



Bible Believers' Bulletin

Vol. 38 No. 2 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17) February, 2014

Josiah, the Teenaged Christian

By Brian Donovan

As the southern kingdom of Judah's history was winding down, a young boy came to the throne at only eight years of age by the name of Josiah (2 Chron. 34:1). His father was the wicked Amon, whom the Lord only gave two years to reign (2 Chron. 33:21); even worse, his grandfather was Manasseh, the most wicked of Judah's kings, as well as the longest reigning with a 55-year rule (2 Chron. 33:1). Manasseh

set the kingdom of Judah back into idolatry after his father Hezekiah had led the nation to revival.

So after a half a century of wickedness, this eight-year-old boy Josiah came to the throne. His peers were not good examples, his upbringing was not right, and his nation was in darkness and far from the Lord God. In the eighth year of his reign, at the age of sixteen, this young man went

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Debt, Disaster, and Departure

By Robert Militello

"The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender" (Prov. 22:7).

Put enough air in a balloon, and it will bust. Our elected officials in Washington are spending like a drunken sailor on shore leave after a long spell at sea. Is there a more ob-

vious sign of judgment coming soon than the inflation of the national debt under Presidents Bush and Obama? We have become hopelessly addicted to borrowed money, and a national economic collapse is inevitable. A dying US dollar will invariably bring international chaos. The world will look for a savior, an economic and political genius who will propose a New World Order for those who wish to buy and sell in a cashless society, promising stability for all nations.

For the Christian, the ticking time bomb known as the Federal deficit is nothing to be feared. Our desire to depart and be with our Lord (Phil. 1:23 cf. Tit. 2:13) should be growing as

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How You Can Know You Are Saved

(Part Two of Two)

In our last issue, we talked about the fact that a Bible-believing Christian can *know for sure* he is going to Heaven when he dies. That's because *he is not depending on his own good works to get him to Heaven*. Every other religion and many professing Christian churches think you have to *do* something—works!—to appease God and gain (or keep) salvation, and as a result, they don't *know* they are saved because they can never be sure they've *done enough*.

Last time, we started giving you seven ways you can know you're saved. The first two were a *love for God* and a *love for God's words*. We continue here with point three.

3. Another manifestation of salvation is *a love for God's people*; not a love for sex perverts or "oppressed minorities" and all that rot. You come to love God's people—saved, born-again people. You don't have to *like* all of them or even *trust* all of them, but you do have to *love* them. It is true that some of God's people can be some of the meanest devils on earth, but if you are saved, the Scriptures say, "**We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren**" (1 John 3:14). Loving the brethren *Scripturally* is connected to loving God (1 John 5:2).

4. You can know you are saved if you experience *a continual inner conflict of two natures inside yourself*. Paul wrote a whole chapter on it in Romans 7. The apostle had two natures in him that argued and fought all the time. He said, "**For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I**" (Rom. 7:15).

When you got saved, it was like putting a refined, civilized man in the same cage with a savage barbarian or an ape. Bishop William Beveridge (1637–1708) wrote, "I cannot pray but I sin, I cannot hear or preach a sermon but I sin . . . I cannot so much as confess my sins, but my very confessions are still aggravations of them; my repentance needs to be repented of, my tears want washing, and the very washing of my tears needs still to be washed over again with the blood of my Redeemer" (*The Theological Works of William Beveridge*, Vol. VIII, Oxford, 1846, pp. 166-167). That's a battle of two natures going on.

Within every Christian there are two natures: one is the old Adamic nature with which he is born, and the other is a new nature created by the Holy Spirit at the New Birth. Paul wrote about that old nature.



Dr. Peter S. Ruckman
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How You Can Know You Are Saved

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“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me” (Rom. 7:18–21).

“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Gal. 5:17).

That’s the conflict between the old nature and the new. Two natures are proof you are saved, for only a man who has been *born twice* has *two natures*.

5. That brings us to the next point: one of the clearest proofs that you are saved is the fact that **“if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”** (2 Cor. 5:17). Unsaved sinners are obsessed with *new things*: the *New Age*, the *new morality*, the *new evangelism*, the *NEW International Version*, etc. All the conceited Greek philosophers in Athens **“spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing”** (Acts 17:21). Well, if a man is **“in Christ, he is a new creature.”** He begins to love things he ignored or hated before, and he begins to hate things he previously loved.

If you are saved, you have a new nature in you (see point 4): a *spiritual* nature. It is a nature sensitive to the things of God. It gives you a *stronger conscience about your sin*. What used not to bother you a hundred times before now torments the fire out of you.

It gives you new appetites. You begin to appreciate Bible study, prayer, going to church, and singing hymns. You have a distaste for the old life. That doesn’t

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mean it will totally go away, but a *change* takes place.

6. Another proof that you are saved is *confidence in the promises of the Bible*. The Apostle John wrote:

“And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God” (1 John 3:19–21).

Of course, if your heart condemns you because of the way you're living, you won't believe the promises; sin causes you to doubt God's promises. But if you live right, you will rest your soul on the naked word of God. That Bible says, **“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”** (Num. 23:19).

Peter wrote, **“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”** (2 Pet. 1:4).

If you are saved, you can believe the promises of God to you, as plainly given in the Scriptures. Some of these **“exceeding great and precious promises”** are:

“He that believeth on the Son HATH [present tense] everlasting life” (John 3:36).

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, AND SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION; but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24).

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38–39).

“So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord” (1 Cor. 1:7–9).

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption” (Eph. 4:30).

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6).

Those are promises from God. If you choose not to believe Him, John says you make God a *liar* when you don't believe Him (1 John 5:10), and Paul says, **“let God be true, but every man a liar”** (Rom. 3:4). When it comes to believing man or believing what God says in His word, you had best choose what God says; that's a proof you are saved.

7. Finally, the last surety of salvation comes from the fact that if you are saved, somewhere in you you'll have the witness of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says,

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“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom. 8:16), and **“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself”** (1 John 5:10).

That's two witnesses: your conscience bears witness to the fact that you trusted Jesus Christ alone to save you, and the indwelling Holy Spirit bears witness to the fact that *it worked*.

There were once two old men in St. Mary's Hospital in Detroit. They were two drunken bums who were in there to get “off the bottle” before it killed them. One of them was blind.

Well, somebody from Beauchamp Vick's church, Detroit Baptist Temple, had left a tract there in their room. When one of the Roman Catholic nuns came through to visit those two bums, the blind guy asked her to read the tract to him. She read it out loud, and he made her repeat it to him, especially John 3:16.

After the Nun finished reading the tract through the second time, the blind bum said he wanted to think about what he had heard, and the Nun left the room. While she was gone, that blind fellow gave the tract to his buddy there in the other bed, and he read it too. Later on, that Nun returned to the room with a jigger of whiskey and a beer “chaser” for each of those guys to wean them off the alcohol slowly, and both of those old bums turned the drinks down. When the Nun wanted to know why they didn't want the drinks, the blind fellow said, “I've got something better! It works! It works!” The other bum waved that tract around and yelled, “You bet it works! I got it too!”

Do you know what that was? That was the witness of the Holy Spirit in those two old bums who had believed what that tract said and had both trusted Christ.

Now listen, if you don't know where you are going when you die, you have missed one of two things. You have either missed the New Birth entirely, or you have missed what the Bible says about your salvation. I hope it is not the former.

