

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,

[to see] whether those things were so.” —Acts 17:11

## Why Doesn't Jesus Heal Me?

T. A. McMahon

WE OFTEN HEAR from people who are suffering from various ailments and they don't understand *why* they are being made to endure them. I don't know the *particular reason* why Jesus doesn't heal a person who is ill and who asks Him for healing. There are many conditions of suffering that of course Jesus knows about and for which we don't understand the reasons. None of this negates the truth, however, that He certainly loves all those who cry out to Him to be healed. Psalm 22:24 tells us, “For He hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath He hid His face from him; but when he cried unto him, He heard.”

I also know that everyone who repents—that is, turns to Jesus for salvation and thereby receives the gift of eternal life—is *healed spiritually*. That person is born of the Spirit and will ultimately be with Him both temporally and eternally, no matter what earthly circumstances he or she may be enduring. Physical healing from the Lord, however, is only temporal and involves outcomes that God desires to accomplish to His glory and for the benefit of the person seeking healing. One can only *wonder* what betterments He has in mind, but our knowledge of His perfect love and compassion encourages us to trust Him to do what's best for us (Matthew 9:36; 14:14), or for those we uphold in prayer.

As we look to the Scriptures for examples of physical healing, one thing is clear, and that is that no one can systematize healing, i.e., form some methodology or formula for how to produce miracle cures. The diversity of healing instances in the Scriptures won't allow it. As we read through the Bible, we see that some healings involved a person's faith, even “great” faith (Matthew 9:28-30, Mark 5:34, Luke 7:9-10); and for some, little or no faith (Mark 9:23-27, Luke 7:14-15, Luke 22:50-51, Acts 3:2-7). Some were instantaneous (Acts 9:17-18), others involved a procedure (Mark 8:22-25, John 9:6-7). Some healings took place by Jesus's touch (Matthew 8:3), some by His spitting on them (Mark 8:23), some by touching “handkerchiefs or aprons” worn by the Apostle Paul (Acts 19:11-12), some by Peter's shadow passing over them (Acts 5:15). Some illnesses the Lord has allowed to take place so that their healing would manifest “the works of God” (John 9:3). Whatever the case, it was the Lord bringing about the healing for *His divine purpose*.

Healings also take place through natural means. Luke is referred to as the “beloved physician”; so obviously that involved a medical approach. Paul advised Timothy to “use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities,” which involved a natural remedy (1 Timothy 5:23). Sickness is a consequence of a world created in perfection but then ravaged by the sins of humanity. Yet we are told by the “Healing and Prosperity” preachers that no believer in Jesus should *ever* be sick, an idea that they wrongly base upon 1 Peter 2:24: “... who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.” If that had to do with physical healing, then Paul was remiss in his counsel to Timothy regarding his “often infirmities” as noted above, and Paul himself failed to minister that so-called truth to Trophimus, whom he “left at Miletum sick” (2 Timothy 4:20). And what of Paul's own affliction, which Jesus did not heal (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)?

Although many of the false healing preachers invoke various methods to achieve healing, they are clearly imposing their erroneous practices on what the Bible tells us. Their errors are countless. They teach such ideas as: 1) Not receiving a healing is *caused by* a person's own lack of faith; 2) Deferring to the will of God is a cop-out that undermines the power of one's own faith; 3) The prayer of faith for healing must be detailed according to what the person determines; 4) The prayer of faith must be stated in “positive” terms while avoiding any negative words that would reinforce the illness. The list goes on and on in accordance with the multiple deceits of the false preachers. Furthermore, many of the “faith healers” preach a false gospel that the Lord, of course, will not confirm “with [miraculous] signs following.” Obviously, the Lord is *not* “working with them” (Mark 16:20)!

Oral Roberts, when he was introducing “faith healer” Kathryn Kuhlman, stated that the university (named for him) decided to give her its first honorary doctorate degree as someone representative of the ministry of healing “which is reflected in the background and founding and purpose of this university.” That academic respectability did much to promote faith healing ministries, but it was of no help regarding its healing failures.

Medical researcher Dr. William Nolen attended a Kathryn Kuhlman healing service for the purpose of evaluating its credibility. He writes, “During the service, as those who had ‘claimed a cure’ came down off the stage, two legal secretaries I had enlisted to help me wrote down the names, addresses, phone numbers and diagnoses of everyone who was willing to cooperate in a follow-up study. We got 82 names. A few weeks after the service, letters were sent to the names on the list, inviting them to come to Minneapolis on Sunday, July 14, and tell us about their experiences. Twenty-three people showed up, and I made arrangements to interview them individually over the next few months. In talking to these people, I tried to be as honest, understanding, and objective as possible, but I couldn't dispense with my medical knowledge and my common sense. I listened carefully to everything they told me and followed up every lead that might have led to a confirmation of a miracle. I was led to an inescapable conclusion: Of the patients who had returned to Minneapolis to reaffirm the cures claimed at the miracle service, *not one* had, in fact, been miraculously cured of anything” (Nolen, “In Search of a Miracle,” *McCall's Magazine*, 9/74, italics added).

