

The Baptist

CHALLENGE

a voice of independent Baptists

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WHOLE NO. 517

Characteristic Words and the Permissive Society

The working vocabulary of various segments of the permissive society is very revealing. The words they use, the words they misuse, and the words they omit indicate to some extent the intellectual, theological and social trends of the times.

1. The intellectuals and liberal theologians have a professional jargon

of their own. Much of this is unintelligible to the average person. Many illustrations could be cited. They also invent new words that many people never heard before. This same group have a lot to say about the lack of communication in

By Chester E. Tulga

modern society. They have the gift of Babel.

2. There are others who use undefined words. Liberal preachers use these all the time if they sound pious. A preacher in the neighborhood is an authority on the liberal doctrine of

church renewal. We have observed him carefully for several years. Attendance has declined but he prefers quality to quantity. His prayer breakfast has an attendance of about 10 in a large membership. The class that gives free guitar lessons is largely attended.

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**Message #3, Preached
January 21, 1979**

We have been talking about the author, date, and purpose of the book, what the word "Revelation" itself means, that it is a revealing or an uncovering, and we spoke concerning Satan and his attitude toward the book. We now want to begin our study.

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and

The Interpretation of the Book Or Blessings From the Book

By M. L. Moser, Editor

signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand" (Rev. 1:1-3).

The book of Revelation, it is to be interpreted in the same manner as any other book of the Bible. In other words, what is read is to be understood literally unless the context indicates that it is symbolical. There are symbolical teachings within the book of Revelation, and we need to be careful in the interpreting of these symbols

that we interpret them in the light of the other Scriptures.

The Book of Revelation ties in with all other books of the Bible. It is not just a book set apart by itself. It is referred to as the capstone of the Bible. The "cap-stone", when applied to a structure of a pyramid with a broad base, is the final stone to be placed on top. The capstone is the stone that completes the structure, and so it is with the book of Revelation. It is the capstone, but as the

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Quiz The Pastor

Where Did Cain Get His Wife?

By D. B. Estep

It has been our experience that in almost every community there are people who try to make themselves and others believe they are infidels. This group of people belong to the Rip Van Winkle class — dead 20 years and do not know it. After reading the arguments of various well-known pseudo-infidels, we have profited but one way, namely: we know almost every argument and question they ask, and we know from what source they have obtained them. Why do they not at least try to be original? That would show much more mature thinking.

Maybe some pacifist will say, “Why all this argument?” Because we have come to the place where we believe that God must be provoked at His children for making apologies for His blessed Word. His Word does not

need defense half as much as some people need it (Psa. 119:89).

One question many unbelievers ask is, “Where did Cain get his wife?” Many of them ask it thinking they have found a flaw in God’s Word. They expect to laugh with glee when the man of God will not be able to answer them. But when God’s man does answer them, they keep still.

While it is true that many unbelievers ask this question, it is also true that many honest Christians ask the same question. Maybe they have been asked by some unbeliever, and, not being able to answer, they feel defeated. We trust this article will bring help to them.

Where did Cain get his wife? Where did you get your wife? You could not get a wife unless she existed, could you? In

Genesis 3:20 we read that Eve was “the mother of all living.” She certainly would have to have children before she could be referred to as a “mother.” The words “all living” would indicate that there were a number then living of whom she was the mother. But at this time neither Cain, nor Abel, nor Seth was even born. At least their births are events recorded after the fact just referred to. Adam and Eve came into the world a grown man and woman. Adam lived 130 years before he begat Seth (Gen. 5:4-5). During this 130 years, with the curse of multiplied conception pronounced by God upon Eve because of sin (Gen. 3:16), there was abundance of opportunity for the birth of sons and daughters. This fact could justify the statement that Eve was “the mother of all living” before there was a record of her being the mother of Cain (Gen. 4:1). That people were then living in numbers is further evidenced by the fact that after Cain killed Abel he was in terror lest “whosoever findeth me will slay me” (Gen. 4:14).

The Bible records that “the days of Adam after he begat Seth were eight hundred years; and he begat sons and daughters” (Gen. 5:4). In the course of eight hundred years he certainly would have had many daughters. Cain would probably have gladly

married one of them after he became an outcast and a wanderer. Ladies did not have much choice in those days. Adam lived 930 years (Gen. 5:5). This was the usual age of the antediluvians (Gen. 5). Cain might have been like some of our modern men, “in no hurry to get married”; then he could have waited a “small spell” of about 700 years and married one of his brother Seth’s great-great-great-great-great-great-great-granddaughters, or he could have married one of his 18-year old sisters. Evidently it was not as much trouble for Cain to get married as for some folks nowadays. Cain’s wicked offspring proves that he did get married.

You have been so concerned about Cain’s wife, but there is a great deal more reason to be concerned about where did Cain’s brother Seth get his wife, because from the offspring of Seth’s wife the world’s Redeemer was born (Luke 3); and unless you receive Him as your Savior you are not “going to be lost” — but you are lost already. Who says so? God says so in John 3:36: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

Why do you need a Savior? Because “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). “Your

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THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Creton Vs. Evolution -- Part V

Life In A Lethal Atmosphere

By **Kenneth Mathis**

Now the evolutionist would have you to believe that all of this happened by random chance or accident. Can such complex cells, the molecular systems that make up the cells, the atomic systems that make up the molecules, etc. be produced by the process of random collisions? The evolutionist would have you to think so. When you consider the make up of the protein molecule, the spontaneous or even progressive formation of this molecule is as likely as throwing the parts of a computer into a box and waiting for the accidental assembly of the computer. The question we ask is how, when no life existed, did substances (such as enzymes) come into being which are absolutely essential to living systems, yet which can only be formed by those systems. Where did the free energy come from that allowed those systems to evolve from non-living to living systems.

The evolutionist has many theories but the one found in most biology books is that of Oparin, a Russian biochemist. He speculated that the early atmosphere was composed of four gases; methane, ammonia, hydrogen and water vapor.

Supposedly, lightning caused the gases to break up and form molecules of amino acids which, in the ocean, formed proteins and eventually living matter. One biology textbook stated that Oparin's theory is not speculation because Miller and later Fox confirmed it in the laboratory. This is not true. What Miller and Fox did was to demonstrate that they could synthesize amino acids in a carefully controlled laboratory experiment. They did not produce life but tried to synthesize living materials. They merely proved that man, as his knowledge increases, is able to apply the natural laws of God and do all sorts of things.

Now based on this theory, the evolutionist will tell you that the early earth was very hot (again assuming it all began with the Big Bang) and that as it cooled, oxygen and water were formed. The next step was the formation of protein molecules and ultimately cells. He hypothesized that the energy required to produce those molecules came from ultraviolet radiation (one theory of many) and that after a period of creation of new molecules, a layer of ozone then developed

(how convenient) in the upper atmosphere and stopped the creation of new molecules.

The problem with all this is that ultraviolet light, without the ozone layer, is lethal to the cell. Life, in any form, would not have evolved and survived without the ozone layer. And if the ozone layer evolved first, oxygen is toxic to cells without enzymes. The enzymes would not have evolved before the cell (its very purpose is to catalyze cell reactions).

Today, you are hearing much about the danger of depleting the ozone layer that shields our earth. It is common knowledge that life could not exist without this layer. But the evolutionist has life, or the components of life, evolving in a very hostile or lethal primitive atmosphere.

What The Evolutionist Is Saying

Now consider carefully what the evolutionist is saying. He has no explanation for original creation; he assumes something existed, whether energy or matter and that, that something suddenly acted, he doesn't really know how, to start his supposedly evolutionary process that led to first, the creation of the universe, then the creation of the earth, and ultimately to the creation of life from non-living matter, all over billions

and billions of years. He claims to be using the laws of physics to trace backwards to the original Big Bang or, as some say the first spark of energy. Yet, he is actually in conflict with the most basic and universal laws of physics, the laws of Thermodynamics and he has order and complexity arising out of the chaos of his concept of the original atmosphere. But he does believe that in that first spark (or whatever) that produced that first electron, proton and ultimately that first hydrogen gas, is the highly complex information code for every living thing including all plants, organisms, animals and humans.

This is not science but the preconceived bias of men out of touch with reality and in a land of fantasy. These men were raised and taught that evolution is a fact by our schools and universities. Every biology book taught it as the only scientific explanation of origins and creation. These men have entered professions where it would be professional and financial suicide to dare challenge the unsoundness of evolutionary theory. Pasteur was subject to ridicule in his day and today with modern mass communication, few men have the courage to admit that the whole hypotheses starts with a flat rejection of a belief in God.

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He says that saving souls is not the main business of the church. His goal is to get sinners to love each other more than themselves. He gives free piano lessons which are well attended. The prayer meeting has little interest. He is now serving meals. His church is declining but it is sure renewed. The guitar music is good. Just what do the liberals mean by church renewal? We are interested in it but maybe we have overlooked the heavenly character of the guitar. All night parties for the young people are considered spiritually stimulating.

Liberal preachers who do not want their congregations to know what they really believe use undefined words all the time. It might not be wise to define them. It might disturb their trusting congregations. So they use orthodox words which they never define.

3. There are other words that are seldom and sometimes never used. This is true of all segments of society, conservative and liberal. The liberals never mention heaven or hell. They are like the goat on the freight platform waiting to be shipped. When asked, the station master said, "We don't know where he is going. He has eaten up his directions."

The Bible tells us not

to love the world. Conservatives think this means the theater or the dance. But the world is larger than that. People who believe in the glories of heaven show no homesickness. In the old days many saints said they were homesick for heaven. In a worse world we never hear it. People love this world. They think they are separated from the world but they suffer from cultural contamination. We are told not to love the things of the world. Many mothers are working today because they must. Others because they want the luxuries of the affluent society. They only have two cars and junior wants a motorcycle. Conservatives and liberals love the affluent society. Liberals love the world. Conservatives avoid this by not defining the world with all of its ramifications. Conservatives and liberals find undefined words very useful. Liberals never preach on heaven and hell and Conservatives do it less and less.

4. Many are using words that have lost their meaning. When liberals and professors rejected the authority of the Bible, God, Christ, Church, gospel and many other words immediately changed their meaning and today they mean little or nothing. They became "babeled". Liberal theologians would have felt at home at Babel where speech was confused.

5. Denominational

names have become meaningless.