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves” (2 Cor. 13:5). No one who has not been born again could know the seven things I gave you. You wouldn't have a love for God, not according to the Scriptures at least (see Rom. 10:2–3). You wouldn't love God's words or God's people as you ought. Your conscience wouldn't bother you when you did something you wanted to do. You wouldn't be **“a new creature”** **“in Christ”**; you would love the things you've always loved and hate the things you always hated. You would be in constant doubt of your salvation because you wouldn't have any confidence in the promises of God in His word, and there would be no Holy Spirit in you to witness to anything.

You should *know* you're saved. You *can* know you are saved. **“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may KNOW that ye have eternal life”** (1 John 5:13). There are at least 900 million professing Christians who know no more about absolute assurance of salvation or the eternal security of the believer than Mother Teresa, JFK, FDR, Michael Jackson, Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Pope “Francis,” Mahatma Gandhi, Albert Einstein, Nelson Mandela, Winston Churchill, or Mohammed.

Outreach of a Small Church

By Geneha Kim

For Christians in very small churches, it is my intention that the following testimony will greatly encourage them to get off their tails and work for God in the right Bible-believing manner. I have pastored for nearly three years in the San Francisco Bay area. I was also studying in UC Berkeley, so you can imagine all the disgusting responses from the liberals, hippies, and queers after looking at my bumper stickers on the car and the tracts that I've handed out.

In my first year in the ministry, I only saw ten souls get saved. One thing I kept in mind was that my job is to witness to them, not save them. God does the saving, not me. I was determined that if God wanted me to continue pastoring a church where only one person wanted to hear the truth, I will persevere till the day I die.

The Lord tested my patience for two years, and He gave me three key successes that changed everything. First, the Lord suddenly sent twelve new people into the church. Surprisingly, some found our church through Chick tracts that were either passed out or tossed aside. Others were actually searching for a non-compromising, Bible-believing church for many years, and they happened to find through our website that only our church met that standard. Four of my members soon became my most active soulwinners in street-preaching and visitation, and three more are on the way.

Secondly, the Lord opened the door for me to preach to the drug addicts at the Salvation Army. This ministry has the Alcoholics Anonymous belief that as long as any person has a "God," it does not have to be Jesus. Because

one of my members had been a participant for ten years, he told the leaders about me, and they soon hired me to become one of their preachers! Without compromise, I preached the whole Gospel of God and saw convicts getting saved and atheists getting convicted.

Thirdly, some members have been praying for hours and faithfully spreading the Gospel with great patience and humility. Some of us were dedicated to labor onwards for God, even if He blessed us with very few results.

Thus, here is a total result after nearly three years in the ministry: the Lord has miraculously blessed our small church of only twenty people with over 400 souls saved. None of this was done by "easy-believism," gimmicks, or compromise. These numbers occurred in the San Francisco Bay area, in which lies the wicked cities of Berkeley, Oakland, San Jose, and San Francisco.

Sadly, the Fundamentalist churches and colleges here are not street-preaching, but rather depending upon gimmicks and compromise to bring in the numbers. Several of my members originally came from those churches and realized the stark difference. I'm training two of them who actually surrendered to the call of the ministry once the Lord opens the door for them.

I could write about more miracles with which the Lord has blessed us, but for the sake of saving space in this article, I simply want to urge some lonely Bible believers out there to get off their tails and labor for God in the right Bible-believing way. You never know how much fruit the Lord will actually bless you with. At the same time

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Outreach of a Small Church

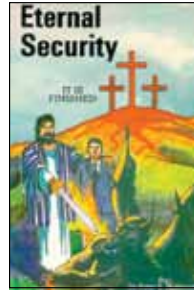
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however, be willing to die with small results as long as it is done in the right Bible-believing way.

In case anyone wishes to speak with me, call me at (408) 712-8001 or check out our website at www.bbcenglish.org. I will conclude with these verses:

“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully” (2 Tim. 2:5).

“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right” (Prov. 16:8).



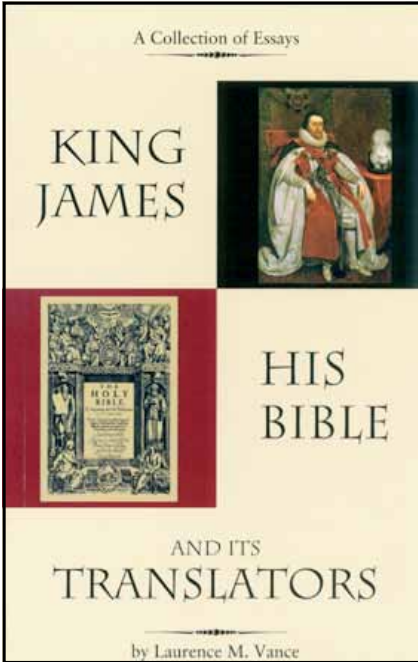
This book covers those passages that deal with eternal security or, conversely, the teaching that a believer can lose his sal-

vation in this age.

98 Pages



(Plus postage—see pg. 17)



A collection of essays on the subjects of King James, his Bible, and its translators. These essays are not a rephrasing or a retelling of what can readily be found in a standard work on English Bible history. In fact, some of them are designed to correct the errors and misconceptions that are unfortunately too prevalent in the material written about the *Authorized Version*.

164 Pages

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Josiah, the Teenaged Christian

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against all of that and sought out the Lord God of David (2 Chron. 34:3). The actions of this teenager take away any excuse a young person might use not to serve God in these last days of the Church Age.

Josiah purged Judah of the perversion of the sodomites and their groves (2 Kings 23:7; 2 Chron. 34:3–4), and broke down the idols and images of the Baalite priests. Perhaps without even being aware of a prophecy of the Scriptures from 1 Kings 13:32, Josiah tore down the false altar built by Jeroboam over three hundred years earlier. The young man of God in Jeroboam's day (975 B.C.) even gave Josiah's name in the prophecy (three hundred years before he was born), causing the critics of the Scripture to cry foul and deny the word of God, saying some scribe must have added the story after Josiah's time. This is kin to the old "Deutero-Isaiah" baloney that the scholars use to prevent the Scriptures from naming Cyrus before he was born in Isaiah's prophecy found in Isaiah 44:28. Bible believers know that the Author dwells in eternity and therefore sees the end before the beginning and has no trouble naming events and people that He is going to use.

By making this strong stand at age sixteen, Josiah's spiritual life grew stronger and stronger so that by the time he was just 26 years old, he was bringing his nation to restore God's Temple. This led to an amazing discovery: the "**book of the law of the LORD given by Moses**" was found (2 Chron. 34:14). When the words were

read, Josiah did not waste five minutes worrying about copyists errors, double inspiration, preservation difficulties, or archaic words. HE TREMBLED (2 Chron. 34:19). The book that was found was a copy of a copy of a copy, whose "original" was given over eight hundred years earlier. Josiah had no problem understanding the words; instead, he had this unique idea that they were to be believed and obeyed, rather than questioned or corrected. As a result, the words spoke personally to him, and the Lord gave him direct revelation (2 Chron. 34:27–28).

By reading, believing, and obeying the words, repentance took place, and the nation went into revival. American preachers talking about national revival have the spiritual discernment of a doorknob. Start talking about national revival when the Baalite priests have been silenced, the sodomites have been cleared out, and the saved people start believing the AV 1611. That would just be the start; and it would have to include the White House, Congress, and our public education system.