The same results regarding *physical* healing, or the lack thereof, are found among all the faith healers. As mentioned above, true miracles *confirm* the teaching of the truth of God's Word. When biblical truth is willfully distorted, the Lord cannot sanction what amounts to a deception. “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, *the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following*. Amen” (Mark 16:20). When God's Word is not preached in truth, there can be *no confirming miracles*. Tragically, it isn't the atheists or the skeptics who lead the way in undermining a belief in miracles; it's those who misrepresent what the Bible teaches by falsely claiming healings in the name of God.

What then of true biblical healings? Have they ceased since the days of the Apostles? There is no verse in Scripture that teaches the cessation of miracle healings. The Lord indeed heals today! Yet, the

conditions, including the timing, purpose, and means, are all up to Him—and rarely does He fill us in on what He has in mind.

Let's review some biblical examples. Sometimes the Lord heals a person in order for him or her to continue blessing their brothers and sisters in Christ. Tabitha (also called Dorcas), who had fallen sick and died, was such a person. The saints at Joppa sent for Peter, and, "When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them. Peter prayed for her and called out, 'Tabitha, arise.' And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive" (Acts 9:40-41).

Epaphroditus was a tremendous blessing to the saints at Philippi as well as to the Apostle Paul himself. We're told, "For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow" (Philippians 2:26-27). Continued good works, however, are not always the reason for God healing the saints.

God's mercy was involved in the healing of Epaphroditus, both for him and for Paul. But isn't the Lord's mercy included in all His healings? Certainly, but that may not be His primary purpose. He loves us and knows our hearts, meaning He knows how much sorrow we can handle (through Him), so He was merciful to Paul regarding his sorrows. Yet Paul had his own affliction for which he sought the Lord three times for deliverance—but it never took place. Why not? Paul writes, "For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (2 Corinthians 12:8-9). In this case, the spiritual strengthening of Paul through grace was the Lord's purpose for denying his physical healing. Few, if any, have suffered more trials and tribulations than the Apostle Paul, yet all that he endured did not hinder his fruitfulness (See *TBC* "The Value of Suffering" 5/1/2010). Often God allows believers to experience physical sufferings as a *witness* of the grace He provides to help them deal with their condition. I'm sure many of us know believers who have encouraged us greatly by their witness in handling their afflictions, and who may *not* have been healed. He may have even allowed that simply for the purpose of their testimony to others.

The struggle regarding healing, whether for ourselves or our loved ones, is often highly emotional. Losing a loved one is heart-breaking and the loss causes a time of deep mourning for many. Although Jesus knew He was going to raise Lazarus from the dead, He wept. Why? I believe that the reason He did so had to do with death itself, a consequence of sin brought into this world. Death produced the emotional pain of sorrow and separation that Jesus witnessed among those who loved Lazarus: "When Jesus therefore saw her [Mary] weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept" (John 11:33-35). Yes, He raised Lazarus from the dead, but the reality of death with its consequences of separation remains for everyone.

Why did Jesus weep? It may be because our Lord and Savior was considering the separation He would endure ("My soul is exceedingly sorrowful...") through His death on the cross. We do know that His understanding of His separation from the Father (completely unfathomable to us) drove Him to his knees at Gethsemane: "And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matthew 26:39). Submission to the Father, yes, and more: for His love for us and for the joy that was set before Him, i.e., our salvation. Our deceased loved ones who put their faith in Him are experiencing for eternity that absolute fullness of joy!

The Book of Ruth speaks volumes about the loss of life through widowhood. Naomi and her two daughters-in-law all lost their husbands, each dealing with their grief in a different way. Naomi ini-

tially became bitter toward God for the deaths of her husband and two sons; Orpah, a Moabite, left her mother-in-law and returned to her people in Moab. Ruth, also a Moabite, nevertheless committed herself to caring for Naomi. Her focus was not on her loss or on herself but rather on determination to look after her mother-in-law. Unaware of God's intention for her, Ruth's loving ministry to Naomi nevertheless resulted in her marriage to Boaz, which brought forth Obed, the father of Jesse, the father of David! By following the God of Naomi, Ruth, though not a Jew, gloriously entered into the genealogy of Jesus. Another widow, Anna, dedicated her life to the Lord after the death of her husband. Through her years of continual service in the Temple, she was present to witness the baby Jesus, her Messiah, being brought there: "And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (Luke 2:38). She was wonderfully blessed in fulfilling what God had ultimately intended for her.

