

The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

November 11, 1620 – November 2020

THANKSGIVING.

Deuteronomy 26



November 2020 is an overlooked significant year in American history, for it was 400 years ago on the 11th of this month that the Mayflower compact was signed, i.e., November 11, 1620.

Thanksgiving is a season that should remind us of the overwhelming mercies and goodness of our God to this nation and to his people. It reminds us of eating too much and dieting. If any people ever had a reason to be thankful, it is the people in the US.

I must pass over so many tremendous thoughts in our text in Deuteronomy 26, but we will only mention a few of the high points. **As Christians, we must keep Thanksgiving within a Christian context**, or we will become as ungrateful as the Sodomites of our day. A proper relationship to the Lord must start in thankfulness to Him.

Romans 1 has been called the record of the devolution, rather than the evolution of man. In it, we see the downgrading of man: 1) they knew God, for all men know God, and are without excuse; 2) they failed to glorify him; 3) they became ungrateful for his goodness; 4) the last step is vain imaginations and a

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darkened heart.

Romans 1:21 *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*

On November 11, 1620, the founders of this nation made a Covenant with God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. That Covenant, which is spelled out in the Mayflower Compact, has been written out of history. (Do a *duckduckgo* search, and read it yourself.) Though we have forgotten about that Covenant with Almighty God, we can rest assured that God has not forgotten. He is holding this nation to that Covenant made with Him 400 years ago.

This nation at one time knew God, glorified him as God and was thankful to God; and the results have been blessings beyond compare. But now we see the promise found in Hosea is coming to pass upon our forgetful nation:

Hosea 4:6 *seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*

How many who have prospered in our once Christian land are genuinely thankful to God for his blessings? We are now an openly apostate nation serving the gods of sex and Mammon. We are serving the works of our own hands. We are serving the gods of gold and silver. Sadly, it seems God has given us what we have been asking for over the past century; that is, a tyrannical government. The result is that not only “Christian”

America, but the once Christian “West” is passing into history. Without a return to the God of the 1620 Covenant, we will be no more than a mark in history as is Rome, and the Byzantine Empire, which was the Eastern Roman Empire and lasted about 1000 years. (It was a godly empire, and thus has been written out of history.)

Psalms 106:1 *Praise ye the LORD. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 13 They soon forgat his works; they waited not for his counsel:*

The Lord never leaves anything, such as love, as just some abstract feeling or emotions. He always explains and defines exactly what He means. We find the definition of love and thankfulness in the law of Moses. As we have mentioned many times, the New Testament only applies what was already in effect. We know that love for God is defined by action, not feelings nor emotions; that is, by keeping His commandments toward him and toward our fellow man.

Let us now consider thankfulness in action: I surely am not discounting an emotion or feelings anymore than I would discount an emotion of love toward God or man. Emotions do not mean Biblical or thankfulness toward God nor man. Love and thankfulness must be shown by action.

Naves Topical Bible has two pages of passages and examples of things that refer to thankfulness or thanksgiving. The one that caught my attention was Proverbs 3:9:

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

The phrase *firstfruits* of all thine increase called out to me, Preach me, preach me!” So, here we are.

Firstfruits points us back to the law concerning the firstfruits. Without doing harm to the context of the Word of God, we could call the firstfruit offering found in Deuteronomy 26 an offering of thanksgiving in action.

Keil identifies this chapter with “thanksgiving and prayer at the presentation of the firstfruits.”

• **LET US CONSIDER DEUTERONOMY 26 ONE SECTION AT A TIME:**

Moses gives us a detailed description of this offering of the firstfruits. There are several other passages that speak of this offering, but we will restrict ourselves to

this passage in Deuteronomy. This law was given to the people of God under the Old Covenant. As with all of the old covenant ordinances and ceremonies, the requirements here in Deuteronomy 26 were nailed to the cross with Christ, and are not required under the New Covenant.

But all Scripture is given for our edification, and we shall see that Deuteronomy 26 holds many applications for the Gospel Church under the New Covenant.

Vv. 1, 2, And it shall be, when thou art come in unto the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance, and possesseth it, and dwellest therein; 2 That thou shalt take of the first of all the fruit of the earth, which thou shalt bring of thy land that the LORD thy God giveth thee, and shalt put it in a basket, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose to place his name there.

The offering was not optional for the Covenant people of God. It was separate from, and over and above the tithe which is mentioned in vv. 12-15.

Christ was the firstfruits of the dead and the First Born of all creation. However, we will see that this offering can be applied as a Thanksgiving offering without harming its Scriptural context.

V. 2. There were **only two requirements placed** on this offering of thanksgiving.

First requirement. This offering was required of God’s covenant people, and it had to be the best, Numbers 18:12. The person could not pick up a piece of rotten fruit and say, “This is the first off of the tree; therefore, it is the first fruit even though it is rotten.”

Second requirement. If the person owned an orchard, he had to bring in the first fruits of the harvest. He could bring in only one apple, but that one apple had to be the best. The size of the offering, which was separate from the tithe, was determined by the individual’s amount of thankfulness to the Lord. He could bring a small or big amount and still be in obedience to God. The command was that he give the offering, and that the offering had to be the best he had.

The offering could be one piece of fruit per tree, or it could be one bushel of grain per field, but it had to be the first of the harvest. Its size depended upon the individual’s thanks to the Lord.

Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your*

reasonable service.

Vv. 3-10. The motive for this offering was thankfulness to the Lord. This passage lists several reasons to be thankful. Each one is cause enough in itself to be thankful:

Psalms 105:1-6 *O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. 2 Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. 3 Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. 4 Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore. 5 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth; 6 O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.*

Thanksgiving starts in the memory. Remember the good things with which the Lord has blessed us.

Deuteronomy 26 speaks of at least seven things to be thankful for.

First: V. 1. Thanksgiving for fulfilling His promise.

Second: V. 5, *And thou shalt speak and say before the LORD thy God, A Syrian ready to perish was my father, and he went down into Egypt, and sojourned there with a few, and became there a nation, great, mighty, and populous:*

V. 5 speaks of remembering how close we were to perishing before He redeemed us.

Isaiah 51:5 we are to remember the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

The Lord rescued us from the jaws of death. We were ready to perish. If He had not intervened, we would have perished, separated from His presence forever.

In the midst of God's judgment against Jerusalem, Jeremiah said

Lamentations 3:22-26 [It is of] the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. [They are] new every morning: great [is] thy faithfulness. The LORD [is] my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD [is] good unto them that wait for him, to the soul [that] seeketh him. [It is] good that [a man] should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

The living should rejoice and be thankful daily, for it is only by the Lord's mercies and compassions that we are not consumed.

I can distinctly remember three times when the Lord snatched me out of the jaws of death. I am

sure you also can remember many close calls.

Third: V.6, *And the Egyptians evil entreated us, and afflicted us, and laid upon us hard bondage:*

V. 6 speaks of thankfulness for our redemption out of the hands of our evil taskmaster, the devil.

The Lord delivered us from the bondage to our enemies, the world, flesh and the devil. We are more than conquerors through Christ that loved us. We have been delivered, and we are free to serve the Lord. We have not been freed in order to serve ourselves nor to serve Mammon.

Fourth: V. 7, *And when we cried unto the LORD God of our fathers, the LORD heard our voice, and looked on our affliction, and our labour, and our oppression:*

V. 7 speaks of the Lord hearing and answering prayer.

Remember back over the year, and the Lord's answered prayers.

Fifth: V. 8, *And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:*

V. 8 speaks of the Lord showing Himself strong in behalf of His people.

The Lord has done great things for us. Maybe those things did not seem so great at the time, but today as we look back, it is obvious that they were great things.

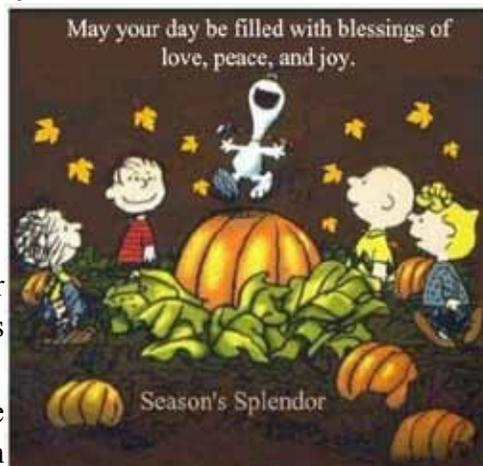
But **thankfulness is not restricted** to just thankfulness for spiritual blessings, although they should be plenty of cause for us to be thankful. We are to be thankful for God's material blessings upon us.

Sixth: V. 9, *And he hath brought us into this place, and hath given us this land, even a land that floweth with milk and honey.*

V. 9 speaks of the goodness of God toward His people.

It is His divine providence which guides us and supplies our daily needs. He gives us strength and health to gain wealth. All good things come from above.

Seventh: V. 10, *And now, behold, I have*



brought the firstfruits of the land, which thou, O LORD, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the LORD thy God, and worship before the LORD thy God:

V. 10 speaks of worshiping the Lord God as the only true God Who alone can supply all the needs of His people.

Are we thankful to Him? Do our actions show this thankfulness?

Luke 17:11 *And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: 13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. 14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. 15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. 17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? 18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. 19 And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*

Quoting Albert Barnes,

Renewed sinners, while their hearts overflow with gratitude to Jesus, express that gratitude by obeying God, and by engaging in the appropriate duties of their calling and of religion.

