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Why I Am A Baptist

By H. Boyce Taylor

I am going to talk to you this morning on, "Why I Am A Baptist." In the last chapter of Matthew, verses 18-20, you will find these words: "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world. Amen." My text is found in Matthew 28th chapter, and 20th verse, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Peter told us "to be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." That is a good reason why every Baptist here today ought to be able to tell you why he is a Baptist. Every Baptist ought to be able at any time to give his reasons for being a Baptist: and contrariwise, since the Master never established but one church, every man, who isn't a Baptist ought to be able to

give reasons, good and sufficient to satisfy the Lord Jesus at the judgment, why he is not a Baptist. For if the church that Jesus built was a Baptist church, then no churches but Baptist churches are churches of Christ and every man will have to face the Lord Jesus at the judgment and tell Him why he joined some church founded by an uninspired man, instead of the one founded by the Lord Jesus

Himself.

There is much talk now-a-days about a community church. Why should not Baptists go in with all others and organize one church in every community? If it were left to us nothing would be more delightful. We like to agree and get along with other people. But it isn't left to us and to our consciences. The Master's plain command to the first church was "to

teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Church membership is not left to your consciences or your whims or your reasonings; it is a matter of loyalty and obedience to Jesus Christ who bought us and saved us with His own precious blood.

Conscience is not a standard of right or wrong for any man, for conscience is a creature of education and needs teaching. The conscience of the ignorant, or uninformed would say one church is right or none, and the conscience of the man who is taught would say another. So you see conscience cannot be a standard by which men are to regulate their church membership. A standard must be that to which all men can come, and which when submitted to will make all men do what the Lord Himself says do. That is why Jesus said, "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

The Bible is the standard and men's consciences never get right until they get right with the Bible and then they all agree. The fundamen-

When It Rains -- It Pours

First, our computer crashed forcing us to reformat the hard drive and losing everything that we had not backed up which was several months of work.

Now we have another problem, maybe as serious as the first problem. The Post Office has informed us that they will not mail any more copies of **The Baptist Challenge** until we are able to comply with the new regulations that require certain forms to be submitted with each mailing. This will probably require the purchase of a new mailing program, and we have not as yet been able to secure one. The Post Of-

fice has been very cooperative and helpful and is allowing us to mail this issue without the new system, and hopefully we will be able to purchase a mailing program by the time we get out the May issue. As you will note, we are combining the March and April issues and I hope to be back on schedule for the May issue but don't be surprised if the next issue is late.

Last June the Post Office issued new requirements for mailing, requiring some additional reports, and we were under the impression that our reports were sufficient,

(See **RAIN** on page 14)

(See **BAPTIST** on page 14)

Is There A Devil?

By the late M. L. Moser, Sr.
(As preached on the radio)

This is the first in a series of sermons on the Devil. You have probably read a great many series of messages on the Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Jesus Christ, Salvation by Grace, the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Person and the Work of the Holy Spirit, but I wonder how many of you have read a series of messages on the Devil? That is what we want to take up for the next few months. The first in this series of many messages on the Devil deals with the subject: "Is There A Devil?"

The Devil is referred to hundreds of times in the Bible and is always referred to as a personal being. Over forty names are given to him in the Bible, and all of the names indicate that he is a person.

Please read the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, verses one through eleven. We are not going to deal with this text now, but we will as the months go by. We do want to call your attention to the fact that the incident recorded in the fourth chapter of Matthew is a real, historical incident. It is not a figurative incident. It is a true historical story. For instance, I think most of you will agree that Jesus was real, and if that be true, then the temptation was real, and if the temptation was real, then the Devil is real.

The Old Testament

I want to say to you very frankly that there is a malignant personality in this world

called the Devil. The Old Testament has a great deal to say about it. For instance, we find reference to the Devil, already as the Devil, in the garden of Eden. Later in these studies we are going to show you how Lucifer, the angel of light, sinned and how he was cast out of heaven and how he became a fallen, corrupt, sinful creature and how we know him today as Beelzebub, Satan or the Devil; that when he first appears upon the scene in the third chapter of the book of Genesis, he has already fallen and is already known as the Devil, and we find him lying to Adam and Eve and murdering their souls and causing them to die. You notice Jesus, in referring to the Devil, said he was a liar and he was a murderer from the beginning, so the very first reference to Satan in the Bible shows him as a liar and shows him as the murderer of souls.

Then we find in the book of Job, the first chapter and the twelfth verse, "And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord."

We read again of Satan in the book of Zechariah, and Zechariah is one of the most interesting of the prophets in the Old Testament. We find Satan again appearing and in this appearance he is known as the Devil, and in the third chapter we read, beginning with the first verse, "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. And the Lord said unto Satan, the Lord rebuke thee, O Satan: even the Lord that hath chosen Jerusalem

rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

The New Testament

When we turn to the New Testament we find, as in our text, in the temptation of Christ, the personality called Satan tempting the Lord Jesus. And then Paul tells us that he would have liked to have made a number of visits "but Satan hindered him" (1 Tim. 2:18). And then we find "the devil having entered into Judas Iscariot" (Jn. 13:2); and then "the devil having deceived them" (Rev. 20:10).

So all through the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament, we find Satan appearing as a malignant personal being. Christ had many experiences with the Devil and I want to call your attention to three statements Jesus Christ made concerning the Devil.

First of all in John 8:44. Now the Pharisees and Sadducees had set themselves in opposition to the Lord Jesus Christ. They were the religious leaders of that day and time. They posed as God's men. They posed as righteous men. But Jesus tore the mask of hypocrisy from their face, revealing them for what they really were, and said, "Ye are of your father, the devil." And so as God is the father of saved men, Satan is the father of lost men.

Again, Jesus said "The enemy that sowed them is the devil" (Mt. 13:39). Now Jesus is talking about the two seeds, the good seed and the tares. He tells us that the good seed is the Word of God, and He tells us that among the Word of God and in the world, Satan has sown

(See **DEVIL** on page 9)

THE BAPTIST CHALLENGE

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Creation Versus Evolution

By Kenneth Mathis

[Kenneth Mathis is a registered Professional Engineer in both Texas and Louisiana. He is a graduate of the School of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Arkansas. After serving as an Engineer for many years, being called to preach, he left his chosen vocation and accepted God's call, and has pastored independent Baptist churches for several years. He is currently pastor of the Temple Baptist Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas.]

INTRODUCTION

Evolution has now been taught in our schools for many years and, in our day, it is widely accepted by many as fact. The news media, knowing little about the issues involved and believing evolution, are quick to televise or to print any development that supposedly supports evolution and very reluctant to

televise or print any contrary information. In recent months, the intensity of evolution promotion has increased. With space exploration and cloning in the headlines, every Christian should arm themselves with the knowledge necessary to successfully defend and witness the truth as presented in the Bible.

Our youth are being inundated with evolutionary teaching in our schools and universities as well as by programs on television. The next generation will be lost if we do not address this issue now. You cannot take the position that "I believe it and that settles it;" you must know what you are talking about.

In the following columns, I will discuss the so-called proofs of evolution, define life, discuss some of the current theories of the origin of life and our universe, the claims of creating life

in a test tube, review the cell and its makeup including information on chromosomes, DNA molecules, genes, amino acids, proteins, cell and human reproduction. I will also discuss claims of life in a lethal atmosphere, the latest genetic research including test-tube babies, sex determination of the baby, and cloning. This information is meant to be a brief summary of the many issues involved and to allow Christians to understand the claims being made and how they relate to the Bible.

PHILOSOPHIES OF CREATION

Two philosophies exist to explain the origin of all things. The philosophies are divided by whether one believes in or does not believe in God. Both claim to accept and analyze the facts and relationships of nature in the world but the interpretation of the observed facts is dependent upon one's original belief. One philosophy assumes something existed and evolved into all that we now see. This philosophy states that all orderly systems in the universe, whether atoms, molecules, plants, animals, stars, galaxies or men have developed by the properties and processes of eternal matter and energy from primeval chaotic randomness into their present state of organized complexity and order. It assumes that these same properties and processes are still functioning. The individual who believes this philosophy will seek any explanation possible through natural phenomena. He will reject or ignore evidence

that contradicts this belief and will practice the use of selective evidence to try to prove his assumption. Unfortunately, most scientific textbooks present evolution as if it were a proven fact rather than an unproved and constantly changing theory of origins.

GOD AS CREATOR

The belief that God created all things states that He brought nuclear particles, atoms, molecules, cells, matter, energy, stars, planets, plants, animals, man and all else into existence by special creation and that this process is no longer occurring. It looks back and acknowledges the necessity of origin (God) but that present day phenomena and processes cannot in themselves create anything. In this belief, we acknowledge that God has a purpose in this universe and that He is the creator and sustainer of all things (including the natural laws that govern all things) and that He is Lord over all things. God is the first cause and origin for this belief. The other belief does not explain origins but assumes inert matter is eternal and the laws that govern it.

It is essential that Christians today have, at least a basic understanding of the issues that separate the evolutionist and the creationist. The textbooks in our schools and many of the teachers are presenting evolution as a fact and not an unproved and constantly changing theory of men who do not believe in God. The child is taught that God is not real

(See **MATHIS** on page 17)

Creation Or Evolution

By M.L. Moser

On March 27, 1966, this sermon was preached in the Central Baptist church of Little Rock, Arkansas, and portions of it were televised on the CBS-TV Network on April 1, 1966. It has been edited and printed in the hope that more people might become aware of the gaps in the theory of evolution which is being taught as fact in most of our schools. Order from:

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(See Postage rates on page 6)

The Right Use Of Money

Yes, Money Talks, And We Ought To Be Careful How We Use Our Funds

Yes, money talks; it tells tales; it answers questions; it reveals heart secrets. No wonder that — as careful investigators have declared — our Lord Jesus said more — directly or indirectly — upon the general subject, “The Right Use of Money,” than upon any other one theme in all the Scriptures.

It is because, then, of the high importance of this theme, that we ask the reader to give prayerful consideration to the following propositions:

1. Not to give largely and regularly to God, is to evoke His curse, and even to make questionable our own salvation.

No covetous man has any part in the Kingdom of God; and yet covetousness is the most conspicuous of all the sins of this evil day, when men generally are lovers of self, proud, unthankful and high-minded — having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Covetousness is idolatry; and all idolaters have their part along with those who are lovers and makers of lies.

2. The Scriptures clearly teach that God is absolute Owner of all resources in our hands.

We are but stewards to whom He has said, “Occupy until I come”, and when King Jesus shall shortly return from the “far country,” He will exactly “reckon” with every steward. Happy then will be those who shall be found “faithful”; who, having never “hid” their Lord’s talents, have used them diligently in His fear, and only

for the promotion of His glory; and are ready therefore to render a joyful accounting. Only such persons will hear those thrilling words, “Well done, good and faithful servant ... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.”

But how different and how awful will be His word to those, who, having despised their stewardship, have presumed to act as owners!

3. So patent and universal is this holy obligation upon every child of God, that Paul assures the Corinthians that to write further to them on this subject would be superfluous.

Did they not thoroughly understand that God loves a cheerful (Greek — hilarious) giver and is not every ransomed one, in the largest sense “A debtor”? To him whose mind is moved by a compassion like that of the Lord Jesus, does not the world’s need loom large, and is not the call of God loud in ears anointed by the Spirit?

