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NOVEMBER 2013

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*by T. A. McMahon*

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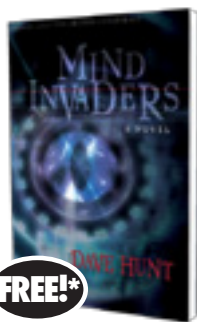
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# THE BEREAN CALL

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so."—Acts 17:11

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## The Secret of Biblical Self-Improvement

T. A. McMahon

The popularity of self-improvement, or self-help, books throughout the history of publishing is rather amazing. The reasons given for the wide acceptance of such books, historically, and especially in our day, are many, but they all boil down to man's desire to improve his condition or situation, whether financially, socially, educationally, physically, psychologically, spiritually, or "all of the above." Although the goals are improvement and the bettering of one's circumstance, the primary method and motivation is *by self* and *for self*: how can *I* improve *me*?

Since *self* is the fundamental focus of self-improvement, we need to give some serious thought to what it is. A gathering of definitions from contemporary dictionaries reveals *self* to be: the entire person; an individual's typical character or behavior; an individual's temporary behavior or character; a person in prime condition; the union of elements (as body, emotions, thoughts, and sensations) that constitute the individuality and identity of a person; personal interest or advantage. Simply stated, it's you and me and all that makes up each of us as individuals. The definition of "self" becomes more confusing, however, when words are added to the front or back of it, such as one's *true self* or *self-realization*. Moreover, the number of hyphenated "self" words are in the hundreds, from *self-actualizing* to *self-worth*, and each one adds its own meaning or nuance to "self."

Two "self"-related adjectives convey the best and the worst condition of self. *Selfless*: concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own: "an act of selfless devotion." Its synonyms clarify its wonderful qualities: unselfish, altruistic, self-sacrificing, self-denying; considerate, compassionate, kind, noble, generous, magnanimous, ungrudging, charitable, benevolent: "Her love was manifest in selfless service." *Selfish*, on the other hand, has no redeeming qualities: (of a person, action, or motive) lacking consideration for others; concerned chiefly with one's own personal profit or pleasure: "I entertained them for selfish reasons." Synonyms include: ego-centric, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-centered, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, self-seeking, self-serving, wrapped up in

oneself; inconsiderate, thoughtless, unthinking, uncaring, uncharitable; mean, miserly, grasping, greedy, mercenary, acquisitive, opportunistic; looking after number one: "He is just selfish by nature."

Scripture uses the term "self" in a very straightforward way, i.e., the entire person, and most often as reflexive pronouns such as "himself" and "themselves." So the "secret" of the biblical use of the term is not in its definition but in what the Word of God says about self and what it instructs us to do with it, which is in direct opposition to what the so-called wisdom of the world advocates.

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JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, THOU SHALT LOVE THE LORD THY GOD WITH ALL THY HEART, AND WITH ALL THY SOUL, AND WITH ALL THY MIND. THIS IS THE FIRST AND GREAT COMMANDMENT. AND THE SECOND IS LIKE UNTO IT, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF.

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— Matthew 22:37-40

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According to our world, which has been heavily influenced by humanistic psychology (the contemporary breeding ground of all the selfist teachings), "self"—meaning the entirety of a human being—is *innately good*. Flaws or dysfunctions within a person's life stem from sources of influences external to the person himself, e.g., his parents, or his physical, social, and educational environment, and so forth. The belief in inherent goodness is involved in all psychological counseling—and not as an option; it is foundational. The reason is obvious. If a person is not inherently good but has a fundamental defect in his nature that affects to some degree every aspect of his life, there is nothing a psychotherapist can do to alter the defect and its ultimate consequences. It's like the proverbial attempt to change a leopard's spots. One could dye the leopard's skin or cover it in some fashion, but such superficial acts would do nothing to truly change the spots. The leopard's genetics won't allow it.

But if self is indeed innately good, then it's simply a matter of a psychological counselor getting a client to recognize the goodness of his "self" and to psychotherapeutically remove all the things that are preventing the

success of that belief. There are more than 500 different psychotherapies that have been conjured up to do just that. But many of them conflict with one another, and none of them proves or even makes a plausible case for man's inherent goodness. Consequently, all of the methodologies only address a client's problems as symptomatic issues, because they can do nothing to change the nature of humanity. However, what is impossible for man is possible with God!

The Bible declares unequivocally that the heart of man is *not good*:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?; For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man. (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23)

Scripture tells us that "men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19) and that "all have sinned..." (Romans 3:23). These verses, and many more, describe the fallen nature of humanity, and there is nothing that anyone can do to change it or improve it.

Only God can change self and make it better, but He doesn't do it by man's way. That's the "secret" of biblical self-improvement, which is only secret in the sense that Christianity has lost sight of what the Scriptures clearly teach and what the church has practiced since the time of the apostles. That blindness began in earnest in the middle of the last century as psychological counseling made deep inroads to Christendom. By the 1970s some of the most influential names in the evangelical media were Christian psychologists, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists such as James Dobson, Frank Minirth, Paul Meier, Gary Collins, John Trent, and Gary Smalley, to name but a few. Books promoting "self" flooded the Christian marketplace, including *Hide or Seek: How to Build Self-esteem in Your Child* by psychologist Dr. James Dobson and *Self-esteem: the New Reformation* by Robert Schuller, whose book was sent out *gratis* to 250,000 evangelical pastors. Self-love and self-esteem became new doctrines that were taught by most of the popular evangelical pastors of the day.

What too few Christians realize is that the rise of the unbiblical teachings of self-love

within the church in our day is a matter of prophecy being fulfilled. In 2 Timothy 3, the Apostle Paul warns Timothy about a “perilous” time when self-love will be foundational to sins that will wreak havoc among believers: “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves...” (vv. 1-2). Some might wonder why that is prophetic, when mankind has had a self-serving bias going clear back to the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Looking out for “number one,” Adam blamed the woman whom God had given him, and Eve blamed the serpent (i.e., Satan), who seduced her into disobeying God.

Self-love has created problems for humanity throughout the centuries, but it wasn’t until the last 100 years or so that the selfisms were promoted as the basic solutions to nearly all of mankind’s ills, especially our mental, emotional, and behavioral problems. Much of that began with the “looking within” and the self-analysis practiced by Freud and Jung, but ironically—and more specifically—it involved a chiding by anti-Christian Friedrich Nietzsche that Christians didn’t love themselves enough. That was picked up and promoted by psychologist and humanistic philosopher Eric Fromm, as Dave Hunt noted:

Fromm, an atheist, popularized the idea of self-love. He got it from Nietzsche. One of Fromm’s books was *Ye Shall Be as Gods*. He took the lie of the Serpent for its title. In his book, *Man for Himself*, he justified the idea that we all hate ourselves and need to learn to love ourselves by saying that Jesus taught it when He said, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (TBC, Q&A, 9/1986)

That distortion of the Scriptures was then accepted by increasing numbers of evangelical preachers and teachers who should have known better. First of all, it’s a simple error in math. The proponents of self-love have made loving one’s neighbor as oneself into a third commandment, whereas Matthew 22:37-40 declares:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

It’s *two* commandments, not three. Furthermore, as Dave points out, “...if we were deficient in self-love, Jesus wouldn’t have said to love your neighbor as you love yourself, because he said it to everybody and not to a certain class or category of people. So it’s a given—we must *already*

love ourselves. And he couldn’t say ‘do unto others as you would have them do unto you’ (Matthew 7:12) if we all innately hated ourselves and wanted to do ourselves harm.” That error is further contradicted by Ephesians 5:29: “For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church.”

