blunkett said police would retain the authority to arrest those caught with marijuana but in most cases would only confiscate the drug and issue a warning. The downgrade will put marijuana on a par with anabolic steroids instead of amphetamines

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La Voz Del Desierto

El Primer Mártir Cristiano

Por M. A. Curet

En la edición anterior, del mes de Julio, escribimos sobre la *Vida Y Predicación de Juan El Bautista*. Estuvimos viendo que Juan El Bautista es una de las personas más extraordinarias que existen en la Biblia. Fue tan extraordinario, que Jesús dice que entre los nacidos de mujeres, no había una persona más grande que Juan El Bautista, excepto Jesús mismo (Lucas 7:28). En esta edición trataremos sobre el *Martirio de Juan El Bautista* (su muerte), y el significado que ésta tiene para nosotros los creyentes bautistas.

Según Mateo 14, Juan El Bautista, y no Esteban (Hechos 7), fue el primer mártir cristiano. Ahora, ¿por qué entonces Esteban es considerado por muchos como el primero? Quizá sea porque algunos predicadores y escritores se han encargado de enterrar muy efectivamente la vida y obra de Juan El Bautista. La Biblia demuestra que Juan El Bautista era completamente cristiano. Su vida era una vida completamente cristiana, y en su muerte no lo fue menos. Ciertos factores acerca de su martirio son merecedores de discusión:

I. El Código Moral de Juan El Bautista se convirtió para él en un enemigo mortal.

Veamos Marcos 6:17-20. Este Herodes (Herodes Antipas), era un hombre malvado, hijo de Herodes el Grande, el que reinaba durante el nacimiento de Cristo. Juan El Bautista lo reprendía por causa de Herodías, mujer de Felipe su hermano, y por todas las maldades que había cometido (Lucas 3:19-20). Herodías, quien era nieta de Herodes el Grande, y esposa de Herodes Felipe, su tío; lo abandonó para unirse a Herodes Antipas, hermano de éste, y también tío de ella.

Herodías estaba planificando cómo podía dar muerte a Juan El Bautista, pues estaba encolerizada, con motivo a la severa censura que Juan le hacía, por la unión adúltera e incestuosa que llevaba con Herodes Antipas, su tío.

Cuando un predicador habla en contra de la maldad, y les dice a todos que deben hacer lo bueno, y dejar de hacer lo malo que están haciendo, el que obra mal se siente ofendido, y este era el caso de Herodías. Pero, Juan El

Bautista no tenía compromiso con nadie, sino con Dios. Él no hablaba como un individuo ordinario, sino que él hablaba lo que Dios le decía que hablara; como un buen soldado de Jesucristo (2da Timoteo 2:1-6).

El Espíritu Santo siempre estuvo con él y tenía que exponer las prácticas profanas a su alrededor (sacarlas a la luz). Él no estaba actuando de manera descortés, él simplemente era obediente a su Señor. El Señor Jesús era el más cortés de los hombres, pero a la vez, era el más severo al exponer contra el pecado y la hipocresía de los hombres. Juan era semejante a su Señor. Herodías se valió de Salomé, su hija, para mandar a matar a Juan El Bautista, porque él era un hombre bueno y ella era una mujer mala, sus obras eran malas (Juan 3:19-21).

II. Otro factor digno de discusión es la duda de Juan El Bautista en la prisión.

Esta prisión era muy incómoda y no tenía facilidades sanitarias. Acrecentaba aún más su tormento, el ver que no podía predicarles a las

grandes multitudes, lo cual era su más ardiente deseo. Él deseaba que los pecadores se arrepintieran de sus pecados, lo confesaran y se volvieran al camino recto de Dios. Él les predicaba a las multitudes que el Mesías había venido a poner el hacha en la raíz de los árboles y a limpiar su era (Mateo 3:10-12).

Jesús no realizó el cumplimiento total de estas predicciones en el tiempo de Juan; no realizó todo lo que Juan estaba predicando y sanando, pero aún no le había dado el pago a sus enemigos, ni estaba haciendo algo por sacarlo de aquella terrible prisión. Ante toda esta confusión, Juan envía dos de sus discípulos a preguntar a Jesús, si Él era el Mesías, o tendrían que esperar a otro (Mateo 11:2-3). Un alivio que Juan tenía en prisión era que se le permitía la visita de algunos de sus discípulos.

Ante la pregunta de Juan, el Señor Jesús le respondió con relación a sus obras (Lucas 7:18-23). Los milagros eran una excelente evidencia de la venida de Jesús como el Mesías. Jesús citó a Juan, una vez,

(Vea **JUAN** en la pág 10)

Debemos Estar Gozosos En Todo Momento

Por Jemar Montes,
Redactora


A veces parece ser, que algunos hermanos nos brindan una sonrisa o saludo, como por compromiso, y no debe ser así. Recordemos que un gesto dice más que mil palabras. Tengamos mucho cuidado con esto, ya que se puede prestar para habladurías y discordia entre los hermanos, causando a la vez malestar entre ellos. Tengamos presente que esto no agrada a Dios (Rom. 12:9).

El verdadero cristiano tiene ese gozo eterno en su corazón y así lo manifiesta siempre, aun en momentos de pruebas o tribulaciones (2da Cor. 7:14). Seamos testimonio fiel de nuestra conversión, que las personas noten que somos cristianos verdaderos, siendo nuestro testimonio el que hable por nosotros. Siendo firmes y constantes para poder atraer más almas a los caminos del Señor.

No dejemos que las pruebas o tribulaciones apaguen nuestro gozo. Demos siempre lo mejor para el Señor, así como Él lo hizo con nosotros. Trabajemos siempre para su gloria, en cosas que edifiquen, que aporten al crecimiento nuestro, y de la Iglesia. Fomentemos el gozo

que sentimos sirviéndole al Señor, escudriñando Su Palabra. Pidámosle al Señor dirección, que nos capacite para trabajar para Su obra, como siervos fieles y aprobados. Dando el máximo, disciplinándonos, sometiéndonos a su obediencia.

Que nuestro exterior sea el reflejo de lo interior, siendo de un mismo ánimo siempre, sobreabundando en gozo, sabiendo que la venida del Señor está cerca. A Él sea la gloria.

“Regocijaos en el Señor siempre. Otra vez digo: ¡Regocijaos!” (Filipenses. 4:4). 

JUAN...

(Viene de la pág. 9)

ante sus críticos (Juan 5:30-36). ¿Quién en todo el mundo podía realizar semejantes milagros, como los que vieron realizar los discípulos de Juan ese día? *“Los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos son limpiados. ...”* La frase *“a los pobres es anunciado el evangelio,”* debió ser de gran consuelo a Juan en la cárcel. Esto le aseguraba que el ministerio de predicación que él comenzó, continuaría y que estaba en buenas manos. El tiempo de partida de Juan El Bautista estaba cercano.

III. El Martirio de Juan El Bautista ilustra grandes principios.

1) Dios no soborna a las personas con recompensas terrenales. La historia de Job es un ejemplo clásico.

2) Juan El Bautista fue un leal creyente hasta la muerte, aunque estuvo abandonado en un calabozo.

3) Nosotros los cristianos estamos en una batalla a muerte contra el pecado, Satanás y toda la mundanalidad. También debemos ser leales hasta la muerte, como lo fue Juan.

4) Nuestro amor a Dios y nuestra rectitud, debe ser más grande que nuestro amor por la vida misma.

5) La lealtad a Cristo tiene prioridad sobre todo compromiso terrenal.

6) El porqué de los sufrimientos del cristiano.

a) Algunos sufren por causa de sus pecados.

b) Algunos a consecuencia de los pecados de otros.

c) Algunos por las enfermedades comunes.

d) Otros por descuidos. Esto no nos debe sorprender, Jesús advirtió a sus discípulos de la necesidad del coraje en el tiempo de la persecución (Juan 16:2-4, 33).

IV. El martirio de Juan ilustra su bautismo.

Bautismo significa la muerte de un convertido al mundo de pecado, mundanalidad y al egoísmo. Si un convertido sufre muerte física, como consecuencia de su oposición al pecado y a la mundanalidad, esto es, en un sentido, consecuencia lógica de su profesión de fe.