So that dollars sent by saints to other saints in the Savior’s name, are not simply so many dollars; but they are rather an exhibition and a proof of love and of heart-interest, toward God and man. For indeed, money talks, and often its voice is louder and clearer than any words of the mouth.

4. To obey God in the matter of casting our bread upon the waters for the glory of our God and Savior, and for the necessities of our fellow believers — is found to be the very highest and truest wisdom.

The generous giver finds that it is possible to “scatter” and yet “increase.” Many have testified that even in abundant giving they cannot keep up with God. He always appears to be a step ahead, causing His grace to abound more and more freely, in proportion as our love and faith have led to advanced steps in giving. So that many a servant of God has been constrained to say over and over again, “Wonderful, O Wonderful” as he “Looks on,” while the Mighty One doeth wondrously.

“Go, and sell, and give,” is therefore the best of good counsel to him whose ears may yet hear these precious words of the Master. Life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. He who bestowed life can easily provide meat; and He who made the body will surely bestow raiment.

Hesitate not then, dear trusting and believing saint, to “prove” your faithful God. Even if for special reasons directly contributory to His own glory, He should permit you for a season to “hunger”, yet such would be the measure of His all-sufficient grace, that your own heart would be satisfied with His perfect way.


5. Bringing of costly gifts to the Lord Jesus is not only one mark of the true disciple, but it is his high privilege and commands his absorbing interest, constituting a vital element in his Christian experience.

He *loves* to give; and ever seeks opportunity to dispense and bestow in Jesus’ name. He is in the largest sense “willing to communicate,” because in this he follows his Lord, who gave Himself, and became poor, and he is also led by the

Spirit of God, who animates and directs the doings of the saints.

6. The time for Christian giving is — while we may. Our opportunity to invest in heaven’s “bonds” will soon have passed. The hands which now obey our wills are likely to be folded by another before long.

Hasten then, you who are wise and willing — bring your richest treasures and place them joyfully at the feet of your Lord, and mark His name in large letters upon them, “*While you may*” — a treasure in heaven that faileth not.

For, harken to these solemn words: “The night cometh, when no man can work.” Ho then everyone that is wise and endued with knowledge, where will you place your *treasure*? How much will you invest in the Bank of Heaven? 

Your Educational Standing?

There is something wrong with your knowledge of:

Botany—if you have never discovered the True Vine—Jn. 15:1.

Geology—if you are still ignorant of the Rock of Ages—Dt. 32:4.

Chemistry—if you are unacquainted with the great Catalixer—2 Pet. 3:7.

Mathematics—if you have not calculated the breadth and length and depth and height of the love of Jesus Christ our Lord—Eph. 3:18-19.

Biology—unless you can trace life back to its primal cause, “In the beginning God”—Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-4.

(See **STANDING** on page 6)

Modernists In The Theological World Are Using the Speech of Ashdod

By T. T. Shields

“In those days also saw I Jews that had married wives of Ashdod, of Ammon, and of Moab; and their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews’ language but according to the language of each people.”

This interesting passage is found in the thirteenth chapter of Nehemiah, the twenty-third and twenty-fourth verses. It tells the story of the influence of two peoples; and of certain children whose speech was a mixture of two languages, so that it was difficult for a stranger to know whether they were Jews or Philistines: their speech was neither one thing nor the other, so that anyone might be excused for being unable to identify their nationality.

These verses illustrate a situation which obtains in the theological world today. Simple evangelical believers, who believe the Bible to be the Word of God, who accept its teachings, and frankly witness to its truths, are often perplexed by the ambiguity of the language employed by many who call themselves evangelical Christians. And when an old-fashioned believer asks one of these gentlemen of double speech to be good enough to explain himself, and to tell us frankly whether he comes from Ashdod or Jerusalem, he immediately charges us with being unjustly and unnecessarily suspicious. Our modernist friends demand

that we produce the proof of their modernism.

We admit that it is sometimes difficult to find a statement in clear and unequivocal terms by which some such teachers can be proved to have departed from the faith. Our modernist friends then insist that the burden of proof rests with those who charge them with a want of loyalty to the truth. On the face of it, their contention is plausible enough. We have sometimes seen in the papers an account of some offense discovered by the police, when it has been said that the police found difficulty in placing the responsibility for the crime. And then we are told that a certain person has been detained as a “material witness.” Generally speaking, in such cases the facts are, that while the police are unable at the moment to name the offender, the so-called “material witness” is equally unable to give a satisfactory account of himself and his movements.

We are disposed to ask our modernist friends why they do not use the Jews’ language; and why in their books and their public addresses their speech should be half of Ashdod. It is, of course, just that everyone should be regarded as innocent until he is proved guilty. But when people speak half in the speech of Ashdod, there is in that fact a strong presumption that they are not wholly without some association with Philistia. Is it

unreasonable, not only to expect, but to demand, that one who assumes the position of a religious teacher should express himself in clear and unmistakable language? Surely there is a duty resting upon every true disciple of Christ to make a clear confession of his faith in Christ!

(See **ASHDOD** on page 11)

FELLOWSHIPS AND CONFERENCES

WASHINGTON, IL

April 6-8, 1998, Beverly Manor Baptist Church, 209 Vohland St., Washington, IL 61571, Michael McCoskey, Pastor, (309) 745-8927.

BIG SPRING, TX

April 7-9, 1998, Birdwell Lane Baptist Church, 1512 Birdwell Ln, Big Spring, TX 79720, Jess Colegrove, Pastor, (915) 267-7157

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April 21-24, 1998, Mesa View Baptist Church, 2876 “B” Rd, Grand Junction, CO 81503, Jim Allmond, Pastor. (970) 248-9142.

CALVERT CITY, KY

April 26-May 1, 1998, New Hope Baptist Church, 1661 Griggstown Rd., Calvert City, KY 42029, Edgar Lee Paschall, Pastor, (502) 527-3864.

FT. WORTH, TX

May 1-3, 1998, Metropolitan Baptist Church, 6051 Azle Ave., Ft. Worth, TX 76135, Larry Adkisson, Pastor. (817) 237-2201

BENTON, KY

May 5-8, 1998, Benton Baptist Temple, P. O. Box 153, Benton, KY 42025, Bill Amberg, Pastor. (502) 362-8854.

WEST MILTON, OH

June 25-27, 1998, West Milton Baptist Church, 1070 S. Miami St., West Milton, OH 45383, Randy Titus, Pastor. (937) 698-6242


LIBERAL, KS

September 21-23, 1998, Fellowship Baptist Church, 216 W. Wilson, Liberal, KS 67901, L. K. Landis, Pastor. (316) 624-7601.

SIOUX FALLS, SD

October 5-7, 1998, Empire Baptist Temple, 412 S. Hawthorne, Sioux Falls, SD, 57104, Ron Tottingham, Pastor, (605) 339-2038.

LITTLE ROCK, AR

October 26-28, 1998, Central Baptist Church, 15601 Taylor Loop Rd., Little Rock, AR 72221, B. Lawrence Jones, Pastor. (501) 868-7703. 

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Noted Infidel Speaks in Baptist Church

By Tim Funk, Staff Writer
The Charlotte Observer

They weren't the kind of thing you'd expect to hear in a church, especially one packed with Baptists:

■ "I do not think Jesus proclaimed himself the Messiah or thought that he was."

■ "I believe Jesus was raised from the dead, but I'm skeptical that it involved his corpse."

■ "We need to be utterly candid that the Bible is a human product, not a divine product."

Fighting words if you're a conservative Christian.

But Jesus scholar Marcus Borg, who made all those statements and more during a series of speeches at Myers Park Baptist Church over the weekend, thinks many moderate and liberal Christians are grateful to hear them.

According to Borg, these Christians — most of them members or ex-members of mainline churches — have given up on their childhood belief that everything in the Bible can be taken literally.

They're now ready, Borg told audiences on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, for a deeper reading of the Bible as a series of metaphorically true — if not always factual — stories about the human relationship with an accepting God.

"The older understanding of Christianity has come undone for millions of people in North America ... as well as in Europe," Borg said Sunday morning during a forum that drew about 200 people. "This older understanding of

the Bible, God and Jesus nourished the lives of millions of Christians for hundreds of years and still works for many.

"But it has ceased to be persuasive to many people in our time, especially among the demographic groups from whom the mainline denominations traditionally have drawn their members."

Borg, whose appearance kicked off a three-year series of Jesus lectures at Myers Park Baptist, is the author of the best-selling "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time" (HarperCollins, \$12). He's also a leading member of the controversial Jesus Seminar, a group of about 75 biblical scholars who have drawn fire for their research. In a 1993 book, for example, they argued that Jesus never said 82 percent of the 1,500 sayings attributed to him in the Gospels — including "I am the bread of life" and "Those who want to follow me should deny themselves."

What survived in the seminar's color-coded portrait of Jesus — things he did say were reprinted in red, things he might have said in pink — were statements calling for radical changes in the social structure of his day. Among the red statements: "Love your enemies" and "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

On Sunday, Borg, who teaches at Oregon State University, said the Jesus Seminar's next book is due out in March and will cover

actions attributed to Jesus.

Reprinted in black — meaning it didn't happen, according to Borg and the others — will be stories of Jesus walking on water and feeding thousands with a few loaves and fishes. Jesus' trial before Pilate is also symbolic fiction, Borg said, and Mary was not a virgin.

The Jesus Seminar does believe there's solid evidence that he was crucified, upon order of the Romans. "And we think he performed healings and exorcisms," Borg said. "We back away from the word 'miracle' ... We would say these are paranormal happenings, meaning things we don't have an explanation for."

Myers Park Baptist's decision to invite Borg — and seminar member John Dominic Crossan, who will speak in 1999 — was criticized by one conservative Christian source. The Charlotte Christian News, a newspaper that circulates mostly in evangelical churches, suggested Borg was the kind of heretical "teacher" Paul warned about in his second letter to Timothy.

But Borg got big crowds and warm responses at Myers Park Baptist, which, unlike Southern Baptist churches, has a congregation that's moderate to liberal.

"It reinforced a number of things I've thought over the years," Walt Abel, a Charlotte health consultant, said of Borg's remarks. "It was good to hear someone with a scholarly reputation speak to that."

In introducing Borg on Friday night, Bill Doles, the church's education minister, said Myers Park Baptist was "open to new light, which can mean open to controversy." □

The Judas Kiss

"Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, 'Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Master; and kissed him'" (Mt. 26:48-49).

"And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him" (Mk. 14:45).

"And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him" (Lk. 22:47).

"Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them" (Jn. 18:4-5).

The Betrayer will ever stand as the chief of the many, who, since our Lord's day, have sojourned with His followers, entered into their varied experiences, professed allegiance and devoted service, and yet all the time have fostered within their breasts the spirit of de-

(See **JUDAS** on page 11)

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An Infallible Bible! A Supernatural Religion! A Savior God!

"He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision" (Psa. 2:4).

But the great foe of Christianity today is rationalism, that comes out from our schools, and universities, and magazines, and newspapers, and some churches, to scoff at Bible truth and caricature the old religion of Jesus. It says Jesus is not God, for it is impossible to explain how He can be divine and human at the same time.

The Bible is not inspired, for there are in it things that they don't like. Regeneration is a farce; there is good enough in us, and the only thing is to bring it out. Development is the word — development.