(1) What is a Baptist? There are many different varieties. We have General Baptists and Baptists who want to be generals; Particular Baptists and Baptists who are not so particular; and Regular Baptists and Baptists who are not regular; Christian Baptists

and Baptists who are not Christians; Reformed Baptists and Baptists who haven't reformed. Some Baptists wash feet and some hippie Baptists do not wash their feet; there are Southern Baptists in the north and Northern Baptists in the south; There are

(See **TULGA** on page 5)

Traveling On

My plans were made, I thought my path all bright
and clear;
My heart with song o'erflowed, the world seemed
full of cheer.
My Lord I wished to serve, to take Him for my
Guide.
To keep so close that I could feel Him by my side.
And so I traveled on.

But suddenly, in skies so clear and full of light,
The clouds fell thick and fast, the days seemed
hanged to night;
Instead of paths so clear and full of things so sweet,
Rough things and thorns and stones seemed all
about my feet,
I scarce could travel on.

I bowed my head and wondered why this change
should come,
And murmured — "Lord", is this because of aught
I've done?
Has not the past been full enough of gain and care?
Why should my path again be changed to dark
despair?"
But still I travel on.

I listened — quiet and still, there came a voice
"The path is Mine, not thine; I made the choice.
Dear child, this service is best for thee and Me,
If thou wilt simply trust and leave the end to me."
And so we travel on.

TULGA . . .

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American Baptists and Baptists who are not very American.

What in the world is a Baptist? The New Testament would throw some light on this but many Baptists don't believe in the New Testament. Baptists have one characteristic; they are all wet. The liberal Baptists find dry cleaning more convenient.

(2) What is a Presbyterian? There are United Presbyterians and Presbyterians who are not united; Orthodox Presbyterians and Presbyterians who are not orthodox; there are Bible Presbyterians and Presbyterians who do not believe the Bible; there are Reformed Presbyterians and Presbyterians who need to reform. There are Cumberland Presbyterians who have never seen Cumberland. A Presbyterian these days may be either a disciple of John Calvin or a kissin' cousin of Angela Davis, the Communist. What is a Presbyterian? Who knows?

(3) What is a Methodist? Most Methodists do not even know why they are called Methodists. They think John Wesley gave them their start but they hope he doesn't come back. That would be awful. We have Wesleyan Methodists and Methodist preachers who wouldn't go to a dog fight with Wesley. When he puts his offering

in the plate, he doesn't know whether he is helping the heathen or the Purple Panthers. What in the world is a Methodist? If he doesn't know, who does? He belongs to an organization that is up-side-down and down-side-up and side-wise.

(4) What is an Episcopalian? Some say they started when Henry VIII had a fuss with the Pope over his women. But Episcopalians don't like such an earthly origin. But they did quit the Pope. We looked into the Bible and found no mention of the Episcopalians. The Church Fathers never heard of them. But one thing is sure that Jesus never started them. What are they today? Who knows? When a member puts money in the contribution plate, he doesn't know whether he is preaching to the heathen or helping to start a revolution.

(5) What is a Roman Catholic? Which one are you talking about? There are about 57 varieties and that suggests the pickle they are in. A theologian now claims that the Pope is not infallible. This isn't new. The Pope is unmarried because he can't find a wife who believes her husband to be infallible. This is not in the books but a pope would have his problem. A priest who breaks the law and goes to jail becomes a political martyr. A priest who gets married becomes a sinner. A queer twist of ethics?

Recently a priest-professor denied that Mary was a virgin. Which way Catholicism? Who knows? Not even the Pope.

(6) What in the world is a church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints? We looked into the New Testament and apparently Jesus had never heard of them. What is a saint? Who were the saints before the Mormons came along? The Mormons believe if you call a man a saint, then he is a saint. This is a neat definition.

In the New Testament a bishop is to be the husband of one wife. The early Mormons thought it was one wife at least. If a saint could afford it, he had a nice collection of wives. When he could afford it, he added a new one, a young wife to keep his harem from becoming an old ladies' home. Brigham Young, after whom they named their greatest university, is said to have had 27 wives. A colored man couldn't be a priest but a white man with a dozen wives could.

We also have Reorganized Saints. We didn't know saints needed to be reorganized, but maybe they do — certain kinds. The Mormons practiced situation ethics before the liberal preachers heard of it. Phonies in religion are so common that few can tell the difference. The true church has almost disappeared.

Denominational names

today have lost their meaning. There are liberal Quakers and conservative Quakers. All the liberals have left is their quake. Christian Science is neither Christian nor scientific. Jehovah Witnesses have manufactured a new Jehovah. There are a number of groups that call themselves the Church of God. Even God is puzzled about which one to bless.

6. Words which have become meaningless.

(1) *God*. When the inspiration and authority of the Bible was repudiated, the meaning of the word God changed radically. In the period of orthodoxy the meaning of God was determined by the Scriptures and His revelation in His Son Jesus Christ. Now all has changed. The word God now means what the individual says it means. Theological professors and the liberal preachers do not help, for they don't know who God is. The word God has become meaningless and a matter of human opinion which lacks the infallibility of the Pope!

(2) *Jesus*. In the period of orthodoxy Jesus was interpreted by the New Testament and they accepted the Jesus set forth there. Then came the repudiation of the New Testament authority by professors and liberal preachers. The modernism of the preachers and secular humanism of the

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professors made Jesus a matter of opinion only. They are not honest enough to join the Unitarians, but remained in their churches piously repeating the Apostle's Creed. Their opinions of Jesus were ably unanswered in the famous book by a distinguished scholar, "**The Quest for the Historical Jesus.**" He showed that many liberal biographies of Jesus were distortions which did not unveil the historical Jesus. Since he was a humanist, he needed his book as an agnostic with no Jesus. The word Jesus has lost its meaning in the permissive society and lost its moral influence and theological significance. Secular humanism has captured the universities and the liberal denominations. It often calls itself a religion, but what kind of a religion?

(3) *Equality* Many secular words have lost their accurate meanings. Many today who want equal rights really want their demands. We have been told for years that all men are created equal. Some of the men who wrote these words believed in human slavery.

Furthermore, God never created but one man. His name was Adam. He was unique. He was the only man without a navel. All other men came into the world by the processes of nature. Men and women

are not born equal. This may shock the ladies to find out that they were not born equal. Human beings are the victims of all kinds of inequality, physical, mental, political. One is a genius, another retarded. One becomes a wise man, another a fool. The Bible nowhere teaches that men are born equal; and after thousands of years of human history men are not equal. There are some forms of inequality that are wrong and regrettable, but in a sinful society this will always be true. Men are not only unequal, but all radicals believe they are superior. Many men think they have political equality but they seldom do. They are not equal to a millionaire or a powerful labor union with plenty of money to spend.

(4) *Discrimination.* This is a popular word these days. It is used honestly and dishonestly. There have always been all forms of discrimination and always will be in a sinful society. Older people are discriminated against. Women complain of discrimination. Now we are told that short people suffer from discrimination. Extremely tall people are discriminated against — they can't stand the high altitude. Discrimination is not only between groups; it is also within groups. Many families practice discrimination within their families.

Many groups that complain against dis-

crimination, also discriminate against each other and split into factions. It is common for sinful man to discriminate against his brother man. Many people have been angered because their organization discriminated against them and didn't elect them to office. There is discrimination but the word should be used honestly and not dishonestly as is so common today.

Further, discrimination rightly used is not only proper but socially helpful. The nose was given to both dog and man to enable them to discriminate. Some college students have noses in bad repair. When a speaker comes to the campus, he can't tell whether he smells like a skunk or a rose. There is little moral discrimination today.

(5) *Pollution.* We hear a great deal about air pollution and water pollution. Most people are interested in pollution except those who cause it. They think a little of their pollution won't hurt anyone.

There is little said about moral pollution. Even the preachers are not very much concerned about the moral pollution of society. The newspapers are quite moral on the editorial page and immoral on the theater page. The average church is a place where tranquilizers are dispensed to the saints. Many saints don't want preaching that disturbs, especially preaching against certain sins. Let

the preacher preach against sin but not sins!

CONCLUSION

The hippies have revived the idea of hypocrisy. The preachers don't preach against hypocrites anymore although Jesus did (Matt. 23). The professors say nothing about hypocrites for that would reflect on people's moral character. Secular education today carefully avoids anything moral for they do not know what is morality.

The hippies have a group idea of hypocrisy. It is in the churches. It is, but it is also a universal sin found in every group. It existed hundreds of years ago in religion, and still exists. It exists outside of religion and it is a kissin' cousin of lying. Hypocrites are in the church and among the hippies. They are in the lodges and other organizations which men join for business reasons, caring little for the ideals of the organization. Liberal preachers abound who stand in the pulpit and, like Judas, betray Jesus with a kiss. Jesus denounced hypocrites but He has few successors. But hypocrites continue to abound and in our permissive society are quite popular. Many enter politics.

The politicians in Congress open their sessions with prayer and

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Why We Believe The Bible To Be The Word of God

By Paul S. James

Here are submitted seven reasons for believing the Bible to be the Word of God.

First, **because of its testimony**, what it says about itself. Second Peter 1:20-21 reads: "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This means that Paul, John, Peter, James, and the others record not what they thought, but what the Spirit taught. Second Timothy 3:16-17 leads us to believe in the plenary inspiration of the Bible, which means that the whole Bible came to us as a supernatural message of God, was given through inspired personalities, and is authoritative and final in all matters of faith and practice. So our authority, is not individual conscience, or the law of the church, but rather the Word of God.

Second, **because of its authority**. It has been said that more than 3,800 times in the Old Testament alone there are such expressions as "the Lord spake," "God said," "the word of the Lord came." So in First Corinthians 2:13 Paul

writes, "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth." The psalmist cried out, "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." By illustration, God's authority is felt in such texts as Psalm 101:7, "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight."

Third, **because of its accuracy**. "Scripture in its details contradicts no received results of science, but anticipates many of its discoveries." This is illustrated by such texts as Genesis 1:3, where light is created before the sun, and Second Peter 3:10-11, where Peter refers to the loosing of the component parts of matter. Dr. Harry Rimmer has offered a \$1,000 reward to anyone who can prove that the Bible contains a scientific error. This reward has been available for years, but it has never been taken. One Christian scholar has said, "The time has come to test scholarship in the light of the Bible, rather than to test the Bible in the light of scholarship."

Fourth, **because of its prophecy**. The first prophecy points to Christ

(Genesis 3:15). Centuries after it was made, He fulfilled it. Look at Genesis 12:2-3. Joseph in a pit. Moses in a basket, Jonah in a fish. Daniel in a den; yet across four thousand years God has fulfilled His Word to this people in spite of plagues, persecutions, and pogroms. That which has been fulfilled supports our faith in that which is to be fulfilled: the rapture of the saints, the great tribulation, the millennial reign of Christ, the judgment of the dead, the eternal woe of the lost and weal of the saved.