Los que no sufren

martirio por su fe, son más afortunados que nuestro Señor Jesucristo y sus predecesores. El bautismo significa muerte al mundo de pecado y entrada a una nueva vida. El martirio de Juan El Bautista marca el comienzo de su recompensa eterna en los cielos. Juan El Bautista practicaba lo que predicaba y fue un fiel creyente hasta la muerte. Ratificó y validó su bautismo.

La malvada Herodías mandó a matar al hombre, que Jesús dijo, que era el “más grande de los nacidos de mujeres” (Lucas 7:28). Juan El Bautista murió de una muerte cruel (decapitado). Fue el primer bautista que muere por oponerse al pecado y a la maldad de Herodes. Con su muerte finaliza el trágico destino del profeta más grande de Israel (Marcos 6:23-28).

En su muerte, Juan El Bautista cumple con el bautismo que predicaba “morir al mundo de pecado.” En su coraje, rectitud y muerte, él fue un digno ejemplo para todos nosotros, los cristianos bautizados con el bautismo de Juan (Lucas 7:29). Esteban, Santiago, Pedro, Pablo, y otros mártires cristianos de todos los tiempos, han sido inspirados por la lealtad de Juan El Bautista a su Señor. Ellos subieron al cielo por medio del tormento, la angustia y el dolor, no aceptando rescate alguno, a fin de obtener mejor resurrección (Hebreos 11:35-40).

¡Oh Señor danos de tu gracia pra que podamos imitarlos! (1ra Cor.11:1).

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

WNR...

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and barbiturates, as it is now. Possession of marijuana now carries a maximum penalty of five years behind bars. The change should take effect by July 2003.

* * *

Is Marijuana Harmless? — White House drug czar John Walters says marijuana is not a harmless high. He says today's potheads inhale smoke that is 10 to 20 times stronger than what earlier generations used, making it addictive enough that 60% of "teens in drug treatment have a primary marijuana diagnosis" (5/11 *World*). Walters says the drug has carcinogens, can hurt a user's concentration and memory, and is linked to tens of thousands of car accidents. — CC

* * *

Castro's "Pro-Socialism" Amendment. — Cuban leader Fidel Castro has called a special parliamentary session to approve a constitutional amendment that would declare the country's socialist system as "untouchable." The move follows a massive petition drive, orchestrated by Castro, throughout the communist nation. ... Many observers believe that Castro initiated the petition drive in favor of his amendment to head

off a petition drive by dissidents that calls for a constitutional amendment granting more freedoms of speech, press and assembly. Oswaldo Paya told reporters in Havana that his effort — dubbed the Varela Project — won't be stopped by Castro's campaign to gather signatures for his own competing amendment. ... Castro's amendment states: "Cuba is an independent and sovereign socialist State of workers organized by all its people for the well-being of all, as a unitary and democratic Republic, for the enjoyment of political freedom, social justice, individual and collective well-being and human solidarity." Earlier this month, Castro said his pro-socialism amendment is a rebuttal of President George W. Bush's efforts to "destroy the work of the Cuban revolution." ... Passing an amendment upholding socialism is Castro's way of thumbing his nose at Bush. — CNS

* * *

Gun Control In England. — Britain outlawed handguns about 5 years ago, and since then, there has been a jump in handgun crime of 40% (6/3 *New Amer.*). Robbers in England simply refuse to abide by the gun-control laws so the number of London's armed robbery victims rose 53% between April and November 2001 (6/8 *World*). The

chances of being mugged in London are six times greater than in New York. The old prediction is true: "When guns are outlawed, only outlaws have guns." [The Bush administration recently defended the Second Amendment right for individuals to keep and bear arms, but subject to "reasonable restrictions."] — CC

* * *

Missionaries Arrested In China For Helping North Koreans Escape. — Beijing appears to be clamping down further on activists who help North Koreans defect to the South via foreign missions in China, according to South Korean officials. After several months of silence in the hope of a quick resolution, the Seoul government said three South Korean Christian missionaries are under arrest in China. ... A fourth Christian missionary, Korean-American Joseph Choi, is also under arrest in China.

* * *

Oprah's Gospel. — The gospel according to Oprah offends no one, promises everything, and asks nothing except that devotees earn their way to a nebulous salvation (5/21 *CT*). Oprah says, "One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe there is only one way. Actually, there are many

diverse paths leading to what you call God." — CC

* * *

UK Plans To Expand Sex Ed Programs In Schools. — The British government plans to expand sex education and contraceptive distribution in some high schools in a new attempt to curb teen pregnancy, the Department of Health said. The department said it will boost its support to allow individual schools to set up sexual health clinics. A spokeswoman said each school will determine its own policy on contraception and that children under age 16 could receive condoms or contraceptive pills in the clinics. ... A report released last month by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) found that Britain had the second-highest teen pregnancy rate among 28 industrialized nations. Only the United States had a higher percentage. Pro-life and family groups weren't happy with the announcement. Nuala Scarisbrick, a trustee for anti-abortion group Life, accused the government of failing young people. "We cannot believe the Department of Health still thinks that handing out condoms and Pills free to schoolchildren will help reduce teen pregnancy," she said. "It won't. It will only cause more teenage pregnancy." — CNS

(See WNR on page 12)

WNR...

(Continued from page 11)

Accreditation Denied Over Creationism Stand.

— Accreditation was denied Patrick Henry College, an outreach to home-schooled students, because of its stated “biblical worldview” and its instruction in creationism (6/02 NLJ). Its president, Michael Farris, said PHC is denied its freedom to think, believe, and speak contrary to the norm of academia. The rather new PHC has about 150 students. It plans to appeal. — CC

* * *

Is Human Cloning Murder?

— With the rise of bio-technology, the protection of life requires opposition to human cloning and embryo-destroying stem-cell research (5/4 *World*). Destroying an embryo that was created by cloning is the moral equivalent of taking a human life (5/9 *Ala. Baptist*). “Human cloning is a grievous assault on God as the author of life and an insult to Him as the Lord of life. Human cloning of embryos for the purpose of destroying them for their stem cells multiplies that horror.” — CC

* * *

SBC “Tenuous” Support of BWA. — The Southern Baptist Convention continues to provide substantial funding for the

Baptist World Alliance — an organization that has ties to the one-world church movement. The BWA has ties to the United Nations and the World Council of Churches. Former SBC president Paige Patterson says the relationship between the SBC and the BWA is “tenuous” and “under continuous evaluation (5/15 *Agape Press*).” He said it’s always a difficult decision. Do you stay in and try to keep it from getting out of hand, or do you vacate it? He adds: “And of course, the independent Baptists’ effort has always been to separate.” — CC

* * *

Presbyterians Lost 32,000 Members in 2001.

— The nation’s largest Presbyterian body (PCUSA) lost 31,549 members last year. This decline follows a larger steady trend in liberal Protestant mainline churches since membership peaked in the mid-1960s (5/27 *Christian News*). Over \$4.2 million in personnel and program cut-backs were announced. — CC

* * *

Falwell: “Bright Is Greatest Missionary Since Paul.”

— Many good things could be said about Dr. Bill Bright and Campus Crusade’s sincere efforts in worldwide evangelism. But to a large degree, this has been a min-

istry of disobedience. For, along the way, Bright has warmly embraced Catholics and Charismatics, and has linked himself with a plethora of ecumenical endeavors. Yet, Jerry Falwell’s Liberty University on May 11, awarded honorary degrees to Bill and Vonette Bright for “their years of remarkable Christian service” (6/2 *Nat’l Liberty Journal*). And just prior to the ceremonies honoring the 1,560 LU graduates, Falwell noted: “In my opinion, Dr. Bill Bright is the greatest Christian missionary since the Apostle Paul.” — CC

* * *

Reorganized Mormons Change Name.

— Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints changed its name to Community of Christ in April 2001. It rejects some Mormon teachings, such as the idea that God was a man and that man may become God, but it holds to many of the same errors as the Mormons, e.g., accepting Joseph Smith as a prophet, taking the Book of Mormon as scripture, claiming the Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthoods were restored, believing in three levels of heaven and baptism for the remission of sins (David Cloud via. *C. News*). — CC

* * *

European Law Could Ban Distribution Of Old

Testament -- A proposed European Union law against racism could ban some children’s stories and even the Old Testament, a British legislator said Wednesday. Lord Richard Scott told colleagues that a suggested harmonization of European anti-racism laws would “almost certainly” ban children’s stories such as the Biggles series ... The EU proposal could also censor religious texts, Lord Scott said. “It would probably cover the distribution of the Old Testament as well,” he said. “I don’t know what the government’s reaction to this particular proposal will be. I imagine it will be a mixture of horror and laughter.” As an independent Law Lord, Scott is part of a special subgroup of Britain’s upper chamber of Parliament with expertise on legal matters. The Law Lords also serve as a final court of appeal for certain judicial cases. Lord Scott was speaking during a debate on proposals for a Europe-wide arrest warrant. ... “If any member state creates offences on these lines ... we in this country would be expected to extradite the accused under a (universal) European arrest warrant,” he said. Home Office minister Lord Rooker of the ruling Labor Party said a bill in line with the EU proposals would be introduced in Parliament before the legislature’s summer recess

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WNR . . .

(Continued from page 12)

begins in August. The EU legislation, introduced in the wake of Sept. 11, would outlaw “public incitement to violence or hatred for racist or xenophobic reasons and directing, supporting or participating in the activities of a racist or xenophobic group.” Racism and xenophobia is defined as hatred based on “race, colour, descent, *religion* or belief, national or ethnic origin.” — CNS

* * *

Oprah’s Church-Free Religion. — Oprah Winfrey since her 1986 debut has become one of the richest and most influential people in the world. In 1998 when she began “Change Your Life TV,” her main role has become that of spiritual leader.

To her “congregation” of over 22 million mostly female viewers, she has become a postmodern priestess — an icon of church-free spirituality (4/1 *Christianity Today*). Her message is partly New Age psychobabble, but it goes much deeper. Oprah clearly believes part of her talk show host role is to call her audience to a higher plane. The theological nature of that higher plane and her methods for getting there alarms many Christian critics. Her former pastor says of her: “She now has this sort of ‘God is everywhere, God is

in me, I don’t need to go to church, I don’t need to be a part of a body of believers, I can meditate, I can do positive thinking’ spirituality. . . .” Oprah has said, “One of the biggest mistakes humans make is to believe there is only one way. Actually, there are many diverse paths leading to what you call God.” This contradicts John 14:6. — CC

* * *

Girl In Pledge Case Is Christian. — The eight-year-old daughter of Michael Newdow, the atheist who sued a California school district over the Pledge of Allegiance on her behalf, is a Christian and wasn’t troubled by the words “under God,” a pastor acquainted with the family said. “The little girl, over whom the suit was filed, happens to attend Calvary Chapel in Elk Grove,” Pastor Chuck Smith told his congregation at Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, Calif., as apparently first reported by Conservative Press International News. “She is Christian, her mother is a Christian . . . This whole suit was filed on a totally false premise,” Smith said. . . . Newdow, a medical doctor who also holds a law degree, argued that the pledge violated his daughter’s First Amendment rights because she had to “watch and listen as her state-employed teacher in her state-run school leads her classmates in a ritual

proclaiming that there is a God, and that ours is ‘one nation under God’.” Based on Newdow’s complaint, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled 2-1 that reciting the Pledge of Allegiance in schools is unconstitutional. In his ruling, Judge Alfred Goodwin, an appointee of President Nixon, declared that the Constitution guarantees people in public places protection from state-sponsored religious declarations. The ruling, however, was put on hold under the vast amount of opposition it generated across the United States. While some legal experts applauded the intent of Newdow’s suit, no one seemed to think the ruling would survive very long. — CNS

* * *

Malaysian Police Refuse To Enforce Islamic Penal Code. — Attempts by a radical Malaysian Muslim party to impose controversial Islamic penal system in a state it rules has run into its first major hurdle: Police are refusing to enforce the newly-passed legislation. Days after the Terenggamu state government voted to introduce punishments including death for apostasy, limb amputations for theft, and stoning to death for adultery, the state’s police chief, Othman Talib, said police would not cooperate, as they were bound by the federal con-

stitution, which was higher than state laws. A similar stance was taken by the federal police inspector-general, Norian Mai. Terengganu, whose population is 95% Muslim, is ruled by the federal opposition Parti Islam SeMalaysia (PAS) party, whose political aim is to transform Malaysia into a fundamentalist state under Islamic (*shari’a*) law, with the accompanying hudud punitive code. — CNS

PSALM . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Levites banished by Queen Athaliah,” or “a godly Israelite who was carried into captivity,” as some suggest, is pure conjecture. But the purpose of this Psalm seems clear from the inscription: “To the Chief Musician, Maschil (instruction), for the sons of Korah.” The Psalmist gives utterance to the tearful heart-cry of the godly among the Israelites of his time. And one cannot resist the feeling that it expresses prophetically the heart-cry of the remnant of Israel in the “time of Jacob’s trouble,” the great tribulation period that is yet to bring her to recognize her Messiah in Jesus Christ our Lord.

It is not my purpose to set forth an exposition of this great Psalm, for this I cannot do, nor will space admit of it. But I want to raise the question for as

(See **PSALM** on page 14)

PSALM . . .

(Continued from page 13)

God's children of today: Where is thy God? Some will doubtless answer: "He is here;" and others, "He is there." But where? He cannot be seen with natural eye, nor can He be felt with the touch of the flesh. So, where will the seeker for God find Him?

The Psalmist seems to answer his own tearful cry in Psalm Forty-three: "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacle. Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God, my God." That's it: God is found of men dwelling in His own tabernacle! The godly Israelite, banished from his beloved city, Jerusalem, taunted by the ungodly, longs for his native land and for the house of God.

We read in Hebrews 3:5 "And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were spoken after." The Lord commanded Moses to build Him a sanctuary: "And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them" (Ex. 25:8). "So Moses finished the work. Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (Ex. 40:33-34). Here was the house of God among men, where there

was an altar of sacrifice and the glory of the Lord. There the weeping Psalmist would find him. There he would rejoice in his God.

After the Tabernacle in the wilderness came the Temple built by Solomon. "And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the Lord" (1 Ki. 8:10). Here on earth, in Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord the godly Israelite would find Him, dwelling in glory among men. There is where the sorrowing Psalmist would find Him. That is the answer to the taunts of the enemies of God's house and of God's people.

But our question is not fully answered as yet. That was a long, long time ago. Did a time ever come when God was not to be found in the Temple in Jerusalem? Yes, indeed. He is not there. Where then will we find God on earth now?

When Jesus of Nazareth came and had entered upon His public ministry, He went to the Temple in Jerusalem and met there this challenge from the rulers of the Jews: "What sign (miracle) showest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?" Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up," speaking of the temple of His body (Jn. 2:18-21). Then one day at the end of His earthly ministry came Jesus to that Temple in Jerusalem for the last time, and

said: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem ... Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Mt. 23:37-38). "God's house" had long since become "your house." "Ye shall not see me henceforth," He said, "till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." And Jesus went out of the Temple that day and shall never return till they who rejected Him as their promised Messiah are ready by repentance and faith to receive Him as their Savior and Lord.

But God has never left Himself without a witness (Acts 14:17). Though Israel was cut off as a house of witness, the Lord would provide a new house of testimony. As in the Old Testament the godly seeker after God would find God in His Tabernacle, the house that Moses built; so in the New Testament he that would find God will find Him in His house, the house that Jesus built. In the early part of His ministry, Jesus called The Twelve out from a multitude of disciples and gave to them the title of Apostle (Mark 3 and Luke 6). Here is the founding of the church, Jesus and The Twelve traversed the land, going from city to city preaching the gospel, making disciples and baptizing them (Jn. 4).