The Garden of Eden is a fairy story, and no more to be believed than the Arabian Knights, or Gulliver's Travels, or Robinson Crusoe. We all started as baboons, and are blood relations to that monkey squirming about on top of that hand organ. There is no Hell, and all the Bible passages announcing that there is, must be twisted to suit our own preferences; and so that terrible place toward which they are all bound, unless they repent, is made a joke.

Lazarus was not dead when Christ pretended to raise him; he was only playing dead. The water was not really changed into wine at the wedding, but Christ brought in some wine that He had found elsewhere to make up for the deficiency. Christ did not walk on the sea, but on the shore, so near that it seemed as if He really were on the water.

What is still more alarming is, that Christian men dare not meet this ridicule. There is

not one Christian man in five that can, unblanched, stand in the presence of all this raillery, saying, "I believe in the whole Bible, and in every single statement that it makes."

Christian men try to soften the Bible down to suit the skeptics. The skeptics sneer at the dividing of the Red Sea; and the Christian goes to explaining that the wind blew a hurricane from one direction a good while, until all the water piled up; and besides, that it was water anyhow, and so the Israelites went through without any trouble. Why not be frank and say, "I believe the Lord God Almighty came to the brink of the Red Sea, and with His right arm swung back the billows on the right side, and with His left hand swung back the billows on the left side, and the abashed water stood up hundreds of feet high, while through their glassy wall the sea-monsters gazed with affrightened eyes on the passing Israelites?"

"Oh," you say, "these rationalists would laugh at me." Then let them laugh. The Samaritan skeptic laughed at Elisha; but when, under the rush of the people to get their bread, the unbeliever was trampled to death, whose turn was it to laugh then?

The modernist comes to you saying, "How about Jonah and the whale? Do you really believe that fish story?" There were never so many Nantucket fishermen after one whale as there have been rationalists flinging harpoons at the Mediterranean sea-monster, and from that one whale they have got enough oil to light ten thousand souls to perdition.

A skeptic tells you that Jonah would have been killed

in the process of swallowing, and that he could not, anyhow, have lived three days in such close quarters, but would have been smothered by the poor ventilation.

Here the good Christians immediately go to work, and try to explain the whole thing by natural laws, so as to please the rationalists, and say that a whale is an air-breathing fish; that every little while it comes to the surface, and that the whale that swallowed Jonah did the same thing, and thus got a supply for itself and for the prophet. Why not rather say that God can do anything; and He could take Jonah through the whale's throat, although the throat would not have been large enough ordinarily to let him pass, and could have kept him alive in the whale five years without any air, if He had chosen to. Who made the whale? God! Who made Jonah? God! Then He could do anything He pleased with either of them.

The moment you begin to explain away the miraculous and supernatural, you surrender the Bible. Take the supernatural out of the Bible and you make it a collection of lies and humbugs, in preference to which I choose Aesop's Fables. They are what they pretend to be — fables. But if, after all that the Bible declares, Jesus is not God, and Lazarus was not raised from the dead, and the water was not turned into wine, and the Red Sea was not divided, then the Bible is the worst fraud ever perpetrated in God's universe.


My object today is not to argue the truthfulness of the Bible, but to make you, who believe in it, willing to be laughed at. Surrender nothing! Compromise nothing! Trim off

nothing to please the skeptic! If you cannot stand the jeers of your business friends, you are not worthy to be one of Christ's disciples.

You can afford to wait. The tide will turn. God's Word will be vindicated; and though it may seem to be against the laws of nature and the rules of reason, tomorrow a measure of fine flour will be sold for a shekel; and then, as the people rush out of the gates to get the bread, alas for the modernist! He will be trodden under foot, and will go down to shame and everlasting contempt.

"Stop," you say, "suppose he graduated at Harvard; suppose he graduated at Princeton; suppose he is at the head of one of the German universities?" I cannot help that. God makes no special regulation for the graduates of Harvard or Princeton. Rejecting the Bible, they will go down to be companions with the most abandoned wretches of the universe, and more miserable than they, because of the superior intelligence given.

One rule for all — for great brain and little brain; for high foreheaded Greek professor, and for flat-skulled Eskimo. Come scorn, or criticism, or anathema! An infallible Bible! A supernatural religion! A divine Savior, in whom men must believe or be lost!

In behalf of God's Word, and the old-fashioned religion of our fathers, and the cross of Christ, on which I have swung my hopes for eternity, I proclaim everlasting war against rationalism and modernism. Know all men, in America and in Europe, to whom these words shall come, where we stand. An infallible Bible, a supernatural religion, a Savior in whom men must believe or be lost! 

Types and Shadows

By A.J. Kirkland

The types and shadows of the Old Testament were all prophetic when they were given and while many of them were primarily fulfilled in the ministry and crucifixion of Jesus, some no doubt have a larger fulfillment in His second advent. This is especially true with reference to Jesus as king and as to the triumphant Kingdom after His return. Without going into a long drawn out discussion of the kingdom question which is greatly controversial, I simply pass that question by saying that it is my belief that the Kingdom of Heaven was initiated by Jesus during His personal ministry and that the church is the custodian of its authority, mission and message in this age and that it will reach its full establishment and glorious climax in the personal reign of Christ after He returns. Hence, prophecies, types and shadows dealing with the kingdom of Christ will have their ultimate fulfillment in His return or second advent. And hence, we can see that Christ was born a king and is a king, but at the same time He is not yet the king as the prophecies reveal Him.

There are many types and shadows which are plainly set forth as such. We are told plainly what they were meant to convey prophetically. There are others which appear simply as scriptural historical events and subsequent history and teaching reveal or make their meaning too apparent to be overlooked. Hence when Paul tells us that the children of Israel drank of the rock that followed them and "that Rock

was Christ" (1 Cor. 10:4), we are not left in doubt as to what the rock pictured in type. Again we see in Eden that God killed animals, made clothing of their skins and clothed Adam and Eve. Now we are not told in plain words what this means, but we are taught so much in the scriptures concerning the substitutionary death of Christ and of imputed righteousness of God to the believer that the meaning of the Edenic scene is too apparent to miss.

There is no doubt that God so directed and moved in Old Testament history and so directed the lives of men as to forecast things to come. Many of these things are pointed out by the Lord in His written Word. Paul tells us in the Galatian letter that the record of Hagar and Sarah, Ishmael and Isaac are an allegory. He tells us what the allegory meant prophetically and yet that does not change the fact that it was history. What a marvelous thing indeed to see that God so directed the lives of men and the course of the world so as to contain in prophetic mystery His purpose and work of the ages.

Now we would hasten to point out that the scripture is of such nature that it admits of no wild speculation. No prophecy is of private interpretation (2 Pet. 1:20). This simply means that every prophetic statement must be understood in the light of all the Bible. An interpretation of any prophetic statement, or of any other scripture as to that, which is not in keeping with all the rest of the word and its teachings must

be rejected and no student should dogmatically take this position or that until he has proved it beyond a reasonable doubt by the substantiation of the entire word. If we heed this rule, we shall avoid many pitfalls. We would not follow the runnings of our imaginations nor read into the prophecies things that are not there. Much harm can be done and no doubt has been done because of the violation of this rule.

The offerings, washings and the laws of the priesthood which stand out clearly — as setting forth prophetically God's plan with man in His redemptive work in Christ, we think of as types. Hence we have no difficulty in seeing the meaning of the Passover, nor of the tabernacle and its various offerings. But the things in the scripture that we are not told specifically to be types and are only paralleled by events and teachings of the scriptures, we call *shadows*, and it is here that we need to exercise the greatest of care. Abraham foreshadows the faithful in Christ, Isaac, the children of grace, etc., but we are not emphatically told so until we come to the New Testament. Many see in the creative week God's outlined plan of the ages and it seems that 'tis so, but the conclusion must be reached in the light of all the Bible by seeing the parallel teachings of truth in the light of what He did in the prophetic creative week. It is clear that much good can come from such study of these parallel truths if we hold ourselves within the realm of study and research rather than dogmatically assert this or that to be true.

In the study of things

foreshadowed in God's dealing with men, for instance, we see a wonderful truth of His word displayed in His rejecting the first born of all creation and accepting the second born. Now we know that the first creation is ruined and cursed by the fall and is rejected by God. We know that in His redemptive work, God moves to bring forth a new creation, rejecting and destroying the first. Hence we see Him moving in His dealing with man on that principle.

For instance, Adam's first two sons stand out in the record. Cain, the first-born, was rejected; Abel the second-born, was accepted. By the offerings of the two we see Cain as depicting the rebel flesh, his religion of the flesh — while Abel, the second-born, sets forth the accepted of God in the new creation, redeemed by the blood. Abel was slain by Cain, setting forth the hatred of the fleshly world for the people of God, but God raising up a seed to follow Abel in Seth also depicts Abel as a type of Christ in His death and Seth as foreshadowing the saints who are raised up unto Christ. And since all the Cain line was destroyed in the flood and only the Abel line (in Seth) survived the flood (Noah was perfect in his generations) the truth that none but the seed raised up unto Christ can survive the judgments of God.

Let us now take the first two sons of Abraham — Ishmael and Isaac. The first, the bond child, was rejected; the second, the free and the child of promise, was accepted. Ishmael depicts the first-born, natural, fleshly man bound by sin and re-

See **TYPES** on page 9)

DEVIL...

(Continued from page 2)

bad seed, evil seed, and He says, "the enemy that sowed them is the devil."

Then in Matthew 25:41 Jesus makes reference to hell, and He tells us that hell was prepared for the Devil and his angels. Hell was not prepared for man. It was prepared for the Devil and his angels, but if men refuse the knowledge of God; if they hang onto their sins; if they will not receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, then there is no other place for them to go when they die but to hell.

Remember this: Satan is not in charge of hell. God is a sovereign God. God controls the universe. God is in charge of all the universe, heaven and hell and all creation. And God prepared hell for the Devil and his angels. But, if men will not come to God, and if they will go the way of sin and the Devil, then they must reap the consequences of their rebellion against God, and sinful men who will not turn from their sins to God and receive Jesus Christ as

Lord and Savior will spend an eternity in hell, though it was not prepared for them but for the Devil and his angels.

Now notice in First Thessalonians 2:18. We called your attention to the fact that Paul said that Satan hindered him. Now, if Paul could be hindered by Satan, that mighty Apostle to the Gentiles; that man who wrote fourteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament; if Satan could stand in his way; if Satan could frustrate his plans; if Satan could prevent him from doing something that he wanted to do, then we can see something about the power of Satan. Certainly if Satan could interfere with the Apostle Paul, he can interfere with your life and with my life.

How does Satan interfere? First, by putting obstacles in the way. Second, by putting unsaved people in the church to criticize and to oppose and to gossip. Third, by keeping Christians from being obedient to the Lord Jesus Christ. He keeps them from regular and faithful attendance in the church.


He keeps them from making their rightful and regular contributions to the work of Almighty God. He keeps them from identifying themselves with the church and serving the Lord Jesus Christ through the church.