Josiah's great example is proof that a teenager can live for God "**in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation**" (Phil. 2:15). Many years later, another young boy took over a throne from a very wicked father and became known as the "British Josiah." When Henry VIII of England died in 1547, his son was only nine years old. Saved at a very young age, Edward VI was tutored away from his wicked father, learning French, Latin, and English, as well as memorizing many Bible

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Josiah, Teenaged Christian

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passages. Edward witnessed to his older sister Mary, who was completely entrenched in the idolatry of the Roman Catholic Mass. She later took over the throne when Edward died and became known in history as "Bloody Mary." She was responsible for burning at the stake over 250 saved Englishmen. But before she could perform her wicked deeds, the young Edward drove the Roman Catholic Masses and her priests out of England, while at the same time, he allowed the printing of English Bibles (which had been forbidden by Henry) throughout his realm.

During his short reign (1547–1553), which was cut short by his early death, at least thirty editions of the English Bible were published. He also wrote a treatise called "Against the Primacy of the Pope," with Scripture to prove each of his points. At his coronation, three swords were carried that symbolized the three parts of the British Empire. Edward said there was one missing. When asked which, he said, "The Bible, that '**sword of the Spirit**' which is to be preferred above these swords . . . Without that sword, we can do nothing." This British Josiah heeded the preaching of the likes of Knox, Calvin, Latimer, Ridley, and Bradford. Struck by smallpox and measles, Edward died at the age of only fifteen years old. While touring Windsor Castle, I remember seeing a statue of this young boy, with his scepter pointing to a Bible which was opened to the passage on Josiah in 2 Chronicles 34. Edward's stand had an effect on his nation, as did Josiah's.

American teenagers today are brought up surrounded by Hollywood and Internet filth. If a young Christian is to make a stand, it will be a lonely

one. But the Lord has always looked for that one lone soldier. To do this as a Christian teenager, you will have to do a few things.

A) *You will have to make the Lord your own personal God.* It will not work trying to go against the world relying on your parents' relationship with God; it must be your own relationship with Jesus Christ that you develop daily.

B) *You must be willing to stand without your friends.* The majority of teenagers are not going to come along on this ride with you. They will pressure you to fit in. Josiah began this walk as an eight-year-old boy and then continued alone through his teenage years.

C) *You will have to keep your heart tender toward what the word of God says and tremble to perform it.* Young people are tender toward everything that the world puts out. They know the latest fashions, the latest movies, the latest songs, and the latest Hollywood punks; yet they cannot recite ten verses of Scripture. That Book will keep you from trouble.

D) *You will have to be willing to make the payments that come with doing right.* Josiah did not fit in. He was not welcome at the parties that took place in the groves. But serving Jesus Christ is worth it all.

These two men proved that it does not matter who came before you (Manasseh or Henry VIII), or who comes after you (Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Nebuchadnezzar, or Bloody Mary). Your Saviour Jesus Christ is looking to use a young person for His pleasure, and the reward will come when you see Him face to face. The Lord is not looking for heroes; He is looking for soldiers, some young Josiahs to stand alone.

A Secret Place

By Tom Waddle

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psa. 91:1).

The verse, practically speaking, has to do with personal fellowship with the Lord. The purpose of a **“secret place”** is not to hide from God, but to get alone with Him and fellowship with Him.

“Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!” (Isa. 5:8).

In the “hustle” of city life, it’s hard to find God. It’s difficult to “see” God in concrete, asphalt, glass buildings, red lights, automobiles, electricity, and the noise that accompanies thousands of people, all in a hurry.

My dad taught me, at an early age, how important it is to experience the fresh air and quietness of the outdoors *in the country*. For it is there you can enjoy what *God Almighty* has created. It will certainly get you thinking about Him and your relationship to Him. It will allow you the time to talk with Him without the fear of being run over by some maniac in a three-quarter-ton, four-wheel-drive pick-up truck *or some mindless teenaged girl texting*.

In order to be a *successful* (I didn’t say rich), Christian, you **MUST maintain fellowship** with the Lord. John 15 likens it to a branch abiding in the Vine.

“I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are

burned” (John 15:5–6).

The lesson is plain—our obligation as a born-again child of God is to stay in fellowship with the Lord. **“Abide in me”** (John 15:4) is communion—through the word of God and prayer so that we might bear fruit to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are saved, you are already IN Christ (Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:13). You must first be IN Christ before you can ABIDE in Him. To ABIDE in Him means *daily fellowship* and not something that’s spontaneous, every “now and then,” or just when you feel like it.

The passage is about fellowship, *not relationship*. It’s not about salvation. It’s about staying close to God AFTER you are saved, and certainly not trying to stay saved. The believer is eternally secure and should not ever fear going to Hell (John 5:24, 10:28). But you should be concerned about your conduct and how it pleases Him.

Notice Psalm 91 said, **“He that dwelleth.”** That is a continual, constant thing. To *abide* in Christ means your heart is continually occupied with Him. That’s right, *your heart*. You can be like Martha—**“cumbered about much serving”** (Luke 10:40) and not be in communion with the Lord. Just because a person is actively serving the Lord certainly is no guarantee he is in fellowship with Him. He may be involved with so many church activities he has no time for a **“secret place”**—*time for Bible study and prayer*. The *needful thing* and **“good part”** (Luke 10:42), according to Jesus Christ, is sitting at His feet and hearing His word.

I will never forget while on visitation after a good brother in Christ gave a good “witnessing to” a woman. She

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 turned to me and said, "He sure does know the Bible, but does he live it?" I said, "Well ma'am, you can't *live it* unless you *know it*." With that, we were invited to leave with no expectation of return.

Hey, wait a minute! How can you serve God without knowing what He says about it? You might be contrary to the word of God and not know it; then what?

Keeping constant communication with the Lord requires constantly fighting with the desires of the flesh. It's going to cost you time and discipline. Children can and will interfere with it. Maybe a spouse, and for sure a phone

and TV, will destroy any time you may need to get alone with God. Just remember, your enemy is the *Devil*.

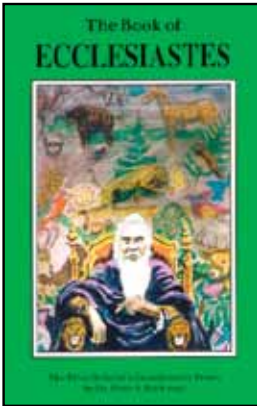
"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

Early morning seems to be the best time. **"And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD"** (Gen. 19:27). **"My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up"** (Psa. 5:3).

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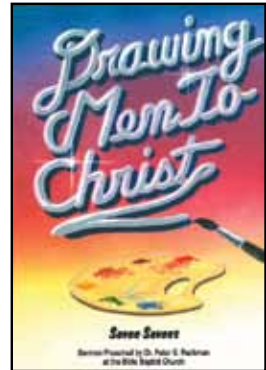
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A Secret Place

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Some of you may have a “fight” with the flesh to get up early, before everyone else does. But quiet time with the Lord is a *must*; it's not an *option*. You've got to get away from all of the distractions of the day and get alone with God.

“Be still, and know that I am God” (Psa. 46:10). It means you finding a private place to be alone with God and His Book.

Now the benefits of a secret place far outweigh any sacrifice which you may have to make. **“He that dwelleth in the secret place shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”** If you are in His shadow, then you are close to Him. That's the first benefit—getting to know the Lord.