From the sound of Luke's text, the nine had physical healing, while the one thankful man had both physical and spiritual healing. Spiritual healing, which is more important than physical healing will result in not only thankfulness but in obedience to the law-word of God.

And you might say, **"If it were a required offering, how could it express thankfulness to God?"** The answer would be in the size of the offering. Love is summed up in obedience to God and treating our neighbor as ourselves.

Thankfulness to God is not merely an emotion and prayer of thanksgiving, but it is action. Paul sums up the many New Testament commands to be thankful:

1 Thessalonians 5:18 *In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

Hebrews 11:3 *tells us that it is through faith we understand that all creation moves in obedience to the predetermined counsel of our Creator God. Through faith we understand that everything that takes place, even the*

election of a self-declared Communist as vice president, is for the glory of God and for the advancement of his kingdom on earth.

Psalms 76:10 *Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.*

By faith we understand that God is using the wrath of the wicked to praise him, and further his kingdom. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15 that everything is working together to subdue all things under the authority of King Jesus.

Knowing the above, we have an abundance of reasons to show thankfulness.

Illustration: Let's suppose that we go greatly out of our way to do something special for someone. Then, in return, they completely ignore us without a word or action of gratitude. The first thing that comes to our mind is that they were not thankful. On the other hand, if they act and speak like they are thankful, we take for granted that they are thankful. Our thankfulness and love is shown by our actions, attitudes and words toward God and man.

V. 11, And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

V. 11 tells us that God's people are required to rejoice in the goodness of the blessings of their God.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

V. 11. The New Covenant tells us that **we are to share God's goodness** with others, particularly with those who are fellow heirs in the kingdom of God.

This chapter breaks after verse 11 and deals with the various tithes that were required under the old covenant.



SOME APPLICATIONS:

First: V. 9. This chapter is a call for God's Covenant People to remember the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Our founding fathers in the 1620 Covenant with God were confident that the Lord God had brought them into a land that flowed with milk and honey. North America certainly was that land as long

as the nation was faithful to the God of that Covenant.

The God of this nation or of any nation is recognizable through the laws of that nation. The laws of this nation were founded on the law-word of God. The Biblically based laws proved that the Lord was the God of this nation.

Second: The original Thanksgiving was thankfulness over the blessings of God. We must never forget that the prosperity which this nation has enjoyed is the direct result of the blessings of God. Our thankfulness is not to the state, nor to any person, nor to any institution. Sadly, people now have the idea that the prosperity is the result of their own effort, or of the state's efforts, and we are going downhill fast.

Third: We see that God's Covenant people, either on Thanksgiving Day itself or at another time, **should set aside a time of rejoicing and feasting,** maybe at a family reunion. It is a requirement which reminds us of the goodness of God upon His covenant people.

Fourth: We are to share the good things the Lord has provided with those who are in need, particularly those of the common faith.

We must be thankful to other people, but we must see them as a channel of God's blessings unto us.

Some time ago on Thanksgiving Day, The Washington Post had an article about cranberries. The article told how Europe has fallen in love with the berry, and how some communities are now celebrating Thanksgiving. The whole world should set aside a day of Thanksgiving to God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving! Let us not forget the founding of this nation upon godly precepts. Let us pray that God, in his mercy, will call this people back to himself.

God's people today are commanded to be thankful just as they were commanded to be thankful to the Lord when Moses spoke these words in Deuteronomy 26.

Romans 1 is clear: Failure to be thankful leads to the destruction of individuals and of nations. Failure to be thankful to the God of our salvation is the first step down to open and gross sin.

Thankfulness should be more than emotions and words. Thankfulness to the Lord should result in a servant's heart toward the Lord and toward others according to the law-word of Lord God.

When it comes to our actions toward the Lord, is it obvious that we are thankful?

To whom are we thankful? For what are we thankful?

Psalms 107:1 *O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*

Psalms 118:1 *A Song or Psalm of David. O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise, even with my glory.*

Thankfulness will result in godly action, even action above and beyond our Christian duty.

Bro. Need

an ode to the catnap

PERMISSION TO REST .. GRANTED

story by CHIP GAINES

I've taken a lot of flak over the years for what I'm about to tell you. But I think I might be onto something, so, here goes..

My name is Chip Gaines, and I love naps. Not just the every now and then 20-minute pick-me-up or the "I stayed up way too late last night and need to catch up on some sleep" sort. I nap often.

You could say it's in my blood. My granddad, J.B., a man who really influenced a lot of who I am, owned a ranch in north Texas, and that's where I'd spend a few weeks every summer growing up. Most days we'd get up so early that you could still see the glint of moonlight shimmering on the dewy grass. From what I could tell, a daily nap was simply a part of J.B.'s work routine. I mean, the man was up at 4 a.m. every day. He'd go out, work the ranch, then come home, take a 30-minute nap, and head back out to work some more. It was just what he did.

To this day, J.B. is one of the hardest-working people I've known. And just about anyone could tell that he genuinely loved working that ranch. Looking back, I think it's partly because he understood the rest his body required given the physical nature of the work he did. And he never conceded to the perception of how that "break" might've looked to anyone else.

My mornings begin a lot like my granddad's did. But after breakfast and a few chores, sometimes I've got a project site to visit or an afternoon of meetings at the office. Wherever I am, that's where I nap. Some days it looks like catching a few minutes of sleep in my truck. There have also been times when Jo has had a meeting

in our office with a couple people on our team, and they'll walk in and see me sprawled out on the couch with my hat covering my face. All timidly they'll ask Jo in kind of a whisper, "Should we come back?" And Jo, I'm sure without even glancing my way, says something like, "Oh don't worry about him. He won't even hear us." And they'll carry on for the next hour or so. And she'd be right, I wouldn't have heard a thing.

Now, I'm not a machine. It's not like it's perfectly predictable. I choose to slow down, to take that break when it's possible. It isn't always an easy or a popular choice. It might come across as lazy to some people. Maybe even irresponsible. But the way I see it is that I've only got a

handful of nonnegotiables, of things that are crucial to who I am—for instance, my family and our work. And in order for those things to get the very best of me, rest is essential.

It's a learned discipline, and one I've found to be worth fighting for. Because I think our culture would have us believe that slowing down somehow equates to being weak.

I say this as someone who, without a doubt, is built to work. Digging into hard, complicated stuff is as much a part of who I am as my red hair and wishbone-shaped scar. That's just the thing, though. Good work requires good rest. For me, I can't have one without the other.

I think of it like this. You could go and take an actual, real-life nap and get actual, real-life sleep and still not feel rested. You've got to also be fulfilled and energized by the work you're doing every other hour of the day. And I don't only mean in the 9-to-5 sense. Our work as parents, as partners, as people with passions. The emotional, physical, and relational work we do every day.

When did it become acceptable to knock rest, anyways? To look down on or pity those who are doing their best to strengthen areas that are weak, who are giving attention to the parts of their lives they've been neglecting? Seems like we've got it backwards. 'Cause for me, this rhythm of rest is like jet fuel, propelling me forward with a full tank of energy and eyes wide open. I'm stronger because of it, in basically every way. For one thing, when early evening rolls around and the kids all get home and they're ready to play,

I am too. And those moments are just too important to

risk not being fully present for.

You're no machine either. You can't, and shouldn't, keep pace 24/7. Consider going into your day with the perspective of making rest a part of the work that's before you. What's the fuel that'll thrust you forward? Maybe it's not literal rest, but a 15-minute break to do something you enjoy, to revisit a project you're passionate about, to call up a friend, to grab a cup of coffee—or maybe it's a coffee plus the walk to and from the cafe around the corner.

My point is we can't concede our well-being to the opinions of those around us or how it might look to others. Know yourself, find the rest you need, and don't sacrifice it for any lesser thing.

Magnolia Journal, winter 2020

THE PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD

QANON: AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT

Not long ago, I offered a short expose of QAnon in the Examiner, and posted the message on YouTube and sermonaudio.com. In response to that message, a Q member sent me an URL link (below) which explains QAnon's (or simply Q) philosophy. The video opens and closes with this statement, "THE PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD."

Q's bold proclamation clearly reveals that Q is an Anti-Christ movement attacking the Word of God (Matthew 28:19, 20).

1 John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is (John gives many warnings against the prevailing spirit of the Anti-Christ in the last days, the gospel age.)*

Thus, this cause to address Q more seriously as a defense of the Gospel of Christ, and a warning to sincere Christians who might be inclined to follow Q's false gospel. Facts offered by Q may be true, but it is anti-Christian to even entertain a thought that Q's plan will help SAVE THE WORLD. (This message and the PDF notes, which includes the text of Q's video, are posted on Sermonaudio.com.)

Paul's warning:

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds*

should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Beguiled: deception or enticement; pleasant words that entice one away from the simplicity of Christ.

1 Timothy 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; (See John 1:17, 14:6)*

We shall see from God's Word that Q is a **seducing spirit, a doctrine of devils** as it offers world-wide victory and freedom without Christ. Though not specifically stated, the implications are obvious: Q's basic thesis is *"you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

We could stop here, but we will continue to show that Q is a seducing spirit who presents a doctrine of devils.

As we proceed, we shall see that Q's faith offers an escape from reality.