He hinders, not only Christians but sinners as well. He hinders sinners by pointing out defects in Christians, the inconsistencies that exist in every life, because there is none perfect. Not a one of us are perfect in every detail of our life, and Satan will show the inconsistencies and the sins in the life of Christians to unsaved people in an attempt to keep unsaved people from taking Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

But primarily, Satan stands in the way of sinners and hinders sinners by way of procrastination. He tells them, even as he has been telling some of you, that you need God in your life; you need to get right with God; you need to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but you've got plenty of time.

And I suspect, my friend, that procrastination has sent more souls to hell than any

other one sin. I have known but two or three people in the forty-three years I've been in the ministry who said, "Well, I just don't care to become a Christian at all. I'll never become a Christian." But I've known hundreds and even thousands who have said, "I intend to become a Christian some time, but not now." And it has been my experience that the overwhelming majority of those who say, "I am going to become a Christian some day — but not now," somehow keep postponing the day of their salvation, the day of their receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, until they slip out of this world into the world to come, without God, without Christ and without hope.

I trust my friend, that Satan will not be hindering you, if you are a Christian, by keeping you from serving the Lord Jesus Christ, and if you are a sinner, by keeping you from coming to the Lord Jesus Christ now to receive Him as your Lord and Savior. 

TYPES...

(Continued from page 8)

jected of God. Isaac depicts the children of grace. So, also, it is in the sons of Isaac. Though they were twins, Esau was born first but it was prophesied before they were born that the elder would serve the younger. Here again the first-born was rejected while the second-born was accepted.

Esau depicts the fickle flesh of the natural man trading the eternal for the temporal while Jacob, the second-born, supplants him in the

Do You Read The Baptist Challenge?

As announced in the February issue of **TBC**, our postage rates have become so high that we find it necessary to reduce the number of subscriptions in order to cut our costs. It costs us over \$800 per month just to mail **The Baptist Challenge**, and our circulation has now increased to over 6,700 copies per month. This does not include the printing, etc. necessary to put it out each month.

For this reason, we are

going to do the following: There still will be no subscription rate for **TBC**. We will continue to send it free to all who want it. However, if you wish to continue receiving it, we must hear from you by the end of May, or you will automatically be removed from the mailing list. This includes not only the individual copies that are mailed out, but also the bundles that are mailed to churches. Our mailing address is:

The Baptist Challenge
P. O. Box 25848
Little Rock, AR 72221

I want to express my appreciation for the churches that support **TBC** with either an annual offering or on a monthly basis. If it were not for them we would not be able to publish at all, and we appreciate all offerings that are received. As you know, neither I nor my wife receive any

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(See **TYPES** on page 11)

God's Sufficiency Enables Us To Face Any Difficulty

"Who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Cor. 2:16).

"Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency is of God" (2 Cor. 3:5).

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things may abound to every good work" (2 Cor. 9:8).

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phil. 4:13).

No program is big enough for any man or any church that they can do themselves. That is Paul's statement in the second Scripture quoted above. He was not sufficient to think anything that he wrought, though he labored more abundantly than they all, was of himself (1 Cor. 15:10). Either of two things will be true of any man who thinks he can do his task; either he will fail or the task is one that requires no faith and gets God no glory. If there is anything written large upon the pages of Bible history it is that God gives to all men of faith a bigger task than they can perform in order to make them trust in Him. Out of 32,000 men God told Gideon to send 31,700 back home, after testing them out, because He had too many for the victory to be one that would glorify God. When David went out against Goliath he went "in the strength of the God of Israel, whom Goliath had defied."

When Sennacherib sent word to Hezekiah that his God was not big enough to

deliver him, God sent word by Isaiah for Hezekiah to trust Him, He would attend to the job. He did and like all things God does, He did it well. The death angel destroyed 185,000 in one night of the flower of Sennacherib's army.

When the 12 spies came back from their 40 days tour through the promised land, ten had so little faith, as to say the task God gave them was an impossible task. God killed them by a plague at once. Then He cursed all Israel that agreed with them to wander for forty years in the wilderness, a year for each day, until all of them died. The two men of faith, Caleb and Joshua, that said that God was sufficient for any task that He ever gave His people, were the only men over 20 years of age, when they came out of Egypt, that entered the promised land. More frequently than for any other single sin did the Master censure the 12 for their little faith or unbelief. Mark you He called them "fools," "slow of heart" or dullards, "wicked," "perverse" and asked "how long he should bear with them" because of their little faith.

God gives to every man and every church a task which it requires faith to undertake and God to work out, because He wants His people to be in fellowship with Him and depend upon Him in all His work. What is wholly impossible to mere man, is not only possible but easy for the faith-filled man, who counts on God.

(See **TASK** on page 11)

Why Don't They Go To Church?

Some stay at home because it's cold,
And some because it's hot;
And some because they are getting old,
And some because they are not.

Some stay at home to entertain, and
Some to cook the dinners;
And some because they're good enough,
And some because they're sinners.

Some stay at home because they have
A farm and lots of stock;
And, therefore, can not spare the time
To gather with God's flock.

Some stay away because their beaux
Are nothing for the church,
And some because a "special friend"
Has left them in a "lurch."

And some declare they don't enjoy
The singing of the choir,
And others 'cause their fellow-saint
Aroused their wrathful ire.

Some stay at home because they say
The weather's cold or rough,
And some to vent a little spleen,
Because they've got a "huff."

Some stay away because they've long
In single harness tarried,
And some because, as they protest,
They've settled down and married.

Some keep away from church because they
Find the members "cold and funny,"
"Who never clasp them by the hand
Unless they're after money."

And some bewail with pious face
"The worldliness of sin
That finds a lodgment in the church,"
So never enter in.


Alas! alas! excuses grow to drive
Our thoughts from God,
And turn us from the house of prayer,
The place our Savior trod.

TYPES...

(Continued from page 9)

heritage of grace. In the light of this truth, it is easy to see what God meant when He said, "Jacob have I loved and Esau have I hated." The same truth is set forth in the sons of Joseph. When Jacob bestowed the blessings he crossed his hands and placing his right hand (symbol of strength or greater blessing) upon the head of the younger and said that the Redeemer would come to him.

In Egypt it was the first-born that was under the judgment of death when the death angel passed over. The second-born was not under the condemnation of death and therefore the blood was not put on the door post for him. The blood was shed for the first-born, the natural man. The child of grace is sinless (spiritual man) and therefore never needs redeeming. The same idea is carried out in the Mosaic law. The first born male of all Israel, man and beast, had to be redeemed with a blood sacrifice.


In all these things we see the prophetic depiction of God's plan of redemption. The old creation blighted and ruined is rejected and cast out by God except as He redeems it by the blood of His Son, and as Adam stands at the head of the old creation, so Christ, the second Adam, the first-born among many brethren, stands at the head of the second or new creation. 

TASK...

(Continued from page 10)

Jonathan and his armor-bearer routed the whole Philistine army, when Saul was terrified and all Israel scattered and in hiding in caves and mountains because

their confidence was in themselves and the job was an impossible one for them; but Jonathan started out with the postulate that God was able to deliver by many or few and God did for two believing men, what the whole army of Israel could not do.

Our God is the God of impossibles. All any man needs is to find out what God wants him to do and then to put himself in God's hands and it shall be done. "All things are possible to him that believeth." God is looking for men to trust Him that He may do the impossible through them to His own glory. Will you be such a man or woman? 

JUDAS...


(Continued from page 6)

ception. They accept all the benefits and Christian privileges of such association, and yet secretly and cunningly, use every possible subterfuge to malign and betray. It was the spirit of Judas that led in past ages to the betrayal and sufferings of our martyred forefathers; for with but rare exceptions such sufferings were meted out by professed leaders of apostate systems within the so-called Church of Christ.

Today we are face to face with a new presentation of the old practice, and the avowed Modernist has resting upon him another such dread responsibility.

Modernism, in the guise of the Christian religion, uses every possible device to belie the very teachings of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures of Truth, and presents them in such a way that multitudes of Christian people, many of them truly earnest and devout, are woefully misled and seduced from foundation principles and foundation

truths. Our blessed Lord is insulted by their very misapplication, and intentional misrepresentation of His blessed Person; and the essential doctrines of which He is both the center and the circumference.

This is what we mean by the Judas kiss. To hold modernist views in the seclusion of the study, and proclaim evangelism from the pulpit is the acme of insincerity and very largely prevails amongst a certain class of modernist teachers and preachers. 

ASHDOD...


(Continued from page 5)

Every regenerated person is required to be a witness for Christ. There is certainly no necessity for such an one's using a mixed language, having in it somewhat of the Jerusalem dialect with an account suggestive of the speech of Ashdod. And if such obligation rests upon Christians in general, how much more is it the duty of Christian preachers and teachers to learn to speak plainly.

One of the first requirements of a bishop or pastor is that he should be "apt to teach." But how is it possible for one really to teach who is unable to make himself clearly understood? It should not be difficult for a man, even in a few sentences, clearly to state whether he believes the Bible to be the Word of God or not. The English language is sufficiently rich to enable a man, without the slightest ambiguity, to declare in a few words his view of the virgin birth, the Deity of Christ, His vicarious atonement, His resurrection, and ascension, and His coming again. If, in the discussion of these great ques-

tions, men choose to use the language of Philistia, they have no right to feel aggrieved if one should doubt their loyalty to Jerusalem. It is not difficult to differentiate between a Creationist and an Evolutionist: a Creationist uses the Jews' language, but an Evolutionist speaks half in the speech of Ashdod.

We enter a plea for a little more outspokenness. "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken: we also believe, and therefore speak." Meanwhile, we do well to study Nehemiah's example with respect to those whose language was a conglomeration of the dialects of Ashdod and Jerusalem.


He says, "I contended with them." There is, indeed, an urgent necessity for our contending, not only for the "faith once for all delivered to the saints," but for a pure language by which that faith may be expressed. One thing is certain; the rebuilding of Jerusalem can never safely be entrusted to the hands of those who cannot speak in the Jews' language, but whose speech is half of Ashdod. 

STANDING...

(Continued from page 4)

Physics—until you have an experimental knowledge of the operation of the Spirit of the risen Christ—Eph. 3:7,16,20

Sociology—if you seek any other cure for sin than that which God has provided through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son—1 Jn. 1:9; Jn. 1:29

Astronomy—unless you are prepared to witness the rising of the Bright and Morning Star—Rev. 22:16 

Abortions Are Far From Rare. The 1973 Roe v. Wade decision resulted in 35 million abortions in the past 25 years. About 1.4 million women have abortions each year — 44% have had at least one previous one. Catholic women have them at a higher rate than do Protestant families now encompasses eight children. Her influence as a role model tells children that marriage problems are solved by divorce. — CC

* * *

Christians Won't Fit In New World Order. An advisor to the World Bank, the World Resources Institute, and the United Nations has stated publicly that the populations of the industrialized nations of Europe and North America must be cut in half. He advocates strong economic and social incentives to enforce population control on families and predicts a day soon when "people might be issued with a warrant entitling them to have one child." Those who refuse to flow with the globalist new way of thinking will not fit into the new "sustainable communities" planned by a presidential commission. These separatists will be labeled extremists, radicals, and obstacles to unity and solidarity. — CC

Muslims Attack Christians. Militant followers of Islam are attacking Christians. Three million casualties have resulted from Sudan's central government attempt to wipe out Christianity and other religious minorities in the name of Islam. In Indonesia, 85% of its people are Muslims. Last year they destroyed over 300 churches there. Islam's Allah is not the God of the Bible. Islam denies the Trinity, Christ's resurrection and deity. — CC

* * *

Graham Says All Denominations Have Same God. The Jan. 1998 *Baptist Bulletin* had this quote: "After Billy Graham wrapped up his three-city crusade in Oakland, Calif., he remarked, 'Wouldn't it be great if we could forget our denominations and just be people of God?' He also stated that all denominations and backgrounds 'have the same God.' More than 100 denominations were represented in the crusade." The Bible tells us there indeed will be an ecumenical world church such as PK and Graham promote, but it will be led by the Antichrist. — CC

* * *

Promise Keepers Cuts All Workers, to Use Volunteers. Promise Keepers, the Christian ministry that rallied

thousands of men in Washington last year and millions this decade is laying off all 345 paid employees worldwide and will rely on volunteers. The staff members, whose salaries will end March 31, will return if donations allow, the group said.