One day after a tour of Galilee He made this astounding announcement: "And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church

(assembly): and the gates of Hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). This is the first mention of the church in the Bible. It was His plan to set up an institution for the propagation of the gospel, and to confer upon this institution authority to carry on the work which He had only begun. After the Resurrection, He called for the eleven apostles to meet Him in Galilee. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world (age). Amen" (Mt. 28:18-20). He walked with the apostles for forty days after the resurrection giving them His commandments and "speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." Then He left them to tarry ten days for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

It was the first New Testament church. It was and is the new house of witness. Paul the apostle of Jesus Christ speaks of a New Testament church as "the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). Every truly New Testament

(See **PSALM** on page 15)


[GraceAnd Truth

“Full of grace and truth” — John 1:14

Grace and truth belong together in the Word of God. Here is the exquisite poise in the character of God. Here is the marvelous balance in the life of the Son of God.

Grace and truth belong together. Grace without truth is soft, sentimental and lacking in integrity. Truth without grace is harsh, and not winsome; it is more legalistic than persuasive; it will make bigots but not saints. Grace and truth were united perfectly in the Son of God, and every Christian should strive by the help of the Holy Spirit for that winsome union of grace and truth.

Truth is the backbone of grace. Grace is the soft cushioning of flesh upon the bony framework of truth. It is grace that gives warmth to truth. It is truth that gives integrity to grace.


Men are willing to accept the grace of God, if it does not insist upon truth. Christ in His life, in His teachings, in His death, was full of grace *and* truth. 

MISTAKES . . .

(Continued from page 7)

seems to me he should apologize to the Bible rather than *for* it.

Those who think of the Bible as a back number would show sagacity by reflecting on the words of our Lord, “Heaven and


earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away” (Mt. 24:35). The Bible records no prophecy having to do with our times that has not been fulfilled or is in process of fulfillment. 

PSALM . . .

(Continued from page 14)

church is a house of the living God (1 Cor. 3:16). We learn from Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus that every church “fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord.” From this we learn that not every church that may call itself a New Testament church is a house of God. There are counterfeit churches like there are counterfeit dollars. But we may be sure that every church built like the one Jesus built becomes a house of the living God.

The answer to our query is found. Every true New Testament church is “an habitation of God through the Spirit” (Eph. 2:21-22). God, in the Person of the Holy Spirit, dwells today among men in the house that Jesus built, a New Testament church.

The supreme challenge to Baptists today is this: “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches: (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). 

A complete Index for TBC for the years July 1994 through July 2002 may be found on our web site.

JEHOI . . .

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month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him. And it came to pass that when Jehudi read three or four leaves (of God’s Word to Jeremiah), he (Jehoiakim) cut it with a pen-knife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth” (Jer. 36:22-23).

Upon reading this passage describing the wicked king’s sacrilegious act of destroying holy Scripture, you may be led to the hasty conclusion that he was an out-and-out infidel, but that was by no means the case. On the other hand, he was a nominally God-fearing man, sitting even at the time of his sacrilege upon the throne of righteous David. There is no reason to doubt that Jehoiakim paid all due respect to the generally recognized body of holy Scriptures; but his was the *all-too-common sin of deleting that particular portion he did not care to receive*.

God spake, and Jeremiah wrote, rebuking Jehoiakim for his wickedness and unbelief, and predicting the calamitous onslaught of Nebuchadnezzar’s cruel army.

Jeremiah was already imprisoned, but he had Baruch to take the scroll on which he had penned God’s indictment against the proud Jehoiakim to a

public place, and there Baruch read it to the people on the day of fasting.

This led to an invitation from the princes for Baruch to read the same message to them. And “it came to pass when they had heard all the words, they were afraid both one and another, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words.” They did tell him, and Jehudi, the king’s henchman, was sent to fetch the scroll for Jehoiakim’s personal examination; whereupon, as we have shown you already, the angry king tried to annul the divine decree, break the Scriptures, and frustrate the plan and will of God by cutting and burning the scroll that bore the message he did not want to believe. But the prophecy was fulfilled to the last jot and tittle despite the king’s rash misdeed; and Jehoiakim succeeded only in adding another chapter to the record of his infamy when the sacred scroll was re-written by the prophet of God.

O, how many “Jehoiakims” we have among us today who make pretentious professions of piety and often hold important places to the churches of Christ, but who take it upon themselves to arbitrarily delete from the Word of God those portions of Scripture that convict them of their sins, or disturb their complacency, or offend their pride!

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2002) reveals that Israeli intelligence discovered that at least 50 houses in Jenin had been booby-trapped by the Palestine Liberation Organization. Since many buildings could not be neutralized without potentially killing the bomb crews (13 soldiers did die in one booby-trapped house), Israel decided to clear the houses of people and bulldoze the “homemade” bombs.

The Arab nations hate Israel. Why? The age old rivalry between Abraham’s descendants through Isaac (Jews) and Ishmael (Arabs) explains some of the eternal animosity. Unhindered access to the Mediterranean suggests part of why the Arabs have pledged a number of times to drive Israel into that sea. Jealousy over modern Israel’s success in turning a desert into an agricultural miracle hints at the hatred. Whatever the reason, no one can deny that the Arab nations would love to deny Israel the land that is legally theirs many times over. Animosity aside, who owns the land? An overview of the history of Israel and Palestine can answer that question.

Ancient Claim to Palestine

In 2066 B.C. God appeared to Abraham in the midst of the land in which he was sojourning. With an

anthropomorphic sweep of His hand God promised “the whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien. I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you” (Gen. 17:8). Abraham died owning only the cave in which he was buried, and he bought that — probably at an artificially inflated price.

Over 600 years passed before God honored His promise. By God’s direction, and under Joshua’s leadership, Israel invaded and conquered the land of Canaan and renamed it “Israel.” After Solomon’s magnificent reign ended in 930 B.C. the country split apart forming the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judea. Two hundred years into the division the Assyrians reduced the nation to one country by conquering the northern kingdom and scattering the 10 northern tribes amongst the races of the world.

Shortly afterward (historically speaking) the Babylonians invaded Judea. In 586 B.C. they completed a three-pronged deportation of the best and brightest to Babylon where Judea remained in exile for 70 years. When the Persians replaced the Babylonians as the world’s superpower they released the captive Jews and financed their return to their land.

Israel thus has one of the most ancient documented claims to its homeland in history.

Monkey in the Middle

Eventually the Greeks, under Alexander the Great, conquered Persia and dominated the world, if but for a brief time. When he died in 323 B.C. his empire splintered into four shards. Two of those factions, headed by Ptolemy and Seleucus, tossed Israel back and forth as children might play catch with a beach ball. Finally, in 198 B.C. the Seleucid dynasty kept the ball and a weary Israel began to serve just one master. Relief soon turned to horror as the overbearing Antiochus Epiphanes insisted on imposing Greek culture on the Jews by attempting to destroy theirs. In one of history’s worst examples of diplomacy, he sacrificed the unclean pig on Israel’s holy altar. The outraged Jews went to war winning their independence under the priestly Maccabean family.

By 167 B.C. Israel was reestablishing their monarchy. But during the next 100 years Jewish infighting kept an independent Israel seriously fractured. Finally, in desperation, the several factions invited the Romans to solve their problem. The Roman boot gladly marched in and soon the Jews found themselves crushed by another pagan power.

Rome and Jerusalem never got along. Caesar permanently stationed troops throughout Judea to keep the peace. Finally, by A.D. 70 the expense and trouble was too much. Rome destroyed the Jewish symbol of na-

tional identity, the temple. For almost another 70 years the Jews and Romans sparred. Finally, in A.D. 135, Rome solved the problem for good — they banned all Jews from their homeland.

As Rome adopted Christianity, the Roman Empire evolved into the Byzantine Empire which continued to rule over Palestine. Encouraged by the visions that created Islam, Muhammed, in 636, conquered Palestine. Islam captured the remaining Middle East by 700 and kept it for 300 years until the Turks took it away in 1000. In 1099 the Crusaders, “rescued” the Holy Land from the pagans for Christ. But under the great Arab warrior Saladin, they lost it to Islam in less than 100 years. In 1250 Egypt resurrected captured Palestine, and held it until the Turks reinvented itself as the Ottoman Empire. It captured Palestine in 1517.