In 1965, I became acquainted with the idea that "you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" through a young lady who was in the John Birch Society. From that time on, I was exposed to that freedom idea from both religious and secular sources. Even "The Indianapolis Star" had the front-page banner: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The obvious reference was that the Star had the truth, and knowing the truth one could be set free.

But we must ask, "Free from what?" Free from **debt**? Free from **illness**? Free from an **unfaithful spouse**? Free from **worries and cares**? Free from **hard work**? Free from **reaping** what one sows with his wicked lifestyle?

The Q movement is simply a continuation of what I encountered in the 1960s, both in and out of religious circles. We commonly hear this humanistic offer of freedom from the majority of so-called Christian pulpits today, as well as from various secular sources, such as Q. I have served under pastors and sat in well-attended preachers' meetings where Q's philosophy of freedom through knowledge was promoted.

But "freedom" is never specifically defined. It is left up to hearer to define freedom in a manner that meets his needs. However, the clear implication of movements like Q is that when enough people know the truth about various secret evil activities, society will be free from the tyrannical control of the "elite."

Is such a thing possible? Can knowledge of hidden and possibly true things in high places produce "freedom?"

As Solomon said, there is nothing new under the sun, and Q's religion is not new; it is the same religion offered by the serpent in the garden, only dressed up in different garments.

The first Humanist Manifesto was issued in 1933. In 1973, a second Humanist Manifesto was issued. Its first point states:

As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. Nature may indeed be broader and deeper than we now know; any new discoveries, however, will but enlarge our knowledge of the natural. ... we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. While there is much that we do not know, humans are responsible for what we are or will become. No deity will save us; we must save ourselves.

<https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/manifesto2/>

Q is man's continuing effort to save himself and his world through knowledge apart from any deity. Q's plan of salvation of the world is to simply provide information about wicked men in high places, and freedom will develop. Quoting Rushdoony:

According to Camus, (1913-1960) there are only two possible worlds; the world of grace on the one hand, and the world of rebellion on the other hand. The disappearance of the one, he said, is equivalent to the appearance of the other. Wherever, to any degree, grace recedes, there rebellion will make its appearance. To the extent and to the degree the church withdraws, or limits its claims, to that degree the world of rebellion appears. (R.J. Rushdoony, Lectures on Epistemology, A2.)

Camus was by no means a Christian, but he had true insight into the world at large. This is a harsh saying, but Q denies "the world of grace," and thus is living in "the world of rebellion." That is, rebellion against God's sovereign control of history, and rebellion against God's plan to SAVE THE WORLD:

Matthew 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

2000 years ago, the Lord established his plan to SAVE THE WORLD by going into all the world and preaching and teaching the entire word of God.

Furthermore, when the **biblical doctrine of Divine**

Predestination or Providence that is working all of history to subdue all things to the Son (1 Cor 15:24, 25) is abandoned, meaning is abandoned, and then neither man nor history has meaning. The results are drugs, drunkenness, suicide, new spouse, and new things. There is no meaning nor truth apart from our Predestinating God. When “Christians” abandon their confidence that God controls history, they will believe that the reprobates control history. **Someone must control history, God or wicked men.** Q’s philosophy appeals to those Christians who have no faith in God’s divine control of history for his own glory.

Isaiah 46:10 *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it. Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? (See Acts 4:28, &c.)*

• **WE SHALL DIVIDE OUR EXAMINATION INTO TWO PARTS:**

First, the Word of God. Second, Q’s own words:

First, The Word of God

Can professed Christians ignore the Word of God? Can knowledge about the deeds of the powers of darkness produce freedom from tyranny? Can knowledge about the deep things of Satan produce freedom from Satan’s tyranny?

Let us open by examining the idea of “*you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*” It comes from John chapter eight.

In John 8:31-45, Jesus Christ is dealing with the tyranny of sin. Jesus told the Jews that only faith in the Son of God could free them from that slavery or bondage to sin, or slavery.

John 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, [then] are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham’s seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. 35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: [but] the Son abideth

ever. 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. 37 I know that ye are Abraham’s seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 ¶ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, [even] God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? [even] because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of [your] father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell [you] the truth, ye believe me not.

Romans 3:23 *for all have sined, and come short of the glory of God; 5:12 wherefore, by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; so death passed on all men, for that all have sinned:*

The Word of God tells us that the real tyranny is bondage to sin and to Satan’s tyranny through sin, and he is a terrible task master. The Word tells us that all individuals since Adam are suffering under Satan’s bondage and tyranny. The only freedom from that tyranny is Christ. Christ’s offer of freedom from sin’s tyranny in John 8 is as different from Q’s offer of freedom from tyranny through knowledge as life is from death.

Any offer of any **PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD** through worldly knowledge is from seducing spirits. Those offers are doctrines of devils. (The promise of victory, freedom and prosperity through knowledge is the foundation of Humanist education in the “public school” system.) Satan’s offer denies that true freedom is only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9, 10.)

Second, Q’s own words. Q clearly states its position, which is in opposition to the Word of God. A close examination of Q’s words reveals its very subtle war against the Christian faith.

I understand there are other Q videos that are more involved than the one referred to me. I did not watch

other videos, for I believe this one gives a sufficient overview of Q's philosophy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2sn4kU-GI5s>

The opening splash on this video is a large Q with this statement under it: THE PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD. That is to say, man needs no doctrine of God, sin, repentance nor conversion, for "No deity will save us; we must save ourselves." Though Q may mention various appealing words such as God, prayer and love for one's country, we will see that its basic faith is Humanism, *i.e.*, man-centered salvation. (With no biblical doctrine of God, there can be no true doctrine of sin.)

Q tells us that by providing "true" knowledge of the many secret and evil things being done by "criminals," freedom from tyranny will result. Q ignores John's words in **1 John 5:19** that *the whole world lieth in wickedness.*

Q offers a PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD as revealed in the video sent to me. On the other hand, is the Lord's PLAN TO SAVE THE WORD as revealed in Matthew 28:19, 20. The plans are as far apart as life is from death. Only the Lord's plan will produce freedom, life and peace.

I transcribed the spoken text of the video. The speaker spoke fast as images flashed on the screen, so he was difficult to understand, especially with the images. If you watch the video, do as I did; turn the Closed Caption on, and read what he is saying. Being only 13 minutes long, it cannot define all Q represents, but I am sure gives a good overview.

• **QUOTING FROM Q'S VIDEO:**

(10:26) The world is currently experiencing a dramatic covert war of biblical proportions. Literally, the fight for earth between the forces of good and evil. I can't put it in simpler terms, but I can say that it appears that the good guys are winning. The cabal had complete control over North Korea. They hijacked the Kim dynasty, took them hostage and worked to build up a nuclear arsenal to threaten the world. (10:50)

The enemies' weapons are lies and deceits. The Son's weapon is truth. Q surely did not mean it in the biblical sense, but there is "literally a fight for the earth."

The war is between the kingdom of Darkness and the kingdom of His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We know which will prevail in the end; however, the battle is here and now between Q's humanistic PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD, and the divine plan put forth by our Lord Jesus Christ TO SAVE THE WORLD.

Isaiah 33:22 *For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.*

One cannot tell if what Q says is true, rumor, internet gossip or lies: "I read it on the Internet, so it must be true." However, many things put forth by Q have been shown to be true, which presents a problem. Truth gets attention, and offers legitimacy for lies manufactured to gain followers. Q offers no documentation for their claims.

Thus, we have no reason to think that Q anon is honest in all it says. Q could be spreading lies like "the official

ballots were marked with watermarks, so the fraudulent ballots could be excluded in the count," or "the National Guard will protect the counting of the ballots." The National Guard has been sent out, but they have not gone into the polling places to watch the counting. Lies like these would keep the masses from rising up in open rebellion against the wicked in high places. Is Q offering a

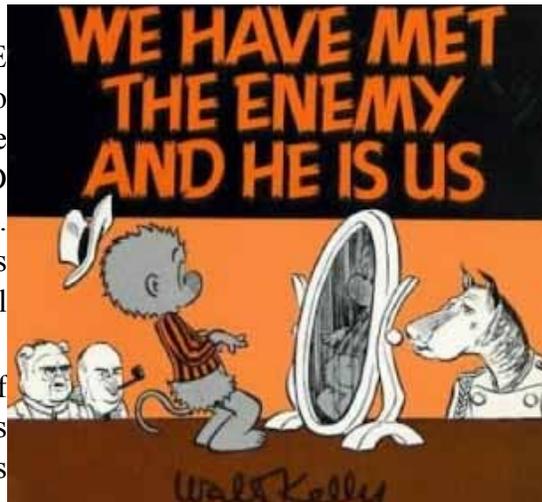
"bone" to the conservative movement in order to keep them under control? No one knows!

Hebrews 5:14 tells us that only those who know the word of God can discern the truth behind QAnon. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The Q video opens by identifying criminals as those who are involved in theft and even murder when they can get away with it. These criminals are "corrupting the world, poisoning our food" and are igniting conflicts and wars all over the world. Criminals are those "who choose personal gain or the rights of others with no regard for the law."

Quoting the video:

If you wonder why we go to war, or why you never seem



to be able to get out of debt, why there is poverty, division and crime. What if I told you there was a reason for it all; what if I told you it was done on purpose; what if I told you that those who were corrupting the world, poisoning our food and igniting conflict were themselves about to be permanently eradicated from the earth. You might think that an idealistic fantasy. Well, let me tell you a story. (0:35)

We acknowledge there are criminals of course. They rob your house, they steal your phone, they can murder you too if they think they can get away with it. We have all experienced criminals in one way or the other. Criminals, as we know, are those who choose personal gain over the rights of others with no regard for the law.