* * *

Handguns Banned In Britain. Brits must give up handguns or face jail. A total ban on private ownership of handguns went into effect in Britain last month, the result of a public outcry over the 1996 massacre of 16 school children and their teacher by a crazed loner. Today, 95% of police officers in England and Wales never carry firearms. But career criminals remain armed! — CC

* * *

Gore and the Homosexual. Vice President Al Gore praised Hollywood producers for openly homosexual TV characters. God would have never made homosexuals if He knew they would be maltreated, according to Gore. Meanwhile, despite repeated claims that homosexuals make up 10% of the population, a survey by a leading gay rights organization, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, revealed that gays, lesbians, and bisexuals make up only 3.2% of the electorate. The survey did find

strong gay support for the Clinton administration. A Harris poll found that 64% of adult Americans oppose gay marriage. A similar percentage oppose gay adoption of children.

* * *

Remarkable Decrease In Crime. The New York City Police Department has noted an important crime decrease in areas where a church bus ministry operates. Church bus programs are alive and well in other areas of the country too, and many offer unique twists. One successful program in a Maryland church gets children to pray for each other.

* * *

Christianity Not Keeping Up. Christianity the world's largest religion, is no longer keeping pace with global population growth — except in Asia and Africa. One possible explanation: religion statistician and researcher David B. Barrett of Virginia Beach points out that 97% of all church ministries are directed toward Christians, weakening Christianity's influence on the non-Christian world.

* * *

Promise Keepers Scheduled For Little Rock. Promise Keepers has announced

it will hold its first-ever conference in Arkansas this spring. State and national Promise Keepers representatives told reporters during a Jan. 29 press meeting at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock that the stadium will be the site of the May 22-23 conference. Tom Fortson, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Promise Keepers said: "We are really excited about this event coming to Little Rock. One of the things we have to picture is 50,000 men in this stadium who are really wanting to be committed to serving their families, being better husbands and fathers. We've already seen it done. Fortson said that the 1998 events will feature a change from previous years. "Unlike in our previous conferences, beginning in 1998 with the Little Rock conference, the event is free. There will be no charge. That does not mean there will be no expense, but Promise Keepers has taken on the responsibility for raising funds."

* * *

Russian General Criticizes U.S. General Vycheslav Borisov in an article appearing in the 2/19/98 Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine is quoted as saying: "Eighty years ago, our country was forced to turn away from God. We were deceived, brain-washed into believing a

paradise could be made on earth without God's presence. What a lie! There is no heaven without God." Noting that Russian Christians "keep praying to God that He will keep blessing in your country," Borisov added, "The only thing they don't believe is that American schools don't have a Bible study curriculum. Your country was founded on God's principles. ... It's hard to believe such a wonderful country could deprive children from studying the Bible in school."

* * *

Bill Would Shield Tithes From Bankruptcy. A bill that would protect from creditors tithes and pledges that churches receive from parishioners who have declared bankruptcy has won approval from the Senate Judiciary Committee. The committee chairman, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, co-sponsored the bill in one of the first attempts to resurrect protections under the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which was largely voided by the Supreme Court last year. Since then, courts have asked several churches to surrender to creditors money from donors who had declared bankruptcy. "Such judicial action seriously threatens the ability of religious institutions not only


to function but to survive," Hatch said in a statement. His bill would prevent federal bankruptcy judges from forcing churches and other tax-exempt, charitable organizations to return donations of up to 15 percent of a debtor's gross annual income. The bill protects post-bankruptcy tithing.

* * *

The Devil's A Busy Guy. The preacher who was charged with helping himself to several thousand dollars of money that wasn't his said the devil made him do it. The devil has no respect for people in high places, the cleric let on. How true, we thought, thinking of recent disclosures from the pinnacle of American politics. The devil has been busy. Preachers and politicians seem to be favorites for the devil to pick on. He led a well-known televangelist into the jail house for defrauding his flock. Later, the famed Baton Rouge evangelist whose laundry was put on the line a few years ago was apparently led into temptation by Satan. The Evil One deposited him in the clutches of two ladies of ill-repute and made him stay there until he was discovered. Fight against temptation as he did, he was not successful. Blaming the devil is a convenient excuse in political and churchly circles. Usually, it does not work in

courts of law. — Richard Allin, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

* * *

"Ellen" Takes Nosedive. Is the gay ol' time ending for *Ellen*? Series star Ellen DeGeneres seems to think the cancellation ax is being sharpened. DeGeneres, 39, said recently that she didn't think ABC would be renewing her show for another year. "It's pretty safe to say this is it for the *Ellen* show," she told *Entertainment Tonight*. "I'm getting every indication that they're not picking up the show. I'm gay, the character's gay and that's the problem everyone has with the show. It's just too controversial. Nobody wants to deal with it." What ABC may not really want to deal with is that since DeGeneres and her character, Ellen Morgan, came out of the closet last May (and the show started exploring homosexual themes), *Ellen* has taken a nose dive in the ratings. Viewers can send their opinions about whether *Ellen* should be canceled to Jamie Tarses, ABC Entertainment president, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Seventh Floor, Century City, Calif. 90067. — 3/3/98 Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. 

From Another — Point of View

By W. Lee Prince

The grass keeps on growing at our house. So do the children. Neither of those can be classified as profound thoughts. Lawn grass and children are everywhere.

Last week the yard was in good shape. It looked perfect. Now it needs attention again. Even when I'm busy with something else, the grass keeps on growing. I can't turn it off. It will not wait for my time schedule. It'll grow on without me.

I'm learning children are the same way. A special moment between father and son (or mother and daughter) can easily be missed; the children keep on growing. Twenty-four hours a day, every day, they keep on growing. Attitudes are shaped and re-shaped. What we plan to do "someday"! A mother may have intentions about the

training of a daughter, only to find she has waited too long. The reason is simple. Growing grass and growing children don't wait for anybody.

Perhaps there is another lesson for us here. When I talk to myself, I sometimes tell myself of my great plans for my grass and my children. Then a week or two will pass, and I realize I haven't been much help to either the grass or the children.

The lesson: I can't do everything. In fact I can't do — well — half as much as I think I can. A decision must be made. There are some things I can put off for a year. Some plans I can delay 10 years. But right now I've got to face the facts. The grass and the children are growing rapidly. I have to meet their time schedules — they won't wait for mine.

[Taken from "Just A Moment" published and available from Challenge Press for \$3.95 plus postage & handling.]

Problems of Anatomy

Where can a man buy a cap for his knee
Or a key to the lock of his hair?
Can his eyes be called an academy
Because there are pupils there?

What gems are found in the crown of his head?
Who crosses the bridge of his nose?
Can he use when shingling the roof of his house
The nails on the ends of his toes?


Can the crook of his elbow be sent to jail?
If so, what can he do?
How does he sharpen his shoulder-blades —
I'm sure I don't know — do you?

Can he sit in the shade of the palms of his hands
Or beat on the drum of his ear?
Does the calf of his leg eat the corn on his toes?
If so, why not grow corn on the ear?

TBC...

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funds but consider this as a missionary work for the Lord. I do all of the typesetting and preparation of the copy each month as a contribution to the Lord's work, and have done so since 1961 when we published the first issue of **TBC**. We appreciate all of those who consider **The Baptist Challenge** a worthy mission project.


I am over 72 years of age but still have good health and the Lord willing and enabling us, we will continue to publish **TBC** for years to come. As most of you know, my wife has Alzheimer's disease, so we ask that you remember both of us in your prayers. 

RAIN...

(Continued from page 1)

but apparently not, and the time for converting to the new system has expired, so we will have to provide them with the new information before we can mail out any more issues of **TBC**.

I hope all of our readers will bear with us as we go through these changes. Because we are late with this issue, we are combining the March and April issues together, but hopefully we'll be able to put it out on a regular basis from now on.

Please pray for us as we seek to learn this new program so that we can meet the new regulations of the Post Office. 

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BAPTIST...

(Continued from page 1)

tal and distinguishing Baptist doctrine and the one underlying all other Baptist doctrines is this: "The Bible, the Bible alone, is our only and all sufficient rule of faith and practice."

If you can't find it in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine, you can find it in the Bible. That is the shibboleth of the message this morning. Our authority for making this our distinguishing teaching is our marching orders, given us by the Lord Jesus, the Head and Founder of the First Baptist church.

The man God sent to make ready a people out of whom the Lord Jesus organized His church was called, by God Himself, the Baptist (Mt. 3:1). Mark you, he was not called the Baptist because he baptized. He was called the Baptist by the Lord before he ever baptized anybody, before he ever preached a sermon. He was called the Baptist because of the work God sent him to do (Jn. 4:1). His mission was set forth in these words: "Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John." His mission was the same kind of a mission that Baptists have always had. John was a Baptist because his mission was to make and baptize disciples. Baptists are the only folk on earth who are still working at that kind of a mission — who make men disciples then baptize them and baptize nobody else except disciples or Christians.

John the Baptist baptized Christ and all the twelve apostles and Christ's church is built on them, "Jesus him-

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BAPTIST . . .

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self being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20). Since the material for the church Jesus built was made ready by a Baptist preacher, it was Baptist material and the church organized out of it was a Baptist church. The church that Jesus called "My church" was therefore a Baptist church. To that church He gave His marching orders (Mt. 28:18-20). His marching orders are His program for that church and every other Baptist church until He comes again.

His orders are very explicit: "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Baptists are commanded to teach all things the Lord Jesus has commanded: they are not commanded to teach anything He hasn't commanded. That is why I say Baptist doctrine includes all things commanded and taught and practiced by Christ and His apostles and excludes everything else. If it isn't in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine: if it is Baptist doctrine you can find it in the Bible.

Our orders tell us to go and preach the gospel to every creature: that's why we are missionary Baptists. A member of this church or any other Baptist church who doesn't believe in missions or who doesn't do something for missions is a hypocrite and disobedient to the last orders of the Head of this and every other Baptist church.

The Bible tells us that "Jesus made and baptized disciples" — and His order to us is to "go, make disciples' and then baptize them.

Disciples were called Christians at Antioch. A disciple is a Christian. Jesus baptized none but disciples or Christians. He commanded us to baptize none but disciples or Christians. For that reason Baptists baptize no infants, no seekers, no sinners, no probationers, nobody except those who claim to be Christians; because Jesus, the founder of the first Baptist church, did not baptize anybody but disciples or Christians. He left us an example and told us to walk in His steps. That is why Baptists are sticklers for regenerated church-membership. Jesus started us that way and told us to "observe all things whatsoever He commanded."