As I consider the timeline the Jewish homeland, one question haunts me — why did the Jews allow the nations of the world to play ping-pong with Palestine? Why did they not resist? The answer is found in the position of the influential rabbis. For years they taught that God’s sovereignty forbade them to actively attempt to keep their land. Intervention was blasphemy. We should wait for God to fulfill His promise

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to Abraham. A sovereign God, after all, does not need puny man's help. Their only pro-active efforts were to pray during each Passover, "next year at Jerusalem."

Finally, in the middle nineteenth century, like a rusty engine slowly coming back to life, Jewish attitudes began to change. Zionism was born.

Back to the Land

Zionism is the philosophy that Jews deserve a country of their own. After wandering homeless for nearly 2,000 years the Jews determined that only a country of their own could provide protection from the persecution that dogged them in whatever country they settled. And Palestine, as the Jews' ancient homeland, was the only logical location.

Throughout history, practically every country in which the Jews settled forced them to live like sub-humans. Often they were forced to live in "ghettos" (originally the word referred to the sub-standard housing of the Jews) apart from the regular population.

Many governments, compelled by the Fourth Lateran Council of 1215, forced Jews to wear distinctive badges. In England they wore a replica of the Ten Commandments. France required a yellow "O."

In the 14th century,

Europe blamed the Jews for the Black Death. They murdered thousands in retribution.

At one time, Russia demanded 13 years of compulsory military service for Jewish men beginning at the tender age of 12.

If the Jews would ever live in dignity and freedom, they finally concluded, they must have their own country.

Between 1896 and 1903 Theodore Herzl, an Austrian writer, lobbied world leaders on behalf of a Jewish state. Through his book, *Jewish State*, he galvanized Jewish resolve for Zionism. Though several prominent powers granted him an audience, including Russia, Germany, Turkey and Britain, and virtually all encouraged him, none offered concrete help.

Meanwhile, the Jewish National Fund began to collect money to purchase land in Palestine for Jewish settlement, eventually purchasing 92% of present-day Israel. Jews worldwide began to put feet to their faith in the Zionist cause. By 1914 the Jewish population in Palestine swelled to 100,000.

World War I, however, soured the movement. And by war's end only a remnant population of 35,000 Jews remained in Palestine. Yet, miraculously, out of the ashes of the war, the Zionist Phoenix arose and rapidly grew strong enough to gain serious worldwide attention. As the Allied powers looked forward to

their eventual victory, they spent several evenings cutting up and reassembling the Middle Eastern map planning for the end of Ottoman rule.

When the Turks defeated the Crusaders in 1517 they gained control of much of the Middle East. Curiously, they superintended 300 years of peaceful co-existence between Jews, Arabs, and Christians. How could three divergent religions get along for three centuries? There was nothing to fight for but sand and rocks.

Through the centuries the Holy Land dried into a virtual desert. It remained agriculturally abandoned for hundreds of years. Not until the Jews embraced Zionism did the Arabs begin to salivate over Palestine.

Dividing the Spoils

The Ottoman empire suffocated in the dust of World War I. Soon victorious Britain and France began to carve up their Middle Eastern spoils. In 1921 Britain created the state of Transjordan and granted it increasing freedom which culminated in total independence in 1946. In 1922 Britain separated Transjordan from Palestine, using the Jordan River as a natural boundary line.

Meanwhile, the late Dr. Herzl's work for Zionism began to yield fruit. The Syke-Picot Agreement became the first of several attempts to fulfill the Zionist dream. It called for the

creation of several Arab states and an international Palestine.

Several powerful countries, including the United States, China, Britain and Germany, publicly endorsed Zionism.

In 1917 the British issued the famous Balfour Declaration endorsing Zionism in the strongest language to date. "His Majesty's Government views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in other countries."

The Balfour Declaration illustrates the volatility of the Palestinian problem that newspapers today publish in ever-larger headlines. Britain carefully worded the declaration to allow for the rights of Arab Palestinians. Fearing forced emigration, Britain also felt they had to protect the rights of Jews who wished to remain in their adopted countries.

The victory of World War I complicated the intent of the Balfour Declaration. Britain drew and erased several plans for a Jewish state before finally crumpling up their final plan

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Wisdom From A Watermelon

By William Jennings Bryan

I was passing through Columbus, Ohio some years ago, and stopped to eat in the depot restaurant. My attention was called to a slice of watermelon, and I ordered it and ate it. I was so pleased with the melon that I asked the waiter to dry some of the seeds that I might take them home and plant them in my garden.

That night a thought came into my mind — I would use the watermelon as an illustration. So, the next morning, when I reached Chicago, I had enough seeds weighed to

find out that it would take about 5,000 watermelon seeds to weigh a pound, and I estimated that the watermelon weighed about forty pounds. Then I applied mathematics to the watermelon.


A few weeks before, someone — I know not who — had planted a little seed in the ground. Under the influence of sunshine and shower, that little watermelon seed had taken off its coat and gone to work; it had gathered from somewhere 200,000 times its own weight and forced that enormous weight through a

tiny stem and built a watermelon. On the outside it had put a covering of green, within that a rind of white, and within that a core of red. Then it had scattered through the red, little seeds, each one capable of doing the same work over again.

What architect drew the plant? Where did that little watermelon seed get its tremendous strength? Where did it find its flavoring extract and its coloring matter? How did it build a watermelon?

Until you can explain a watermelon, do not be too sure that you can set limits

to the power of the Almighty, or tell just what He will do or how He will do it. The most learned man in the world cannot explain a watermelon but the most ignorant man in the world can eat a watermelon and enjoy it.

God has given us the things that we need, and he has given us the knowledge necessary to use those things. And the truth that he has revealed to us is infinitely more important for our welfare than it would be to understand the mysteries that he has seen fit to conceal from us. 

The Cooperative Program Unscriptural

By I. W. Rogers

1. The Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention is unscriptural because, as it has been operated in its present form, it is based on the doctrine that the end justifies the means.

2. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because gifts made through it are helping to lead the Southern Baptist convention into the National Council of Churches.

3. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural

because the leaders of the Program are attempting to take the place of the Holy Spirit in the leadership of Southern Baptist churches and individuals.

4. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because it centralizes great power in the hands of a very few.


5. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because it helps to destroy the independence and autonomy of Southern Baptist churches.

6. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because loyalty to the Program has become the one standard by which Southern Baptists are judged, rather than by their loyalty to the teachings of the Bible and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because it has become the devil's most effective tool by which men in Southern Baptist schools, colleges and seminaries are paid good salaries while they

undermine the faith of Southern Baptist young people in the teachings of the Bible.

8. The Cooperative Program is unscriptural because our Lord's mission program for His churches, as plainly given in the New Testament, contains nothing that remotely resembles the Cooperative Program of Southern Baptists.

Here is a bill of particulars, not vague generalities. Here are definite charges that must be faced. 

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and tossing it on the desk of the United Nations.

By the Paris Peace Conference of 1918 the Allied majority called for enforcement of the declaration. But the Arabs opposed it. However, one year later Feisal of Syria came out in support of Zionism. "We will wish the Jews a most hearty welcome" he invited. In 1920 Syria performed the first of the Arab worlds many flip-flops as it crowned Feisal king of Palestine.

Jerusalem broke out in riots and many Jews were killed. The world expressed outrage. And the cause of Zionism gained enhanced interest and credibility.

That same year the Paris Peace Conference incorporated the terms of the Balfour Declaration into the treaty which ended World War I. Britain was charged with superintending Palestine, which at this time included the not-yet-created country of Transjordan. In 1921 Winston Churchill called for the separation of Palestine from the Arab states.