Fifth, **because of its unity**. Here sixty-six books, written by more than forty different authors over a period of fifteen hundred years, have the scarlet cord of divine redemption running through them. Here is a central person, our Lord Jesus Christ, who in Luke 24 showed His disciples the testimony of all the Scriptures to Himself.

Sixth, **because of its persistency**. Across hundreds of years, it has come to us, surviving all the attacks that have been made against it. This anvil has broken many hammers. It remains today the world's best seller and only light.

Seventh, **because of its potency**. It is able to make us wise unto salvation. We are born again by the Word of God which liveth and abideth forever (1 Pet. 1:23). It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Read it to be wise, believe it to be saved (Jn. 5:24), and practice it to be holy. — Watchman Examiner. □

TULGA . . .

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reject it in the schools. Politicians work both sides of the street and never notice the straddle.

Judges sentence the murderer to death and he is either paroled or dies of old age. The do-gooders consider the life of the murderer important. His victim isn't. There are more nice victims. Send the murderer to prison! Maybe he can help reform the prison! □

God sometimes says, "Wait," but He never says "Worry." Only the Christian can see behind the black cloud of chaos and unrest, that the bright sun is shining. Learn to say, "No"; it will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin— Spurgeon.



Arkansas Convention Rejects Alien Immersion Change. — By a narrow margin, messengers to the Arkansas Baptist State Convention rejected a proposed change to its articles of incorporation which would have eliminated the following statement: “The Baptist Faith and Message shall not be interpreted as to permit open communion and/or alien immersion.” The change needed a two-thirds vote at two consecutive conventions to pass. However, since only 63% voted for the proposal, it failed. The language was added to the articles on incorporation in the early 1970s.

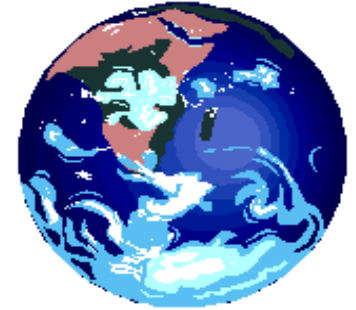
Philadelphia Raises Rent For Boy Scouts. — The city has decided that the Boy Scouts chapter in Philadelphia must pay fair-market rent of \$200,000 a year for its city-owned headquarters because it refuses to permit homosexual Scouts. The organization’s Cradle of Liberty Council, which currently pays \$1 a year in rent, must pay the increased amount

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to remain in its downtown building past May 31, Fairmount Park Commission president Robert N.C. Nix said. City officials say they cannot legally rent taxpayer-owned property for a nominal sum to a private organization that discriminates. The Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that Scouts, as a private group, have a First Amendment right to bar homosexuals from membership. The Philadelphia council adopted a nondiscrimination policy in 2003 but was ordered to revoke it by the National Council which said local chapters cannot deviate from national rules barring participation by anyone who is openly gay. — AP

School Approves Birth Control Pills for 11 to 13 Year-Olds. -- King Middle School in Portland, Maine, plans to dispense birth control pills and patches to students between the ages of 11 and 13. The Portland School Committee voted 5-2 in favor of the controversial proposal Wednesday night. This is the first middle school in Maine to make a full range of contraception available to students in grades 6 through 8, the Associated Press reported.

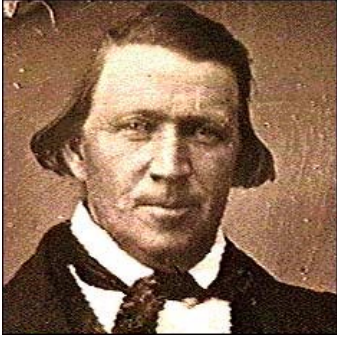
Condoms have been dispensed to students since 2002, the AP said. Parents may never know if their children are getting birth control from the school health clinic. Although parents must give permission for their children to receive health services from the school, it’s up to the children to tell their parents exactly what services they have requested. According to press reports, students must have a physical exam by a physician or nurse practitioner before getting a birth control prescription. The notion that a middle school would even consider giving birth control to children as young as 11 — thus implicitly sanctioning sexual activity — has dismayed many Americans. “Children who are sexually involved have much deeper problems that are left unaddressed by the band-aid approach of birth control,” said the Family Research Council. “This practice also paves the way for a cover-up of sexual abuse, with children increasingly at risk.” The Associated Press reported that five of the 134 students who visited King Middle School’s state-taxpayer-funded health center during the 2006-07 school year admitted they were having sexual intercourse.



California Governor Signs Homosexual Indoctrination Law. — California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed a new bill (SB777) into law that turns that state’s schools into homosexual indoctrination centers and forbids anything that could be interpreted as being negative toward homosexuality, bisexuality, transsexuality and other moral perversions. The law will doubtless affect public schools across America, because California is the largest purchaser of textbooks and it is unlikely that publishers will go to the expense of printing separate editions for other states. It is now officially illegal for students or teachers in California to say that homosexuality is a sin or that marriage is only for a man and a woman or that people are born male or female (and not in between) or to criticize cross-dressing, sex changes, or any other “alternative lifestyle.” The new law requires that students be allowed to use the restroom and locker room of their choice. A boy can use the girls’ restroom

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La Voz Del Desierto



Brigham Young

La iglesia de los mormones se compone de tres organizaciones principales: 1) La Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Últimos Días (la que comúnmente conocemos), con sede en Salt Lake City, Utah. 2) La Iglesia Reorganizada de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Últimos Días, con sede en Independence, Missouri. 3) La Iglesia de Cristo Lote del Templo, con sede en Bloomington, Illinois.

El fundador lo fue José Smith, quien nació en Sharon, Vermont en el 1805. El lugar de fundación lo fue Manchester, New York (conocido antes como Nueva Inglaterra), en el año 1830. Su autoridad está basada en El Libro de Mormón, Doctrinas y Convenios, La Perla de Gran Precio (libros todos de José Smith), partes de la Biblia, y “revelaciones” extra-bíblicas dadas a los líderes.

Su doctrina, es una Teología Politeísta que cree en varios dioses). Los

humanos son hijos de dioses y los que sean fieles llegarán a ser dioses. Además enfatizan la cooperación y la ayuda mutua.

La iglesia cuenta con más de 12 millones de miembros en todo el mundo (datos al 31 de diciembre de 2005).

Historia del Mormonismo

Estas iglesias tuvieron su origen en una “revelación” recibida por José Smith (líder de la secta), en el año 1823. Este joven de dieciocho años se convenció de que todas las iglesias estaban erradas y que él era llamado para ser profeta del Altísimo y fundar la iglesia verdadera. Por lo tanto, las palabras de Cristo: “las puertas del infierno no prevalecerán contra ella” (Mateo 16:18), según Smith, fueron falsas, porque solamente de él dependía organizar la verdadera iglesia. Aunque la Palabra de Dios es clara sobre el asunto de la perpetuidad de Su iglesia a

través de los siglos, los Mormones niegan tal existencia (Efesios 3:21).

Smith encontró quienes lo aceptaran como profeta, y fundó una iglesia con seis miembros. Tendría la ayuda de doce apóstoles y sólo en ella se conseguiría la salvación. Pero los conocedores de la Biblia sabemos que la revelación divina terminó con Juan, el último de los apóstoles (Apocalipsis 22:17-18), y que la religión no salva sino Jesucristo el Salvador. Además, Cristo dijo que Él organizaría Su iglesia, pero seis mormones declararon que Dios había llamado a Smith para hacerlo. ¿A quién vamos a creer, a seis mormones o a Cristo el Hijo de Dios?

Para apoyar su doctrina en relación a la poligamia (el derecho de tener varias esposas), se refería a Abraham y sus concubinas, a David y a Salomón con sus muchas esposas. El casamiento sería no sólo para esta vida, sino para toda la eternidad. La misma esposa legítima de José Smith, estuvo muy opuesta

a que su esposo recibiera a otras mujeres como esposas. Según la Enciclopedia Británica: “... hay pruebas de que Smith, pudo haberse casado hasta con 50 esposas.”

Por último, José Smith fue encarcelado por inmoralidad, conspiración, sedición, depravación, fraude en el nombre del cristianismo y otros graves delitos. Fue encarcelado en Carthage, Illinois, donde una noche surgió un motín y una muchedumbre atacó la cárcel, sacó a Smith a la fuerza de su celda, y lo mató a Smith a la fuerza de su celda, y lo mató a tiros junto a su hermano Hiram. Pero el martirio del fundador, lejos de acabar con la secta odiada, solamente le dio mayor impulso. Debido a este suceso los mormones bajo el liderazgo del sucesor de Smith, Brigham Young, emprendieron una de las grandes migraciones en grupo en la historia de Norteamérica; estableciendo un nuevo asenta-

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miento en Utah, actualmente Salt Lake City. Allí finalmente los mormones pudieron crear un asentamiento permanente.

¿Qué Es El Libro de Mormón?

El Libro de Mormón es la máxima autoridad de fe y conducta para la iglesia que José Smith fundó. La iglesia mormona dice que El Libro de Mormón, es tan palabra de Dios como la Biblia. Afirma ser la historia de los pobladores del hemisferio occidental. Dice que el Edén, donde Dios puso a Adán, estaba en Estados Unidos, en lo que ahora es el estado de Missouri.

Según la iglesia mormona, a su fundador, José Smith, se le presentó un ángel llamado Moroni y que el padre de éste, llamado Mormón, había esculpido en planchas de oro la historia de su pueblo la cual estaba a punto de ser exterminado por sus enemigos. Moroni había enterrado esas planchas de oro en un cerro cerca de lo que es ahora Palmyra, Nueva York. Ahora se le aparecería a José para indicarle dónde se hallaban y le prestó unas

pedras milagrosas con aspectos de lentes, que llamó "Utim" y "Turim" y con ellas podría leer la historia en las planchas en un lenguaje que Smith llamaba "egipto reformado." Pero, ¿por qué José Smith no le enseñó a nadie las planchas de oro y los lentes milagrosos para confirmar su testimonio?

Debemos recordar que Satanás aún se disfraza como ángel de luz (2da Corintios 11:14), para confundir y engañar a la gente. Además, ¿pueden los ángeles de alguna manera proclamar otro evangelio que vaya más allá de la enseñanza bíblica? Veamos lo que dice Gálatas 1:8,9.