Jesus walked sixty miles to be immersed in the river Jordan by the first Baptist preacher. That explains why Baptists are sticklers for immersion and for Baptist baptism. They were started that way and the Master told us to do as He said. The Bible, our guide-book, makes baptism so clear and plain that anybody can read it out of the Book, if he wants to. That is why so many of the common people are Baptists. I could tell you this morning, if I had the time, how that when there were no Baptists in Germany, J. G. Oncken was made a Baptist by reading the New Testament, and started to England to find a Baptist preacher to baptize him. I.N. Yohannon, a Persian, converted under a Presbyterian missionary, read the New Testament and came from Persia to New York to get Baptist baptism. In the island of Cuba, Diaz became a Bap-

tist from reading the New Testament. That is why in the state of Parihyba, Brazil, men converted under a Presbyterian missionary and made Baptists by reading the New Testament, sent for a Baptist preacher in Pernambuco to come up and baptize them.

Baptists take the Bible as it reads and don't try to explain it away. The Bible says that Jesus came to the Jordan to be baptized of John (Mt. 3:13). That is why Baptists go to the water instead of bringing the water to the candidate. The Bible says Jesus was baptized in Jordan (Mk. 1:9). That is why Baptists baptize in water instead of putting the water on the candidate.

Years ago Bro. A.J. Preston, met a prominent Presbyterian pastor at that time, who said to him, "Have you seen the Birmingham morning paper? Did you read where De Witt Talmage immersed a man in the River Jordan the other day?" Bro. Preston said: "Judge, I want to ask you one question. How is it that when you read in a daily paper that a Presbyterian preacher in the 19th century baptized a man in the River Jordan, you say he immersed him: and then when you read in the Bible that in the first century a Baptist preacher baptized the Lord Jesus in the River Jordan, you deny that He was immersed?" The Presbyterian Judge has not answered him yet.

The Bible says that Philip and the eunuch went down into the water (Acts 8:38). That is why Baptists do it that way today. The Bible describes baptism as a burial and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4). That is why Baptists insist that immersion only is baptism. The Bible says that

Jesus after His baptism came up straightway out of the water (Mk. 1:10). It takes "much water," "going to the water," "going into the water," a burial and a resurrection and a "coming out of the water" to make a Bible baptism. That is why Baptists will not have any other kind. There isn't any other kind in the Bible and Baptists will not accept for doctrines the commandments of men (Mt. 15:9).

The Bible says: "Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God" (Rom. 14:12). For that reason Baptists have no godfathers or godmothers or sponsors and do not believe in any proxies in religion. We do not baptize babies nor believe in infant membership because that puts a preacher or a priest or an ordinance or a church or a sacrament between the soul and God; and the Bible says, "There is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5). Baptists believe that infant baptism is a sin against God and against little children; because it takes away from the child the privilege and duty of obeying Jesus for itself in baptism after it has repented and believed in Christ for life and salvation.

Because Baptist churches take the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, they are the only churches that in all their history have never connected salvation with baptism, either for infants or adults; but have always contended that salvation is essential to baptism rather than baptism being essential to salvation. God's order is always salvation first and then baptism.

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"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47). Peter gave as a reason for the baptism of the household of Cornelius that they had already received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:43, 47).

Because the Bible says: "In vain do ye worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mt. 15:9). Baptists do not believe that one church is as good as another and think it makes lots of difference what church you join. Since all other churches except Baptist churches were established by men — to join any of them is to obey the commandments of men, and the Bible says, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). Baptists do not believe that a wife ought to join the church with her husband unless the Bible teaches what his church teaches, be-

cause the Bible says: "If any man come to me and hate not his father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." The first loyalty and allegiance of every blood-bought soul is to Jesus Christ and he ought to obey Christ, even if he has to forsake father and mother and wife and children and all kinsmen according to the flesh to follow Christ. Paul said when it came to following Christ, "he knew no man after the flesh." A man or woman should follow Christ in the matter of what church he joins, even if in so doing it means a house divided against itself (Mt. 10:34-36).

Baptists reject all other baptism except Baptist baptism because there is no other kind in the Bible. Jesus and the twelve apostles had Baptist baptism. For that reason we receive no other except Baptist baptism.

To reject Baptist baptism

is to follow the Pharisees instead of Jesus. "They rejected the counsel of God against themselves, not being baptized of John" (Lk. 7:30). All rejecters of Baptist baptism are therefore followers of the Pharisees instead of Christ and "despisers of the church of God," which was built by Jesus out of persons, baptized by the first Baptist preacher (1 Cor. 11:22; 12:28; Acts 1:21-22).

Baptists are a democratic people. "One is your Master, all ye are brothers," said the Lord Jesus (Mt. 23:8). Baptists have no bosses or overlords. For that reason, Thomas Jefferson got his idea of democracy from a little country Baptist church in Virginia, whose Saturday business meetings he used to attend. While this government is not a pure democracy, but a republic; Baptist churches are pure democracies; that is, "a government of the people and by the people and for the people." They elect their own officers. Peter was no pope or bishop. He called himself a fellow-elder with other Baptist preachers (1 Pet. 5:1). He did not appoint a successor to Judas Iscariot; but the 120 members of that Jerusalem church nominated two brethren and then after praying gave their lots and the lot fell upon Matthias (Acts 1:15-26). Peter in Acts 6 did not appoint seven deacons; neither did the apostles as ruling elders or a college of bishops elect them, but the twelve called the multitude of disciples together and they chose the seven deacons.

Baptists not only follow the Bible in electing their own officers, but they also track the Scriptures by receiving and dismissing their own members. In Acts 9:26 Paul tried to join the church at

Jerusalem, but they refused to receive him because they were not satisfied

about his conversion. In Romans 14:1 Paul tells the church at Rome, "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye," showing that the church received folk into its membership. In 1 Corinthians 5 Paul tells the church at Corinth to exclude an unworthy member and in 2 Thessalonians 3:6 the church at Thessalonica is commanded to "withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly." If it isn't in the Bible, it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine, you can find it in the Bible.

For that reason, Baptists believe in Closed Communion. Jesus Himself was a closed communionist. He did not invite His mother, nor the man in whose house He instituted the Lord's Supper to be present at that supper. How could you have closer communion than that? Our marching orders put salvation and baptism before the Supper. The church at Jerusalem in carrying out its marching orders had first salvation, all that "gladly received his word," then baptism, then church membership, then continuance in the apostles' doctrine, and continuance in church fellowship before getting to the breaking of the bread (Acts 2:41-42). Paul told the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 11:18-20) that if there was division or heresy present it was not possible to eat the Lord's Supper. Open communion therefore is an impossibility. Open Communion is the eating together of those who are dis-

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MATHIS...

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but rather an imaginary invention of uneducated religionists and that evolution is their true creator. The impact of this teaching is seen everywhere by the violence, moral decay and despair in our society. The evolutionist has unsolvable problems with the origin of life, the evolution of life into its present state and the understanding of our universe. His theories are legend and constantly changing.

In the July 20, 1997 issue of the **Arkansas Democrat-Gazette**, a full-size page appeared with the title "The Search for Life." This is an article on the Pathfinder mission on Mars and contains the latest speculation of these scientists on the origin of life. The article states that the energy required to produce the strings of molecules that form amino acids, the basic building blocks of DNA, proteins, etc. may have been provided in this lethal environment.

In this statement, one of the many unsolvable problems of evolutionists is evident. In a chaotic environment lethal to life, where did the free energy come from that is necessary to produce life from non-living systems and how did that life survive? In this article, we will try to give a brief summary of the many issues involved in creation by God versus naturalistic evolution.

LAWS OF THERMODYNAMICS

Two universal scientific laws that are essential to the discussion of origins is the First and Second Laws

of Thermodynamics. The First Law states, in effect, that nothing is now being created or destroyed and the Second Law states that every system left to itself becomes more disordered as time goes on. These two laws strongly support the Bible account of creation and the subsequent fall of man and the catastrophic impact of this fall on the creation.

Matter is fundamentally a form of energy and every thing that happens in the universe is basically a conversion of energy from one form to another, accomplishing work in the process. The First Law of Thermodynamics is the Law of Conservation of Energy. It says that energy can be transformed from one kind into another, but it can neither be created nor destroyed (Their sum is a closed system — Einstein predicted this and it is confirmed today by nuclear physics). This confirms the creationist belief that creation is not now taking place at all and is therefore a completed event of the past. Processes today are all conservation processes and could never create anything as evolutionists theorize.

Today, the world, as we observe it, remains essentially stable. Changes that occur do so within the natural laws decreed by God. Man, today, has greatly increased his knowledge of these laws and much experimentation is taking place. But the planets still remain in their orbits, the earth's rotation remains constant, dogs beget dogs, people beget people, etc. The changes that do occur are normally in the direction of decay. Everything tends to run down, to wear out and

to disintegrate. Although energy can be neither created or destroyed (First Law), the conversions occurring in our universe result in energy decreasing (converted to non-useable heat energy) in its availability for further work. Left alone, all systems proceed naturally from order to disorder. This is a universal law and any seemingly local exceptions are temporary and ultimately obey this law of disintegration. Thus, this principal of decay (result of the fall) can be seen in the natural world. God created the world and then, as a result of man's sin, imposed the disintegrative principal that we see covered by the Second Law of Thermodynamics.

CREATION, FALL AND THE FLOOD, GEOLOGICAL TIME COLUMN

In discussing origins, three major events, as described in the Bible, provide a historical framework for understanding creation. First, in the beginning God created this world and all that is in it including all scientific laws that govern it. Second, as a result of the fall of man, God imposed a fundamental principle of decay and disintegration within the structure of conservation. Third, God judged this world with a catastrophic flood that was global in extent which produced a temporary drastic acceleration of many geophysical processes and produced vast changes in the superficial aspects of the earth's atmosphere and related systems.

As discussed above, the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics strongly support the Biblical account

of the first two major events. The third major event gives the answer to the so-called proofs of evolution which states, in essence, that present geological processes, acting essentially as at present, are sufficient to explain the past history of the cosmos, including its assumed evolutionary development from its original chaos into its present form. The evolutionist believes that these processes which can be observed in action at present, such as erosion, sedimentation, glaciation, volcanism, etc., are operating in essentially the same fashion (and at the same rate as observed today and can be used to explain the origin and formation of all the earth's geologic deposits. It is also assumed that, at any given period in the past history of the earth, based on the assumption that evolution is true, that only one kind or type of organism was on the earth and that these organisms found as fossils in the rock stratum actually date that stratum. It is believed that, through evolution, these creatures, plants, etc. became progressively more developed and specialized in the course of the ages and therefore the fossils contained in the strata are the only reliable way to date the strata (We will discuss radioactive minerals and geologic dating later).

Based on this, evolutionists have worked up a geologic timetable which they claim shows a gradual progression of life from the simple to the complex, from lower to higher, and thus implies organic evolution.

This geological column is not actually found in the

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earth's crust but various partial columns are put together from different locations of the earth, based on the assumption that evolution is true. It is difficult or impossible to correlate strata in different localities by this principle of superposition. Fossils must then be resorted to and the fossil sequence is assumed to be in accordance with the principle of evolution.