I have never regretted having a private devotion with the Lord, *never*. I always come out with the shout and strength for the day. It's great having the Lord Jesus Christ as your closest friend. He is my hero, and He makes the heroes of this world look like a bunch of losers.

I remember, years ago, one day while at work, there was a bunch of guys standing around talking, and while I was walking by, one of them shouted (in reference to Jimmy Swagart), “Hey, they finally caught your hero.” With that I replied, “No sir, they got my hero about 2,000 years ago!” Jesus is my hero, and it goes without saying that the more time you spend with Him, the better you get to know Him.

Getting to know the Book—that's the second greatest benefit of a **“secret place.”** The Bible is God's revelation to mankind *about Himself*. The more you read the Book, the more you see how God looks at things and what

He likes and doesn't like.

That Book will keep you from sin. **“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word”** (Psa. 119:9).

So staying close to God *will keep you out of trouble*—I mean you suffering as a criminal. I know that if you live godly, you are going to suffer persecution. **“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”** (2 Tim. 3:12). But I am talking about *self-inflicted* trouble.

You know what I mean! I mean that if everybody lived like the Bible says you ought to, you wouldn't have to lock your house at night. Amen? America wouldn't have to spend billions of dollars on all of this security stuff—do you know what I mean?

If you spend some time in a “se-

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A Secret Place

Continued from 12
cret place,” you will become well acquainted with your number two enemy—*yourself*. Getting to know yourself, when compared to the Book, you will come up short every time. Maybe this is why there is a shortage of “secret places,” you reckon?

It is a place to help you grow in grace. **“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen”** (2 Pet. 3:18).

It is a place to restore your fellowship with the Lord, a place to confess sins and get clean. It is sin that breaks fellowship. **“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God”** (Isa. 59:2).

It’s a place of encouragement. It’s a place to claim the promises of God

and get faith. **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”** (Rom. 10:17).

It’s a place to take your burdens and hurting heart. **“Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you”** (1 Pet. 5:7). You are safe with the Lord. With Him, you are under *His* protection, *His* care, and *His* comfort. *Communication with God is safety.*

So start the day with prayer and the reading of the word of God. Let the Lord be the first thought of the day and the Lord Jesus Christ have the preeminence in all things throughout the whole day.

If you don’t already have one, find a **“secret place”** about which just you and the Lord know, *and spend some time there*. Make this year the year you are going to get to know the Lord and His word better than you ever have.

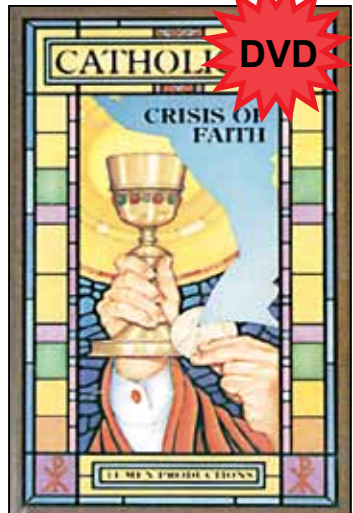
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Debt, Disaster, and Departure

Continued from 1

fast as our debt. This earth is not our home, and the Gentile world system exists for the convenience of **“the god of this world”** (2 Cor. 4:4). The credit system is the tool the Devil is using to enslave nations. Borrowing money not yet earned is what presently sustains our economy. Credit is built on man trusting man in the day-to-day business of buying and selling. The world financial structure which is fueled by credit is cursed of God.

“Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man” (Jer. 17:5).

Years ago in New York City, I worked in a building across from the old Dun and Bradstreet building at 99 Church Street. Dun and Bradstreet was a well known credit rating agency. You used them to discover a company's financial strength and its ability to pay back loans. On the face of this building, above the main entrance, was a relief carved in stone and painted gold. It showed a man shaking hands with another man. The quote under the relief went something like this: “Man trusting in man, the key to prosperity.”

In December 1913, President Woodrow Wilson gave a license to a bunch of well-heeled international bankers, allowing them to control the currency of the U.S. by creating the Federal Reserve Bank. This super bank became the money manager for the U.S. Treasury Department, and the American taxpayer was to fill the role of plantation slave for the benefit of the stockholders of the Federal Reserve Bank.

“For the love of money is THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL” (1 Tim. 6:10). Notice, **“ALL EVIL,”** not just *some*

kinds of evil as modern “Bibles” state. The rapid and frightening acceleration of borrowing by governments from the World Bank in Washington, D.C. and the IMF (International Monetary Fund) will shortly allow the international community to acquiesce to the international bankers' demand for a central world bank. Judas had the bag, and Satan will have his global bank.

“Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah” (Psa. 9:20).

All the red ink in Washington, D.C. is helping prepare America for the rule of the Man of Sin. The Devil's christ will show himself to be a political genius and an economic and financial wizard. He will dazzle the nations with his brilliance. He, the Antichrist, will appear when the world needs him most. The U.S. will never again be solvent. Our addiction to credit is a hypodermic needle filled with borrowed money to keep up a standard of living we could no longer afford.

As you see 2014 unfold with our government unable to control runaway spending (Medicare, Obamacare, food stamps, Social Security, Medicaid, etc.), know that the day of our departure is near. Rejoice; after all, this world is not our home. Saving the world from the horror and pain of a financial meltdown is not our calling. What is our calling?

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

If you can't go, then support those who can. This command to go into all the world involves the sending of mis-

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Debt, Disaster, and Departure

Continued from 14

sionaries and their families. Without financing, no one goes anywhere, right? Would I be exaggerating if I said that over 90% of all missionaries obeying the Great Commission and living outside their native land are presently financed by U.S. dollars? If the dollar dies, what happens to these missionaries? How can the Great Commission be obeyed without dollars in their pockets?

What's going to bring an end to the Church Age and the appearing of our Saviour in the clouds to call us home? Will it be nuclear war, another attempt to destroy Israel, or the failure of the U.S. government to pay its bills and the resulting death of the dollar? If missionaries can no longer be sustained on foreign fields and the Gospel preached to every creature, why would we remain here?

In these last days of the Church Age, the Lord positioned America to be almost the sole supplier of missionaries to the world by making our nation wealthy. After World War II, the Lord made the dollar king in international finance. The British empire crumbled, and the pound, once mighty and proud, took a back seat. America was to serve as a bodyguard for the new state of Israel, and churches of all denominations collected millions to send American missionaries to points east, west, north, and south. A change began to take place in the mid-eighties under President Reagan. We went from a creditor nation to a borrower.

“For the LORD thy God blesseth thee, as he promised thee: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, but thou shalt not borrow; and thou shalt reign over many nations, but

they shall not reign over thee” (Deut. 15:6).

Coincidentally, the U.S. Senate voted in December 1983 to establish full diplomatic relations with the Holy See. This brought about God's displeasure, and our embrace of the Holy See put us in this sea of red ink. Who is better at building up a nation and putting it down than the LORD? Don't ever expect the above item of interest to register on the brains of Americans. They don't read; they don't study history; and they get their news from Bill O'Reilly, Sean Hannity, and the ex-Baptist minister, Mike Huckabee.

International financiers do not project themselves publicly. Their work is done behind closed doors. The desire to enrich themselves with more wealth almost brought down the U.S. economy in September 2008. In the last twenty years, U.S. banks have behaved like casinos. Easy credit encouraged millions to take loans and put burdens on their backs they could not carry for long. Extending credit is what feeds our consumer society. Covetousness is in the hearts of all men, and credit is addictive. Bankers are suppliers, and our government has become their best customer.