El Libro de Mormón, es un evangelio diferente a la Palabra de Dios. El Señor también nos advierte que no se debe añadir a las Sagradas Escrituras (Proverbios 30:5-6; Apocalipsis 22:18). Además, la Biblia ha sido usada y confirmada por la arqueología, sin embargo el Libro de Mormón no ha sido usado, como tampoco tiene mapas porque no hay ni una parte de evidencia arqueológica para apoyarlo.

[Resumen del Estudio Original Presentado a la Iglesia por Hno. Juan B. Félix Torres, Recurso.]

El Modo Fácil Y El Modo Difícil

Puedes estar seguro de que dondequiera que Dios te guíe, Él es capaz de guardarte. Él jamás permite que nos venga algo que no podamos soportar (1ra. Cor. 10:13). Lo que sea que ordene. Él paga la cuenta. No tenemos que vivir en una lucha constante se aprendemos a apoyamos en Él continuamente, para tener la fuerza que necesitamos.

Si sabes que Dios te ha pedido que hagas algo, no retrocedas sólo porque se hace duro (Éxo. 13:17). Cuando las cosas se hagan difíciles, pasa más tiempo con Él, apóyate más en Él y recibe más gracia de Él (Heb. 4:16). La gracia es el poder de Dios que viene a ti, sin que te cueste nada, para hacer por medio de ti lo que tú no puedes hacer por ti mismo. Cuídate de pensamientos como: "*No puedo hacer esto, es demasiado duro.*"

Algunas veces Dios nos conduce por el camino difícil en lugar del fácil, porque está obrando en nosotros. ¿Cómo podemos aprender alguna vez a apoyarnos en Él, si todo lo que viene a nuestras vidas es tan fácil que podemos lidiar con ello nosotros mismos? Dios guió a los hijos de Israel por el camino largo y difícil porque eran todavía cobardes, y Él tuvo que obrar en ellos a fin de

prepararlos para la batalla que tendrían que enfrentar en la tierra prometida.

La mayoría de la gente piensa que entrar en la tierra prometida significa el fin de las batallas, pero no es así. Si lees los relatos de lo que sucedió después que los israelitas cruzaron el río Jordán y fueron a tomar posesión de la tierra que les habían prometido, verás que libraron una batalla tras otra. Pero ganaron todas las batallas que libraron con la fuerza de Dios y bajo su dirección. Dios los guió por la ruta más larga y difícil aunque había una más corta y fácil, porque Él sabía que ellos no estaban listos para las batallas que tendrían que enfrentar para poseer la tierra. A Dios le preocupaba que cuando vieran el enemigo podrían huir a Egipto, así que los llevó por el camino difícil para enseñarles quien era Él, y que ellos no podían depender de si mismos.

Cuando una persona está atravesando un momento difícil, su mente quiere darse por vencida. Satanás sabe que si puede vencernos en nuestra mente, puede derrotarnos en lo que hacemos. Por eso es tan importante no desalentarnos, cansarnos y desmayar (Gál. 6:9-10).

[Por Hno. Galo Rodríguez Redactor]

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Marcos A. Curet, Pastor

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as long as he “identifies” with the female sex. Another bill signed by Schwarzenegger, AB14, prohibits state funding of any program that does not support homosexual practices. This includes day care and preschool centers, senior services, anti-gang programs, and even hospitals. Schwarzenegger, a Hollywood movie star who has played in some of the most trashy and violent movies, is a Republican, which reminds us that politics is not the answer to America’s moral crisis. The root of the problem is the apostasy and compromise and worldliness in the nation’s churches, and until that is addressed and there is repentance and revival among professing Christians and the fear of God is boldly proclaimed from the pulpits, all of the political activity in the world will not slow the moral slide to destruction. “Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7).

* * *

Al Gore Awarded Nobel Peace Prize In Spite of Proven Errors In His Theory. — It was

announced on October 12 Al Gore is the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize along with the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change “for their efforts to spread awareness of man-made climate change and to lay the foundations for fighting it”. Two days earlier British High Court judge Michael Burton ruled that Gore’s documentary on global warming (“An Inconvenient Truth”) can only be shown in British schools if the teachers point out 11 serious factual errors in the film. The decision was made in response to a lawsuit by a father, Stewart Dimmock, who claimed that the film contains “serious scientific inaccuracies, political propaganda and sentimental mush” and who protested the decision by Britain’s Environment Secretary to send Gore’s film to all British schools. The judge sided with Dimmock and required that teachers make it clear that the film is a political work that promotes only one side of the argument and that they draw the children’s attention to 11 inaccuracies, such as saying that the melting snows on Mount Kilimanjaro is proof of global warming, that polar bears have drowned due to disappearing arctic ice, that global warming could stop the Gulf Stream, that the Greenland ice covering could melt, that the Antarctic ice covering is melting, that sea levels

could rise by seven meters, and that rising sea levels had caused the evacuation of certain Pacific islands. Myths are rewarded in this present world because it is dark and its god is the devil (2 Corinthians 4:4).

* * *

Influential Meteorologist Says Global Warming Is “Foolish”.

— Dr. William Gray, a pioneer in the science of hurricane forecasts, says the current warming trend is cyclical and that humans are not responsible for it. Speaking to a packed lecture hall at the University of North Carolina Charlotte, Gray called global warming education “brainwashing” and said the approach promoted by Al Gore’s movie *An Inconvenient Truth* is “ridiculous” and “foolish” (“Gore’s Climate Theory Savaged,” *Agence France-Presse*, Oct. 12, 2007). Gray spoke at the university on the same day that the announcement was made that Al Gore was co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. He said there is a natural cycle of warming and cooling because of changes in the salinity of ocean water and that “we’ll look back on all of this in 10 or 15 years and realise how foolish it was.” He cited statistics, showing there were 101 hurricanes from 1900-1949, in a period of cooler global temperatures, compared to 83 from 1957-

2006, when the earth warmed. Gray’s views have made him an outsider in popular science, and he says that many scientists are afraid to speak out against the global warming craze because “they know that they’d never get any grants if they spoke out.” An editorial cartoon in the very liberal and humanistic *Toronto Globe and Mail* a few days ago depicted a man asking, “But what about all of the scientists who doubt global warming,” and a very cool and modern young woman replying, “Name one.” The point was that no reputable scientist doubts Al Gorism.

* * *

European Council Warns About Creationism.

— On October 4 the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe passed a resolution entitled “The Dangers of Creationism in Education,” urging governments to “firmly oppose” creationism (“Europe’s Resolution on Creationism Indicative of Secularized Society,” *Christian Post*, Oct. 10, 2007). The resolution warned that creationism is promoted by religious extremists who want “to impose religious dogma” on children. In fact, it is the secular humanists that are imposing their religious dogma on children every day in the public school systems. Evolution is

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not a science; it is a faith. To say that our complex universe is the product of an explosion combined with mere chance is the blindest sort of faith. The resolution stated: "... the Parliamentary Assembly is worried about the possible ill-effects of the spread of creationist ideas within our education systems and about the consequences for our democracies. If we are not careful, creationism could become a threat to human rights which are a key concern of the Council of Europe." They did not give any examples of creationists that are trying to overthrow democracy or that have threatened human rights. This is a non-existent boogeyman invented for the purpose of making people afraid of Bible-believing Christians.

* * *

Muslims Torture And Murder Christian Bookstore Owner.

— On the weekend of October 6-7 Muslims kidnapped the owner of a Christian bookstore in Gaza, publicly tortured him, and then stabbed and shot him to death. The victim, Rami Ayyad, who left behind a pregnant wife and two young children, was the Baptist manager of the only Christian bookstore in Gaza. The bookstore was firebombed in April and

Ayyad had received numerous death threats. Witnesses saw Ayyad murdered by men who were shouting accusations that he was spreading Christianity. Since Hamas seized control of the Gaza Strip in June, attacks upon Christians have increased. — FBIS

* * *

The Amazing Splash

Fish. — There is an interesting fish that lives in South America called the splash tetra (*Copella arnoldi*). It is a small elongated fish about 3 inches long and lives near the banks of slow-moving rivers with heavy vegetation. The male finds a suitable leaf hanging over the water and waits for a female to join him. They then position themselves side by side and leap out of the water at exactly the same time and stick to the leaf. The female lays 6 to 8 eggs and the male fertilizes them, and they drop back into the water. This process continues until they have laid and fertilized about 200 eggs. The female then leaves, but the male stays there for three days using his tail to splash water onto the eggs every 10 or 15 minutes so they won't dry out. He does this until the fry hatch and fall into the water. There is only one fish in the world that does this neat trick. I would like someone to explain how this amazing process could have evolved. First of

all you would have to evolve a male and female tetra fish with the amazing capabilities of breathing underwater and reproducing offspring and such, all of the incredible complexity of the fish at the genetic level. Then you would have to evolve the splashing business. Assuming one fish learned to jump out of the water and stick to a leaf, how did two of them learn this at exactly the same time? It would have been necessary that they perfect the trick the very first time or it would have been meaningless. If only the male jumped or if only the female jumped or if they both jumped but did not lay eggs and fertilize them or if they jumped and laid and fertilized eggs but the male didn't keep them wet — nothing would have happened. And how did that incredibly clever and gymnastic pair then pass this amazing process along to their offspring who were not around to observe it?

* * *

American Airlines Supports Gays.

— American Airlines has taken out a full-page ad in a publication devoted to convincing Texas churchgoers that homosexuality isn't sinful and that the Bible doesn't condemn gay sex. The 16-page publication, *Be Who You Are*, appeared Oct. 12 in *The Dallas Morning News* and argues that sexually active gays

should be "accepted and affirmed in our churches" — and ordained, too.

* * *

Pastor of America's Largest Church Doesn't Mention Sin or Repentance In Television Interview.