Thus, the succession of organisms has been determined by a study of their remains embedded in the rocks, and the relative ages of the rocks are determined by the remains of organisms that they contain. This type of reasoning starts with their reluctance to believe in God. They ignore or try to explain away the many contradictions where fossils are found in reverse order from that demanded by evolutionary theory or where fossils from supposedly different ages are found in the same strata. They try to explain the contradictions by the assumption that the strata has been folded or faulted out of their original sequence. Yet, in spite of this type of reasoning (the dating of strata by the fossils they contain and the wrong assumption that the fossils evolved from primitive times to more modern times), modern biologists consider the geologic record as the cornerstone of their hypotheses of organic evolution and although they do not agree on how it occurred in the past and cannot provide examples of it occurring now (we will discuss mutations later), they believe that the geologic record provides proof that it

did happen.

Now the creationist does not take issue with the observed data and genuine facts of geology but in the interpretation of those facts. He believes that the uniform operation of present geological processes could never, regardless of the billions of years, hypothesized by evolutionists, produce the phenomenon of the geological column as actually observed in the earth's crust. The flood, as described in Genesis was catastrophic to this world and geological processes were greatly accelerated and changed by this flood. The very existence of vast numbers of fossils all over the world is, in reality, evidence not of evolution but of a sudden and catastrophic happening. Fossils are not being formed today and they speak of sudden death and destruction (often extinction) of species on a vast scale. The flood resulted in great masses of sediment being eroded from other places and being deposited with the raising and lowering waters. Fossils are the result of species being rapidly buried and fossilized or they would not have been preserved at all.

CONDITIONS BEFORE THE FLOOD

When God created this world, He created a world in perfect harmony and balance. Death did not exist before the fall of man and fossils speak of death. With the fall of man, the world was subject to vanity, death, deterioration, and decay (Gen. 3:17-19); Rom. 8:22; Second Law of Thermodynamics). In the days between the fall of

man and the flood of Genesis 6, the climate of the earth was vastly different than it is now. A great vapor canopy (Gen. 1:6-8) surrounded the earth such that the earth had a uniform warm temperate climate. Rainfall did not occur before the flood and storms were unknown. The extremes of hot and cold weather did not occur and weather fronts, as we know them today, did not exist. Volcanic activity and earthquakes were unknown and the polar caps did not exist.

The earth's surface and the ratio of land to water also was different. The flood changed all this including climate changes and

changes in related systems that produced the ice age. The flood was a supernatural judgment of God and was caused not just by the first rainfall from the heavens but by the upheaval of the ocean floors and the beginning of volcanic action as well as earthquakes (Gen. 7:11).

The tremendous erosion and resulting sedimentation from the flood can only be imagined. Consider local floods today as they rip out trees, wash homes and buildings, erode streams and sometimes plot new courses for streams and rivers. The power of a local flood is as

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nothing when compared to the Genesis flood.

It is not hard to understand how things, such as the Grand Canyon occurred. It did not take millions or billions of years to form the Grand Canyon when you consider the power of the Genesis flood coupled with events causing this flood. Fossils are a direct consequence of this flood. The various species buried in strata have a direct correlation to the kinds of species and their mobility as they tried to escape the flood. Living creatures, as well as plants, were buried by huge moving masses of sediment and under conditions unique for fossilization. Conditions like these have never before or after existed to allow the formation of worldwide beds of fossils.

FOSSILS AS EVIDENCE

To use the so-called Geological Column (or Time Table) and fossils contained in the strata as proof of evolution is ridiculous. The fossil record should have, if evolution is true, billions of transition fossils, fossils showing the evolution of one kind to another (missing links), but these transition fossils are nonexistent. Not one fossil exists showing the evolution of invertebrates (w/exoskeleton and life systems inside the skeleton) to vertebrates (Endoskeleton and life systems outside the skeleton); not one fossil showing, for instance, the evolution of limbs into wings or serpents into mammals or birds. Yet, in the fossil record is an abundance of most all modern families of

plants and animals as well as extinct creations. Also, some large fossil beds have species of both plants and animals that are from entirely different habitats and even from areas of different climates. The fossil record speaks not of the evolution of all things but rather of the sudden and catastrophic judgment of God upon this world through the flood.

When God created living things, He decreed that they reproduce after their kind so that dogs begat dogs, cats begat cats and man reproduces man. The basic kinds or forms of living plants and animals were placed on the earth by direct action of God and the changes observed are the adaptational and genetic variations with the limits of kinds or forms of plants. A dog-kind, horse-kind, bird-kind and man-kind exist; a moss-kind, fern-kind and flowering plant-kind exist. The attempt to show evolution by, for instance, the so-called series of horses of different sizes and with different number of toes, really only shows variational changes with in a kind, the horse. when God created the horse, He placed within its genetic code the information for all the varieties of horses that would ever develop. Many variations have occurred but there is no living or fossil records of a horse changing into another kind.

It is true that, due to isolation, a species may develop certain characteristics that dominate (races may have developed this way after God confounded their languages). But all of the characteristics possible exist within the original DNA or genetic code of the first pair or group isolated. Adapta-

tional changes may or may not occur but any changes that do occur are within a kind and no evolution from one kind to another occurs. Also, the comparison of limbs or other structural parts of living species does not prove evolution but rather a common creator, God. The statement that the extinction of certain species prove evolution only reflects the unscientific bias of the writer. Extinction speaks of death and not evolution.

MUTATIONS

Not only does the evolutionist have problems with the fossil record, he also has problems finding some means, or mechanism that would produce the changes in plants and animals necessary for evolution to be true. Although many theories have been presented, the only one seriously considered today is the accumulation of successive random mutations. A mutation is a change in some characteristic of an organism that can be inherited. A mutation can be caused by damage to the chromosomes in one form or the other or more often by mutation of a gene within the DNA molecule. Mutations are a genetic mistake and usually harmful and often fatal. Of mutations that can be documented, only one or two can be said to be beneficial. Even the so-called beneficial mutations are random and must appear when conditions are right for their survival.

Mutations do not produce new traits but only degenerative or variational characteristics of already existing traits (per DNA molecule). For an accumulation of a succession of these mu-

tations (the few assumed beneficial) to change one animal kind to another would require time infinitely greater than even the evolutionist's estimated age of the earth. The rate of mutation can be speeded up by chemicals or by powerful radiation but the consequences are always harmful or lethal. No one in their right mind would willingly expose themselves to radiation today because we know that, normally, radiation is very harmful. The truth is mutations reflect the Second Law of Thermodynamics. No mutations exist showing the change from one class of organisms into a more complex type of another organism. Rather, these changes have been observed to be harmful and often involve the loss of some physical trait. To believe that amoebas, through mutation, have changed to man requires greater faith than believing that God created all things.

DATING METHODS

Because of his theories on the way all things evolved, the evolutionist must have billions of years for his belief to be reasonable. Therefore, he again uses selective methods for determining the age of the universe, earth and organisms on the earth. Among the many methods for dating the earth as we see it today, he selects a few and rejects all others that do not agree with his theory of evolution. He ignores or explains away the contradictions with the methods he does select and, as a result of his preconceived approach, rejects all others as

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unreliable. The most common methods used are based on calculations of radioactive decay of certain minerals (the element is transmuted into one or more simpler elements). The most common dating methods are carbon 14, potassium-argon, rubidium-strontium and uranium-lead methods. Note that these are all decay processes. The original elements decay radioactivity into the simpler elements and the time required for half of the element to change has been determined (called the half-life of the element).

The accuracy of these methods is dependent upon several factors. One, that the radioactive decay of the element has always been true and that the rate of decay has always been the same. Also, that the quantity of the transmuted element was not in the sample to begin with and that no contamination from sources outside of the sample has occurred changing the element ratio. All of these assumptions are made by the evolutionist in using these methods for dating. He ignores the billions of years difference in dates that are given by these methods at times and he definitely rejects the results when they reveal young ages. When radiocarbon dating methods are used and indicate, as they do at times, that supposedly ancient coal and oil deposits are fairly young, the evolutionist explains away the results. Any honest scientist would look at the results and recognize that these dating methods are questionable. The carbon 14 (C-14) dating method assumes that the C-14 content in the atmosphere is con-

stant and in balance. Thus, the content of C-14 per normal carbon content in dead specimens is determined and the radioactive decay rate is used to determine age. But we know, today, that C-14 in the atmosphere is not in balance and the rate of decay of C-14 is increasing in the atmosphere, and as a consequence, accuracy of dating of specimens decreases as one goes to older specimens. Also, the vapor canopy that existed before the flood shielded the earth from neutrons that produce C-14 and probably reduced the rate of production before the flood. When these factors are considered, this dating method may well yield a young earth. Also, many geophysical processes, which are at least as reliable, indicate that the earth is quite young. One example would be that the influx of chemicals into the atmosphere and hydrosphere indicate a very young age for the earth.

UNIVERSE AND MATTER NOT ETERNAL

The origin of life cannot be explained by the evolutionist. Some assume that the universe is eternal and that life sprung from non-living matter in the universe. That the universe obviously had a beginning is evident when you consider the Second Law of Thermodynamics. This law states that everything tends to run down, wear out and to disintegrate. Although energy can be neither created nor destroyed, the conversions occurring within our universe result in energy decreasing in its availability for further useful work. Our sun and the other stars are giving off energy all the time. They would

have lost their heat long ago if they had existed eternally. Scientists today sometimes speak of an ultimate heat death of our sun. Similarly, if the universe and matter are eternal, the decay of all radioactive elements would have been completed long ago. The fact that this process is still going on indicates the universe had a beginning. Thus the universe was created and had a beginning by means not going on today.

CAUSE AND EFFECT AND THE BIG BANG THEORY

The law of cause and effect states that each phenomenon must have a cause adequate to produce it and that no effect can be greater than its cause. But the evolutionist assumes that effects (the universe) are of a higher order and complexity than the cause. An effect cannot produce itself and the universe could not have been its own cause. One scientist, on Public Educational

Television recently stated that, using the laws of physics, the search for origins is like running a movie backwards until you reach that first spark of energy that started the process of creation of the universe. At this point, science does not have a hypothesis to explain where that first speck of energy came from and how or why it produced that first gas, etc. The Big Bang theory which says that the universe is explosively expanding from an original state of high density assumes the eternal existence of the universe.

Some religionists try to correlate what they believe with the Big Bang theory. They consider the Big Bang as an act of God. This evolves man upwards by evolution and eliminates the fall of man (due to sin) and is contrary to the Bible and to all truly scientific evidence. If this is true, then Christ died in vain and the Bible is worthless. But crea-

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tionists believe, as the Bible teaches, that God is the First Cause and that He did not evolve His creation but spoke it into existence including all life in the universe.

LIFE PRODUCES LIFE

One of the basic truths of science is that life produces life. Life has never been created by science without life, in some form, being present. In the past, some scientists claimed that life sprung from non-living matter by spontaneous generation. But Louis Pasteur demonstrated, with his experiments, that this was not true. He was bitterly opposed by so-called scholars of his day. But the doctors and surgeons of our day, as well as the food industry, know that Pasteur spoke the truth.