But here is where you need to expand your thinking. Criminals can also succeed in business and in politics and can be elected as our leaders. If a criminal became a president, imagine what they could achieve. They could use the full weight of their executive power to commit much larger crimes and ensure that they and friends were enriched to the fullest extent possible. A criminal president could create alliances with other criminal presidents and collaborate on more global criminal activities. Anything goes! Drug running, human trafficking, whatever makes the big bucks. (1:27)

(3:14) First they accumulated the world's wealth. They invented a system of money called central banking which lends money to governments with interest placing countries into eternal debt. (3:22) People's wealth got less, their wealth got more, much more. When a criminal is already as rich as they can get then protecting their ill-gotten gains becomes the priority. Angry citizens tired of being poor are a major obstacle, and can revolt when they suffer enough. The criminals needed to prevent this so they diverted attention to the last remaining competitor, the people of the world. You and me. We were not happy being ruled by criminals and having to work three jobs just to survive. They know we won't accept it. So, they use their control of the media to set black against white, woman against man, young against old, Muslim against Christian, they convinced us we were the problems so that we would fight and destroy ourselves.

At 2:30 in the Q video, the speaker makes this shocking statement. This statement goes against not only the clear teaching of scripture, but against common sense. Can you grasp and understand the overwhelming significance of this statement?

It is not our nature to fight, and be racist. It is not in our nature to rob from others. What you must learn is that it was the criminals all along.

Clearly stated here is that Q is a self-righteous,

religious movement.

What are we told in the Q video?

First, I heard no mention of sin in the Q's video.

Second, all the blame for the social unrest and turmoil is placed on evil oppressors which are basically defined as bankers, politicians and out of control government agencies.

Thus, we see that Q seeks to place the guilt of the world's problems on others who are defined as "criminals." Q concludes that because we do not murder, cheat and steal as do the rich and powerful of the world, we are not "criminals."

Q offers a wonderful opportunity to ease one's conscience of guilt and personal responsibility. Q's overall theme is that one's problems are the fault of someone else, Bill Gates, George Soros....

From the time of the Garden man has sought ways to blame others for his failures and sins. "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Adam blamed his wife for his sin, but actually he blamed God, for God is the one who provided his wife. Furthermore, since sin entered into the world, the natural state of men is to war among themselves as Cain killed his brother, Abel.

Logical conclusion: "If God is the one who exalted the "criminal class," then God is at fault for the world's turmoil" (See James 1. The prevalence of sin is because man yields to his sin nature.)

Third, Q clearly promotes the religion of Humanism. "No deity will save us; we must save ourselves." Q offers a PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD, which is in total opposition of God's plan.

Fourth, in Romans 1 Paul describes the nature of fallen men who do not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.. . They are Unrighteous, wicked, covetous, murderers, proud, haters of God and inventors of evil things.

A reprobate mind covers every form of wickedness one can imagine, as well as those we cannot imagine.

Fifth, Q ignores the fact that Paul describes all men, both the oppressed and the oppressor in Romans 1. That is, those who plan and exercise tyrannical authority are under the same tyranny of sin as those over whom they exercise their tyrannical authority. However, God is very

clear that because of Adam's sin, all of his posterity has the natural tendency to war, rob, and exercise tyrannical authority, as well as all the rest of the evils mentioned by Paul in Romans chapter 1 and in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.

The inborn sin nature cannot be changed through acquiring human knowledge. Man can only be freed from that bondage to his sin nature through the Lord Jesus Christ, John 8.

Sixth, it should be readily apparent to those of us who know God's inspired Word that the goal of movements like Q is to enable man to avoid the fact that he is a sinner before God, and his rebellion against God has serious social consequences. The "oppressed" sinner brings upon himself the errors of sin.

Hosea 13:9 *O Israel, thou hast destroyed thyself; but in me is thine help.* **Romans 6:23** *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **Galatians 6:7** *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Banks. Let me say a word about banks. Everyone loves to hate the banks, but the clear fault lies with the borrower:

Proverbs 22:7 *The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

No one forced debt upon a person or nation. **Debt slavery** is a personal choice. **Debt is willing bondage** to a bank. That choice is primarily motivated by violating the 10th commandment, *thou shalt not covet*, and causes one to try to live beyond his means. The desire for unneeded bigger and better things willingly causes one to become slave to a bank. Everyone knows the "danger" of borrowing money from the bank to satisfy covetousness, yet that knowledge does not keep people from selling themselves into bondage to the bank. Common sense and reality tell us that knowledge about the evils of a bank does not keep people from nor free people from debt slavery.

(Families Go Deep in Debt to Stay in the Middle Class. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/families-go-deep-in-debt-to-stay-in-the-middle-class-11564673734>)

"I am in debt, and it is the banker's fault." That dog won't hunt.

In James chapter 1, there is a terrible "curse" pronounced upon the rich who heap up treasures at the expense of the working man, particularly when that

treasure is gained through deceptive means.

Q claims to be a movement that seeks to awaken the American people to the wickedness in high places, with the confidence that knowledge will cause the people to break the chains of bondage to the wicked who are in power. Though Q does not encourage violence, human nature says that if the population can be provoked enough, there will be violence.

Here is a quote from an e-mail sent to me:

The x22 Report -- at approximately 30 minutes in, shows how the media and the WHO created this financial lockdown to push their agenda <https://x22report.com/message-sent-during-town-hall-interviews-patriots-ready-the-second-wave-buckle-up-episode-2304/>

Previously I sent a link to a facebook video that showed how Trump's standing up to globalists in the UN meeting, started all this.

Evidently, Q sends out a daily update of the latest events the reader might find interesting. Q seeks to expose the counsels of vain, evil man in an attempt to institute their New World Order. (The Bush clan was as openly committed to the NWO as was Obama, Pelosi, and the rest of the communists in Congress.)

Actually, we do not need Q to tell us the secret things that are going on, for Psalms 2 tells us that from the beginning, evil men counsel, or conspire together to overthrow everything that represents any kind of godly authority and social order. The more political power the rich "conspirators" have, the more influence they have to carry out their vain and useless plans against the Lord and his Christ.

Our responsibility is to pray that God will expose the hidden things of dishonesty, and that he will raise up just judges to exercise righteous justice against them. However, how many even Christians want justice when it comes to his personal life?

There is so much more we could say from Scripture and from Q's own words on the video, but we must quit. We have presented more than enough to clearly show the philosophy behind Q.

Q sums up its purpose in this concluding statement on the Q video: at 12:17:

Those of us who have followed Q since the beginning will be here to help you make sense of the coming events. We are among the first to realize that our petty partisan divisions are just trivial distractions, and we are all enslaved by a hidden enemy. We realize that the problem was

never capitalism or socialism, Democrat or Republican, black or white, Muslim or Christian. We know it was just very powerful criminals who had too much power. Fellow slaves, it's time to buckle your seatbelt, recognize your true enemy, and embrace a new future that we all owe to the brave patriots who risk their lives to achieve this victory against the source of the greatest force of evil world the world has ever known. May God bless America.

The final screen of the video at 13:00 has a Q with the words "**trust the plan.**"

Q boldly states that it has **THE PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD.**

This final statement clearly marks **Q as a religious movement that denies the grace of God**; Q is clearly in rebellion against God's plan "TO SAVE THE WORLD" through preaching and teaching the law-word of God.

Q is another gospel. Its basic premise is that by exposing enough of the evil deeds of those in high places, freedom will result. However, freedom is never defined.

We must repeat Rushdoony as he quotes Camus:

There are only two possible worlds; the world of grace on the one hand, and the world of rebellion on the other hand. The disappearance of the one, he said, is equivalent to the appearance of the other. Wherever, to any degree, grace recedes, there rebellion will make its appearance. To the extent and to the degree the church withdraws, or limits its claims, to that degree the world of rebellion appears.

Q has denied grace through faith, and thus is in rebellion against God. One is either for Christ or against him; there is no middle ground. Q offers a PLAN TO SAVE THE WORLD apart from the gospel of Christ.

Q is worse than criminal, for Q offers freedom apart from the Christian gospel. Q's offer is a replay of the old offer from the serpent in the Garden; that is, choose the tree of knowledge over the tree of life, and you will find freedom.

Peter gives a good overview of the "Q religion."

2 Peter 2:17 *These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. 18 For when they speak great swelling [words] of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, [through much] wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same*

is he brought in bondage.

Though Q promises liberty, they themselves are servants of corruption if they are outside of the freedom that is found only in Christ.

The text of the QAnon video referenced above will be posted with the QAnon message above on Sermonaudio.com/providence.

Bro Need

PARENTS TAKE CLOSER LOOK AT THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION

Perhaps the only silver lining to public schools going virtual out of an irrational fear of the coronavirus is that many parents are finally taking a closer look at what their children are learning. And it's not pretty. Mary Hasson, an attorney, education expert and fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, said in an interview on Washington Watch that parents "are realizing their kids have embraced this view of America as a toxic country, a place that's 'fundamentally unjust'"

Materials that supplement curricula are coming "almost exclusively from progressive organizations." The Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance, Planned Parenthood's radical sex education and the 1619 Project—that's what kids are being taught in classrooms and much of it [is] paid for by taxpayers. At the same time, children are not learning American history.