— In an interview on *Larry King Live* on October 16 Joel Osteen, pastor of America's largest church, did not mention sin or repentance or the blood of Christ or the fire of hell. Everything was "positive" and light, even though Larry King is an agnostic and his audience is composed largely of unsaved people. Osteen had a wonderful opportunity to preach the gospel, but he failed, because he refuses to deal with any of the "hard" things in Scripture. Though Osteen mentioned the gospel and the cross of Christ, he did not preach the gospel. The gospel is that "Christ died for our SINS according to the Scripture..." (1 Cor. 15:3), but Osteen did not even mention sin. No one can be saved by simply "believing in Christ." To be saved I must acknowledge that I am a sinner, that I have broken God's laws, and that I deserve eternal punishment but that Christ paid the full price in my place. Jesus warned, "... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3), but Osteen did not

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mention repentance. The Bible says that “without shedding of blood is no remission” (Heb. 9:22), but Osteen didn’t mention the blood. The Bible says that hell is a place where “the fire is not quenched” (Mark 9:44, 46, 48), but when Larry King asked Osteen if he believes in hell he replied merely that hell is “separation from God.” Joel Osteen is the pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, where the Sunday crowds total about 48,000. He preaches a positive-only, self-esteem gospel, and exemplifies the apostasy of America’s churches today. — FBIS

* * *

Swedish Government Goes On Warpath Against Creationism.

— The Swedish government is preparing new rules that will forbid any teaching of creationism or “intelligent design” in the nation’s schools, including independent ones. Education Minister Jan Bjorklund says, “Pupils must be protected from all forms of fundamentalism” (“Creationism to be Banished from Swedish Schools,” *The Local: Sweden’s News in English*, Oct. 15, 2007). Bjorklund said the national education agency plans to double the number of inspections of schools and intends to make it easier to

close schools that break the rules. We have ten words for Mr. Bjorklund and his deluded government: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). — FBIS

* * *

Bush Says Christians And Muslims Pray to The Same God and Islam A Religion of Peace.

— For at least the second time in his presidency, President George Bush has said that Christians and Muslims pray to the same God. In fact, this time he said that all religions pray to the same God. In an interview with *Al Arabiya* reporter Elie Nakouzi on October 5 Bush said: “I believe in an Almighty God, and I believe that all the world, whether they be Muslim, Christian, or any other religion, prays to the same God. That’s what I believe. I believe that Islam is a great religion that preaches peace”. In November 2003 Bush, when asked by a reporter in England whether “Muslims worship the same Almighty,” replied: “I believe we worship the same God” (“Christians, Muslims Worship Same God, Bush Tells Reporters,” *Baptist Press*, Nov. 20, 2003). — FBIS

* * *

Another Attack Against Christianity.

— In the latest attack on Christianity, the U.S. government has banned the

flag-folding recitations at all 125 national cemeteries. The banning came as the result of one complaint! The situation is similar to that in which one person removed prayer from schools. This article from *The Associated Press* explains the situation: Complaints about religious content have led to a ban on flag-folding recitations by Veterans Administration employees and volunteers at all national cemeteries. At thousands of military burials, VA volunteers have folded the American flag 13 times and recited the significance of each fold to survivors. The 11th fold glorifies “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” The 12th glorifies “God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.” Citing a need for uniformity, the National Cemetery Administration has prohibited unpaid VA volunteers as well as employees from conducting the recital at all 125 national cemeteries. American Legion attorney Rees Lloyd calls it “another attempt by secularist fanatics to cleanse any reference to God.” Following one complaint, the Veterans Administration has made anti-Christian bigotry the law of the land. The U.S. government has bowed to pressure from one radical anti-Christian secularist. Allowed to stand, the action by the Veterans Administration, in essence, means that anti-Christian bigotry is now the

accepted and approved law of the land. [Following complaints, this rule was soon changed and now it is allowed as before.]

* * *

Ford Reaffirms Commitment To Homosexual Groups, More “Gay” Support Could Be Forthcoming.

— In an interview with *The Advocate* (Nov. 2007 issue), America’s largest homosexual magazine, Ford states more gay-specific ads are a distinct possibility. In reaffirming its commitment to advancing homosexuality, Ford spokesman Jim Cain said, “We haven’t ruled out the possibility of doing more targeted (gay specific) ads...” The comment came in a four-page article entitled, “Driving the Gay Market,” summarizing Ford’s past and current advertising practices in gay and lesbian publications. Providing evidence of their continued commitment to the homosexual agenda, Ford placed a full-page ad in the November 2007 issue of *OUT* promoting its new Volvo C30 automobile. *OUT* is the nation’s second largest homosexual magazine.

* * *

Iraq’s Christians Face Extinction, Advocacy Group Says.

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international organization supporting Christian minorities in Islamic societies has launched a new campaign to draw attention to the plight of Iraq's Christians, a community which it says "faces extinction." The U.K.-based Barnabas Fund, a charitable and advocacy group, said this week that Islamic extremists in Iraq are telling Christians to convert, leave or face death." The militants are well on the way to succeeding in their aim, at least in the south and central areas, as Christians flee the restrictions, threats and violence imposed on them."

* * *

Britain "No Longer Christian," Says Influential Liberal Think Tank. — It's time for Britain to recognize that it is no longer a Christian nation and should embrace multiculturalism, according to a liberal think-tank favored by Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Christmas should be just one of many religious holidays recognized by the government, says a report soon to be released by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). Echoing sentiments heard throughout Britain in recent years, the authors of the report say that the traditional pillars of British identity have now

vanished or been greatly weakened. Church attendance is at historically low levels, the British Empire is gone, the monarchy is far less popular and the Second World War is inexorably slipping into memory. After interviewing opinion makers and ordinary citizens, the authors say that it's up to the government to create a new and more inclusive national identity, part of which includes honoring the diverse cultures found in Britain.

* * *

Texas Baptists Appoint Former SBC Female Missionary As President. — On October 29 the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) showed its liberal colors by electing a woman as president in open defiance of God's Word. The other state convention in Texas is the Southern Baptists of Texas, which was formed in 1998 and is more conservative than the BGCT, but there are clear links to the Southern Baptist Convention from the BGCT. The new president, Joy Fenner, served as a missionary with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for 13 years and was a leader in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of Texas from 1981 to 2001 ("Texas Baptists Name First Woman President," Christian Post, Oct. 30, 2007). The WMU is an arm of the Southern

Baptist Convention, which is an unholy mixture of New Evangelicals, Modernists, Masons, and Worldly Rock & Rollers.

* * *

Finish Pastor Charged With Criminal Discrimination. — A Lutheran pastor in Finland has been charged with criminal discrimination for refusing to work with a female pastor and the court date is set for November 16. Ari Norro was scheduled to preach at a church in southern Finland in March, but refused to participate in the service when a female minister showed up. The town's Church Council filed a request with the police to investigate the case and was subsequently charged by the district court. "Finland's laws prohibit any discrimination either in the workplace or in public based on race, language, age, family ties, health, religion, political orientation, work, sexual orientation, or gender" ("Pastor Charged," Christianity Today, Nov. 1, 2007). The Finish state Lutheran church has been ordaining women since 1986, and in 2006 it ruled that male pastors do not have the right to refuse to work with female pastors.

* * *

Famous Atheist Publishes Book Describing

"Conversion." — The following is from "Former Atheist Darwinian Philosopher Explains His 'Conversion,'" Lifesite.net, Nov. 2, 2007: "Former Darwinian atheist philosopher Antony Flew has published a new book, 'There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind,' to explain his move from being one of the world's leading exponents of the pure materialist Darwinian philosophy to belief in the existence of a personal deity who created the universe. Flew, an Oxford educated philosopher described by some as 'legendary,' first announced his discovery of 'a god' in 2004. Flew had been one of the 20th century's leading proponents of the pure atheistic Darwinian doctrines that categorically reject any possibility of a creative divine being. His ideas paved the way for thinkers such as Richard Dawkins, the UK's most virulent opponent of religious belief. ... 'It was empirical evidence,' he told an interviewer, 'the evidence uncovered by the sciences. But it was a philosophical inference drawn from the evidence.' Flew told Dr. Benjamin Wiker that two factors in particular 'were decisive.' 'One was my growing empathy with the insight of Einstein and other noted scientists that there had to

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be an Intelligence behind the integrated complexity of the physical Universe. The second was my own insight that the integrated complexity of life itself — which is far more complex than the physical Universe — can only be explained in terms of an Intelligent Source.’ ... He told Wiker, ‘I believe that the origin of life and reproduction simply cannot be explained from a biological standpoint despite numerous efforts to do so. With every passing year, the more that was discovered about the richness and inherent intelligence of life, the less it seemed likely that a chemical soup could magically generate the genetic code.’ ... Emphasizing that he remains a Deist, not a Christian, he told Wiker that he does not ‘accept any claim of divine revelation’ but is continuing to study them, particularly those of Christianity.”

* * *

Three Anglican Parishes Trying To Join The Roman Catholic Church. — The Traditional Anglican Communion has petitioned to join the Roman Catholic Church (Catholic News Agency, Oct. 26, 2007). The TAC is an umbrella organization for Anglican parishes in Ireland and elsewhere that have refused to follow the more liberal direction of the

Anglican Church at large. It claims to have 400,000 members. A statement issued by the TAC said that “the bishops and vicars-general unanimously agreed to the text of a letter to the See of Rome seeking full, corporate, sacramental union.” This is not a surprising move, as the Anglican Church today is not far removed from Rome.

* * *

Methodist Church Allows Transgendered Minister To Keep Job.

— The Judicial Council of the United Methodist Church recently voted to allow a “transgendered” man/woman to keep his/her job as pastor of St. John’s United Methodist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. The pastor in question, the “Rev.” Drew Phoenix, was previously named Ann Gordon before undergoing a sex change operation and hormone therapy. Now the Rev. Ann is the Rev. Drew, and the liberal United Methodist Church is fine with it, because “the denomination’s Book of Discipline says nothing about transgender clergy.” The Bible says something about it, though. God created man male and female, and sexual confusion and crossover is the product of a reprobate mind (Romans 1:26-28).

* * *

Bibles In China:

Regime Sets the Rules.