Loving self before loving God and others is mankind’s natural bias, whether he or she is a committed Christian or not, and the consequence of that is associated with nearly all of the difficulties we experience in life. Paul’s words to Timothy give a litany of the after effects of loving self:

...covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:2-7)

So that’s the bad news. What, then, of the good news of how God can change our nature and improve self? It can happen only by turning to Him for the salvation that He alone has provided for all of mankind. That involves being reconciled to Him by admitting our sinfulness and accepting Christ’s full payment for our sins by faith alone. Nothing more is required to receive the gift of eternal life, other than trusting in Jesus for saving us from the infinite penalty that our sin deserves. That’s the gospel, and it’s the only way that humanity can be saved.

Once a person puts his trust in Jesus for salvation, he becomes a new creature: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). He has been purged from his old sins and is no longer under the bondage of sin (2 Peter 1:9; John 8:31-32). As a believer in Christ, he has been born again spiritually, is in communion with God, and is fully able to love and obey Him. This was impossible prior to becoming a new creature in Christ. He is a “new man,” a new *self* (Ephesians 4:24), someone who can now live his life according to God’s instructions in His Word.

The first instruction for a blessed and fruitful life is, however, that just as he could not save himself, neither can he do the things that will improve his life *by himself*. Biblical self-improvement is nothing like the world’s “self-improvement”; in fact, it’s the opposite. Although a believer’s new life in Christ

has set him free from the bondage of sin, he still retains his old nature with its self-serving bias. That is a major battleground for every believer in Christ. Yet for all who have committed their lives to the Lord, He has provided through His Word and the enablement of the Holy Spirit all that they need to win the battle over their flesh and to do the things that please God. Contrary to the world’s loving, esteeming, glorifying, even deifying self, Scripture tells us to deny self—to submit oneself completely to God and the instructions of His Word:

And he [Jesus] said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. (Luke 9:23)

Denying self is not the same as denying one’s existence. For the believer, it’s the recognition that although “self,” which was formerly in rebellion against God, continues to have autonomy (the capacity to make moral decisions for good or evil), it has now been enabled to choose and to live in righteousness in one’s desire to please the Lord.

Scripture abounds with verses exhorting us to put the Lord and others before ourselves. “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Romans 12:10); “Let no man seek his own, but every man another’s [well-being]” (1 Corinthians 10:24); “Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself” (Romans 15:2-3). Furthermore, the Word of God gives us instructions on how we can do those very things, in essence “biblically improving self.” Ironically, it involves a dying process.

We are to die to self—that is, to our autonomous will (also known as self-will)—not only by turning it over to the Lord and submitting to Him, but also by allowing Him to live His life *through* us:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

The issue of self is one of the most confused and distorted doctrines among Christians today, including those who profess that the Bible is their authority in all matters of faith and practice. That’s the primary reason why the troubles of non-Christians differ little statistically from those who profess to be Christians. The hope for this series is that we might clarify what the Bible says about self and how we can biblically improve it. There is no doubt that such an understanding and a carrying out of what the Scriptures teach will transform us and improve every aspect of our lives in Christ. **TBC**



## Quotable .....

Faith means implicit confidence in Jesus, and that requires not intellect only but a moral giving over of myself to Him. . . . It is this point of moral surrender that nearly every man “shies off.” We sentimentally believe, and believe, and believe, and nothing happens. We pray “Lord, increase our faith,” and we try to pump up the faith, but it does not come. What is wrong? The moral surrender has not taken place. Will I surrender from the real centre of my life, and deliberately and willfully stake my confidence on what Jesus Christ tells me?

—Oswald Chambers

## Q&A .....

**QUESTION: I’m confused. Where will the church (Grace-Age believers) spend eternity—Heaven or Earth? I’ve heard both.**

**RESPONSE:** Regarding the destination of church-age believers, the Apostle Paul stated emphatically that he was “willing to be... absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2 Corinthians 5:8). Paul’s declaration is given further weight when he declares that he had a desire to “depart and be with Jesus, which is far better” (Philippians 1:23).

The Lord Jesus said to the thief on the cross, “Verily I say unto thee, today thou shalt be with me in paradise.” This tells us that on that very day the Lord took the thief to “paradise” in accordance with His clear promise.

Ephesians 4:8 tells us: “When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.” When Jesus ascended into heaven, He took all the righteous dead with Him. That’s where they currently are dwelling, awaiting the Rapture when believers now alive will join them.

Regarding that subject, we have the promise that “Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1 Thes 4:17).

In the Millennium, the book of Revelation tells us that we will be “priests of God and of Christ” and we will “reign with him for a thousand years” (Rv 20:6).

At the end of the Millennium, there will be a final rebellion (Rv 20:7-10), followed by the “Great White Throne Judgment” (Rv 20:11-15). Following this, in Revelation 21:1 we are told, “I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”

The new heavens and the new earth will be a place “wherein dwelleth righteousness” (2 Pt 3:13). Since the new heavens *and* new

earth are designed to be a place of dwelling for the righteous, Scripture doesn’t seem to hold any limitations as to whether the righteous are restricted to either heaven or earth. Nevertheless, we shall always be with the Lord, and the Lord is omnipresent.

Beyond these few details, we are given glimpses. Heaven is a place of joy where the Lord God will wipe away all tears from off all faces (Is 25:8). Psalm 16:11: “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.” Revelation 21:4: “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Revelation 7:16: “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.”

In short, the details of our eternity with Christ will be completely different from anything we’ve experienced in our lives and unimaginably better, regardless of where our resurrected bodies are found.

**QUESTION: (Referring to Matthew 27:51-53): “And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city; and appeared unto many.” In his study Bible, Dr. Henry Morris writes: “The saints whose bodies were raised could only have been the men and women who had died in faith before the first coming of Christ. Until Christ set them free, their souls had been resting in that division of Hades called ‘Abraham’s bosom’ (Lk 16:22). However, when ‘he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive’ after He had ‘descended first into the lower parts of the earth’ (Eph 4:8-9). The Old Testament saints could only receive their glorified resurrection bodies after Christ had been raised, for Christ must ‘become the firstfruits of them that slept’ (1 Cor 15:20). This is apparently the only specific reference to the resurrection of these pre-Christian-era believers, yet no other interpretation seems plausible. Evidently their new bodies were seen by people on the earth during the brief period between Christ’s resurrection and His initial ascent to heaven (John 20:17).” Do you agree with this point of view?**

**RESPONSE:** We appreciate what Morris is saying. Scripture gives us the illustrations of Enoch and Elijah, who were taken *bodily* into heaven. They must have received bodies that would be able to exist in the presence of God.

It’s interesting that the resurrection of Christ and this limited number of saints (Mt 27:51-53) appears to be analogous to the Feast of First Fruits. In the Law, when a farmer harvested his field, he grabbed a sheaf of stalks, cut it off, and offered it to the Lord for a wave offering. Now, we know that Christ is “risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Cor 15:20). “Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye be come into the land ...and shall reap the harvest thereof, then ye shall bring a sheaf of the firstfruits of your harvest unto the priest: And he shall wave the sheaf before the LORD...on the morrow after the sabbath the priest shall wave it” (Lv 23:10-11).

Isn’t it interesting that “on the morrow after the Sabbath” (Sunday), this offering was made? What a parallel to the resurrection of the Lord! Men have long pondered why this group of saints in Matthew 27 was raised from the dead and seen by many, indicating that they must have had bodies of some sort. What is not mentioned is whether they went on living, only to die again, or whether they were taken up to be with the Lord. We know that this appearance had to have happened for more than just shock value. We believe that Morris provides excellent insight.

Some may have never considered that in that sheaf of grain, the farmer was holding more than just one stalk. Christ was the “first fruits,” but those saints who resurrected at that time seem to have been included in that sheaf, again, fulfilling the type.