Thinking about bankers and the way they enrich themselves, I found something in the word of God that seemed to speak about this very thing from the Holy Spirit's point of view.

“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”

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Debt, Disaster, and Departure

Continued from 15

And makest men as the fishes of the sea, as the creeping things, that have no ruler over them?

They take up all of them with the angle, they catch them in their net, and gather them in their drag: therefore they rejoice and are glad.

Therefore they sacrifice unto their net, and burn incense unto their drag; because by them their portion is fat, and their meat plentiful.

Shall they therefore empty their net, and not spare continually to slay the nations?" (Hab. 1:13–17).

I believe the net in verse 16 may very well be the credit system of these last days.

"For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in AN EVIL NET, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them" (Eccl. 9:12).

The above verse could picture what is about to happen, as Paul referred to in 1 Thessalonians 5:1–4.

"The wicked desireth THE NET of EVIL MEN" (Prov. 12:12).

"He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him INTO HIS NET" (Psa. 10:9).

"The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: IN THE NET which they hid is their own foot taken" (Psa. 9:15).

"Thou broughtest us INTO THE NET; thou laidst affliction upon our loins" (Psa. 66:11).

Nations today are being caught in an evil net of crushing debt. They are being bundled to be burned (see

Zeph. 3:8; Matt. 13:40–42). **"The kingdoms of this world"** offered to the Lord Jesus Christ by Satan himself in Luke 4:5–6 will be turned over to the Lord at His coming.

"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

Whenever I read John's Gospel, chapter 21, I get somewhat fixated on verse 11. The Holy Spirit says Peter's net was filled with 153 **"great fishes."** Why the exact number? Are **"great fishes"** representative of *nations*? Peter was a commercial fisherman. John 21 tells us that Peter and others (see vs. 2) fished all night and caught nothing. Night could be representative of the Church Age. In this two thousand-year period, not one nation (a great fish) was turned over to the Lord Jesus Christ. The only one that claims this distinction is Vatican City, and certainly the U.S. has not been won to Christ, no matter how many Christian simpletons think we are a Christian nation.

Peter goes out again at the Lord's behest and catches a bundle, but why that exact number? The UN has 193 member states in it. Membership in the IMF is over 180. Interestingly, the WTO (World Trade Organization) has 159 members currently, but that number fluctuates. Also, some of the small island nations may bundle into a confederation. This organization exists for the purpose of promoting prosperity among nations through so-called "free trade." If **"the love of money is the root of all evil"**—and

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Debt, Disaster, and Departure

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it is, according to the Holy Spirit—to understand where we are headed in America, you must follow the money lenders.

Isn't it ironic that the only people Jesus whipped while on earth were the money traders in the Temple (John 2:14–15)? The World Trade Center was selected for judgment on September 11, 2001, along with the Pentagon; isn't that interesting? Moses ordered the destruction of the golden calf. Our Lord will soon destroy this Gentile world system built on **"the love of money"** and which has morphed into a giant Ponzi scheme run by the Devil.

Federal Reserve bankers will continue to loan billions to the U.S. Treasury. We are owned by these bankers, and they determine our foreign and domestic policy no matter who occupies the oval office or who sits in the Congress. Every Christian has a solemn duty to wisely manage the resources put into his hands by a kind and generous Saviour. Time is running out. We are nearing the day when the U.S. government might nationalize all private banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions. Private assets will have to be seized in order to pay our debt to the international money lenders.

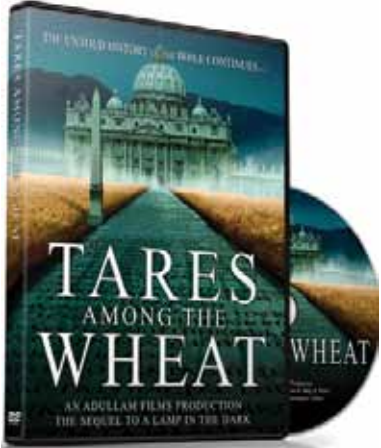
Gospel laborers on foreign fields are looking to us, the Body of Christ, not the Federal Reserve, to finance the ongoing harvest of souls. Can they count on us while the dollar, though growing more impotent each year, is still with us? Are you making regular deposits into the Lord's account?

"Will a man rob God?" (Mal. 3:8).

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Mary and Mohammed

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman



The goal of the so-called "Palestinians" (actually *Arab* and *Egyptian* Moslems) from 1918 to the present has been the genocide of the nation of Israel. Their open, public professions have been that they are obligated by their *religious faith* to rid Palestine of every Jew in it. Here are the facts of *history*, not someone's opinion or "belief."

1. *Mohammed* (A.D. 632)—"Lord, destroy the Jews and the Christians."

2. *Aref El Aref* (1920)—"My advice, then, is to continue our assault on the Jews."

3. *Kamal II Budsiri* (1921)—"We are *glad* the massacre of the Jews took place and that we have looted them."

4. *The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem* [Arafat's uncle] (1929)—"We are *proud* of our great victory and of the *murder of the Jews we have killed*."

5. *Hafes Ara Turkan* (1920)—"We must now take action against the Jews, but on the day of revolution, we shall destroy the British Administration also, and with it, the *Zionists!*"

6. *Ahmed Shukairy* [founder of the PLO] (1967)—"We will wipe Israel off the face of the map, and no Jew will remain alive."

7. *Gamal Abdel Nasser* (1967)—"Our basic objective will be the destruction of Israel. The *Arab* people [did you get that? *Arab, not Palestinian*] want to fight."

8. *Abd Al-Rahman Azzam Pasha* [Secretary General of the Arab League in speaking of the attack of five Arab States against the newly formed nation of Israel in 1948]—"It will be a war of *annihilation*. It will be a *momentous massacre* in history that will be talked about like the massacres of the Mongols or the Crusades."

9. A Syrian commander (1967)—"We will destroy Israel in four days."

10. Radio Baghdad (1967)—"Now they will teach Israel the lesson of death! . . . Kill the Jews!"

11. *Hassan al-Banna* (1929)—"Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

12. The Refugee Conference at Homs, Syria (as published by *Beirut al Massa* on July 15, 1957)—"Any discussion aimed at a solution of the Palestine problem which will not be based on ensuring the *refugees' right to annihilate Israel* will be regarded as a desecration of the Arab people and an act of treason."

13. *Yasser Arafat* (1998)—"Our rifles are ready, and we are ready to raise them again if anyone tries to prevent us from praying in holy Jerusalem." (No Jew tried to stop any Moslem from praying in Jerusalem; what the Israeli government objected to was turning Jerusalem over to the Arabs as the capital of a "Palestinian State" that has never existed in 6,000 years of human history.)

14. *Yasser Arafat* (1999)—"The fury of the masses must erupt like a volcano in the face of Israel."

If "Allah" did give the land of Canaan to the Moslem "Palestinians," then *both*

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Mary and Mohammed

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are going to *lose their shirts* (Zeph. 2:11; Zech. 14:21).