The proposed Middle Eastern boundaries wiggled like water during the next several years. In 1929 Palestinian Arabs hit the Jews in the first of innumerable terroristic attacks — characteristically at Passover. Rumors spread that the Jews had bombed the Mosque of Omar, the third holiest site in Islam. A

fragile peace courageously held itself together until the Arabs attacked again in 1936. Eager to finally settle the Palestinian problem Britain proposed partitioning Palestine into three independent states: Jewish, Arab, and British. The Jews approved the plan while the Arabs refused.

Two years later Britain issued the "White Paper," hoping to limit by law the population mix of Palestine to one Jew per two Arabs. The paper announced Britain's intention to grant Palestine full independence within 10 years.

Hitler and Nazism turned the White Paper into another toothless paper tiger. For Europe spit out innumerable Jews who had to land somewhere. Many fell on the shores of the Mediterranean and settled in Palestine.

In 1947 Britain gave up. They declared they intended to abandon their mandate of Palestine. The United Nations proposed another partition into an Arab and Jewish state. Once again the Jews accepted the plan and the Arabs rejected it.

Israeli Independence

Britain made good on their threat in 1948. They pulled out of Palestine. The waves from the retreating ships were still licking the harbor when the Jews declared themselves the sovereign state of Israel. A coalition of six Arab states, Transjordan, Egypt, Syria,

Iraq, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia immediately invaded Palestine. Newborn Israel won the right to remain, but it lost territory on the bank of the Jordan River now known as "the West Bank" to Transjordan. That same year (1949) Transjordan changed its name to simply "Jordan," perhaps reflecting its new acquisition of land west of the Jordan River. In 1950 Jordan annexed the West Bank.

As a result of the 1948-49 war, Jordan's population increased by 850,000. They gained 400,000 Palestinians from the West Bank and 450,000 Arab refugees from Israel. In the 1967 war Israel took back the West Bank and 300,000 Arabs fled into Jordan.

The West Bank is important to Israel for more than its fertile land mass. Without it, according to the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, Israel is indefensible. Not only is 80% of Israel's population within easy target range from the mountains of the West Bank, but without the West Bank territory Israel shrinks to a scant 10 miles across at its narrowest point, a vivid reminder of the Arab threat to push Israel into the sea.

In 1964 The Palestinian Liberation Organization formed to represent the position of Palestinian Arabs. Using Jordan as a base, they conducted periodic raids across the border into Israel. Jordan began to view them as a dangerous rival, and in 1970

successfully attacked its guerrilla army, fearing the PLO had become a second government in conflict with Jordan.

In 1974 a coalition of Arab countries declared the PLO the rightful representative of the Palestinian people. Jordan joined in agreeing that the PLO should control the West Bank should Israel withdraw.

The PLO created a rhetoric that it brought to Frankensteinian life with increasing terroristic attacks. It issued a resolution in 1980 that called for "the liquidation of the Zionist entity — politically, economically, militarily, culturally and ideologically." PLO chairman Yassar Arafat promised in December 1982 that "the victorious march will continue until the flag of Palestine is raised above Jerusalem and above the whole area of Palestine from the river (Jordan) to the (Mediterranean) Sea and from Ras-Al-Nazzura to Eliat."

For the past 20 years leaders have bounced between peace proposals and terrorist attacks, between Israeli reprisals and world criticism. Meanwhile the PLO continues to use terror as a weapon to advance its claim to Palestine.

Who owns the land, the Arabs or Jews, Britain or the Turks, Isaac or Ishmael? Israel alone has a four-fold claim — God gave it to Abraham, Israel

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JEHOI...

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Verily, the "Jehoiakims" have crept into almost every strata of modern Christendom, with the result that the Bible is being so whittled and mutilated by unbelieving "believers" that the world at large is fast losing respect for it. And little wonder! For, after every Catholic and Protestant pope, and prelate, and metropolitan bishop explains away all he does not choose to accept and obey, there's very little that Christendom has left to offer an unbelieving world that thinks it has as much right to deny the remainder as the ecclesiastical charlatans have to deny the bulk.

There is **Professor Jehoiakim** who is paid out of tithes to teach young ministerial students in the denominational college how to explain away the Book of Genesis in favor of the theory of evolution.

There is the **Reverend Jehoiakim** who went to the same school ten years ago, and is now using his education as a penknife to riddle from the Scriptures such precious doctrines as the Virgin Birth, the Blood Atonement, Miracles, the New Birth, The Inspiration of the Scripture, and the Blessed Hope.

Bishop Jehoiakim has explained away the mode of baptism, and his second cousins have discarded the ordinance completely.

Captain Jehoiakim of the Salvation Army, and **Friend Jehoiakim** of the Quaker sect, more consistently knife out all of the ordinances, including the Lord's Supper.


Pastor Jehoiakim, the Russellite necromancer, explains away Hell the same way the others get rid of the ordinances, and appends a "Second Chance" clause of his own, with as much right and authority as **Pope Jehoiakim** has for the Infallibility dogma, or the Bapiscopal Hierarchy, for the "you-hoe-my-garden" program.

Deacon Jehoiakim has deleted First Timothy 3; and his good wife has torn out First Timothy 2 long ago.

Brother John Jehoiakim used the penknife on tithing back yonder when he got his promotions; and his spouse, **Sister Mary Jehoiakim** cut out 1 Cor. 14:34 ten years ago when she joined the hen party.

And so, we might go on and on with our account of the depredations of the modern Jehoiakim family. All in all, you will find some very fine folks among them, no little scholarship, and an ocean of religiosity; but after they get through the Bible, there's no sin left to condemn a sinner, no Blood to save a believer, no Heaven for saints, no Hell for infidels, no Sovereign God, no personal Devil, no commands, no ordinances —

and if all this be proven to be the case, there might as well be no promises ... And I wouldn't give a counterfeit nickel for what you have left!

Enough of this lying! If one doesn't believe that the Bible is the Word of God, true, all true, and nothing but truth, then he should stop claiming to be a Christian, be honest, and take his stand with Tom Payne and Bob Ingersoll, and on to Hell! 

TULGA...

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given 10 percent of after-tax income in 1998, churches would have had an additional \$131 billion for outreach and ministry.

This alarming research data means that people who could have been reached with the gospel were not reached. Ministries which could have been carried out in Jesus' name were not done.


The rule of thumb, which proves true in most churches, is that 20 percent of the church members give 80 percent of the offerings. In addition, trends show that fewer younger members tithe (give 10 percent of their income) than did previous generations. Other data has shown that as the incomes of church members increase, the percentage of that income they are willing to give drops rather than increasing.

Look back at your own 1040 forms from the past few years. Has your per-

centage of giving fallen as your income increased?


"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me . . . Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:8-10).

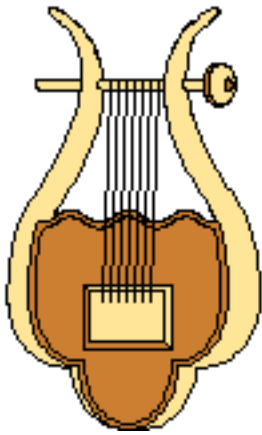
If you are giving less than 10 percent of your income to God's kingdom, you are robbing God. That would mean that God is holding back a significant blessing that would otherwise overflow in your life.

If you desire God's blessing in 2002, try out giving God. — ABN 

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conquered it, the Jews bought it and the victors of World War I promised it. The Arab nations have several countries of their own. Their combined land reduces Israel to a single pore on the skin of the Middle East. Yet they insist on owning Palestine, too. As long as Israel struggles to exist the Palestinian Arabs will likely continue to sacrifice their children to prevent the Jews from living in the land God promised to Abraham. 



[Marvin Sanders and I were both students together at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1949-1951. This article was originally published in **The Baptist Challenge** in 1962.]

The purpose of this article is not to argue, but direct one to a more careful study of the Word of God. A true follower of Jesus Christ must have an unbiased mind, lest he find himself in the predicament of the Pharisees, committing the sin of refusing light — the sin of a closed mind.

Why do some Christians, with a “holier than thou” attitude, condemn other Christians for the use of instrumental music in singing praises unto God in Christian worship? Such shallow criticism does not come as a result of intensive Bible study, but rather it comes from a lack of it. Often times prejudiced minds are more concerned with satisfying their own petty interpretations than with finding truth.