**QUESTION: In Luke we read about the little girl who was “asleep,” as Jesus said. Some say she was dead. But in Luke 8:55 it says “that her spirit returned to her,” signifying that she had been dead. If she was only asleep, as Jesus said, why did her spirit “return” to her? Yet, we *cannot* disbelieve Jesus when He said she was “asleep.”**

**RESPONSE:** “Sleep” in Scripture is often used of those who are “dead” (Dn 12:12; 1 Thes 4:15).

From the perspective of man, she was dead. But to the Lord of life, she was only “asleep,” and He would awaken her.

The disciples “knew” that she was dead and laughed when Jesus said she was “sleeping” (8:52-53). They were limited to what they saw. No breath, she’s dead.

With a superior perspective, the Creator said she was “asleep” and that He would awaken her, even from the “sleep” of death. No one else could do this, for only He calls those “things which be not as though they were” (Rom 4:17). The Bible doesn’t tell us whether her spirit went to paradise, but from wherever it was, the Lord called it back to her body.



# IN DEFENSE *of the* FAITH

BIBLICAL ANSWERS *to* CHALLENGING QUESTIONS

## Do the Dead Sea Scrolls Reflect Badly on the Bible?

**QUESTION:** It is my understanding that the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls was a blow to the Bible. The oldest copies of some Old Testament texts ever found were included in this find and turned out to be far different from the later copies already in our possession. If the copyists had made such errors in those few centuries, how far must the Bible of today be from the original Old Testament manuscripts!

**RESPONSE:** I don't know where you got your information, but it is false. It was anticipated by Bible critics that great differences would be found, but that turned out not to be the case. Consider, for example, the manuscript of Isaiah now housed in its own museum in Jerusalem. The earliest copy we had of Isaiah prior to the Dead Sea discoveries was dated about AD 900, and the one discovered in the Dead Sea collection was dated about 100 BC. So here was an opportunity to see what changes might have occurred through copyists' inadvertent errors over the span of 1,000 years.

A comparison revealed a few spelling variations, some stylistic changes, and a rare word here and there that had either been left out or added but that did not change the meaning of the text. So in 1,000 years of copying, the text had been preserved without any real or significant change. The fact is that the discovery of the Isaiah scroll in the Qumran cave provided hard evidence that we have in our hands today the Old Testament as it was in the original documents.

— *An excerpt from* IN DEFENSE OF THE FAITH (pp. 63-64) *by* DAVE HUNT



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## TBC NewsWatch

### TRAFFICKED CHILDREN RESCUED, REJECTED

**LifeNews.com, 9/12/13, "Trafficked Children Rescued, Rejected by Parents Fearing One-Child Policy Police" [Excerpts]:** Chinese police arrested seven members of a child trafficking ring in Jiangsu province in late August. At the same time, they were able to rescue 10 babies that had been trafficked by the same group. Surprisingly, though, the parents of these babies did not want to take them back.

These children were trafficked from a poor mountainous region in Sichuan province, where average annual incomes are below \$400/year. Traffickers will often pay more than \$4,000 for a healthy child, in order to sell them to wealthier families in the east who either desire to have a son of their own, or want a child-bride for their existing son. In this case, it was discovered that these 10 infants were not kidnapped, as originally assumed, but sold.

Authorities say that not one of the parents came forward to receive their rescued children. Police believe that there are two reasons for this reticence on the part of the parents: (1) the parents fear they will have to surrender the profits they made from selling their child; and (2) the parents are concerned about having to pay fines for having an extra child in violation of the One-Child Policy.

(<http://www.lifenews.com/2013/09/12/trafficked-children-rescued-rejected-by-parents-fearing-one-child-policy-police>)

### WE ARE ACTUALLY ALL MARTIANS

**ReligionNewsService.com, 9/9/13, "Scientist Suggests 'We Are Actually All Martians'" [Excerpts]:** Did life originate on Mars? During a keynote address at the 2013 Goldschmidt Geochemistry Conference in Florence, Italy, Steven Benner postulated that it did. Benner, from The Westheimer Institute for Science and Technology in Gainesville, Florida, works in the field of "applied molecular evolution" where he attempts to reconstruct conditions that may have led to the spontaneous generation of life's biochemicals from inorganic compounds. In his address, he suggested life began on Mars then somehow migrated the more than 30 million miles to Earth.

Benner's presentation abstract listed the following four paradoxes as challenges to the naturalistic origin of life he defends:

1. The "Tar Paradox" shows that adding energy to simple organic molecules—energy required to convert them into molecules of life—always converts them into black goo "better suited for paving roads than supporting Darwinian evolution" (Benner, S.A. 2013. Keynote: Planets, Minerals and Life's Origin. *Mineralogical Magazine*. 77 (5): 686).

2. The "Water Paradox" describes the fact that on the one hand, water facilitates vital chemical reactions inside a cell, but on the other hand, water destroys raw biomolecules. Actual living cells use several tactics to control water's potentially harmful impact on their vital biochemistry.

3. The "Single Biopolymer Paradox" notes that the hypothetical conditions that might build one required type of biopolymer, like DNA, are not the same as those envisioned to build another type, like protein. The problem is that all of life's biopolymers need to form at the same time and place if they are going to move toward becoming the first functioning cell.

4. The "Probability Paradox" explains that RNA molecules tend to accelerate harmful chemical reactions despite their theoretical usefulness in accelerating reactions needed for biological life (Ibid.).

(<http://www.icr.org/article/7698/>)

### euthanasia deaths in netherlands increase

**ReligionToday.com, 9/30/13, "Euthanasia Deaths in Netherlands Increase 13 Percent" [Excerpts]:** Euthanasia deaths in the Netherlands jumped 13 percent last year to constitute about 3 percent of all deaths in the European country, Baptist Press reports. Official statistics released Sept. 23 show 4,188 people died by euthanasia in 2012, an increase of nearly 500 from the previous year, The Daily Mail reported.

It marked the sixth consecutive year for an increase in the Netherlands, which legalized euthanasia in 2002. Last year was the first during which mobile euthanasia units staffed by doctors and nurses started crossing the country to end the lives of people in their homes....Dutch law supposedly limits those eligible for euthanasia to people who are incurable and in unbearable pain, but the actual practice appears far more expansive. Newborns with disabilities and people with chronic depression, mental pain and even macular degeneration have been euthanized, said Alex Schadenberg, executive director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Macular degeneration is an affliction typically in older people that causes a loss of vision

in the center of the eye.

"The Dutch experience shows that euthanasia becomes routine," said Elspeth Chowdharay-Best of anti-euthanasia ALERT. "It traps more and more people into thinking they ought to leave this world prematurely. In that kind of culture euthanasia becomes expected and inevitable and everything else—such as good palliative care and a functional hospice movement—is gradually portrayed as rather selfish." The Netherlands is one of three countries that have legalized euthanasia. The others are Belgium and Luxembourg.

(<http://www.theguardian.com>. <http://www.religiontoday.com/blog/euthanasia-deaths-netherlands-increase-13-percent>)

### INDIA: THE FEMALE HOLOCAUST

**WORLD MAG.COM, 9/10/13, "INDIA: THE FEMALE HOLOCAUST" [Excerpts]:** Preema, a young woman from a rural village in southern India, is the 12th daughter born to her parents. Yet, she has no older sisters. Each time Preema's mother became pregnant and gave birth to a girl, she and her husband killed the newborn—disappointed it hadn't been a boy.

After 12 births, Preema (not her real name), was the only girl they allowed to live....India's 2011 census indicated the scope of the problem: The country has about 37 million more men than women, the result of millions of baby girls being drowned, strangled, or aborted. "We are dealing with a sex selection that has become a genocide," said Sabu George, a member of India's Campaign Against Sex Selection, who testified at the hearing. George said [that] in the past decade alone, Indian parents eliminated 6 million girls before birth: "This is much larger than the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust."