Now, here is a pagan goddess called "Mary" by the Roman Catholics (although you will find her under different "aliases" in other religions: Juno, Minerva, Venus, Diana, Ashtoreth, Istarte, Lorelei, the El Woman, etc.). When it comes to a choice between "Moses" (the Jews) and "Mohammed" (the Moslems), with which do you suppose she will side? Why *Mohammed*, of course. Why, a Roman Catholic would swap Moses for Mohammed any day of the week. After all, both religions have always "proselytized" by *killing* "unbelievers." All Moslem wars of *aggression* (Crete, Cyprus, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Morocco, Spain, Palestine, Persia, Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, etc.) were called "holy wars" (*jihad*). Mohammed said, "The sword is the key of Heaven" (Edward Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, pg. 461). The Popes would simply switch "the sword" out for a *bonfire* (burning at the stake) or the *headsman's axe*.

Of course, when we talk about the Roman Catholic goddess who claims to be able to hear 900 million idolaters praying to her all at the same time, we are certainly NOT referring to the *Biblical Mary*. The Mary of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts 1 (the *last* mention of Mary in the New Testament) did not sin against her husband by defrauding him of his marital rights (1 Cor. 7:5); she had at least six children by Joseph (Mark 6:3), whom Jesus called "**my mother's children**" (Psa. 69:8–9 cf. John 2:17) because His Father was God (John 5:43, 3:16–19, 42, 10:36–38, 14:7–12) and Joseph was their father. Furthermore, the Mary of the Bible was not sinless like the pagan goddess of Catholicism claims to be. She had to offer a sacrifice for her purification (Luke 2:22) while acknowledging she needed a "**Saviour**" (Luke 1:47).

Now what do I mean by saying a pagan Catholic goddess *helps* Moslems kill Jews in Palestine? That's a good question. In fact, it is a *historical* question

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Mary and Mohammed

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that has nothing to do with what any Catholic believes about anything. It has nothing to do with what any Mohammedan reads in the *Koran*. It has nothing to do with what any backslidden Baptist thinks is “hate literature” or “hate speech.”

Here are the words of genuine, dyed-in-the-wool, Mary-worshipping Roman Catholics between 1890 and 1948. This is “Mary” lining up with “Mohammed” to kick “Moses” clean out of history—and *Jesus Christ with him, if you believe one word of John 5:45–47*.

1. Pope Benedict XV took an active interest in the *international* control of Palestine back in May 1, 1917, whereas up till *that* time, he had been quiet because he had assumed it was a settled matter. Once rumors of the Balfour Declaration and a British Mandate of Palestine got out, the Pope suddenly got very interested in *who* got to run Jerusalem. When Allenby entered Jerusalem on December 11, 1917, the Pope had a *Franciscan Monk* read the General’s “appeal.” No Protestant, Jew, Mohammedan, or Greek Orthodox was given that privilege.

2. “The Catholic Church is entitled to believe that *Moslem rule is preferable* for it [i.e., for Palestine] to non-Catholic Christian rule or even Catholic rule.” That gem is an open profession of a Catholic alliance with Moslem terrorists. It came from the pen of Professor F. Scaduto, who taught Roman Catholic canon law in Italy in 1917. He went on to say, “The Jews will probably remain in the countries where they are, and therefore, **THE KINGDOM OF ZION WILL FAIL.**” That’s good ole’ “Mary, Mary, quite contrary” taking an open, public stand **AGAINST JESUS CHRIST.**

“Yet have I set MY KING upon my holy hill of ZION [Zionism!]. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee” (Psa. 2:6–7).

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:31–33).

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of JACOB [not Mohammed or “Allah”]; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for **OUT OF ZION [Zionism! not a “Palestinian State”] shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem”** (Isa. 2:2–3).

3. Cardinal Bourne, the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster (1919), declared that the two most serious *dangers* to Catholic interests in Palestine were *Zionism* and *Protestantism*. He considered Allah, Mohammed, and the *Koran* as no dangers to Catholic doctrine or practices.

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Mary and Mohammed

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4. In 1918, the Pope sent a Latin “Patriarch” to Jerusalem (let’s see you find *that* in anybody’s Bible) to insure the Catholic policy that the Franciscan order be the “guardians of the holy places.” Along with him he sent an “assistant,” Monsignor Luigi Barlassina, who complained about 3,000 Jews being able to live *peaceably* in Jerusalem. Whereupon he was promptly promoted to becoming the actual Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem.

5. In June of 1921, Benedict XV “lamented the iniquitous activity in Palestine of NON-CATHOLIC SECTS” (“Rome,” *The Tablet, The International Catholic News Weekly*, June 25, 1921). He had a fit when the Pro-Jerusalem Society (founded in 1918) proposed a “Rampart Walk” be built on the walls of the Old City for the Jews to use.

6. Cardinal Achille Ratti (alias “Pope Pius XI”) told Britain that Jerusalem could not be run by the British, but by *his own* “competent hierarchical authorities.” When a commission was set up by the League of Nations, Pius XI immediately demanded that the president of the commission be a Roman Catholic. He said that the Catholics should “preserve their rights in the land that was sanctified by the blood of Christ.” (Let’s see you find *that* in any Bible ever printed. Jerusalem *murdered* the prophets and Jesus Christ—see Matt. 23:34–35; Acts 7:52. That *defiled* the land [Num. 35:33]; it didn’t sanctify it.)

7. Pius XI then declared that all decisions regarding Jerusalem and Palestine should be settled by *Catholics*—not Greek Orthodox, Jews, or Protestants—because Jerusalem (along with Bethlehem, Hebron, Bethany, Nazareth, etc.) were “beyond dispute the possession of the Roman Catholic Church.” (And let’s see you find *that* in any Bible put out by anyone.)

8. The Pope next declared that the Vatican opposed the establishment of *any* Jewish State, although the Vatican could remain the *Vatican State*. Even as far back as 1899, the *Civiltà Cattolica*, a Jesuit “daily,” had said the Jews were “a race of murderers of God, even if supported by all the anti-Christian [i.e., *anti-Catholic*] sects.”

9. Having said that, the Roman Catholic Secretary of State, Cardinal Merry de Val, said the Catholic Church had always “protected the Jews,” so it would “let” the Jews stay in Jerusalem *if they got baptized by Catholic Priests and joined the Catholic Church*. Rome “put up” with the Moslems running Jerusalem for 700 years (1200–1900), but Jews shouldn’t be allowed to do it even for *one year*.

10. Further, Jews could not be allowed even to enter Palestine, let alone Jerusalem. If they came, they would only be allowed in on the condition that *Catholic Priests baptized them*—ALL of them.

11. Lord Balfour, the author of the Balfour Declaration, said, “I suspect that the motive of most of the Catholics is not so much anxiety for the holy places as *hatred of the Jews*.” And then, in 1919, up popped “the idea of Moslem [Mohammed]—Christian [Mary] unity” *against the Jews*. “The *Arabs and Catholics* do not look favorably upon the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine.”

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Mary and Mohammed

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12. Cardinal Louis-Ernest Dubois, Archbishop of Paris, stated that the Muslim-Christian [i.e., *Catholic*] Association demanded that Syria and Palestine be united *against* Israel. The Jesuit paper *L'Osservatore Romano* began a series of articles attacking Zionism on every level. It published *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, the work that produced Adolf Hitler and the other Roman Catholics who ran the Third Reich (Eichmann, Goebbels, Goering, Himmler, Stangl, Koch, Kramer, Hoess, et. al.).