—Tony Perkins, frc.org

UNIVERSITY TEACHES OVERTHROWING THE GOVERNMENT

Founded in 1749, Washington and Lee University is one of the oldest educational institutions in the country. Although it is a small school of approximately 2,000 students, it is well known.

Recently it became known that in the current semester they are offering a college credit course entitled "How to Overthrow the Government." The university president defended offering the course with a typical statement of liberal blather.

Although treason is a word that is rarely employed these days, this event looks to be closely related to it.

Sword of the Lord, 10/16/20

1619 PROJECT

U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner Denounces 1619 Project as “Sheer Propaganda”

A member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights denounced the New York Times’ 1619 Project, saying that it’s “sheer propaganda.”

Civil Rights Commissioner Peter Kirsanow...who is based in Ohio, acknowledged that he has been actively campaigning against the state’s adopting the 1619 Project for its public school curriculum.

He compared the project to critical race theory and the “Howard Zinn version of history,” referring to the left-wing historian who authored *A People’s History of the United States*.

“We have seen what I believe to be a corruption of history, a distortion of history,” said Kirsanow. “It is nothing more than sheer propaganda.”

The commissioner said the 1619 Project was a form of “historical reparations.”...

“The effort to put race and slavery at the heart of the American story has the potential to destabilize our understanding of our country, our country’s self-conception,” he continued.

“The project’s obsession with race, standing alone, is bad enough... what makes it worse is this is something that’s being introduced into curriculum K-12.”

On that point, Kirsanow said it was one thing to have such courses in college, when “somebody’s already had an established foundation” in order to “adequately interpret what they’re being told.”

“But when fresh young minds are exposed to this, that’s something completely different,” he noted. “As with other progressive revisionism, it’s likely done when you start at K-12 that this will become the story of American founding.”

Last year, the New York Times magazine announced an ongoing initiative known as the 1619 Project, launching it on the 400th anniversary of when slaves were first brought to British colonial Virginia....

After the project was published in August 2019, Princeton historian Sean Wilentz cosigned a letter to the Times along with Brown University’s Gordon Wood, Princeton’s James McPherson and the City University of New York’s James Oakes listing the factual errors in the 1619 Project that should be corrected and not republished in any future materials, especially those being used in school curricula....

Many school districts across the country have decided to add the 1619 Project to their U.S. history curricula. School districts in Chicago, Illinois; Washington, D.C.; and Buffalo, New York began implementing the project in their K-12 course materials earlier this year.

—Michael Gryboski, christianpost.com

KROGER

Kroger Faces Lawsuit After It Fires Employees for Refusing to Wear Pro-LGBTQ Aprons

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit against the Kroger Company [September 14] in response to action taken by Kroger Store No. 625 in Conway, Arkansas against two employees. The employees were terminated after they refused to abide by the new dress code, which required them to wear an apron depicting a rainbow-colored heart emblem.

The women contended that wearing the apron would amount to an endorsement of the LGBTQ movement, which contradicts their religious beliefs....

The EEOC alleged that when the women continued to refuse to wear the apron with the emblem visible, “Kroger retaliated against them disciplining and ultimately discharging them.”...

“Companies have an obligation under Title VII to consider requests for religious accommodations, and it is illegal to terminate employees for requesting an accommodation for their religious beliefs,” said Delner-Franklin Thomas, district director of the EEOC’s Memphis office, which has jurisdiction over the case. The EEOC complaint comes more than a year after both women were fired from the supermarket chain.

Ryan Foley, Christianpost.com

PERSONAL

Obviously, I spend many hours at the computer, and I was recently reminded again of the usefulness of the *Mac Time Machine*

I switched to a Mac computer several years ago, leaving behind all the beloved and excellent Adobe PC publishing programs. (I have still been able to use them with Parallels, which allow XP up to the latest Windows 10 to run on the Mac.) The Mac does not run word processing programs like MS Word nor Open Office (Neo Office) as well as does a PC. Apple also offers updates to their OS without charge, though those



and voila! This was not the first time the TM has bailed me out, and recovered lost files.

updates may leave behind programs that worked well with older versions. I found that out the hard way. I have also found that Windows 10 insists that it update itself every time it is turned on.

But the most impressive and time saving feature of a Mac is the *Time Machine*. About 6 or 7 years ago, I purchased a used 17in MacBook Pro, maybe a 2011 model. That computer failed, so I obtained a reconditioned Pro from Apple. That computer failed, so Apple provided a new Pro in its box at no charge. I foolishly spilt water on that MacBook, and Apple replaced everything except the HD. Not long ago, I upgraded to a 16 GB Ram in a used computer. The motherboard failed in it, but the warranty covered it, so I now have a new 16 GB motherboard in my present computer. Apple normally does not outdate their computers. A 2015 or older will function as well as a 2020, but without as many bells and whistles.

My point. The first thing I did was attach a large external HD on the first Mac. Since then, at least 4 times all I had to do was download from the *Time Machine* HD, and simply re-enter various passwords.

In addition, I downloaded and opened a virus loaded "Flash Player." That was the end of the HHD. I took the Mac to the Mac store about an hour from us, and they reformatted the HHD and downloaded a new OS. Then all I had to do was download everything from the *Time Machine* HD.

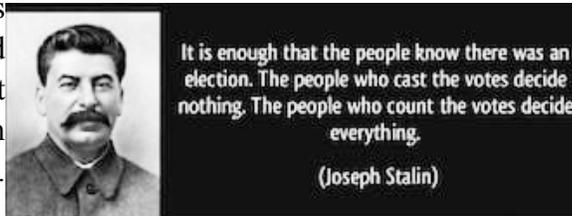
What brought this note about was that when I opened a file this morning (10/21/20) that I had spent many hours working on ("QAnon, a new religion"), I found that I had overwritten it, so, to the *Time Machine* I went. The TM will go back to when it was first plugged into the computer, which would be back several years to my first 17in MacBook, and every file is there by date and time. (I replaced and set aside that first HD some time ago, but all the past files are on the one I took off.) I opened the TM, and went back to the last time I remembered working with the correct file, and there it was. I restored the file as a new file,

I cannot count the many files and time I have lost on a Windows PC because of my foolish errors

and computer crashes. (No matter how hard one tries, the files cannot be recreated.) I certainly can tolerate the extra aggravation that a Mac might cause in word processing because of the TM. It is a lifesaver for those who depend on a computer for a living, e.g., pastors, writers, &c. Cloud Backup and storage is impossible without good broadband, which we do not have, but why pay for cloud storage when one has a continual backup attached to the computer? Want the backup "off site?" Take the external HD home with you.

Again! My original heart attack was October 26, 1999. For the next several years after that event, I ended up in the emergency room with the same symptoms that sent me there in the first place. The doctor told me that many times the body remembers major events like that. So, since 1999 I have probably had to go into the emergency room at least 9 or 10 times with the symptoms of a heart attack. I have learned to ignore the symptoms most of the time, but October 27 of this year the symptoms got so severe that I had to go in. They did all the normal tests to check for a heart attack, and I checked out clean. So, we celebrated the 21st anniversary in the ER. Again, I must thank the Lord for his medical provision through the VA healthcare system. Though I went to the local hospital about 15 minutes from home, the system will pay the bill as it has in the past. It was not that long ago that I had symptoms of a stroke. We were close to the Chillicothe VA ER, so we stopped there. The ER was not equipped on that day to handle a stroke victim, so they transferred me to the ADENA hospital just a few minutes away. The problem turned out to be high calcium, which can produce stroke like symptoms. No problems since.

Now that the election is over, look for massive inflation as the FED will create massive amounts of fake money. They will blame the pandemic rather than the local gods who exercised their godlike power with their lockdowns. The Republicans



and the Democrats must massively inflate the money supply to keep the economy “afloat,” and whoever is in power when the bill comes due will get the blame. Those of us who followed the dispensational faith in the 1970s remember a sermon by R.G. Lee, “Pay Day Some Day.” That someday when the debt will come due will soon be upon us. **I urge you again, get whatever wealth the Lord has blessed you with out of paper,** and put it into some kind of a hard asset, such as real estate, hard money, even purchase the expensive items that you have been putting off, freezer, refrigerator, &c. Probably within a year, those things will be priced out of reach for most people, regardless of who is in office. Pay off debt, and stay out of debt as much as possible. Your new car with high payments could well be sitting on a repo car lot within a year. While you still can, obtain an old “beater” to drive after they repo the new unpaid for car. The best would be an older car without all the computers in it. The system is rigged to “force” people, and nations, to borrow money, and enter into slavery to the banks.

A COVETOUS PEOPLE WILL PRODUCE A DEBT THAT CANNOT BE SUBSTAINED.

We have been warned for many years that the goal of the State, Republican or Democrat, is power, and that power is used to make everyone dependent on “Big Brother.” You need to quietly set aside enough food to last a minimum of three months, but better yet for a year. Don’t freeze, but pressure can your meat, which will last for several years. Set aside enough money to pay your mortgage for several years.

Be sure you are armed well enough to protect your family and your possessions. If your state does not have open carry, get a CC. It will be unsafe to travel unarmed in a large portion of the country.