Although both dowries and sex selection are formally illegal in India...some leaders view the culturally ingrained practice as a convenient way to enforce population control.

Matthew Connelly, a history professor at Columbia University, said India's sex selection epidemic was encouraged by the population control movement promoted in the 1960s by U.S. organizations like Planned Parenthood and Population Council.

([http://www.worldmag.com/2013/09/the\\_female\\_holocaust](http://www.worldmag.com/2013/09/the_female_holocaust))



## T. A.'s Speaking Schedule

**Jan 23-25** **Biblical Counseling, Psychology  
& the Church Conference**  
Boise, ID  
(208) 703-8688

## STS 24/7 Broadcast Schedule

**Nov 1 & 8** **Ron Merryman**  
Eschatology

**Nov 15 & 22** **Kurt Goedelman**  
Personal Freedom Outreach

Listen to Search the Scriptures 24/7 at:  
[www.theberean.org/radio](http://www.theberean.org/radio)  
(Schedule is subject to change.)



## Ruth Hunt

MAY 18, 1926 — OCTOBER 24, 2013

*We must share the news that our sweet sister, Ruth Hunt, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Thursday, October 24, 2013. We rejoice that Ruth is no longer in pain, but request prayer for her family and friends who will miss her. At Ruth's request, no public services were held. Please go to our website for an opportunity to share your remembrances of Ruth.*

## Letters .....

### Dear Ruth,

When I moved to Redmond, Oregon, I had the joy of meeting you and Dave. I had known of Dave for years through his books and *The Berean Call*, and had even met him at one of his speaking engagements, but I was very glad to have the opportunity to get to know you both personally. I greatly enjoyed the fellowship I shared with you.

From the time we met, you were warm and friendly. I knew you did a myriad of things to help others in the Body, and was amazed that you took time to welcome me into your heart and life. You are a gracious, faithful, loving woman, and an example of

a godly wife for others to see. Your support for Dave has been evident in many ways. One example was how you drove countless times to pick him up at the airport in the dead of winter, the late evening, or the early morning. Another is how you always stayed by his side through his declining years. Such love in action! Ruth, I admire you and praise God for you. How kind He was to let me be acquainted with you. The few years I lived there were some of the best of my life, and you were a big part of that.

Thank you for your faithfulness to the Lord and to His people. Your letter via *The Berean Call* blessed me—especially the testimony of how the Lord granted your prayer to stay well enough to care for Dave until the Lord took him Home. What a good God we have. I know a great many people will miss you, and so will I. I look forward to our reunion one day! SV (email)

### Dear Ruth,

For your testimony of joy and looking forward to seeing the Lord Jesus Christ and your beloved husband Dave, I do thank you from the bottom of my heart, indeed. As I read it, I was thinking, how would I react finding myself in a similar situation? I just needed your words!

It is so encouraging to follow Jesus Christ and to be faithful as you are in the promises of our Lord Jesus. Thank you so very much! The Lord Jesus be with you until we meet in Heaven if we never meet again in this world. SL (Switzerland)

### Mrs. Hunt,

Just a very quick note to say thank you for your service and support of Dave. Your ministry (I know that in the public it was Dave, but he did not get where he was with out all your support) has been a blessing to me for many years. I am looking forward to meeting you both someday in heaven and thank you in person. Till then my prayers are with you. LA (email)

### Dear Sister Ruth,

On those rare occasions I happened to be with Dave when he spoke on a more personal level, his deep and abiding love for you and for his family was ever so glaringly obvious. I share your sentiment and also "look forward with much joy to our grand reunion in heaven one day soon!" God bless you sister Ruth, and thank you for the testimony that you and Dave have been to so many of us over the years. KT (TX)

*These letters are in response to "A Special Note from Ruth Hunt" that was published in the September 2013 The Berean Call newsletter.*

## TBC Notes

### More Bible Survival Videos Wanted

As many of you know, we have launched the Bible Survival Series. It's still a work in progress, but we are encouraged by the responses. The objective, for those who don't know, is to attract the upcoming generation of believers and motivate them to get into the habit of reading God's Word daily. That's a message for every Christian regardless of age, but it's particularly significant for Christian youth who have little biblical discernment, primarily because their churches have majored on entertainment rather than discipleship. This is critical in view of the apostasy that is increasing exponentially within the church, as the Scriptures foretold.

As of this writing, we have produced 10 videos, all of them of a 5-minute-or-less duration. The criteria for the series is that each video must: 1) Attract an audience particularly of the next generation, 2) Be 5 minutes or less in length, 3) Have some brief biblical content with scriptural references, and, most important 4) Motivate the viewer to get into the written Word of God. Currently the Bible Survival Series is shown on YouTube, the TBC website, and TBC's Facebook page.

Our hope is to set up a YouTube-like website where all videos that meet our criteria can be posted. To that end, we want those who love to make videos and would like to use them in the service of the Lord to send us what they have produced. We'll set up a dropbox and review all submissions. Again, any video we post must satisfy the criteria given above and be consistent with the standards of TBC. As the program develops, we hope to offer a quarterly prize (GoPros, HD Cameras, iMovie software, etc.) for the best submission.

At one of the events where I showed samples of the Bible Survival Series, it was respectfully and gently suggested that the series might be more successful if a younger person were involved. This old dude took that as a challenge, and I'm excited to get as many young people involved as possible. So, I can't wait to see what the upcoming generation can create for their peers.

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# OUR FRIEND

**From the Preface:** A capital piece of advice was given by a man who did a very great deal towards leading people to love and know their Bibles. He said: "When you take your Bibles, you should be always hunting for something!" So I have given you something to hunt for every day. You will see that nearly every time I have quoted a text I only tell the chapter where it is to be found, and leave a little blank space for the verse. Now, not one of you is to consider your copy of the book complete till you have found out all these verses and put them in yourself with a nice fine pen or sharp pencil! So, you see, I have left you to finish the book, and thus given you each "something to do" and something to hunt for, which I hope will be only a beginning of your hunting for a great deal more.

—Frances Ridley Havergal

"This is my Friend." —SONG. V. \_\_\_\_.

Only think of this! Think of the Lord Jesus Himself, whom all the angels of God worship (Heb. i. \_\_\_\_), the King of kings, full of glory and beauty, letting you look up to Him and say, "This is my Friend!" May you really? Yes, really; for Jesus says, "I have called you friends." (John xv. \_\_\_\_.)

It is so nice to have a real friend. Don't you feel as if you would do anything for your particular friend? Don't you look forward to being together and telling each other everything? Does it not make it a delightful day if your friend is coming? But "what a Friend we have in Jesus!" A much more real friend than any one else! He thinks a great deal more about you, than the very dearest friend you ever had. He does not come just now and then, and leave you alone between whiles; but He is like a friend that always stays with us, so that any minute we may talk to Him and be happy with Him. Never any "good bye" in this wonderful friendship! (Heb. xiii. \_\_\_\_.)

He is such a patient Friend. How very often we grieve Him, and do or say something that we know He would not like, and forget that He is there all the time! (Matt. xxviii. \_\_\_\_.) And still He is our Friend, and forgives us, and goes on loving us.

He is such a kind Friend. Has He not been kind to you, now? Just think what you would do if He had not given you all the little mercies as well as the great ones around you! (Isa. lxiii. \_\_\_\_.) See how He thinks of everything for you, so that they are new every morning. (Lam. iii. \_\_\_\_.)

He is such a wise Friend. He never makes a mistake in anything He sends you or bids you do; even if you do not see at all why He lets something come that you do not like, you may be quite sure He is quite right.

He must be the most loving Friend, because He died for you. He says, "greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John xv. \_\_\_\_.) That is what He did for you. Can you see it? Look at your Saviour crucified upon the cross, crowned with the sharp thorns, bleeding and suffering unto death for you. Is it not wonderful that you may say, "This is my Friend"?