— Claims about a Bible ban at next summer’s Beijing Olympic Games, while denied by Chinese officials, will refocus attention on the state of religious freedom under a regime that allows churches to operate and Bibles to be printed and sold — but only on its own terms. China’s foreign ministry spokesman, Liu Jianchao, on Thursday dismissed as “sheer rumors” reports saying that foreign athletes would not be allowed to bring Bibles to the Olympic village. Chinese law allows foreigners to bring in religious publications, audio and video materials, or other religious objects for personal use, Liu said. He questioned the motives of those behind the Bible ban claims — first reported in Italian and Spanish newspapers earlier this month — saying they should not try to undermine mutual understanding between China and the rest of the world. “There are always some people who do not want to see China host a successful Olympic Games,” the state-run *China Daily* quoted Liu as saying. But while China insists that religious freedom is respected, the *law* cited by Liu makes clear the extent of government control. Promulgated in 2000, the “Rules for the Implementation of the Provisions on the Administration of Religious Activities of

Aliens within the Territory of the People’s Republic of China” restrict foreigners from bringing into the country any religious books and articles “that exceed rational *personal use*. “They also may not bring in articles whose contents “are detrimental to Chinese national security and the public interests of Chinese society.” The law forbids missionary activity and restricts outsiders’ contact with Chinese co-religionists to those belonging to churches, mosques, temples and monasteries recognized by the government. When it comes to Christianity, Beijing permits only one Protestant organization, the Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM). Set up in 1950, the group’s name stresses the aim of resisting outside influences, with the goals of “self-governance, self-support and self-propagation.” An affiliated body established in 1980 is known as the China Christian Council (CCC). There are only five state-sanctioned Protestant churches in Beijing, a city whose population last summer passed the 17 million mark. — CNS

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When It Comes to Anti-Religious Bigotry, All Religions Are NOT Equal. — Of course, when it comes to official anti-religious bigotry, not all

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religions are equal. Did you know that, while religious images are under assault across the nation, in nine Western states the courts have ruled it *constitutional* for public schools to require a three-week course on the Islamic faith — a course in which all junior-high students are mandated to pretend they are Muslims and offer prayers to Allah? This is the same court, mind you, that infamously ruled (in the case brought by atheist activist Michael Newdow) that it is *unconstitutional* for students to mention “under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. — Newt Gingrich.

* * *

Senator Says Defy Chinese Bible Policy at Olympics. — Sen. Ken Salazar (D-Colo.) said Americans traveling to the 2008 Olympic games in Beijing next year should defy the Chinese government’s rule that prohibits travelers from taking more than one Bible into the country. **Cybercast News Service** asked Salazar Wednesday whether Americans traveling to China should defy this rule. “I think so,” said Salazar. “It’s a trampling on a freedom that we cherish in this country that’s a universal freedom. I don’t think that kind of constriction on something that is such an

international global celebration is something that ought to be tolerated.” The official Chinese policy prohibits anyone from bringing into the country “manuscripts, printed matter, films, photographs, gramo-phone records, cinematographic films, loaded recording tapes and video-tapes, etc., which are detrimental to China’s politics, economy, culture and ethics.” Wang Hui, executive deputy director of the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games, elaborated on this policy, telling the *South China Morning Post* last week: “Athletes and other individuals can bring with them their own Bibles. But no one can bring in multiple copies for public distribution.” — CNS

* * *

Atheistic Babbling — A recent conference sponsored by the Atheist Alliance International claimed that “science must ultimately destroy organized religion.” Speakers included Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens. The conference, held in Crystal City, Virginia, drew hundreds of spectators, but it was an exercise in complete nonsense. If this world is the product of mere chance and there is no divine Creator to whom man is accountable, no life after death, life is utterly meaningless and it matters

not what you believe or what you do. “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good” (Psalm 14:1).

* * *

Catholic Church In America Settles Another Batch of Sexual Abuse Lawsuits. — The Society of Jesus (Jesuits) has agreed to pay \$50 million to 110 people in Alaska who claim to have been sexually abused by priests in childhood when they were altar boys and altar girls (“Jesuits to Pay \$50M,” AP, Nov. 18, 2007). The priests have been shielded by the Catholic Church and were never criminally charged. They worked in rural Alaskan villages.

* * *

British Teacher Held Over Prophet “Insult.” — A British teacher in Sudan yesterday faced lashes and deportation as she languished in police custody, accused of insulting the Muslim prophet for allowing young children to name a teddy bear Muhammad. Sudanese police arrested Gillian Gibbons in Khartoum on Sunday after parents complained that she allowed 6-year-old boys and girls at an expensive English school to name the bear, and so “insult” the prophet Muhammad. The penalty carries the death sentence

for Muslims in Sudan, where Islamic Shariah law is enforced in Khartoum and the north, but a non-Muslim could face a maximum penalty of lashes, prison, a fine and deportation if found guilty.

Mr. Common Sense

My parents told me about Mr. Common Sense early in my life and told me I would do well to call on him when making decisions. It seems he was always around in my early years but less and less as time passed by. Today I read his obituary. Please join me in a moment of silence in remembrance, for Com-mon Sense had served us all so well for so many generations.

Obituary Common Sense Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn’t always fair, and maybe it was my fault. Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don’t spend more

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SENSE . . .

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than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children are in charge). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but over-bearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Aspirin, sun lotion or a Bandaid to a student, but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion. Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar can sue you for assault. Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming

cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason.

He is survived by three stepbrothers; I Know my Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm a Victim. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing. Author unknown. □

CAIN . . .

(Continued from page 2)

sins have separated between you and your God" (Isa. 59:2). God says you are lost now. Therefore, you need a Savior now.

Who is the sinner's Savior? "Christ died for the ungodly" (Rom. 5:6). Christ died as a substitute for the sinner. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15).

How can you make the Savior your Savior? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). When you "believe" (depend upon) the Lord Jesus Christ, your salvation is guaranteed by the "shalt" of Almighty God. Won't you take God at His word? □

"Modern American Christians"**By Clint Ammann**

America is a great nation. As a matter of fact it is the greatest nation on earth. However, the modern, American Christian has become so relaxed and nonchalant about the things of God and the house of God. Folks have no problem camping over night in a parking lot to attempt to receive a door buster gift. They have no problem signing up in advance to receive their very own copy of the latest video game to hit the market. It even seems that some Christians have fallen into this trap as well.

Some Christians will only miss work when it's absolutely necessary. Some are so dedicated they only take a sick day when their boss sends them home. If only assembly in the house of the Lord was taken so seriously. In the not so distant past, it was not uncommon for believers to put their lives on hold for two weeks to attend special services.

The "Modern, American Christian" will only miss church assemblies for the most important things in life. Those things might include another vacation (this year), hunting, and my personal favorite, the ever present, runny nose! All kidding aside, in the church is the place to be. If the doors are open, the pews should be filled.

The house of God is the place chosen by the Lord to meet with His people. Every time a service is missed, that is one less opportunity we took from God to meet with us.

O' Christian beware of your priorities. Beware of putting the things of God into a second place category. The Sunday and mid-week services should be greeted with much anticipation. Have your heart prepared, and come looking for a blessing. "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psa. 122:1). □

**If you are a child of God, and
you marry a child of the
devil, you will be sure to have
trouble with your father-in-law**

REV . . .

(Continued from page 1)

capstone, it is not separate and independent of all the other books. When we begin to understand the signs and symbols in the book of Revelation, we must interpret them in the light of the other Scriptures, particularly the book of Daniel, which, of course, is a prophetic book, and much of which speaks of the same things. For every sign or symbol in the book of Revelation, there is a counterpart to that sign or symbol to be found in other books of the Bible, so that it is to be studied along with the other books of the Bible, not separate from them.

We begin our study with verse 19 which is a key verse, for it gives us the divisions of the book. It is divided into three divisions. The verse says: "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter." Thus, a part of the book is that which is past "Write the things which thou hast seen." This is past tense. "And the things which are," that is present tense, "and the things which shall be hereafter" is future tense.

When you divide the chapters of the book so that they correspond with these three divisions, you find that chapter one covers that time referred to as "the things which thou hast seen." Chapters two and

three correspond to "the things which are," that is, things that are present. These chapters deal primarily with seven different churches, commonly referred to as the "seven churches of Asia," and corresponds to this present church age. The third division begins with chapter four and carries us through the rest of the book or through chapter 22.

So you have these three divisions: Chapter 1 — things "thou hast seen." Chapters 2 and 3 — "things which are." Chapters 4 through 22 — "things which shall be hereafter." This is important in our understanding of the Book of Revelation, and when we get into these chapters we will see how they logically fit into this threefold division.

There is another threefold division that we can use as the dividing mark or the three-fold division of this book, and this would be the millennium of the Lord Jesus Christ. This book, along with other books, speaks of the fact that Jesus Christ is to return to live upon this earth, and to reign for one thousand years. This would be the center of the division. Here you have things *Pre-millennial*, that is, things that are to take place *before* the millennial reign of the Lord. Then you have things that are *millennial*, things that are going to take place *during* the millennial reign of the Lord, and then you

have things that are going to take place *after* the millennial reign of the Lord. These would be *Post-millennial*.

Perhaps we should define the word at this point. The word "millennium" comes from two Latin words, *mille*, meaning a thousand, and *anno* meaning year. Millennial therefore means one thousand years. We find the one thousand year reign of the Lord mentioned several times in the 20th chapter of the Book of Revelation. Commonly it is referred to as simply the "Millennium."

There are some who deny that the Bible teaches the Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ, and one of their arguments is that the word "millennial" or "millennium" does not appear in the Bible. Well, it just so happens that is true. The reason is that this is an English word composed of two Latin words, but the Greek words for one thousand years do appear in the Bible. So, if you wish to argue about the word millennium, we can omit the

word millennium and adopt the Biblical words "one thousand years," for we find in the 20th chapter of the Book of Revelation this phrase is repeated several times.

In the latter part of verse 2, Satan is to be bound *a thousand years*. According to verse 3, Satan is to be released but not until after *the thousand years* should be fulfilled. In the latter phrase of verse 4 it says "and they lived and reigned with Christ *a thousand years*." It says in verse 5, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until *the thousand years* were finished." Verse 6, the latter part says, "But they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him *a thousand years*." Then verse 7 says, "And when *the thousand years* are expired." The Bible only has to say something one time to make it true, and that's sufficient for me to believe it, but here we find that this phrase is repeated some six

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Four Types of Church Members

An English minister once stated that he had four types of church members.

There are the "futurists," who are always going to church soon, and wish they were not booked up every Sunday.

The "specialists," who come to church only on special occasions.

The "Roadsters" who work so hard they must rest on Sunday.

The rest consisting of traveling far and fast and returning dead-tired Sunday night.

And the "regulars" who can be depended upon and who are the inspiration and delight of their pastor. □

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times. Therefore, if repetition means anything at all, it shows that the Lord intended for us to understand that there is to be a period of one thousand years when Jesus Christ will rule and reign on this earth.

In our study of the Book of Revelation, everything beginning with chapter 1:1 through chapter 19:21, the first 19 chapters of this book, deal primarily with events leading up to the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are events that we can say are things Pre-millennial. They occur before the millennium.