I. The Scripture Commends the Use of Psalms.

Modern Scholarship And The Use of Instrumental Music

By A. Marvin Sanders

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your hearts to the Lord” (Eph. 5:19).

“Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord” (Col. 3:16).

II. What is the Meaning of the Word Psalm?

The word is adopted in the Septuagint (288-247 B.C.), which was a Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, as meaning a song sung with a musical accompaniment (Trench). Cyril of Alexandria (died A.D. 444), a Greek, in his Lexicon gives the same definition. History’s greatest Greek lexicographers and Grammarians who have spent their lives in studying the meaning of the words of the Greek vocabulary from the papyri, ancient literature, letters, business and public documents, and like material, are in agreement as to the meaning of the word “psalm.”

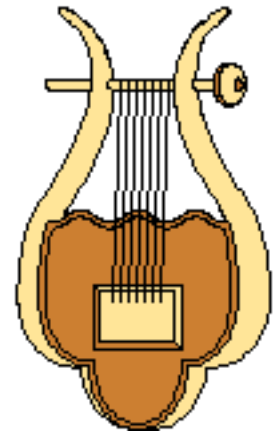
The word “psalm” (Greek psalm) comes from a word (Greek *psallo*)

which means “a striking twanging, a striking of the cords of a musical instrument” (Thayer). This was the meaning of the word during the days of Aristotle (384-322 B.C.), Aratus (271-213 B.C.), Platus (died 184 B.C.). If a “psalm” meant a song sung to a musical instrument in 228 B.C. and still had the meaning in A.D. 444 and our New Testament was written between the years A.D. 50-100, one, to be truthful, must admit that the word “psalm” means a song sung to a musical instrument.

III. Modern Scholarship on the Meaning of the Word Psalm in the Greek.

Liddell & Scott — Greek English Lexicon, Vol. 2, p. 2018: Psalms “tune played on a stringed instrument, ... “song played to the harp, psalm ... LXX, 2 Kings 23:1; Eph. 5:19” (No higher authority exists today).

Moulton and Milligan — The Vocabulary of the Greek Testament, Part VIII, p. 701: “psalmos— ‘psalm’ or ‘song’ sung to a harp accompaniment.”



Trench — Synonyms of the New Testament, p. 296: “Psalms from Psao, properly a touching, and then a touching of the harp or other stringed instruments, with the plectrum ... was next the instrument itself, and last of all the song sung with this musical accompaniment. It is in this latest stage of its meaning that we find the word adopted in the Sept., and to this agree the ecclesiastical definitions of it; thus in the Lexicon ascribed to Cyril of Alexandria.” (this is the authority on synonyms of the New Testament and has been for over 70 years).

Thayer — Greek and English Lexicon: “psalmos, a striking twanging; spec., a striking the chords of a musical instrument; hence a pious song, a psalm (Eph. 4:19; Col. 3:16).

A. T. Robertson — Word Pictures of the New Testament Col. 3:16: “With psalms (psalmois, the Psalms in the Old Testament originally with musical accompaniment),

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hymns, humnois, praises to God composed by the Christians like 1 Tim. 3:16, spiritual songs (aedais pneumatihais, general description of all whether with or without instrumental accompaniment).

Robinson — Greek & English Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 904: "A song as accompanying stringed instruments. In New Testament, a psalm, a song."

G. Abbott-Smith — A Manual Greek Lexicon of the New Testament, p. 487: psalmos. "A striking twitching with the fingers, hence, a striking of musical strings and hence in later writers, a sacred song sung to music accompaniment, a psalm LXX; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; or Old Testament psalms: Lk. 24:44; Acts 13:38."

Bullinger — A Critical Lexicon and Concordance of the English & Greek Testament, p. 611: "to touch, twitch, pluck, esp. a string, to twang, strike the cords; touch the lyre, or other stringed instruments; play. In LXX and New Testament, to sing, chant accompanied by stringed instruments ... in later usage, a song accompanied by stringed instrument."

S.D.F. Salmond — Expositor's Greek Testament, Eph. 5:19: "Psalmos, is a religious song, especially one sung to a musical accompaniment."

Parkhurst — Greek

Lexicon, p. 751: "Psalmos" A psalm, a sacred song or poem, properly such as one as sung to stringed instruments. See Lk. 20:42; 1 Cor. 14:26."

Zorell — Greek Lexicon: "Psalmos, a song sung to the sound of the lyre; to be sung in honor of God."

Sauter — New Testament Lexicon: "Psalmos, a psalm that is sung, that is, a song of praise to God with an accompaniment on the harp."

Josephus — Antiquities Book VI, Chapter 11,3: "Playing his harp (psalmoi), and with singing hymns." (Josephus was born 37 years after Christ and wrote in the language of the New Testament).

T.K. Abbott — International Critical Commentary, Eph. 5:19, p. 163: "Psalmos, the plucking of the strings, is used by classical authors to mean the sound of the harp and hence any strain of music."

Philip Schaff — Critical Doctrinal and Homiletical Commentary: "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also 1 Cor. 14:15. A proof that the prayer was accompanied with song and harps also."

A. Maclaren — Expositor's Bible, p. 330: "the distinction between 'psalms' and 'hymn' appears to be that the former is a song with a musical accompaniment and the latter is vocal praise to God."

Young — Analytical Concordance of the Bible, p. 783: "A song of

praise (on an instrument) Lk. 20:42; 24:44; Acts 1:20; 1 Cor. 14:26; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16."

Hastings — Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. 4, p. 145: "Psalmos — Properly a song sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments."

International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. 4, p. 2487: "This Greek word psalmos, as well as the Hebrew Mizmor both of which are used in the superscription prefixed to many of the separate Pss., indicates a poem sung to the accompaniment of stringed instruments."

Jamieson, Fausset & Brown — Critical and Experimental Commentary, Eph. 4:19: "Psalms — generally accompanied by instrument."

Strong — Greek Dictionary of the New Testament, p. 78: "Psalmos — A set piece of music, a sacred, ode (accompanied with the voice, harp, or other instruments; a psalm)."

Bengal, John Albert — Gnomon of the New Testament, Eph. 5:9, Vol. 4: "Psalmos of the Bible, of David, new and unpremeditated, with the addition of an instrument."

Dictionary of Christian Antiquities, Vol. II, p. 1746: "A psalm is a composition which is instrumentally accompanied."

The Century Dictionary and Encyclopedia, Vol. VI: "Psalmos, a song sung to a harp, a song sung, psalm, the sound of the zith-

ers or harp."

Young — Greek Lexicon: "Psalmos, a song sung to the accompaniment."

The testimony of many other famous Bible scholars could be added such as Matthew Henry, Bishop Lightfoot, Meyer Plumpre (**Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges**), Plummer, Dean Alford, Findlay, H.C.G. Moule, Bishop Ellicott, Hodge, Moffatt, Lenski, Carver, Donnegass, **The Jewish Encyclopedia**, **The Catholic Encyclopedia**, and many others.

There is not a standard Greek lexicon in the world that disputes this combined testimony.

IV. Modern Scholarship on the Meaning of the Word In Hebrew.

Gesenius, Hebrew and English Lexicon: "Zemir — (root meaning) to touch, or strike the chords of an instrument, to play, Gr. psallein; and hence sing, to chant, as accompanying an instrument."

In Chaldean "To sing with the striking of an instrument."

In Arabic "To sing to the pipe."

Strong — Hebrew and Chaldean Dictionary, p. 35: "zemir, prop.; to touch the strings or parts of a musical instrument, play upon it; to make music accompanied by the voice; hence to celebrate in

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song and music, give praise, sing forth praises, psalms.”

V. Modern Scholarship on the Meaning of the Word in English.

Oxford English Dictionary, Vol. 8, p. 1539: Psalm, “sing to a harp (in LXX and New Testament),” (this is the highest authority in the English language).