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*An excerpt from Morning Stars – Names of Christ for His Little Ones, a children's devotional written by Frances Ridley Havergal and published following her death in 1879. Solid Ground Christian Books has recently published a facsimile of the 1881 edition. For more information, please see p. 29.*

# SANCTUARY OF THE CHOSEN: A NOVEL

DAVE HUNT'S SECOND FICTIONAL BESTSELLER — EXCERPT FROM CHAPTER ONE

*Set during the height of the Cold War, Dave Hunt's second novel focuses on the secret world of global warfare—not only between East and West, but for the ultimate control of planet Earth. Readers will be captivated by this heart-racing, history-based drama which masterfully weaves the perils of international politics with Bible prophecy and spine-chilling manifestations of our spiritual battle. This captivating novel brings the shadowy world of undercover espionage, political intrigue, and demonic deception into razor-sharp focus—in a fascinating plot that could just as easily have been written today concerning present relations between Washington, D.C., Moscow, Europe, Israel, and the Middle East.*

## CHAPTER 1: BETRAYED

>LEIPZIG, EAST GERMANY

>late April, 1964

FROM THE DEPTHS of Ari's hypnotic slumber, the harsh ringing of the phone sounded, distant and muffled. Still it continued, with unrelenting insistence, growing nearer and louder. The dissonant, repetitive jangling seemed at first to be a part of the strangely familiar nightmare. As always, he was being pursued. Spectral figures, armed men in dark suits—one of whom he instinctively recognized but could never identify—leaped incessantly into the path of his flight from the shadowy recesses of his brain until at last he was surrounded, with nowhere to turn.

From somewhere, an alarm began clanging. As it continued and grew louder, the specters multiplied to become a demonlike horde, with hideous, menacing expressions and powerful arms reaching out to seize him. There was the disturbing certainty that he'd been through all of this before—a certainty that made the experience as much one of bewilderment as of terror. Why must he relive it again and again? The answer to that haunting question always eluded him.

Now, in horrifying slow motion, like a panic-stricken diver with lungs bursting, straining to reach the surface, Ari fought his way back to a groggy semiconsciousness. The phone. . . ! At last, the realization broke through that the jarring noise was coming from a familiar source. Groping for the instrument beside his bed, he knocked it to the floor, groped again, then finally got a grip on the receiver. Tonight, of all nights, when he needed sleep so desperately!

"Hello. . . ?"

"I must speak to Fritz."

"Fritz. . . ?"

"I'm calling from Berlin for Fritz! It's urgent!"

"There's no Fritz here. What number. . . ?"

There was an abrupt click and the line went dead. Ari slammed the receiver down in disgust and turned on a light to glance at his wristwatch: 10:04. Two hours of sleep . . . so far. Somehow he must make up for the almost total lack of rest during the past forty-eight hours. There couldn't be any more interruptions. He reached over to take the receiver off—then froze.

"Fritz?" The name triggered an instinctive reaction that propelled him out of bed. For a brief moment, he stood uncertainly. His stance bespoke the instant and cat-like wariness of the hunter—or the hunted. Trying to collect his thoughts, Ari ran his fingers through the thick, unruly black hair that hung disheveled over the wide expanse of his forehead. The tightness here and there in his pajamas betrayed the broad shoulders, thick chest, and powerful thighs on a 5-foot 10-inch frame that gave him more the appearance of an NFL half-back than of a German intellectual.

"For Fritz . . . from Berlin!" he muttered aloud, his memory suddenly jolted. No, it couldn't be . . . but it *had* to be. No wonder the voice had sounded tense. It wasn't a wrong number! How long ago had they planned this warning—hoping never to use it? Two years?

In rapid procession, the vivid pictures flashed before him: a peaceful, almost too orderly student protest at Leipzig's university that had spilled out into the city streets. Jubilant that they had at last found the courage to *do* something, the marchers, nearly five hundred strong and their ranks gradually swelling, were shouting loudly in unison, "Truth and honesty—free elections . . . truth and honesty—free elections. . . !" How naïve they'd been!

He'd been right in the front, one of the half-dozen determined organizers, an eighteen-year-old idealist who had become the sworn enemy of the Marxism he'd been raised on and had once believed in. Handpicked by the East German regime at the age of ten, Ari had been taken from his tiny village school and transported each day with a dozen other exceptionally bright students to a special science academy in the nearby town of Wittenberg, where he had spent seven years prior to entering university. That was how he'd seen with his own eyes and tasted the delicacies of the luxurious lifestyle of Party leaders—and where his disillusionment had begun.

At first, overwhelmed by the great honor and flattered by the heady promises that made him so *special*, Ari had succumbed to the seductive elitism that the program bred. Eventually, however, he had come to see—and to despise—the detestable favoritism that spawned the shameful corruption he experienced everywhere at the upper levels in the East German regime. It did not take him long to realize that such corruption was the inevitable result of totalitarian Marxism.

Nor did it take long for Ari to realize that one could fall from the regime's good graces very abruptly and for the most mysterious reasons. The East German Ministry for State Security had its informants everywhere. The secret tentacles of the Stasi reached even into the school classrooms and the home itself, where students and family members spied upon one another. Survival depended upon never saying anything the least bit derogatory about the government—and being careful not to praise it too highly as well—even to friends and family. The despicable system deliberately destroyed normal trust and made close and confidential relationships priceless—and rare.

With the passing years, Ari's hatred for all things Marxist had become a passion. The protest at Leipzig University had been the culmination of a frustration and anger that had boiled within until it had to find release. He'd known it would cost him everything. He'd reached the breaking point, however, where he was willing to pay that price. It had been his moment of madness.

Now, in that brief moment of indecision, standing beside the bed, he saw it all again—the horror he had relived countless times. Suddenly, the police! Hundreds of them, charging head-on, hit the front of that peaceful march like vultures attacking and tearing dead meat apart. Cold, derisive faces leered from behind heavy, full-face Plexiglas visors. Long clubs were swinging, splitting heads with a sharp, cracking sound that was still sickening to remember. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw it coming and ducked—a reflex action from his years of training and competition in the martial arts. He grabbed the baton and jammed it into the startled officer's midsection. With a grunt of satisfaction he saw the man's eyes bulge and glaze over as he dropped to the pavement.

Something had snapped inside of him at the terrible sight of



police beating unarmed students and the sudden, swelling sound of screams of terror and pain. Baton now in hand, he had whirled to do battle with two policemen rushing upon him, when suddenly something totally unexpected occurred—something he could not explain. Someone with unusual strength, whom he hadn't seen, had grabbed his arm in a viselike grip and irresistibly propelled him through the blur of bloodied heads, flailing arms, and falling bodies. There the memory went blank, beginning again as he found himself running alone down a side street, the burning odor of tear gas and the horrible sounds of mayhem fading behind him.

In the ensuing days and weeks, a reign of terror settled upon the university. Even students with no tangible connection to the uprising disappeared, swallowed up by an evil system that had to make certain that such a demonstration never happened again. Ari waited apprehensively for the inevitable arrest. It didn't come. Had someone of influence, strategically placed, been protecting him? That seemed the only rational explanation. But who? And why? He finally decided that he'd been chosen by fate to carry on this fight against corruption. That was when he had sworn, with all the idealism and belligerence of youth, that he would never rest until East Germany's Marxist regime had been destroyed—or it had destroyed him.

From that time on, there was no turning back. Their country was called the German Democratic Republic, but the people had no voice. *One day they would!* That determination became his driving passion—to lead an uprising of students that would succeed in overthrowing the hated regime. This time they would lay a careful foundation and make no move until they were strong enough to prevail.