The things millennial are recorded in just six verses. This leads us to say that we cannot speak with much authority concerning what things will take place during the millennium since the Bible does not tell us very much. One thing we can be sure of, there is to be a one thousand year reign called the Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is not the end of time, but is only the end of that segment of time, because after the Millennial Reign, we find that there are other events to take place before eternity future begins. These are referred to as “things Post-millennial,” found in chapter 20:7 through chapter 22:6. Then 22:7 and following is an admonition and exhortation

to those who read and hear, etc. the reading of this book.

There are three basic viewpoints in the interpretation of this book, all dealing with the definition and time of what is called the millennium. The first view is the *A-millennial* viewpoint. This is often called the “preterist” viewpoint, meaning past.

A-millennialists interpret the book as having already been fulfilled in the early history of the churches. They say chapters 5-11 record the church’s victory over Judaism. They say chapters 12-19 record their victory over pagan Rome. They say chapters 20-22 record their glory because of these victories. Thus, A-millennialists say the persecutions described are those under the Roman Emperors Nero and/or Domitian, and the entire book was fulfilled by the time of Constantine.

They say the one thousand years of chapter 20 is not to be understood as literal, but as a long unspecified length of time beginning with the first coming of Christ and ending with His second coming. According to this interpretation, the Millennium has already lasted nearly 2,000 years. They say there is to be no literal reign on earth, but that Christ is in His spiritual reign at this time. They also say that Satan is bound now (20:2-3) rather than being loosed upon the earth (1 Pet. 5:8-9).

The *Post-millennialist* accepts the fact of a millennial reign upon the earth, but delays the return of Christ until after the Millennium, hence, post-millennialism. Their belief is that the world is to progressively get better until they bring in a universal world peace and a universal world salvation and thus, they will bring in the Millennium, after which Christ will then return. They interpret the Parable of the Leaven (Mt. 13:33) as teaching this, making the leaven refer to the gospel and the meal the world, resulting in the whole world being converted before the coming of Christ.

The *Pre-millennial* viewpoint is often called the “futurist” viewpoint as this interpretation sees everything from chapter 4-22 as being yet unfulfilled. Though there are some symbols within the book, Pre-millennialists say that most of the book is to be interpreted literally. If one follows the plain, literal or normal principle of interpretation, he must conclude that most of the book is yet future and that the Pre-millennial viewpoint is the correct and scriptural one.

For this reason, we interpret this book as a Pre-millennialist, believing it to be the correct interpretation.

We must be careful in the interpretation of the symbols of the book and to interpret them in the light of other Scriptures. Every picture or symbol has its counterpart in some other book of the Bible.

So these are the things that we are going to be looking at. To begin with, in this first chapter we find the “things that thou hast seen.” These are the things we now wish to look at.

“*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*” (1:1). Now I am very conscious of the exact title of this book, so that I notice many people, in referring to this book, give it an improper title. Many people refer to this book as “The Book of Revelations” (plural) as though it was a book of many revelations, but this book does not contain “revelations” (plural), but is one great revelation. The title of this book is not then “The Book of Revelations” or “The Book of the Revelations” but the title is given to us right here in

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Too Many Gadgets

The trouble with many churches is their power line is too heavily loaded. They have so many irons in the fire it is impossible to get any of them hot.

Their spiritual engines

have been loaded down with so many gadgets, all their power is expended on the gadgets. They need to do like some of our churches are doing — toss the “gadgets” out the back door. □

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verse one “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

This is, of course, what I pointed out to you in earlier messages. When you study and read this book, you are to look for the “Revelation of Jesus Christ.” You are not to study this book out of mere curiosity to know future events, or what is going to occur and the order of them, what’s going to happen to this one and that one, but the purpose is “the revelation of Jesus Christ.” So when you study and read it, you must do so with the idea of learning about the Lord Jesus Christ. It is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

The Lord also tells us how we got the revelation, the means by which God communicated this book to us. Verse 1 says: “*The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John.*” According to this verse the Father gives the revelation to His Son, Christ Jesus (Jn. 5:19-20; 7:16; 8:28; 12:49); the Son in turn gives it to His angel (1:1; 22:6; Acts 7:53); then His angel gives it unto John, according to verse 11, and John in turn gives it to the churches of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:11). The churches then give it to the world.

This we find in chapters two and three.

Notice verse 2: “*Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*” We find three things here that John bears a faithful witness to. First, he bears a faithful witness to the Word of God (Jn. 21:24; 19:35). God communicated with him. God communicated with him directly, and John faithfully recorded these words that God gave unto him. “Who bare record of the Word of God”. This is why he was banished to Patmos. Secondly, “And of the testimony of Jesus Christ” (1:5; Jn. 8:18; 18:37; Rev. 3:14). Thirdly “of all things that he saw” (1 Jn. 1:1-3). The things — this is definite. It describes definite events. “Must” indicates absolute certainty, necessity. A-millennialists declare that the words demand an immediate fulfillment if they are to be of any comfort to these believers to whom John was writing. James, however, encourages the saints by the promise of the second coming, yet it has been nearly 2,000 years and Christ has not yet come (Jas. 5:8). We also see that Paul encouraged the persecuted church of Rome by stating that God would bruise Satan shortly, referring to the promise made in the Garden of Eden (Rom. 16:20). Also see Luke 18:7-8.

“Shortly come to pass”

(1:1). Two ideas are expressed by this phrase. The certainty that they will come to pass and the speed in which these events take place when they begin to come to pass. God does not compute time as we do (2 Pet. 3:8). By this phrase we are to understand that the return of the Lord is always imminent (Rom. 13:11). While the coming of the Lord is not presented to us in Scripture as something immediate, it is always something which is imminent. Only Peter did not have this hope (Jn. 21:18-19; 2 Pet. 1:14).

So here then is a faithful record, an accurate record, a true record of these things that God communicated unto John, the “things that he saw.” When the word “things” is mentioned, it refers to things that are specific; it refers to definite events. He

writes about specific things that were revealed unto him. The word “must” also refers to the fact that they “must” be written for us so that we might be aware of, and acquainted with this information that the Lord has revealed unto him.

There is a special blessing attached to the reading, hearing and obeying of this book. This book begins with the possibility of a blessing and ends with the possibility of a curse (22:18-19). I do not recall any other book of the Bible that has a special blessing attached to just simply the reading of the book. Notice in verse three: “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand” (1:3; Lk. 11:28).

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His One Mistake

He brushed his teeth twice a day — with a nationally advertised tooth paste. The doctor examined him twice a year. He wore his rubbers when it rained. He slept with the windows open. He stuck to a diet with plenty of fresh vegetables.

He relinquished his tonsils and traded in several worn-out glands. He golfed — but never more than eighteen holes at a time. He got at least eight hours sleep every night. He never smoked, drank, nor lost his

temper.

He did his “daily dozen” daily. He was all set to live to be one hundred.

The funeral will be held Wednesday. He is survived by eighteen specialists, four health institutions, six gymnasiums, and numerous manufacturers of health foods and antiseptics.

He forgot God, lived as if this world was all, and now he is with those who say, “The harvest is past, the summer is ended and we are not saved” (Jer. 8:20). Guess his name! ▣

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There are three words to be noted here: there is a blessing to all who *read* the book. Secondly, who *hear* the book; and thirdly who *keep* the things that are written therein. You see, God does not reveal to us this information simply for knowledge sake alone. He does not tell us that it is good just to read it, or just to hear it, but the blessing comes not in simply reading or simply hearing, but in *the keeping* of the sayings of this book, obedience. God intends for us to do this.

Note that it says “blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy.” Remember that when John was writing, they did not have Bibles like you and I have today. Bibles were very rare when John wrote this book. No church had all the books of the New Testament. I know they didn’t have the book of Revelation for it had not yet been written. We see here the custom that was carried on in that day in having a reader; one who would stand up in the congregation to read the Bible. They were not privileged to own Bibles like you and me, so they could not read the book, but there would be one who would stand up before the congregation and read the book, “Blessed is he that readeth.” There is a special blessing attached

to simply reading this book.

Now we are always interested in receiving blessings from the Lord. I suppose if you are like me, in praying unto the Lord, you often ask the Lord to bless you. Usually we may even pinpoint what we want Him to bless us with, and usually it is a petition in which we ask for certain things. We find here there is a blessing that God says is conditioned on just the reading of this book.

This may apply to the entire Bible because we read, particularly in the 119th Psalm, about blessings that are attached to the reading of the Word of God. This does, however, primarily refer to the Book of Revelation, as there is a special blessing that one can receive from the Lord just by reading this book, that is not attached to any other book of the Bible. In fact, it is repeated twice, for in the 22nd chapter and verse 7, he begins to end the book, and in completing this book he says “Behold I come quickly. Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” So again he talks about a blessing that is particularly included with the reading, hearing, and the keeping of the sayings of this book.

The author visualizes a man standing before a congregation of people, assembled in public worship, as indicated by the pronoun “he” (singular) and the two pronouns “they”

(plural). The hearers do not have copies of the Book of Revelation; therefore they cannot read it for themselves. With the book in hand, this man stands before them and reads to them the “Book of the Revelation.”

“Blessed is he that readeth” and then it says, “and they that hear the word of this prophecy.” There is a blessing not only connected with the reading but there is a blessing connected with the hearing. If one cannot read because of blindness or not knowing how to read, it may be necessary for somebody to read it to them. There is a blessing then, not only to the reader but also to the one who hears.

The third part says: “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.” God expects obedience, and when we read the Bible and understand what God says, then God intends for us to obey Him. Whatever His commands are, God does intend for us to obey. So there is a blessing to the reader, there is a blessing

to the hearer, and there is a blessing to the keeper — the ones who keep the sayings of this book.

Now what are these blessings? Just what are the blessings that you will receive? The first blessing is a wonderful vision of our Savior and Lord, implied in verse one where it says: “The revelation of Jesus Christ.” The first blessing that you will receive is that you will see here a wonderful vision of your Savior and your Lord. When the world saw Jesus Christ last, it was Jesus Christ as He was crucified, Jesus Christ hanging upon a cross. That’s all the world saw of Him. When we come to the book of Revelation and begin to read, we see Jesus Christ in all His glory, in all His majesty, and with all His power. We begin to see who our Savior and our Lord really is. In this book of Revelation we have this wonderful vision of the Lord Jesus Christ as the King of kings and Lord of lords, coming back to this earth to destroy all unrighteous-

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Everything In the Bible

Little 5-year-old Sandra said to her pastor, “I know everything that is in the Bible.”

Astonished, her pastor replied, “Well; if you know everything in the Bible, tell me about it.”

“Well, sir”, she began, “there is a lock of Johnny’s hair and a pressed flower from mama’s wedding corsage, and grandpa’s insurance policy, etc.”