But, scientists today are again advocating spontaneous generation. They are now approaching it from the stand point of molecular and chemical evolution of life. Over the years, reports have been published claiming the creation of life in the test tube. But these reports fail to mention the presence of life in some form, such as enzymes or genes or virus, etc., and that no semblance of life, as we define life, has ever truly occurred.

The theory that life evolved from the first simple cells produced in our universe by random or blind chance is statistically unbelievable. Several men have calculated the time required for the formation of the first DNA (information) molecule and even with the billions of years estimated as the age

of our universe by evolutionists, the universe is much too young.

Let me briefly review the so-called simple cell and show you what the evolutionist is really saying about the origin of life. You will need greater faith to believe his hypothesis than to believe that God created it all.

THE CELL, SIMPLE OR COMPLEX

The smallest unit of living matter that can exist by itself is the cell. Some plants and animals consist of only a single cell but others are composed of many billions of cells. The simple cell is not simple at all. It is an incredibly complex and powerful unit. Within the nucleus of every cell is DNA molecules which are present in the form of structures called chromosomes. These DNA molecules are the material of genetics and contain the code by which proteins are assembled in the cells. Development and function of the whole organism is controlled by this code. The gene is a functional section of a DNA molecule which produces a certain characteristic in the individual. The characteristics of an individual is determined by the arrangements of a series of subsections of the DNA molecule which may be very short or very long. The information is read and transferred to other molecules by RNA molecules and the energy to perform the necessary chemical reactions comes from food we eat reacting with the oxygen we breath.

Now, one other very important element is necessary for the function of the cell and that is the presence of

enzyme molecules who harness the energy and direct its actions. Otherwise the cell would self-destruct. Since these enzymes act on only one structure or substance and perform a very specific reaction, there are many, many different enzymes in each cell. For every reaction that occurs in a cell, there is a different enzyme. Now these enzymes are found in the structure of cells of all living creatures, plant, animal or human and they enable the cells to carry on the various processes that are chemically essential to the continuance of life of the cells. They have incredible power and continue to act as a catalyst over and over again, without loss of power, as long as they are supplied the conditions and the substance they are designed to catalyze.

AMINO ACIDS

Now one of the building blocks of cells (and all living organisms) is proteins (also nucleic acids, carbohydrates and lipids or fats). Proteins are very large complex molecules that are made up of long chains of chemical units called amino acids. Biochemists know the complete structure of very few. Slightly more than twenty amino acids contribute to the formation of protein molecules. Each type is structurally and chemically different from all the others. There are many, many different kinds of protein molecules (perhaps billions). The arrangement of amino acids in a protein molecule is not random; the sequence is precise, forming the primary structure of the molecule as dictated by the cell's genetic system. Each individual

within a species usually is very distinctive in regard to certain proteins. This becomes obvious when doctors try to transplant tissues from one individual to another during surgery. Except for twins, skin grafts, etc. rarely take. Thousands of years before science discovered any of this, the Bible said in 1 Corinthians 15:39 that "All flesh is not the same flesh." It is very apparent from all of this that living cells are very complicated and involved in some very complicated and inter-related processes. For more information on cell reproduction, see the section on test tube babies, cloning and genetics below.

LIFE IN A LETHAL ATMOSPHERE

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

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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 at-

mosphere 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.

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 re-

duced 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.

TEST TUBE BABIES, CLONING AND GENETICS

Man, today, has done some amazing things as his understanding and knowledge of genetics has increased. He is beginning to understand that genetic defects in certain genes may produce certain diseases. Conception of babies can now be done in a test tube

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and some claim to have cloned certain animals. Also, I have read news reports that claim that the sex of the baby can now be controlled by genetic manipulation. Some knowledge of cell reproduction and human reproduction by conception are necessary to understand the issues involved in all of this.

The process of cell reproduction is amazing. Man, in recent years, has gained much knowledge of this process but much concerning the actual mechanism of this process is still a mystery. When a cell divides, the original cell gives rise to two daughter cells, each with a complete compliment of genetic material (DNA) identical to that in the original cell (46 chromosomes or 23 pairs). But when reproduction takes place in humans, the reproduction cell (which ultimately produces sperm and egg cells) divides and produces cells which possess 23 chromosomes (half of the 46 chromosomes of the original cell). When conception takes place the fertilized egg then has the 46 chromosomes necessary for the human species to be perpetuated from generation to generation. Otherwise, the new individual would have 92 chromosomes (46 from each parent) and reproduction would result in drastic changes. But God decreed in Genesis 1:11-28 that each species would reproduce after their kind. The new individual now has a new DNA code that is a result of the 23 chromosomes from each parent (totaling 46). Also, even though every cell in a human embryo carries the same set of genetic informa-

tion, the cells become different types of cells such as nerve cells, muscle cells and various other kinds of cells. To do this, some genetic information must be suppressed. This mechanism, not clearly understood, is the source of much research today. Cells are truly amazing.

Consider now the process involved in test-tube babies. Both true science and the Bible recognizes that life produces life. Today, medical professionals can take the sperm from a man and the egg from a woman and, in the test-tube, conceive a baby. But note carefully that it takes human life, the sperm and the egg, and a woman to carry that fertilized egg to term to produce that baby. God has permitted this but man, as his genetic knowledge increases, is going further and further. I'm not sure where God will draw the line.

Now consider the controlling of the sex of the baby. Again, genetic research has revealed that the male determines the sex of the baby. In the division of the reproduction cell, the male produces a pair of cells that are different. If we call one cell of that pair X and the other cell Y, we can give a simple illustration of the process. The female also produces a pair of cells and we might call each one of these cells X. These cells originate from the division of the reproduction cell and have only 23 chromosomes each. When the male X cell combines, through conception, with one of the female X cells, the result is ultimately a girl. When the male Y cell combines, through conception, with the female X cell, the result is ultimately

a boy. Thus, if it can be done or has ever been done, it will be through this genetic manipulation of the male cells. In this process, man is changing the basic identity of that individual. The question is how much will God permit?

The final item mentioned above is that of cloning. News reports claim that scientists have now cloned several animals. Although our government, fearing the consequences of this research, has stopped federal funds from being used in this research of human cloning, I'm sure private research will continue.

An article appeared in the Hot Springs **Sentinel Record** on Friday, August 8, 1997 that stated that scientists have now cloned several calves. This follows a previous report of the cloning of a sheep. The sheep, according to the article, was cloned from an udder cell but the cell used to clone the calf came from a 30 day-old fetus. The scientists state "We can make an unlimited number of cells, freeze them for any amount of time, then thaw them and make identical animals." The mechanics of this cloning process is not described but assuming that it is true in the full sense of the word, it would seem to indicate the reproduction of a species having the same DNA code as the original animal. This would involve the by-passing of the reproduction process described above. It would be a sexless, laboratory manipulation of living genetic material. Man has always sought means to eternally perpetuate himself and although the original subject would still die, theoretically, he would be able to reproduce the human body

with the same DNA code. That individual would be different based on those factors that mold individuals after birth such as experience, education, etc.


Now the question is, if man successfully accomplishes this, what will he have? The advocates of cloning are again assuming that humans are nothing more than molecules and cells and life, nothing more than biological reactions of these components. But the Bible teaches that man is a triune being (thus differing from animals) having a body, soul and spirit. Man has an immortal soul. Will God permit such a process to produce a man with an immortal soul or will this process merely create an unfeeling monster? I am well aware that God created the whole human race in the first man, Adam. I am also aware that reproduction is according to the natural laws decreed by God. But this process of cloning is by-passing God's laws of reproduction.

Assuming God permits immortal souls (the evolutionist doesn't believe man has an immortal soul) to come into existence by this process, it would be possible to reproduce many bodies with essentially the same DNA code; all from the same original individual. In this process, man is again tampering with the basic identity of the individual and, in essence, playing God. The Bible teaches that Satan is the god of this world and I have little doubt that, unless God intervenes, man will attempt this process. As Nimrod (a type of the Antichrist) tried to build a tower to heaven, so, I be-

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cast out;" that "neither shall any pluck them out of my hand." Paul in Romans 8:28-30 shows that all that God foreknew will be called, justified and glorified. Beginning back in God's foreknowledge and reaching out beyond time to final glorification, Paul plainly says that not a single one that God foreknew would be saved, will ever fail to reach final glorification. Therefore apostasy is impossible.

But in Romans 8:38-39 Paul puts it, if possible, stronger still. He shows that nothing in life, "death nor life," nothing in heaven or hell, "angels, principalities nor power," nothing in time, "things present nor things to come," nothing in space "height nor depth" and then for fear something had been left out he adds "nor any other creature," which includes the believer himself, "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Baptists believe those once saved are always saved, because the Bible says so. Baptists take the Bible alone as their only rule of faith and practice.

That is why I am a Baptist. If you can't read it in the Bible it isn't Baptist doctrine; if it is Baptist doctrine, you can find it in the Bible. 

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lieve, will man attempt to create a genetically perfect human being. But remember this, God intervened at the tower of Babel and I believe He will intervene in this attempt.

This research is telling us that the return of Christ is near. God's intervention may well be the return of

Christ for His people. At that time, the Holy Spirit, who resists Satan, will be removed from this world. I have little doubt that the Antichrist will continue this research.

SUMMARY

The Bible teaches that God is not the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33). He created all things including space, time, energy, matter and all the laws that govern these things. He placed an order in this creation such that atoms act within their sphere according to laws that govern them; molecules in their sphere according to the laws that govern them; cells in their sphere according to the laws that govern them; and on and on. He is the upholder and sustainer of all things.

The evolutionist claims to use the laws of physics to trace the evolution of the universe backwards to its origin but he cannot explain why these laws exist. He explains one law with another law and never reaches the first cause (which is God). The evolutionist well knows that all the components of this universe act according to their own laws within their own sphere but he seeks a unification theory to tie it all together and explain how it all began. Einstein spent the last 30 years of his life seeking such a theory and today hundreds of scientists, of all disciplines, are spending billions of dollars (in manpower and equipment) in searching for the origin of life and for other life in our universe.


The Bible gives an eloquent and simple explanation: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Sanity will not per-

mit any other explanation. The Bible does not explain or defend the existence of God and every man has within him the knowledge that there is a God. He may repress this knowledge as a consequence of unsound education and peer pressure, but that knowledge still exists. Many men, who have denied the existence of God all of their lives, have reached the end of their lives with fear of standing before that God after death. Evolution is a secular religion built around an unproved theory of men who do not want to submit to an omnipotent God. They, nevertheless, will die (this is a reality that none can escape) and stand before God and answer for every individual that they have influenced to believe this lie. If you are an evolutionist, recognize that there is a God and that you, as all men, are a sinner, and put your trust in Christ as your Savior before it is eternally too late.

HEBREWS 9:27-28

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

JOHN 3:16-17

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world: but that the world through him might be saved." 

BAPTIST...

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vided into different sects and teach different and oft-times contradictory doctrines. All doctrines that differ from the Bible and the Baptists are heresies, and Paul says if there is division or heresy present it is not possible to eat the Lord's Supper. So it is either closed communion or it is not the Lord's Supper.

Finally, Baptists believe that if a man is once saved, he is always saved. No doctrine we hold is more abundantly supported by the Scriptures than this one. Jesus said of the man once saved that "he shall never perish" that he "shall never thirst" and therefore can never go to hell because in hell they do thirst (Lk. 16:24); that he shall "in no wise be

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