Gov. DeSantis Introduces ‘Anti-Mob’ Legislation To Allow Floridians To Shoot Rioters And Looters

<https://dailycaller.com/2020/11/11/ron-desantis-florida-residents-shoot-looters/>

Florida sheriff urges residents to shoot looters who break into their homes

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/ny-florida-polk-county-sheriff-grady-judd-shoot-looters-break-in-homes-20200602-gxgs63ye2b-gtdly2xula2abvq4-story.html>

Do not depend on even godly law enforcement for protection, for they may be overwhelmed with 911 calls.

Gun Sales Records Smashed in 2020

The NSSF-adjusted NICS data for the first half of the year also smashed records. Data shows a record 12.1 million so far in 2020. The number represents a meteoric 71.7-percent increase over January to July 2019. Thusly, 5 million first-time gun purchasers joined the 2A community in seven months.

“This is a tectonic shift in the firearm and ammunition industry marketplace and complete transformation of today’s gun-owning community,” said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President of General Counsel. “These first-time buyers represent a group of people who, until now, were agnostic regarding firearm ownership. That’s rapidly changing, and these Americans are taking hold of their God-given right to keep and bear arms and protect themselves and their loved ones.”

NSSF surveys showed 58 percent of firearm purchases came from Black men and women, the largest increase of any demographic. Women also comprised 40 percent of first-time purchases. Retailers showed a 95-percent increase in firearm sales, with a 139-percent increase in ammo sales over the same time period. That might explain the current ammo shortage.

<https://www.personaldefenseworld.com/2020/08/gun-sales-records-smashed-2020/>

Observation from the election: Since the 1980s, I have worked the polls, and this year was no exception. The scare of Covid-19’s was effectively used with older people to keep many in hiding. (Example: The couple from whom we purchased our property) It is the older people who generally have enough common sense to vote a conservative ticket. The intentional fear created by the media caused many of the elderly to vote absentee. Mail-in voting was the goal of the wicked all along, for they can control which ballots are counted.

11/11/2020

UPDATE FROM BETTIE:

I’ve gone through cancer treatment so far, three weeks apart with no bad side effects! God is gracious! The doctors have added another medication to see how I handle it. They’re very thorough in checking my blood levels every time I go to the hospital – especially the white blood cells. After each treatment on Fridays, I go back the next week to see how things are going. That means I’m at the hospital two weekends, then skip a Friday before starting over again! I should be able to have the surgery to remove the tumors before March. This premedication is to shrink the tumors, so

that the surgery itself will not be so drastic. (A young lady where we go to church has been through the same treatment that Bettie is enduring. It's been three years of treatment and the young lady now has no sign of cancer, ed.)

I'm going through the University of Cincinnati teaching hospital which is the best around, and we are pleased with the care God has provided at very low cost. Please continue praying for God's healing and peace that surpasses all understanding! We love you all and appreciate your prayers.

My note! I have made an interesting discovery as we have visited two large hospitals. Somehow, the virus cannot attack you while you're in the cafeteria. They check your temperature and make sure you're wearing a mask in order to get into the hospital. But when you go to the cafeteria, no one is wearing a mask, and no one insists that you put one on. I have decided that all hospital visits should be conducted in the cafeteria because the cafeterias are obviously immune. I am reminded of the old song, "And the music goes round and round and round." The idiocy continues on and on and on and on.

The treatment hospital is about an hour and a half from us each way. That normally means a full day consumed with a hospital visit. The treatments last anywhere from 2 to 4 hours from the time she gets her bloodwork done and the results back from the lab before her treatment can start. The first treatment took six hours. The hospital is on the south side of Cincinnati and we are about 60 miles away on the east side of Cincinnati. If we happen to be in rush hour traffic, it can be quite time consuming. On the bright side of the travel to South Cincinnati is that we must go through Kentucky, only a few miles from my youngest daughter's house in Fort Thomas, Kentucky. They have a wonderfully high-speed broadband through fiber optics at their house. From there, I can easily upload large videos which are over 1 GB.

Those who have been on our mailing list for over 20 years know that this is déjà vu for me.

WHO ARE THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF GOD?

By Pastor James A. Henry

The Psalmist David said three thousand years ago,

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance" Ps. 33:12.

When asked, "who are the chosen people of God"? The answer many Bible students give is "Israel". Without doubt the Bible does declare that God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people. Moses said to the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings,

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth" Deut. 7:6.

It goes without saying that God did choose the nation of Israel and entered into a covenant with them. This covenant was made initially with Abram when God called him from Ur of the Chaldees. Remember however that Abram was not an Israelite, but the covenant God made with Abram was renewed to his son Isaac.

The covenant was then renewed with Abraham's grandson Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel. The nation of Israel did not come into existence until several years following the death of Abram (later called Abraham).

GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAM

Ten generations after God created Adam, a man named Abram was born and lived in the Ur of the Chaldees. At the age of seventy-five the Lord came to Abram and said,

"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" Gen. 12:1-3.

It is vital that we see that God was talking to one man, He said,

"I will bless them that bless **thee**" Gen. 12:3.

Some people take this verse and apply it to the natural race of people called Israel, and say "If you are for the nation of Israel God will bless you, but if you are against the nation of Israel God will curse you". This is often heard from many TV preachers who call for Government officials to lend financial and military support to the little nation of Israel in her struggles with Palestinians. Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla) said in a speech before the Senate in March of 2002,

“One of the reasons I believe the spiritual door was opened for an attack against the United States of America is that the policy of our government has been to ask the Israelites, and demand it with pressure, not to retaliate in a significant way against the terrorists strikes that have been launched against them.”

Onetime Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer goes even further: he said,

“The Bible is pretty clear that the land is what is called covenant land, that God made a covenant with the Jews that that would be their land forever.”

This promise from God to Abraham had nothing to do with the nation of Israel as she exists today. As previously stated, the nation of Israel spoken of in the Bible did not come into existence for many years after Abraham.

Due to her sins and the rejection of Jesus as the Messiah the nation of Israel was destroyed in A. D. 70. The present day nation born in 1948, has no claim on the land promises made to Abraham.

OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW

The nation of Israel was under the old law covenant, but that covenant was abolished and a new grace covenant was established with spiritual Israel by the blood of Jesus Christ.

In spite of this clear statement about the vanishing away of the old covenant there are those that still insist that the land belongs to ethnic Israel. Why assume that non-religious Jews who established a secular state in the Middle East in 1948 are entitled to the same land once held by the religious Jews who followed the law of Moses? The claim that the land promised to Abram has never been occupied by the nation of Israel denies clear statements like that of Joshua 21:43.

“And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he swore to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein”

Those who insist that present day Israel is the rightful owner of the land in the Middle East forget that the covenant made with Israel was conditioned upon their faithfulness to live by God’s law and it carried a threat of abolition if they forsook the ways of God. The nation did forsake God’s ways, reject His Messiah and forfeited her claim to the land.

This old covenant is no longer in effect; the new covenant established by the blood of Jesus when He entered into heaven itself by His own blood, having

obtained eternal redemption for His elect, is the one under which the true Israel of God (His church) lives today.

In his epistle to the scattered saints Peter declared, “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy” I Pet. 2:9-10.

All that are of faith are the chosen people of God and compose that holy nation that is bringing forth the fruits thereof. Just as Jesus said to the Jews,

“The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” Matt. 21:43.

Jesus told His followers

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill that cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” Matt. 5:14-16.

It is clear from Revelation 1:20 that the “candlestick” is a metaphor for the church. Jesus told John,

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches”.

IDENTIFYING THE SEED OF ABRAHAM

Serious study of the Bible reveals that Abraham’s seed is fourfold. In his book Abraham’s Four Seeds, John Reisinger identifies Abraham’s seed as “natural”, “special”, “spiritual” and “unique”. We must not confine our interpretation of the seed of Abraham simply to ethnic Israel.

We must not confuse the national seed of Abraham with his spiritual seed. God’s spiritual blessings are not given through physical birth to an Israelite family, they are given exclusively through spiritual birth into God’s family, and this comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE PROMISE IS TO ONE SEED

These promises were to one man and his seed. So then who is the seed of Abraham to whom these promises were made? Paul told the Galatians,

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, And

to thy seed, which is Christ” Gal. 3:16.

Everything God promised Abraham is realized through Jesus Christ. Paul went on to tell the Galatians,

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise” Gal. 3:28-29.

Who then are children of Abraham? Paul went on to say,

“Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham” Gal. 3:6-7.

Paul makes it very clear that those who are “of faith” are the children of Abraham. This has nothing to do with race or bloodlines or the present day nation of Israel. In fact Paul said,

“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God” Rom. 2:28-29.

The true spiritual Israel is composed of all those who were given to the Son by the Father in the everlasting covenant of grace.

The Lord Jesus identified His people as

“the children which God hath given me” Heb. 2:13.

He declared,

“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” John 6:37.

NO RESPECTOR OF PERSONS

For hundreds of years there were strong ethnic differences that kept the people of the world apart. The Jews felt they were superior to all other nations. You remember when Jesus stopped at the well in Samaria and spoke with the woman, she was surprised and said, “How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritians” John 4:9.

This problem plagued the apostles, even Simon Peter, until God taught him a vital lesson through a vision. After seeing the vision and being commanded to kill and eat an unclean beast, Peter confessed,

“Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” Acts 10:34-35.