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ness and to establish His reign of righteousness that will last forever.

The second blessing we will receive in this book is that we will be able to see what is in store for this age. We read of the judgments that are going to overtake this world, how Satan's power is going to be manifested to the fullest upon all of those who reject the grace of God. This is followed by the judgment, tribulation, and the wrath of God that are swiftly going to come upon this earth, but will not come upon believers for God has delivered us from all of this. No judgment, no wrath for us who are saved (Rom. 8:1; 1 Thess. 1:10). We can look at the future, we can see that this world is now getting ripe for judgment, that things are shaping up in the Middle East for this final battle of Armageddon that will be fought in the valley of Megiddo or the valley of Jezreel in Palestine. Everything is shaping up. But, when we read in the Bible about it, we are told that we will not be involved in it nor even be here when all of this takes place, for the Bible tells us, God tells us, that we are going to be delivered from all of this.

Paul says in the book of Romans, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who*

walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Rom. 8:1). There is therefore *now* no condemnation — that means no judgment. When we look at this judgment to come upon the world as recorded here in the Book of Revelation, we can know that we will not have to go through it.

In First Thessalonians 1:9-10: "*For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*" So we are not going to undergo the wrath of God; nor here when God returns to this earth and pours out His wrath upon the earth. He has delivered us from the wrath to come.

Several times in Revelation, primarily in chapter 6 in the latter verses, it talks about this judgment or these judgments (plural). This has reference to the Tribulation Period, or God's wrath poured out upon this earth. We do not have to undergo this tribulation, for we have been delivered from the wrath to come.

Lastly, we find that a blessing that comes to us through the reading, hearing and keeping of the sayings of this book, is the assurance that we are on the victory side, for God is

going to be victorious. It doesn't look that way right now. This world is a dark picture, and getting darker every year. We look today and find that the forces of atheism are growing stronger every year. Every year the forces of so-called "Christianity" are getting farther and farther away from the truth. Every year we see that churches that still believe in the Word of God, and still believe in the second coming of the Lord, and still believe in the fundamentals of the faith, are getting fewer and fewer. When you look at it in that light, it should cause us to be discouraged. It should cause us to become down-hearted, it should cause us to look and think we are losing and that Satan is winning the battle. But when you read the Book, God tells you these things are all going to come to pass. He tells you that there is to be an apostasy among Christendom, when denomination after denomination will forsake and leave the truth. He even

points out in the last church, the church of Laodicea, that it is going to affect even true churches — Baptists if you please.

Just to give you an illustration, an article appeared in one of our local papers yesterday. Who do you think is going to be delivering the Lenten lectures at Christ Episcopal Church this week? The pastor of First Baptist Church of Little Rock. Lent is a heathen holiday brought into so-called Christendom by the Roman Catholic church. Baptists don't observe Lent, but the pastor of First Baptist Church will. You know what else they are going to do? They are going to have an open communion service for anybody that wants to come. Not only that, but Rufus Womble, the Rector of the church, is going to have a healing service too, and here is the pastor of First Baptist Church of Little Rock getting involved in that kind of mess. This

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Crime Solved Quickly

A frightened householder excitedly reported to police headquarters that he had been struck down in the dark outside his back door by an unknown assailant.

A young policeman was sent to the scene of the crime to investigate, and soon returned to head-

quarters with a lump on his forehead and a glum look on his face. "I solved the case" he muttered.

"Amazingly fast work." his superior complimented him. "How did you accomplish it?:"

The young cop explained, "I stepped on the rake, too." ▣

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is what the Bible is talking about.

I have on my desk "*The Record*," a paper from the Mississippi Baptist State Convention. On the editorial page, they were talking about what a wonderful dialogue they had with Roman Catholic priests in Mississippi. I'm not sure where it was, but I believe they said there were 32 of them, all met together, trying to decide how they could get everything in common.

Things are getting dark and they are getting darker, as we see even those who are supposed to be sound Baptists beginning to play around and flirt with the Devil's bride, because this apostate church, as we'll learn later on, is the bride of the Antichrist.

When you read the book of Revelation, it tells you all of these things are going to come to pass. It also shows us that Jesus Christ is going to come back victorious over all His enemies. It shows us that we that are His children, who have received Him as our personal Lord and Savior, are going to live, reign and rule with Him for one thousand years, and afterwards to have all eternity to enjoy the things that God has in store for His children.

There is a real blessing to understanding the book of Revelation because it

gives encouragement. If you didn't know what was in the book, you'd be discouraged. You'd be downhearted. You'd be blue, despondent, going around with a long face all the time. We ought not to, for Jesus Christ is still in charge. He knows what is going on. He just permits Satan so much latitude, and that is all. Satan is on a leash. He can only go so far, and that is all God allows him. When God's time comes, when the time is ready, then Jesus Christ is going to return to this earth, and is going to take charge. He is to take over and Satan will be expelled from this earth, ultimately to be cast into the lake of fire which burneth with fire and brimstone forever.

Now when shall these things take place? Remember, that this is a book of prophecy. It is a prophetic book. It is then future. It is not written from a historical standpoint, but from a future standpoint. When shall these things take place? The "things" we are to study follow in the book of the Revelation and "must come to pass" and "shortly." [The word "shortly" not only means very soon but also very quickly Lk. 18:7-8; Zeph. 1:18]. Since this is repeated in 22:6, this eliminates the "historical" interpretation, that is, making the Seals, Trumpets, Vials, etc. apply to events of church history rather than to future events. Notice verse one: "The

Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which *must shortly come to pass*." "Shortly" or "the time is at hand" would apply to any event whose beginning was soon to occur, though the end might be remote, for the series of events might stretch far into the future.

Now look at verse 3: "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: *for the time is at hand*." In other words, the only time element that we find in the Bible referring to the second coming of Christ is that it is soon, sudden, quick, that it must shortly come to pass — that the time is at hand. The things that we are going to be studying here in the Book of Revelation must come to pass and shortly, indicating that they are very soon.

We see in Second Thessalonians that the people in Thessalonica misunderstood Paul's writings in his first book and thought the second coming

was going to be immediately, in their lifetime, but Paul did tell them that there were certain things that must take place first. When you begin to look at these things that Paul said must take place first, they have already happened. They have already taken place. The time is short; the time is near.

Now that's the last verse in the last chapter — "*things must shortly be done*." That shows that the book is not talking about things that are history, but things that are future; things that are shortly going to come to pass. Most of these prophecies are still future, but not far away. We are living now in the last days. Most of these prophecies are still future and will not take place until after the church age which ends in chapter three, for the Rapture takes place at the close of chapter three and before the beginning of chapter four.

As we look at the events in the world, we see that prophecies are soon to come to pass. Everything

(See REV on page 24)

One Mule Forsale

There was a sad incident one day in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. A farmer's mule kicked his mother-in-law to death.

A tremendous crowd turned out for the funeral, but it was made up almost entirely of men.

The minister com-

mented, "This old lady must have been mighty popular, because so many people will leave their work to come to her funeral."

"They're not here for the funeral," said a surprised farmer. "They're here to buy the mule." □□

FELLOWSHIPS and CONFERENCES

LUBBOCK, TX

March 10-12, 2008,
Tabernacle Baptist Church,
1911 34th St., Lubbock, TX
79411, Bob Jackson,
Pastor.

* * *

ST. CLAIR, MO

April 28-30, 2008, Mt.
Zion Baptist Church, 1352
Parkway Dr., St. Clair, MO
63077, Thomas Smith,
Pastor.

* * *

DEARBORN HGTS., MI

June 17-19, 2008, Van
Born Baptist Church, 25866
Van Born Rd., Dearborn
Hgts., MI 48125, Greg
Albright, Pastor.

REV . . .

(Continued from page 23)

is shaping up. Even this peace overture between Egypt and Israel is prophesied in the Bible in the sense that Egypt is going to be treated differently and separately from all the other Arab nations. Egypt is going to be blessed of the Lord. Egypt is going to have a blessing of God placed upon it, separately and distinctly from the other Arabs. The Bible is talking about how these things are all getting ready to come to pass.

Are you ready if they were to come to pass today? For there is not anything that prevents Jesus Christ from coming today. All the prophecies that must be fulfilled before He comes have already taken place, and there is not one thing that must be fulfilled before Jesus comes again. He could come today. He says: "Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me." If he were to come today, where would you be?

There are only two places, heaven and hell, and you are going to be in heaven if you have trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, and if not, you are going to be left behind, and you are going to have to go through that Tribulation Period. You may not even make it all the way through, because there is going to be one third of the world killed at one time. You may not even make it through, but you may just undergo all kinds of suffering before you ultimately are killed, but ultimately you are going to stand in eternity in the lake of fire.

Are you ready? If not, this book of Revelation is written for you as a warning so that you might know what things are soon going to come to pass and so that you might get ready. There is only one way to get ready, and that's by trusting Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. □

MATHIS . . .

(Continued from page 3)

What Is Life?

Now what is life? Billions of dollars are being spent (some by NASA) in the search for other life in our universe and for the origin of life. Scientists claim, today, that all life uses the same basic chemicals, amino acids, the same type of DNA codes, the same proteins (though different arrangements of amino acids), etc. According to this concept of life, everything, including you and me, evolved from the same set of chemicals. Assuming this is true, it in no way proves evolution. Rather, it does prove that we had a common creator, God. But the evolutionist has reduced us to a sort of complex molecular structure that differs from other species or plants only by virtue of having a little different arrangement of our genes in the DNA molecules.

The question then arises, if scientists could figure out all the complex

atoms, molecules and cells that make up a human being and then figure out how to put them together, would you have life or merely a bundle of molecules and body cells? The answer, we believe, is no. Life comes from God and is far more complex than man realizes.

In the first place, man has not and I believe never will figure out the unbelievable complexity of the systems that make up man. There are thousands of reactions going on in the cell that greatly exceed the usual qualities of the atoms and molecules that make up these cells. Enzyme molecules, not to mention DNA molecules and a host of others, exhibit powers beyond any honest man's calculations. Even when complex molecules are synthesized, simple molecular building blocks will not spontaneously form the highly complex cells of living things. The truth is that it takes life to produce life.

[Next month: "Test Tube Babies, Cloning and Genetics."] □

**The secret of success
Is to be like a duck —
Smooth and unruffled on top,
But paddling furiously underneath**

*"but I laboured more abundantly than they
all; yet not I, but the grace of God
which was with me."
1 Corinthians 15:10*