13. The Mary-Mohammed "marriage knot" was tied in July 19–28, 1921, more than seventy years before John Paul II allowed the Mohammedans to destroy the tomb of Joseph without a peep, and declared that the Moslem terrorist organizations that had been engaged in a jihad since 1948 (Hezbollah, Hamas, al-Fatah, the Intifada, the PLO, and Fedayeen) be recognized as a "nation" and accepted by the UN as a "State." The Muslim-"Christian" Association sent a delegation to Europe to muster Roman Catholic forces under Roman Catholic political leaders. They were received by the Pope, and from Rome they went to London. The German embassy received them in September; there they were told that the Pope had "expressed his *full support* for the *Arab cause* and promised to write to all governments that the Holy Land cannot be allowed to fall into the hands of either the *Jews* or the *Protestants*."

But it *could* be allowed to fall into the hands of *Moslem terrorists* dedicated to *jihad*; i.e., *the genocide of the Jews*. That is what Hitler was dedicated to when he signed a concordat with the Roman Catholic Church in 1933.

Now if you want Paul Harvey's "the rest of the story," you will find it to the tune of 48 pages in the work by Sergio Minerbi, entitled *The Vatican and Zionism: Conflict in the Holy Land* (translated by Arnold Schwartz, Oxford University Press, 1990, pp. 150–198). Everything "Moses" wrote in both Testaments was *eliminated*, and only "Mary" and "Mohammed" survived. The Catholic "Mary" threw out Jeremiah 31–38; Isaiah 2, 11, 60, 62, 65; Psalm 2, 76, 89, 97–99, 110, 122; and Ezekiel 20, 34, 36–37, 40–48. "Mohammed" threw out Matthew 5, 11, 19–20; Mark 9; Luke 21, 23; Romans 4–5, 9–11; Galatians 4–5; James 2; 2 Peter 2–3; Revelation 19–20.

"Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed" (Prov. 13:13).

"He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God" (John 8:47).

The real "Christian" view is so apparent as to be superfluous to discuss (read Zech. 14). Down the tube with "Mary" and "Mohammed," and up to the top of Mount Zion with "Moses" and *Jesus Christ*. And while you're at it, you had better add Elijah to those last two because all three of them are going to show up again—MINUS Mary and Mohammed (Matt. 17; Acts 1 cf. Mal. 4; Rev. 11). Not one "**jot**" or "**tittle**" will pass from the Mosaic Law till heaven and earth have disappeared (Matt. 5:18, 24:35). "Mary," "Mohammed," and the *Koran* don't win, place, or show.

The Most Brilliant Man in the World

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

Arguably the most intelligent man in the Twentieth Century, if judged by his "Intelligence Quotient" instead of his "cultural roots," "urban lifestyle," or "social promotions," was a saved German named Gerhard Dirks. Dirks had an IQ of 208 and had over 140 patents with IBM. He is known as "the father of the modern computer"; Bill Gates couldn't have become a multibillionaire in the computer industry without the foundational work laid down by Gerhard Dirks.

Among Dirks' intellectual and scientific achievements were: rotatable magnetic storage, drum files, tiltable/shiftable heads on magnetic media, line-composing recorders, serial-decimal adders, plural-tape storing, inverse-track recording, mark sensing of serialized data, counter-controlled line selection, text-composition printing, stroboscopic indication, vernier-clock generating means, addressing cyclic storage, electric counter clutch control, matrix-control line composition keyboard, read-only core memory, and crosswire recording on tape. In addition to all of this, he had also been the line controller for 65,000 employees at SKODA factories, which included steel mills, electronic machinery, cars, tanks, locomotives, and airplanes.

As many "intellectuals," Dirks started out as an atheist (although most of them would prefer the more polite term of *agnostic*). Two things, though, shook his "faith" in no God. The first was his attempt to reconstruct the human brain. The complexity of the brain forced him to make a choice between the random chance of evolution and

what is now known as "intelligent design" (see the list of scientists who insist on Intelligence behind creation in Appendix 20 of the *Ruckman Reference Bible*).

With this conflict going on inside him, he became reacquainted with an old friend named Fritz Waldheim. Fritz had become a Christian. Dirks noticed the change in his friend from a selfish, impatient man to a patient, peaceful one. The reason for Fritz's change, of course, was his new faith in Jesus Christ.

Fritz Waldheim challenged Dirks' agnosticism (a polite term for *atheism*), and Dirks attended a Bible study with him. There the moderator had everyone write down four lists to show them that everyone was a sinner. These were things that wouldn't normally appear in a list of sins; it was like you find in what I call "the Holiness nightmare," which we have given many times in our sermon, books, and articles. Dirks had to list every time he said yes when he actually meant no—or vice versa (Matt. 5:37), every time he told what he knew to be a lie (Rev. 21:8), every time he gave a "shady answer" to someone, and every time he broke a promise or made a promise he didn't intend to keep (James 5:12). He then had to write down something he hid from everyone, that if anyone found out about it, it would be disastrous (Rom. 2:16; Mark 4:22). The next thing was a list of people to whom he had done something he wouldn't want them to do to him (Matt. 7:12). Finally, Dirks had to list the names of everyone he had ever helped with

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The Most Brilliant Man in the World

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no expectation of the favor being returned or rewarded in anyway.

Like the leader of that Bible study said, "I think that any man who does that will see that he is a sinner, and that he is desperately in need of salvation." You bet your life he would realize he's a sinner. If a man were honest about all those things, he would have to admit his heart was blacker than the bottom of a coal bin at midnight.

Now the thing that had been keeping Dirks from believing in God and accepting Christ was that he couldn't see how God could keep track of everything everybody had ever done. You see, being a computer expert, he was obsessed with "data" and "memory storage" and "retrieval" and all that claptrap. But having more sense and being much more honest than Carl Sagan, Richard Dawkins, Stephen Hawking, Albert Einstein, Karl Marx, Sigmund Freud, and the American Humanist Association, as Dirks made out those lists, he not only came to the realization that he was a sinner, he finally figured out where God kept all that information on every sinner—it was in the sinner himself. Dirks was his own computer file on himself. His mind was like one of the computers on which he worked, but far more sophisticated. Everything he had ever done was stored there, and God could access it any time He wanted.

Dirks came to the realization that he needed to be "debugged" of his sins and that only Jesus Christ could do that. With that, the world's most intelligent man got on his knees and

prayed to receive Christ. He said, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and *wash me in your blood.*"

Amen! That will do it! That blood will *satisfy* the demands of a holy God (Rom. 3:25); it will *justify* you before God (Rom. 5:9); it gives *redemption* (Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18–19) and *forgiveness* of sins (Col. 1:14); it brings you *near* to God (Eph. 2:13) and *reconciles* you to Him (Gal. 1:20); it *purges* the conscience (Heb. 9:14); it allows the saved sinner to *enter into God's presence with boldness* (Heb. 10:19); it *sanctifies* (Heb. 13:12); and **"the blood of Jesus Christ his Son CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN"** (1 John 1:7).

When Gerhard Dirks, the most brilliant, intelligent man in the world, got on his knees and prayed "Lord Jesus . . . wash me in your blood," he finally could say with the beloved apostle, **"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood . . . be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen"** (Rev. 1:5–6). If a fellow like Gerhard Dirks could humble himself to trust Christ as his Saviour, what excuse do you have?

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever" (Psa. 111:10).

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7).

(Material taken from *The Dirks Escape*, Charles Brandon Rimmer, Jeremy Books, Edina, MN, 1979.)