Walter W. Skeat, An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language, Clarendon Press, 1946: “Psalm, a sacred song. (Latin-Greek) Middle English *psalm*, frequently *salm*, in very early use, Layamon, 23754. Anglo Saxon *sealm*; see Sweet’s As, Rader. -L. *psalmus*. -Gk. *Psalmos*, a touching, a feeling, esp. the twitching of the strings of a harp; hence, the sound of the harp, a song psalm. -Gk. *Psallein*, to touch, twitch, twange; from base *Psal*, for SPAL. Perhaps allied to Sanskrit *sphalaya* (with a) to strike, to touch, Der, *psalmist*, Levins, F. *psalmiste*, from L. *psalmista*, Late Gk. *Psalmisgas*; *psalm-ody*, spelt *psalmodie*, from Minshew, F. *psalmodie*, from Late L. *osalmodia*, from Gk. *psalmodia*, a singing to the harp, which is from *psalm*, stem of *psalmos*, and *oda*, a song, ode; *psalmodi-c-al*, *psalmodist*.”

William Little — The

Shorter Oxford English Dictionary on Historical Principles: “Psalm (*sam*), substantive (OE, (*p*)*sealm*, adaptation L. *psalmus*, adoption of Gk. *Psalmos*, a twitching (of the strings of the harp), a song sung to the harp, formed on *Psallein* to twitch, twang, sing to the harp (in Septuagint and New Testament).

Students of the Scriptures accept immersion as the Bible form of baptism, because the word baptize (Greek, *baptizo*) means to “plunge under,” “to immerse.” Why can’t we be that intellectual about the word “psalm”? The matter is settled in the minds of scholarship.

VI. The Use of Musical Instruments in Old Testament Worship.

God through David exhorted the people to “Praise the Lord with harp; sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise. For the word of the Lord is right” (Psa. 33:2-4)

In the book of 1 Chronicles 25:5 we are told that the whole body of the temple chorus and orchestra numbered 4,000. They were trained and conducted in 24 divisions, by some of Asaph, Herman, and Juduthun. [See 2 Chr. 29:25; 34; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:17].

VIII. The Use of Musical Instruments in the**New Testament Is Nowhere Denounced.**

If instruments were already being used in religious worship with nothing being said against the use of them in the New Testament and if we are told to use psalms, which means “songs sung to a musical instrument,” then we should use them to glorify God in present day worship services. At least we should not oppose their use and make a doctrinal issue of it. Those who have a God-given talent for the making of instrumental music, should not bury it, but use it to glorify God.

VIII. The Use of Musical Instruments In Worship in Heaven.

In Revelation 5:8-9 harps are used with singing and again in Revelation 11:2-3. John says, “I heard the voices of harpers harping with their harps.” This wonderful melody is composed of singing and playing of the harps. Musical instruments are used in worship with singing before the throne. In Revelation 15:2-3, harps are used to accompany the singing of the Son of Moses. These instruments are referred to as the “harps of God.” If God commanded the use of instrumental music in the Old Testament (Psa. 33:2-3) and is delighted with it in heaven, why should we not honor Him with it now?

IX. Arguments Against**the Use of Instrumental Music in Present Day Worship.**

Some say because the instruments are not mentioned by name in the New Testament they are excluded. The meaning of the word “psalm” should clear the matter to an open mind. What about the use of a song leader? Those who condemn the use of instrumental music use one, yet he is not mentioned in the New Testament. If this argument is used against instrumental music, it should apply also to the song leader as well as the hymn book and the use of a tuning fork, which was not invented until A.D. 1711 (**Encyclopedia Britannica**). One should first get the mote out of his own eye before condemning others on the use of instrumental music.

Some have quoted Amos 6:5, “Woe unto them that chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David” as an argument against the use of instrumental music. To hold this shallow view, one must deny the inspiration of the Psalms because God commanded through David and said, “Praise the Lord with harp; sing unto him with the psaltery, and an instrument of ten strings” (Psa. 33:2). Did God condemn David for obeying Him? How absurd! God is condemning hypocrites, not David. God

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Fellowships And Conferences

SIOUX FALLS, SD

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

* * *

LUBBOCK, TX

March 17-19, 2003,
Tabernacle Baptist Church,
1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX
79452

* * *

CINCINNATI, OH

November 10-14, 2003,
Central Baptist Church,
7645 Winton Rd., Cincin-
nati, OH 45224, James W.
Love, Pastor

* * *

April 14-18, 2003,
Temple Baptist Church,
2103 Yucca St., Santa Fe,
NM, 87505, Harold P.
Chiolero, Pastor

RUIN . . .

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spiritual training. Wait until
he is 21, and then let him
“decide for himself.”

4. Avoid use of the
word “wrong.” It may de-
velop a guilt complex. This
will condition him to believe
later, when he is arrested
for stealing a car that soci-
ety is against him and he is
being persecuted.

5. Pick up everything
he leaves lying around —

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honored David’s worship
with the harp because it
was sincere, but God would
not accept the worship of
sinful people who imitated
books, shoes, clothes. Do
everything for him so he
will be experienced in
throwing all responsibility
on others.

6. Let him read any
printed matter he can get
his hands on, attend any
movies he wants to, watch
any TV program that suits
his fancy. Be careful that
the silverware and his
drinking glasses are steril-
ized, but let his mind feast
on garbage.


7. Quarrel frequently in
the presence of your chil-
dren. In this way they will
not be too shocked when
the home is broken up later.

8. Give a child all the
spending money he wants.
Never let him earn his own.
Why should he have things
as tough as you had them?

9. Satisfy his every
craving for food, drink and
comfort. See that every
sensual desire is gratified.
Denial may lead to harmful
frustration.

10. Take his part
against neighbors, teachers,
policemen. They are all
prejudiced against your
child.

11. When he gets into
real trouble, apologize for
yourself by saying, “I never
could do anything with
him.”

12. Prepare for a life
of grief. You will be likely
to have it. 

only David’s playing on the
harp, and ignored David’s
righteousness.

Some shallow critics
have argued that Paul and
Silas in jail could not have
used instrumental music
because their hands were
tied; but notice what the
Scripture says, they sang
“praises” not “psalms.”
These men, with hands tied,
could not use “psalms” be-
cause a psalm is a song
sung to a musical instru-
ment. The Bible is so ac-
curate!

Evidence of the use of
it from church historians is
unreliable since they them-
selves dispute over it. The
Scripture is to be our guide,
not the early church. Should
a church pattern after the
early church at Corinth (1
Cor. 5:18) or Ephesus (Rev.
2:4); or the early church of
the Laodiceans (Rev.
3:14)? The early Christians
continued for some time to
use the Temple and syna-
gogue as a place of wor-
ship, and in Acts 2:46, we
find Peter and John wor-
shipping in the Temple and
instrumental music was
used in the Temple worship,
for no break had yet come
between Christians and
Jews.


Jesus, during His min-
istry, worshiped in the
Temple where instrumental
music was an integral part
of the worship.

Another argument used
against instrumental music
is the example of the Greek
Orthodox Church (Eastern
Church) which does not use
the instruments and since
they speak the Greek lan-
guage; they should know

what the word means. In-
formed people know that
the present day Greeks do
not speak the same Greek
as the New Testament. It
is basically the same, but
has undergone many
changes through centuries
of use. A visit to the Greek
church to see the
unscriptural “complicated
system of ceremonies, with
gorgeous display, semi-bar-
baric pomp, and endless
changes of sacerdotal
dress, crossings, gestures,
genuflexions, prostrations,
washings, processions,
which so absorb the atten-
tion of the senses, that
there is little room left for
the intellectual and spiritual
worship” (Schaff-Herzog)
would discredit any testi-
mony against instrumental
music from the Greek
Church.

The argument against
the use of instrumental
music is not in accordance
with the teaching of the
Scripture.

If one who professes to
be a Bible teacher blunders
on the meaning of the little
word “psalm”, especially
when the evidence is so
overwhelmingly against
him, it would be wise to
examine carefully other
principles that he might
teach.

Let us continue to make
a joyful noise unto the Lord,
for it is well known that “a
singing church is a suc-
cessful church.” 

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