According to Paul all differences between people, whether racial, sexual, social, economic or political are abolished in Christ Jesus. Paul said,

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus” Gal. 3:28.

WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF NATURAL ISRAEL?

The role natural Israel served in God’s plan was to be the nation through whom the Messiah/Redeemer would come into the world. As His chosen people, Israel was to reveal the true God of heaven to all nations. He selected the tribe of Judah to bring the Messiah into the world. When Jacob made predictions about the future roles of his twelve sons, he said about Judah,

“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be” Gen. 49:10.

This was a messianic prophecy, and Jesus of Nazareth is declared to be the promised Messiah/Redeemer in the New Testament. The writer to the Hebrews declared,

“For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood” Heb. 7:14.

John, in the Revelation, wept because no one was found who could open the book sealed with seven seals, but then,

“One of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof” Rev. 5:5.

The one found worthy to open the book was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

HE BROKE DOWN THE WALL

When Jesus offered Himself on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of His people He broke down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile, read Eph. 2:14-22.

All the promises God made to Abraham are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, not in ethnic Israel. Paul said,

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ” Gal. 3:16.

God used Israel to bring the promised Messiah/Redeemer into the world. Jesus told the woman at the well,

“Salvation is of the Jews” John 4:22.

REJECTED BY THE JEWS

John the Baptist announced Jesus and said,
“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world” John 1:29.

But the Jews, as a nation rejected Him. John said,
“He came unto his own, and his own received him not”
John 1:11.

When, as a nation, the Jews rejected Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah, God rejected them and removed them from the place of favor they had enjoyed. This was what God had said he would do many years before,

“But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.....The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me. The Lord shall make the pestilence cleave unto thee, until he have consumed thee from off the land, whither thou goest to possess it” Deut. 28:15, 20-21.

Jesus spoke of the action God would take against Israel because of their rejection of Him as the Messiah in the parable found in Luke 20:9-16.

The Jews understood that Jesus was talking about them, but they could not fathom the idea that God would terminate His relationship with them as His chosen people. Jesus went on to tell the Jews because of their rejection of Him,

“The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” Matt. 21:43.

He then added,

“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate” Matt. 23:38.

Micah prophesied some seven hundred years before Jesus was born and said,

“Therefore shall Zion for your sake be plowed as a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of the forest” Micah 3:12.

This was partially fulfilled when the Babylonians came and destroyed the city and the temple in 586 B.C. But God restored a remnant of the people to the land and the city and the temple were re-built under Nehemiah and Ezra. But the people fell back into idolatry and God brought final judgment on the city and the people in A. D. 70.

According to the Jewish historian Josephus, this prophecy was fulfilled in A. D. 70 when the Roman army marched against Jerusalem and totally destroyed the city and the temple. The nation of Israel ended, just as Jesus had predicted in the closing days of His life on the earth. In the Olivet discourse, read Luke 19:43-44.

These predictions were fulfilled in A. D. 70 when the Roman army marched against Jerusalem and destroyed the city and the temple. This is what Peter describes in II Peter 3:10-14. The “heavens and earth” that were destroyed is symbolic language that refers to the rulers and the people of Israel. The “new heavens and new earth” refers to the true “spiritual Israel”, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

EVERYTHING HINGES ON JESUS

Moses told the children of Israel of God’s plan to raise up a prophet from among the Israelites, he said,

“I (God) will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not harken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him” Deut. 18:18-19.

Peter identifies this Prophet as the Lord Jesus and quoted Moses and applied his words to the men of his day. See Acts 2:22-33.

FIRST TO THE JEWS, THEN TO THE GENTILES

Paul explained this when he preached to the Jews at Antioch. When the Jews persisted in rejecting the message Paul preached he said to them,

“It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles” Acts 13:46.

As noted earlier, Peter learned about God’s plan to include Gentiles through the vision he received in Acts 10. He said,

“Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” Acts 10:34-35.

He declared,

“To him (Jesus) give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever (Jew or Gentile) believeth in him shall receive remission of sins” Acts 10:43.

Salvation does not come any one because of natural descent, yet some Bible teachers of today continue to

interpret Romans 11:26 to teach that at the so called future second coming of Jesus all living Jews will be saved, not by faith, but by sight. Such teaching denies the Biblical doctrine of salvation by grace through faith alone. This is a glaring heresy and should not be accepted by any honest student of God's word.

WHAT WAS PAUL TEACHING?

Just what was Paul teaching when he said,

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins? Rom. 11:26-27.

Some say Paul was teaching that at the “second coming” of Christ, still future from our day, that all living Jews will be saved. But is this what he is saying?

The key to understanding this passage is to correctly define the words “so” and “Israel” as they are used in this passage. The word “so” is an adverb that means “in this manner”. What Paul is saying is this “And so, in this manner, all Israel shall be saved.” But what does he mean when he refers to “all Israel”? Remember he had said earlier in his letter to the Romans,

“For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, in Isaac shall thy seed be called” Rom. 9:6-7.

“He is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew which is one inwardly” Rom. 2:28-29.

He told the Galatians,

“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God” Gal. 6:15-16.

To the Philippians he wrote,

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” Phil. 3:3.

Even though Paul was an Israelite by birth, he renounced all the things that were so important to him as a proud Jewish Pharisee, that he might have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Read Phil. 3:4-7.

WHO ARE THE FOREKNOWN?

Paul was not talking about a people that had a Jewish bloodline, but about those who were chosen by God in eternity and given to the Son in the everlasting covenant of grace. God has bound Himself to save all those He foreknew. Paul said,

“God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew” Rom. 11:2.

Those He foreknew are the one's that are

“the called according to his purpose. For whom (not what) he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” Rom. 8:28-30.

Jesus knew this and said,

“All that the Father giveth me shall come unto me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” John 6:37.

In His High Priestly prayer Jesus referred to those given to Him by the Father six times: read John 17: 2, 6, 8, 9, 12, 24.

Jesus knew that in God's own time and way each of those chosen by the Father would be drawn by the Holy Spirit and made willing, through regeneration, to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour in the day of His power. David said,

“Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power” Ps. 110:3.

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that quickens one who is dead in trespasses and in sins and gives him spiritual life, making him willing and ready to receive the Lord Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The people quickened by the Holy Spirit are the “true spiritual Israel”.

According to Robert Haldane,

“The term people, in the preceding verse (Romans 11:1), refers to the whole of Israel as the typical people of God, but is here (Romans 11:2) restricted to the elect among them who were his true people, and are distinguished as ‘His people which He foreknew.’ God had cast off the nation, but even then He had a people among them whom from eternity he foreknew as His people. The word foreknow, signifies to know before, or it denotes a knowledge accompanied by a decree, or it imports a preconceived love, favor, and regard”. Commentary on Romans, pgs 531-532.

We conclude then that what Paul is saying in Romans 11:2 is simply this, “all the elect of God will be saved, for they are the true spiritual Israel of God”. Who then are the children of Abraham? Paul said,

“they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham” Gal. 3:7.

A CALL TO SELF EXAMINATION

In view of what the Bible teaches about the identity of the “Israel of God”, one would be wise to heed the advice given to the Corinthians by Paul when he said,

“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? II Cor. 13:5.

Remember; salvation is to those that are of faith. It does not come because of bloodlines, or human works, or the actions of any man on the behalf of other men. Salvation is all of God and comes by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Is it any wonder then that Peter called upon those that he identified as the

“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father” I Pet. 1:2.

“to give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” II Pet. 1:10-11.

Peter said nothing about the restoration of an earthly kingdom to ethnic Israel; he spoke rather about “the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ”. That is the kingdom John the Baptist announced to be at hand. It is the kingdom God promised to give to Jesus when He came into the world as a man. It is the kingdom He claimed for His everlasting possession when He returned in power and glory when Jerusalem fell in A. D. 70. This was announced when the seventh angel sounded his trumpet,

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

My greatest joy is to know that I know Him as my Lord and Saviour and have been translated into this glorious kingdom and will reign with Him for ever and ever. Jesus brought me into the kingdom when I was born again. Paul told the saint at Colosse that God had,

“delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us in to the kingdom of his dear Son” Col. 1:13.

What about you? Are you enjoying life in the kingdom? Paul said to the saints at Rome,

“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of

the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ” Rom. 5:17.

Many believers fail to enjoy what they have in Jesus Christ and spend all their time looking for something to happen in the Middle East. The little nation of Israel, re-established in 1948, is not the “chosen people of God”. Those that are saved by His free grace are the “Israel of God”.

I refuse to let anyone rob me of my spiritual identity and cheat me out of the joy of living and reigning with Christ. When writing to the believers at Colosse Paul cautioned them about men that would beguile them with enticing words and said,

“Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind” Col. 2:18.

Paul was speaking about those who sought to bring the Christians of the first century back under the old covenant, but Paul said these things are finished, you are now partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Let us not try to go back and re-establish that which Jesus came to bring to an end. Let us live as children of the kingdom and walk in the light as He is in the light and enjoy the fellowship He has made possible for us one with the other. Paul said,

“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh” Phil. 3:3.

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CHRISTIANITY VS. MORMONISM

By A.J. DaVilla (Age, 15)

Many Christians in today’s world take for granted the many ways in which The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (or the Mormon Church) has diverged from the Bible. Many have not actually looked into the differences. Instead, they simply assume that it is

an incorrect teaching of Christ. Many have called out Mormonism as a cult (which it technically is); others have called it a warped take on Christianity, something I personally believed before I began the research to write this article. What are the differences between what C.S. Lewis called “mere Christianity” and the Mormon’s view of God?