At nineteen years of age, with four trusted friends assisting him, Ari had secretly begun to build an organization that eventually stretched across East Germany. Working cautiously, they had uncovered an astonishing number of closet dissidents impatient to vent their simmering rage. Here was an eager revolutionary army that only needed competent and inspiring leadership for its explosive energies to be molded into a cohesive and irresistible force.

Ari had carefully structured the organization so that no one except himself knew more than a small fraction of the picture. Tight controls prevailed at every level. There would be no false start, no move, until the moment was ripe. The next time they marched, there would be hundreds of thousands in the streets. Their oppressors would be overwhelmed with sheer numbers. So he had thought.

After two years of meticulous planning, a nationwide student demonstration tied to a massive workers' strike had been set for the following week. The intensified preparation had left little time for sleep. Ari had been working feverishly day and night. And now this shattering phone call on the very eve of success! The coded warning they'd agreed upon included several levels of alarm. The key word, *Fritz*, signaled the worst possible scenario—that they had been infiltrated and betrayed. No questions. No explanations. Underground—everyone—on the instant.

Ari's mind was racing now. *The Stasi is on to us! Arrest—torture! Get out of here! Don't panic—think, man, think!*

Turning off the light, Ari groped his way to the window. Cautiously drawing the faded drape aside just enough to peer out, he searched the dimly lit street six floors below. It was deserted. He would have to work in semidarkness. The dreaded Stasi could arrive at any moment. They must not suspect that he knew they were after him. *Make it look like I left earlier—not like I fled in panic. That might buy some time . . . confuse . . . throw them off the scent.*

He threw the drapes open wide to let in the muted light that came more from the full moon than from the street below. In the half-darkness, he dressed quickly, then, with trembling fingers, gathered the incriminating papers he had been working on and stuffed them back into his briefcase. *It's got to look tidy . . . no sign of haste.* Quickly making the bed, he remembered the Luger on the night stand next to

the phone and tucked it into his belt. He would not go like a lamb to the slaughter.

Closing the textbooks on his desk, Ari stacked them neatly, and the school papers beside them. *I wasn't ready for that exam anyway.* The thought brought a momentary smile, then an overwhelming sadness followed by anger. *Another month and I would have graduated . . . with highest honors.* It was an irony he couldn't ignore, though he was not one to boast of his talents.

The reasons for his modesty went beyond common sense and good taste. He had tried to keep a low profile in spite of his outstanding academic record. Pretending a profound loyalty to the Communist Party, he had professed little ambition beyond one day becoming a subservient physicist who posed no threat to Party leaders and policies. Now they knew the truth. *We were so close!* He couldn't stay here, hoping for the same luck he'd had last time. If they didn't already know that he was directing the conspiracy, they'd soon have enough information to make that deduction. No one could stand up to their torture.

The phone rang again. He turned toward it, then stopped and shook his head. If he answered it and *they* were monitoring his line, they'd know he was here. He could only hope they hadn't caught the brief call that had awakened him. What if it were Hans, or Wolfgang, or Karl . . . wondering if he'd heard, wanting to discuss their escape? No, they knew better than that. It was every man for himself, scattering and hiding as best they could, with absolutely no contact between them. But suppose it was Berlin telling him there had been a mistake, that it was a false alarm? He wouldn't believe them. Not now.

Whoever was calling seemed certain that he was there. The persuasive ringing continued. Ari reached out his hand.

No! He dare not lift the receiver. But what if . . . ? There were a thousand possibilities. It was more than curiosity that gripped him. The call was obviously urgent. It could be the difference between life and death . . . for him or someone else. No, it wasn't *obviously* anything.

Forcing himself with great effort to turn away, Ari went quickly back to the worn briefcase resting on the floor beside the small desk. With its precious burden that he carried everywhere, it had become a part of him. Now he hurriedly stuffed into it an extra shirt, a pair of socks, sweater, change of underwear . . . and a box of ammo for the Luger. Silence—except for the pounding of his heart. The phone had stopped ringing and he hadn't noticed when.

Getting into a warm jacket, he stumbled back to the window and peered out once again. Two cars were just rounding the corner to his left. In frozen fascination, he watched as they pulled over to the curb six floors below and a half-dozen men in plain clothes hurried into the building. *The Stasi! I'm cut off from the stairs and elevator!*

In desperation, he used up precious seconds for the last task. Feeling around inside the small closet, he lined up the two pairs of shoes he was leaving behind and pulled the suitcase and tennis racket out from under the clothes into plainer view, then hastily hung the crumpled shirts and pants that had been thrown over a chair. *Make it look like I've just gone for a day or two, like I'll be back any moment . . . so maybe they won't be scouring the country for me.*

He seemed to be detached from reality, observing himself almost clinically from a distance. Clutching the briefcase, a soft, billed cap on his head, he was in the bathroom now and couldn't remember how he'd gotten there. Through the surrealistic fog that seemed to envelop him, he heard the phone start up again—then loud pounding on the main door to the hallway, and the dread command, *“Polizei! Öffnen Sie die Tür!”*

Sweat oozed from under his cap. With a herculean act of the will Ari went through the motions that, thankfully, he had forced himself to rehearse several times, “just in case.” . . .

*[Now back in print with larger type and a new cover! See page 2]*

# A RISING TIDE OF JEW HATRED TODAY

Excerpted from *Judgment Day! Israel, Islam, and the Nations* — by Dave Hunt

Anti-Semitism did not end with the defeat of Nazi Germany and the death of Hitler. In fulfillment of biblical prophecies, not only in Muslim countries but worldwide, it is again on the rise, causing a heightened level of alert in Jewish communities. A brief search of the internet reveals scores of examples. There is an alarming increase in the widespread desecration of Jewish cemeteries. Violence against Jews and Jewish property is rising. In Istanbul, Turkey, in the middle of the fast of Ramadan (a time of “peace” for Arab tribes prior to Islam) car bombs devastated two synagogues, killing or wounding dozens. In Morocco, in May 2004, terrorists hit a Jewish community center and hotel, leaving a trail of death. Other incidents are too numerous to mention.

In polls across the EU, most Europeans continue to rate Israel as “the greatest obstacle to peace” in the world, ahead of the United States, which places second. The EU has repeatedly condemned Israel for using force against Palestinian terrorists who attack her, killing and maiming thousands of innocent women and children. Yet they never condemn the terrorists and have been supporting the Palestinians at the rate of five hundred thousand Euros a month, much of which has been used to fund terrorism against Israel. Apparently, Israel is expected to fight terrorism nonviolently. Like we are doing in Afghanistan and Iraq?

The Jewish synagogue in Vienna, Austria, has suffered attacks in the past. As others throughout Europe, it must be guarded by heavily armed police twenty-four hours a day. Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, recently wrote: “I am convinced that we currently face as great a threat to the safety and security of the Jewish people as the one we faced in the 1930s—if not a greater one.” Violent acts against Jews have risen to an alarming level in France, which has a Jewish population of about six hundred thousand, surrounded by six million Muslims worshipping in fifteen hundred mosques. As a result, record numbers of Jews are leaving France for Israel.

The rising tide of anti-Semitism in Germany brought more than four thousand Christians from all over that country to stage a protest demonstration in front of the Reichstag in Berlin in August 2002. A poll by Germany’s University of Bielefeld early in December 2004 revealed that 51 percent of Germans believe that Israel’s present-day treatment of the Palestinians is similar to what the Nazis did to the Jews during World War II. The survey also found that 68 percent of Germans believe that Israel is waging a “war of extermination” against the Palestinians. How could they get it exactly backwards? Anti-Semitism, prophesied in the Bible, blinds to the truth.

Even in Israel, anti-Semitism is on the rise. According to the Information Center for Victims of Anti-Semitism in Israel, there have been some five hundred such incidents in Israel during the past three years. “The Russian-language newspapers in Israel print a story on an anti-Semitic incident every week, and at every police station in the country at least one anti-Semitic case is registered,” says Zalman Gilichinsky, director of the information center.