“Who Did Hinder You?”

By Dr. Peter S. Ruckman

“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” (Gal. 5:7).

In the above verse, the Apostle Paul was worried about his converts who had gotten off to a “flying start” as Christians and had really begun to grow in grace. They had been getting something done for the Lord and had been bearing fruit; then, suddenly, something got in their way and blocked their path. They quit running and just stopped in the middle of the track.

A lot of Christians are like that; maybe that's *you*. If that's the case, what slowed you down? What stopped you? **“Who [or what] did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”**

Well, there are a number of things that can hinder a Christian, and you should know what they are so you can be wary of them. First, there are *relatives*. If you love anybody in your family or among your kinfolk more than you love the Lord Jesus Christ, you are not going to run the Christian race at your best.

Jesus said, **“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me”** (Matt. 10:37).

Following Jesus Christ can put you at odds with your family (Matt. 10:35). If a relative is not with you when it comes to doing what the Lord wants you to do, you can't stay with that person lest he or she drags you down to his or her spiritual level. You have to make a choice between your kin or your Saviour, and if you pick the wrong one, it will **“hinder you that ye should not obey the truth.”**

“The love of money” can **“hinder**

you.” Paul said, **“the love of money is the root of all evil”** (1 Tim. 6:10). You don't have to have money to love it. Whether you have money or whether you don't, if you love money it will knock you out of the Christian race. Paul went on to say in 1 Timothy 6:10, **“which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”**

He said, **“But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition”** (1 Tim. 6:9). It is impossible to follow Christ and pursue money at the same time (Luke 16:13).

Success can hinder your race, and when I say “success,” I don't mean success as it is found in a *King James Bible*. The only time the word *success* shows up in your Bible is in Joshua 1:8, and there it is connected with *reading, meditating on, and obeying the Scriptures*. That is “success” in God's eyes. Bob Jones Sr. used to say, “Success is finding out what God wants you to do and doing it.” No, when I say success can **“hinder you,”** I am talking about success in the *world's eyes*.

There's a verse in Luke every Christian should memorize: **“that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God”** (Luke 16:15). If the world puffs you up and makes a big shot out of you, watch out! That is going to slow you down to a crawl in your Christian race. That's because what the world thinks highly of, God thinks *stinks*.

When the world applauds you, Christian, you can see the blood of

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“Who Did Hinder You?”

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your Saviour splashing off their hands. The lost world has no use for Jesus Christ; if they did, they would repent and trust Him. That Bible says, **“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not”** (John 1:10). It says, **“all that is in the world . . . is not of the Father”** (1 John 2:16) because it is **“evil”** (Gal. 1:4).

Sickness certainly could be a hindrance. Debilitating illness like Lou Gehrig’s Disease, leukemia, arthritis, and constant migraines or back pain would slow anyone down. It certainly did Paul.

The Bible says Paul was given **“a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet”** him (2 Cor. 12:7). Paul asked the Lord three times to take that thing away, and God told him *no* every time (2 Cor. 12:8–9). It didn’t dampen Paul’s spirit any—he said he *gloried* in his infirmities (2 Cor. 12:9)—but it certainly did slow down his pace. He couldn’t get as much done for the Lord as he might have without it.

It’s not easy to put up with pain all the time. You can get bitter, and if you’re not careful, you’ll “stall on the highway.” Sometimes you have to “forgive” the Lord for what He puts you through. If you don’t, bitterness over your circumstance will **“hinder you.”**

A *marriage* can **“hinder you.”** When you marry someone, you are *tyed* to that person (Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:27). That’s why you are not to be **“unequally yoked together with unbelievers”** (2 Cor. 6:14). If you are **“yoked”** to the wrong kind of a person, then wherever your spouse moves, you have to move. If your spouse moves in the wrong direction, that can drag you off the track and out of the race.

“Who did hinder you . . . ?” Well, how about *jealous or ambitious friends*? If you don’t give some people first place with you, they turn against you like Judas did against Christ. Some friends will begin to oppose you when you gain some degree of success in life. Do you think those kinds of things won’t **“hinder you”**? Why, they could bring you to a screeching halt. You need to have the right kind of friends (1 Cor. 15:33).

“Who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?” One thing is for certain, it sure wouldn’t be the Lord Jesus Christ. He is **“the author and finisher of our faith”** and the One to whom you are to look in the race (Heb. 12:1–2). If you get your eyes off Him and on the kinfolk, money, success, sickness, a spouse, or friends, you won’t be able to **“run**

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“Who Did Hinder You?”

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with **patience the race that is set before us**” (Heb. 12:1).

At the end of his race, the Apostle Paul could say, **“I have fought a good fight, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day”** (2 Tim. 4:7–8). Paul finished his course successfully, and he had plenty of things to hinder

him (read the list in 2 Cor. 11). But he didn't let any of those obstacles stop him from winning the race. He kept on pressing forward **“toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”** (Phil. 3:14). The command for you, Christian, from the Apostle to the Gentiles is: **“So run, that ye may obtain”** (1 Cor. 9:24). Run the race with the Judgment Seat of Christ ever in mind and don't let anyone or anything hinder you from obtaining **“a full reward”** (2 John 8).

THE CREED OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CULT

1. There is **no final authority** but God.
2. Since God is a Spirit, there is **no final authority** that can be seen, heard, read, felt, or handled.
3. Since all books are material, there is **no book on this earth that is the final and absolute authority** on what is right and what is wrong, what constitutes truth and what constitutes error.
4. There **WAS** a series of writings one time which, **IF** they had all been put into a **BOOK** as soon as they were written the first time, **WOULD HAVE** constituted an infallible and final authority by which to judge truth and error.
5. However, this series of writings was lost, and the God who inspired them was **unable to preserve their content** through Bible-believing Christians at Antioch (Syria), where the first Bible teachers were (Acts 13:1), and where the first missionary trip originated (Acts 13:1-52), and where the word **“Christian”** originated (Acts 11:26).
6. So God chose to **ALMOST** preserve them through Gnostics and philosophers from Alexandria, Egypt, even though God called His Son **OUT** of Egypt (Matthew 2), Jacob **OUT** of Egypt (Genesis 49), Israel **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 15), and Joseph's bones **OUT** of Egypt (Exodus 13).
7. So there are two streams of Bibles. The most accurate—though, of course, there is **no final, absolute authority** for determining truth and error; it is a matter of “preference”—are the Egyptian translations from Alexandria, Egypt, which are “almost the originals,” although not quite.
8. The most **inaccurate translations** were those that brought about the German Reformation (Luther, Zwingli, Boehler, Zinzendorf, Spener, et al.) and the worldwide missionary movement of the English-speaking people: the Bible that Sunday, Torrey, Moody, Finney, Spurgeon, Whitefield, Wesley, and Chapman used.
9. But we can “tolerate” these if those who believe in them will “tolerate” US. After all, since there is **NO ABSOLUTE AND FINAL AUTHORITY** that anyone can read, teach, preach, or handle, the whole thing is a matter of “PREFERENCE.” You may prefer what you prefer, and we will prefer what we prefer. Let us live in peace, and if we cannot agree on anything or everything, let us all agree on one thing: **THERE IS NO FINAL, ABSOLUTE, WRITTEN AUTHORITY OF GOD ANYWHERE ON THIS EARTH.**

This is the Creed of the Alexandrian Cult.

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