A Brief History of Mormonism

As you may know, the principles behind Mormonism can trace their roots to the Arians of the early 4th century A.D. Their belief in a nontrinitarian doctrine counter to that of the Bible has produced a grabbag of false religions, such as Islam and Mormonism. However, the focus of this section is to determine what led up to the formation of what is now called the Mormon Church.

The LDS Church took off in the early 1820s, when the “prophet” Joseph Smith purportedly attained what is now known as the Book of Mormon by translating it off of golden plates (which have since “disappeared”: go figure). Later on, the views presented in Smith’s Book didn’t settle well with the majority of Christian America, which (correctly) pointed out the various ills the Book of Mormon contained. After Smith was killed in 1844, Brigham Young led many of the Mormons out into what is now Utah, which, after achieving statehood, became the center of the Latter Day Saints Church in America.

While claiming to be a denomination of Christianity, Mormonism support several ideologies (which, for a time, included polygamy) that go directly against the Bible. The main objective of this article is to explore those differences and scrutinize them.

What are the Key Differences for Mormonism?

From a superficial review of both traditional Christianity and Mormonism, there appear to be three main areas (among others) where Mormonism contradicts biblical truth: its view on Scripture, God’s nature, and salvation. What is astonishing, however, is that some passages from the Book of Mormon (the Latter Day Saints Church’s main “holy book”) quote directly from the Bible, specifically the King James Version. Recall earlier that Smith claimed to have translated the Book of Mormon off of golden plates. The plates, in turn, claimed to be God’s words. If the Book of Mormon were actual Scripture, one would expect it to include the same material as the Bible. But

for the wording to be identical to a specific translation of the Bible is clearly not coincidental. Thus, this is one of a slew of reasons why the Book of Mormon cannot be accepted as genuine.

One reason for why the Book of Mormon is copied from the Bible in many areas, by and large, may be because Joseph Smith, who was a teenager at the time, believed that it would make the Book of Mormon more valid than the Bible. By inserting snippets of Scripture into his largely heretical piece of work, more people would be convinced that the Book of Mormon, not the Bible, was the Word of God. This belief is reinforced by the fact that Smith carried out his “translation” in the 1820s, at a time when Christianity was the dominant worldview in America. It only makes sense that Joseph Smith plagiarized the Bible. Without doing so, Mormonism would most likely have never taken off as a religious movement.

View on Scripture

The first essential difference between Mormonism and Christianity is the burden the former places on its followers. Although many passages refer to grace and salvation, others push forward an entirely different message. The main message of salvation in Mormonism is earning salvation from good works and refraining from sin. This makes Mormonism a works-based religion (or Legalism), which is quite the opposite of what the Bible teaches.

Take, for instance, Moroni 10:32, which says “Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind, and strength, then is his grace sufficient to you.”

God may have provided us a way of salvation through Christ, but you have to keep all of the commandments and all the ordinances are to be followed in order to live with God. This is, yet again, a strong indicator of Legalism within the Mormon doctrine.

This is contrary to what the Bible teaches. See, for instance, Titus 3:5, where Paul makes it clear that good works come from us knowing that we have been saved through faith.

Professor Sean McDowell, a Professor in Christian apologetics, believes that the objects that Mormon literature puts forward can’t be physically challenged:

“I suspect that the reason the Book of Mormon has this view of faith and knowledge is that the Mormon’s claims cannot be investigated. The cities mentioned in the Book of Mormon have not been located (i.e. Zarahemla), the gold plates cannot be examined, and Mormon “historical sites” cannot be excavated in the same way biblical sites can be. When there is no convincing external evidence corroborating belief, it must be based upon experience, feeling, and blind faith. This may be the view in the Book of Mormon, but it is decidedly not the biblical view (see John 20:30-31).”

I personally agree with Professor McDowell on these accounts (kudos on the gold plate controversy). It is likely that Mormons use these beliefs as a way to avoid any chance of outsiders proving their faith system to be incorrect, by simply backing up their faith with “facts”.

I also feel quite sad for Mr. McDowell. After posting his article, many members of the Latter-Day Saints Church commented on it. One of them, Mary McDowell Purpari (no relation!), called it out as “misguided rhetoric”. Many others also had quite a mouthful to say about it, but for reasons of space, I cannot include them all.

Even more disappointingly, just days after it was posted, Biola was forced to remove McDowell’s article from their website (which is odd, because I managed to find it anyway), citing that it was “offensive, incorrect, poorly sited, and not in context.” In addition, Biola said that the scriptural references used elsewhere in McDowell’s article were, “not used in context, without background information, and taking away from the actual biblical author’s intent and meaning.” The review of the article also accused McDowell of having no background in the subject. This is strange, considering that he has a degree in Christian apologetics.

If anything, this is a great teaching tool. It highlights the astonishing amount of rebuke and ridicule that Christians (especially apologists like Prof. McDowell) receive in this world. As Brother Need has pointed out many times, persecution (no matter how small of a scale it takes place on) is just one of many ways that Satan wages war against God and the universal Christian church.

View of God’s Nature

Another big difference between Mormonism and Christianity is their views concerning God’s nature. The

Mormon idea of the word “eternal” is radically different from the Christian idea of the word. As Christians, we believe that God is eternal in the sense that he exists outside of space and time and is not bound by them, either.

Very few Mormons today bound God within the physical realm. Nearly all of them equate God with the Christian’s view of His deity. Just like Christianity, they believe that God is immortal, and in addition, they too believe that Christ is the Son of God.

Here is the catch: The Mormon’s interpretation of the term “Son of God” is far different from the Christian interpretation of it. What they believe is that Jesus is the actual child of God, who is an immortal man. This is completely false.

This is confirmed by the Book of Mormon (as well as the Doctrines and Covenants, another main Mormon text) pointing out in many places the belief that God has a physical body. See, for example, Moses 6:9, which says, “Thus, man is made in the image of the body of God.” The Doctrines and Covenants 130:22 says, “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s.”

THIS IS HERESY!!! It is also in complete contrast to what Scripture teaches. John 4:24 says quite plainly, “God is Spirit.” Now, while it is true that God came to Earth as Jesus Christ (who is God incarnate), this cannot be used as evidence that God has a physical body.

To say that God the Father has a body, just like any other man, IS UTTER HERESY!!!

In addition to all of this, the Mormons, while claiming to honor the biblical texts as inspired by God, don’t actually believe in biblical inerrancy (or infallibility), which is a fatal contradiction of God’s nature. 1 Peter 1:22 says of God, “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth.” Since these traits apply to God, and since God, in essence, wrote the Bible (which is something the Mormons believe, too), it means that the Bible is inerrant, which means the Mormons are, once again, going directly against the true teaching of Scripture.

We must also remember that a person who holds to a false teaching of the person of Jesus Christ is literally forfeiting his/her soul. All non-believers must know that!

There are still a number of discrepancies between the

Mormon's teaching of God and the Christian teaching of God, but for reasons of space, I cannot include the others.

View of Salvation

The final main area in which Mormonism diverges from biblical truth is its concept of salvation. One major rejection made by Mormons today is the idea of original sin (i.e. Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden). They instead claim that The Fall is part of God's salvation plan.

This is heretical for two main reasons:

1. The Fall is not part of the salvation plan. It is a product of humanity's sin.

2. The notion that original sin is non-existent utterly destroys the foundation for the atonement (although, from this perspective, atonement does not actually exist in the LDS doctrine)

In addition, Mormonism believes that baptism is a need for salvation to apply to a person. With this baptism comes, you guessed it, the need for good works. If there was ever any doubt about Mormon doctrine dictating that Legalism is the established mode of salvation, those doubts have been washed away completely (of course, LDS says that one can be baptised in the afterlife: also utterly false!)”

Conclusion

From what has been made clear by this article, we can now understand that Mormonism (and false religions like it) are nothing new in this fallen world, which has rejected God and departed from His word. Joseph Smith, on the other hand, must have been an ardent anti-Christian to go so far as to rewrite the Bible, let alone say that it contained errors in need of fixing.

The Mormon's belief that the Bible is fallible and inter-contradictory is really just an excuse for not believing it. However, Romans 1:18-25 says that men have no excuse for rejecting God or suppressing the truth about Him. So the belief that the Bible shouldn't be believed because it contains errors is nonsensical.

Everyone needs to understand that the Bible is the infallible Word of God, meaning it contains no errors and shouldn't be considered inter-contradictory or erroneous in the first place.

What we have learned about Mormonism

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can be summarized in the following.

Mormonism:

1. Attacks the foundation of Scripture and traditional Christianity.

2. Pushes forward a false narrative and false teaching of Christ and the deity of God.

3. Attempts to undermine the clear witness of the biblical texts.

4. Is a heretical teaching, stemming from an anti-biblical doctrine.

Even though the Mormon Church may bring up supposed “evidence” that may persuade others into following after them and believing their message, we must remember the above points. We shouldn't be intimidated by what the world is trying to do to Christianity. **THEY CANNOT BREAK US!** Not if we have faith in the one, true, and living God, who speaks through the Scriptures. Let us remember Proverbs 30:5-6:

Every word of God is prue; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