Harvard University’s president, Lawrence H. Summers, recently condemned what he termed “growing anti-Semitism” at Harvard and elsewhere. “Nearly 600 professors, students, staff members, and alumni from Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, signed a petition urging Harvard and M.I.T. to divest from Israel. Similar efforts have been mounted at about 40 other universities.”

The Presbyterian Church USA (it had a “Palestinian” president in 2002) is leading a campaign to pressure Caterpillar, Motorola, ITT Industries, and United Technologies to cease sales of military equipment and supplies to Israel under the threat of churches divesting themselves of their stock. A similar campaign of divestiture was successfully waged by American churches during the 1980s to pressure South Africa to end apartheid.

## *The Reason for Anti-Semitism*

According to the Bible, there are two reasons for this universal hatred of Jews and Israel. First of all, the Jews, as God’s chosen people, are under His judgment for their rebellion against Him and the rejection of their Messiah. Secondly, anti-Semitism is inspired of Satan—a being whose existence many “educated” people deny. The reason is obvious. It was foretold that the Savior of the world, who would rescue mankind from Satan’s control, would be a Jew. Satan’s only hope to escape eternal doom, therefore, was to destroy those whom God chose “to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.” Had Satan been able to destroy the Jews before the birth of the Messiah, he would have prevented his own defeat. For promising a Messiah who never came, God would have proved Himself a liar....

The Bible declares that the Messiah came and defeated Satan by “tast[ing] death for every man” and bearing “our sins in his own body on the tree.”

But that fact did not end the battle between God and His arch-enemy for the hearts, minds, and eternal destiny of mankind. That battle continues to rage—and Israel is at its center. The Bible contains hundreds of prophecies that, although God would severely punish Israel for her sins, He would preserve a remnant and bring the scattered Jews back into their own land. This prophecy, too, is undeniably in the process of being fulfilled in our day.

Satan could still escape his eternal doom if he could wipe out Israel. That fact provides the only rational explanation for Muslims’ irrational obsession with destroying that tiny nation. It also stands as evidence that Satan is a reality, not a myth.

## *Establishment of the State of Israel*

Nothing aroused Satan’s desperate fury and the wrath of Islam as did the birth of the nation of Israel. It must be annihilated. And to this end, the driving force is not a few “extremists” but Islam itself. Islam promises Muslims victory against the Jews as well as against the entire world. Instead, they taste only humiliation in every attack they launch. Israel, on the other hand, in spite of being under God’s judgment, enjoys His protection in many ways, as we have already seen: “In that day will I make the governors of Judah like... a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about.”

The wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973 have borne eloquent testimony to the truth of Scripture: “If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say; If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us... Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth... Our help is in the name of the LORD who made heaven and earth.”

The Arabs’ repeated defeat at the hands of Israel is both embarrassing and maddening for them. The Imams blame this shame



upon the departure from true Islam by the masses of Muslims. They are whipping up a worldwide revival of fundamentalist Islam as the way to regain Allah's blessing and thereby defeat Israel.

As long as Israel retains autonomy over one square yard of land, it is an affront to Islam and declares to the world that Islam is a false religion, Allah a false god, Muhammad a false prophet, and the Qur'an a false revelation. This is the issue—and all the talk of "peace," without recognizing and changing this teaching of Islam, is both a fool's dream and a fraud.

It has well been said, if Arabs/Muslims put down their weapons today, that would be the end of Arab-Israeli wars. If Israel put down her weapons, that would be the end of Israel. These are simple facts that no one can deny—and are worth thinking about very seriously.

### *Another Amazing Prophecy*

Balaam is one of the most enigmatic figures in the Bible. He was at one time in touch with God and made some genuine prophecies as recorded in Scripture, yet he later turned away from God and is in hell now. For example, he foretold the star in the East that the wise men saw and followed to find Christ at His birth. One of Balaam's prophecies recorded in the Bible that has been and is still being fulfilled in our day is most unusual. He declared that Israel would "not be reckoned among the nations."

This remarkable utterance does not stand alone. God has stated it many times and in other ways. For example, "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"; "I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people...I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine." Except for the holiness it was to manifest, this is precisely the situation in which Israel finds herself today. Israel has been a member of the United Nations for more than fifty years. Yet she is not allowed to take her two-year turn as one of the ten rotating nations (joining the five permanent ones) on the UN Security Council. Of the 191 current UN members, 190, including the worst terrorist nations, are allowed to take their turns on the Security Council—but not Israel.

Nor is Israel, as already noted, allowed to take a rotating term on the fifty-three-member UN Commission on Human Rights (UNHRC). All of the other one hundred ninety UN member nations are allowed to do so. These have included Libya, Cuba, Zimbabwe, and other egregious violators of human rights. Incredibly, Sudan, where more than two million blacks in the south have been slaughtered by Muslims, has been voted in for a third consecutive term. But Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is excluded, as the Bible foretold.

This "watchdog" commission (UNHRC) has never found anything questionable or to be criticized in the deplorable human rights record of some of the worst violators such as Libya, Saudi Arabia, or Syria. Yet Israel is continually condemned by the UNHRC—more than one hundred times in the past two years. Far from denouncing suicide bombers, it upholds "Palestinian rights" to take any kind of retaliatory action against Israeli "aggression."

Nor is Israel allowed to be a member of the International Red Cross. The Red Crescent, representing Muslim countries, among which are many terrorist nations, is part of this international humanitarian organization. But Israel, which signed the 1949 Geneva Conventions (many of the members of the Red Crescent did not), is barred from the International Red Cross.

As we have noted, whether the rest of the world likes it or not, the Jews are God's chosen people. That fact carries not only

blessings and privileges but also responsibilities—and penalties for disobedience. Israel has experienced both God's blessing and judgment in the past. Both testify to the integrity of God and His Word. Israel remains in His hands and under His protection today, even while she is at the same time experiencing His discipline. God must fulfill His Word concerning judgment—as well as the prophesied full restoration and eternal blessing—for the remnant that survives Armageddon. Woe to those who oppose God's promises to Israel....

### *More Anti-Semitism Among Christians*

Another idea gaining popularity among Christians today is the false teaching that the church has replaced Israel. This Roman Catholic doctrine, which is a form of anti-Semitism, is also promoted by evangelicals. It declares that Israel has been cut off because of her sins, and the prophecies concerning her restoration are no longer valid. If that were so, then the "everlasting covenant" promised to Israel eleven times in the Old Testament and the everlasting possession of the land promised twice were not everlasting at all, and God has lied. Again, Satan has won, and this world belongs to him.

There are scores of promises that God would in the end restore Israel fully to her land. Yet Christian leaders deny these promises by saying that Israel is finished: "...physical Jews...are in slavery and *will not be heirs of God's promise* because *they are not the children of promise* [author's emphasis]." Another author writes, "The idea that corporate national Israel is still God's chosen people is prevalent in the minds of many today. But...the Word of God shows that...Israel broke the Old Covenant and thereby forfeited any rights to it." This claim, if true, would clearly make God a liar. We will deal with this more fully in Chapter Eleven, proving that it is false.

World Vision is the largest and one of the oldest (founded in 1950) independent "evangelical" charitable organizations in the world, with annual income exceeding \$1.2 billion. It claims to use its resources for "emergency relief, education, health care, economic development and promotion of justice." Of the millions of dollars it allocates to the Middle East, nothing goes to Israelis—everything goes to "Palestinians." All of the wars Arabs have started from 1948 to the present and all of the Muslim terrorism is blamed upon Israel. World Vision calls security measures that Israel takes to protect its citizens from Muslim attacks "collective punishment" against Palestinians. Terrorists are the "victims," not those they murder in cold blood.

The anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian bias exhibited by Christian organizations is staggering not only in its wickedness but also in the misinformation it persuades supporters to believe. Christian Aid Mission promotes some of the worst anti-Israel propaganda: the Holocaust killed 600,000, not 6 million; it is not the Arabs who are terrorists, but the Jews; "Ashkenazi Zionists" are not Jews but Khazars, who, "through acts of terrorism...have killed, driven out or displaced over 2 million of the original residents of Palestine." The fact that such claims are false will be fully documented herein.

Why did God choose Israel? He had to choose a people through whom the Messiah would come into the world as a man to pay the penalty for our sins. Abraham, like Noah, "found grace" in God's eyes. He is called "the Friend of God." Abraham was promised a land as an "everlasting possession" for his heirs. The present conflict in the Middle East is a dispute over who those heirs are today. We will turn to that issue next....

[See page 16 for a special offer on Judgment Day!]

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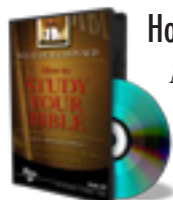


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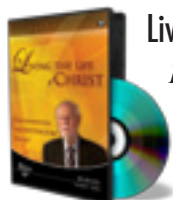


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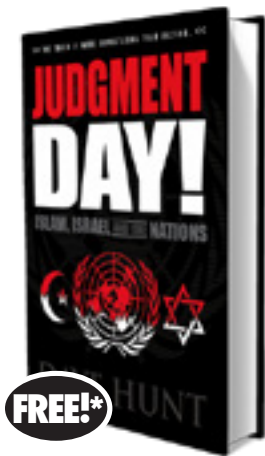


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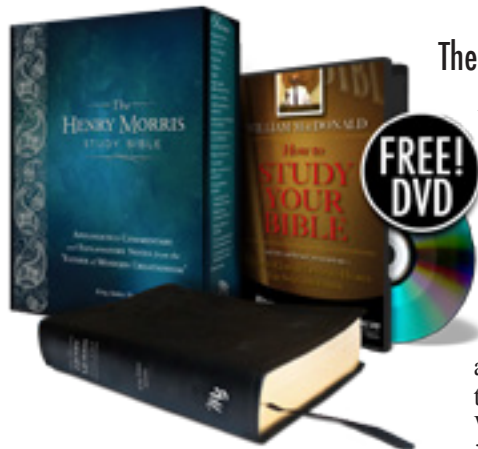
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turned the world upside down are come him unto  
hither also; [Ac 16:20] • dragged mandment

17:2 reasoned with them. Paul was surely one of the mo  
who ever lived, so his "manner" of witnessing is highly in

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16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with  
11 When together, a)

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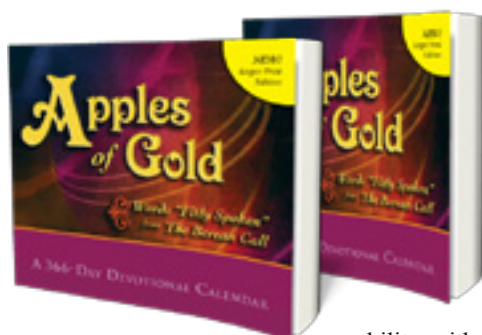


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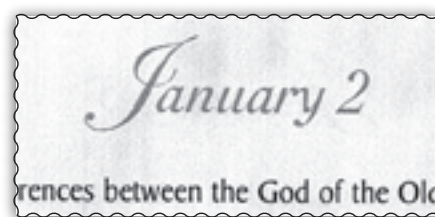
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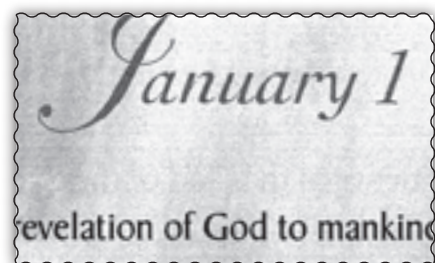
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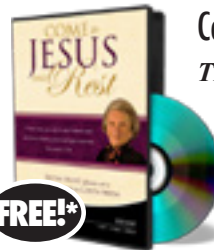
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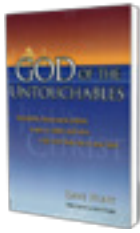
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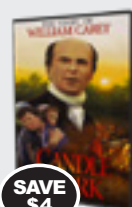
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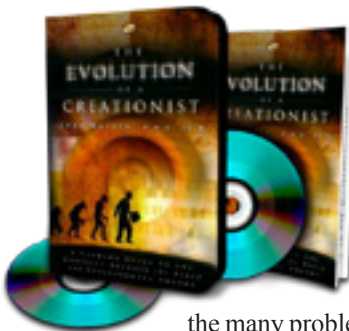
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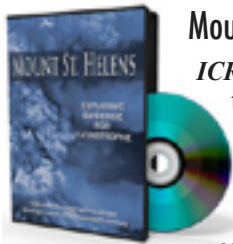


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**Martin**—A fun and fascinating look at the wonders of creation that led this former hardcore Darwinian evolutionist to a firm, unwavering faith in the God of the Bible. Jobe Martin describes his conflict between the Bible and the evolutionary beliefs he was entrenched in. The incredible creatures he studied led him to a determination that they had to have been created by a designer. Biblical Discipleship Publishers, 320 pp.

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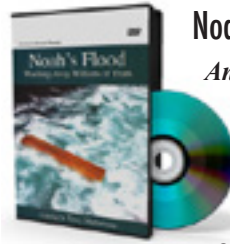
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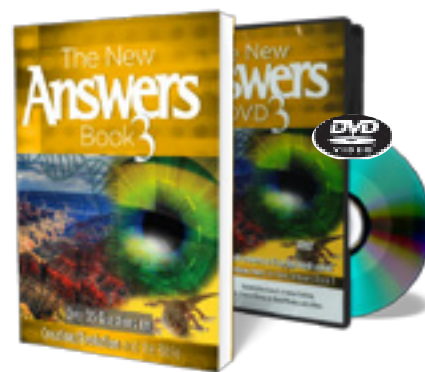
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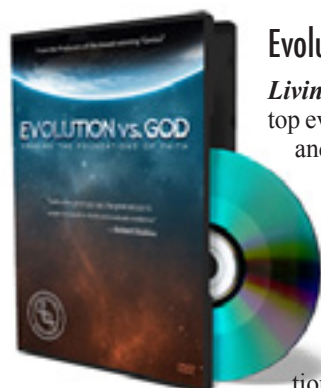
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### ABOUT RAY COMFORT:

Ray Comfort is the best-selling author of more than 60 books. He is also the co-host of an award-winning television program (with actor Kirk Cameron) which is seen in 123 countries. He has spoken on the subject of atheism at Yale and other prestigious universities, debated on ABC's Nightline, written, *Hell's Best Kept Secret*, *The Atheist Test* (booklet—over one million copies sold), and *Evolution: A Fair Tale For Grownups*. He was a platform speaker for American Atheists, Inc., at their 2001 National Convention. Ray and his wife Sue live in Southern California.



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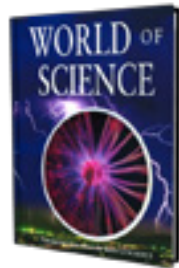
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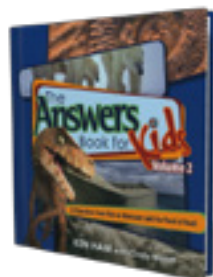
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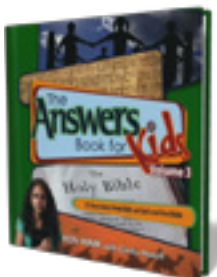
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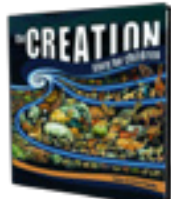


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