Scripture abounds with examples of God allowing His children to go through conditions of suffering. Why? The Book of Job gives us a major reason. Job's suffering experience began with his focus upon himself, defending his righteousness before his "counselors," and even before God (40:8), as well as the counsel from his wife to end his suffering ("Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? Curse God, and die" [2:9]). Chapter 42:5-6 indicates that Job finally came to understand the message regarding his self-preoccupation, and his words leave no doubt about how his experience changed him for the good: "[Before,] I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job grew immeasurably in his relationship with the Lord through the trials he suffered!

James points to the Book of Job regarding *the purpose* that God had for what Job experienced, which didn't take place by chance. That purpose can also be understood as something that was *intended* by the Lord. He *allowed* Job to suffer at the hands of Satan and the faulty insights of his "counselors" so that he might come to the end of himself, which he did! That's what God had intended for him. In fact, God has intentions for all those who love Him, which is what Romans 8:28 is all about: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *His* purpose." Everything the Lord allows a believer to go through should, as with Job, draw him or her closer to the One whose love for us knows no bounds. Yet we all have a choice to either submit to God's intentions for us—or resist, and even reject, His ways and means for us.

In summary, the Lord *spiritually* heals all those who have believed the gospel. They have been reconciled to Him now and forever, forgiven of their sins, past, present, and future, and given the gift of eternal life. Not everyone who cries out to Him for *physical* healing is healed. The reasons are in the mind of God, the details of which He rarely communicates to the person. They are enfolded in His intention for the betterment and fruitfulness of the believer and will take place as he or she submits to the Lord's will and purpose. The Lord's choice to physically heal and His denial of physical healing *both serve* to glorify Him! The former demonstrates His power as our Creator, the latter His intention for the believer in order that he or she may be used of Him. The conditions, including the timing, the purpose, and the means, are all up to Jesus. All things do indeed "work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to *His* purpose" (Romans 2:28). Desiring and obeying God's will and His way is the evidence of our love for Him (John 14:23).

Pray for those who need to be encouraged in the knowledge of the love and graciousness of our Lord, especially for those who misunderstand biblical healing. Psalm 23 is a wonderful reminder that the Lord is our Good Shepherd, and through Him, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my [temporal] life: and I will dwell [eternally] in the house of the Lord for ever." **TBC**



# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708

or e-mail: [editorial@theberean.org](mailto:editorial@theberean.org)

**QUESTION:** I'm confused about the "security of the believer." To me, it sounds like "once saved, always saved," which doesn't fit in with my understanding that believers *can* lose their salvation by turning their backs on God.

**RESPONSE:** The doctrine of "Eternal Security" engenders no end of strife. But a discussion of the pertinent scriptures must be according to 2 Timothy 2:15, in which we are told to "rightly divide the word of truth." Everything must be considered *in context*. The passage in John 10 contains declarative statements of the Lord Jesus Christ, with no qualifiers. Jesus made five clear statements concerning His sheep (those who believe and follow Him), in contrast to those who did not believe (v. 26). Some defenders of the "falling away" doctrine try to draw a distinction between Christians who *continue* to follow Jesus throughout their lifetimes and those who eventually turn back.

Jesus, however, shows that He was making a simple distinction between the Pharisees who did *not* turn to Christ and those who *did* (vv. 24-26). The verses put the security of eternal life in the strong right arm of God. The verse says "no man may pluck them out." The good shepherd recovering his lost sheep (Mt 18:12-14) and the Father disciplining His children (Heb 12:5-12) are excellent examples of God *securing* our salvation. Other people argue that in John 10 some have added meanings that do not agree with the words or the context of the passage in John. Perhaps the clearest example is 2 Peter 2:22, which discusses false prophets, not true believers. These "false prophets" (2:1) are "wells without water (v. 17)." A well without "water" (water is biblical metaphor for the Holy Spirit) has the same exterior appearance as a bona fide well but looks entirely different to one who possesses the ability to look inside (1 Sm 16:7). These false prophets are specifically contrasted with Lot who, despite his compromises and disobedience, is still called a "righteous man" (v. 8). As verse 22 carefully explains: "...it is happened unto them according to the true proverb...." Another verse cites the dog that returns to his vomit because that's what dogs do. The sow returns to wallowing in the mire because that's what a hog does. Neither the dog nor the pig has had its nature changed. Nor were they "born again" or changed into another species. The dog experienced a temporary purging and the sow underwent a washing. But there was no eternal meaning, even with spruced up appearances—like the whitewashing of a tomb (Matthew 23:27).

Those who have been drawn by Christ (who draws all men [John 12:32]), may temporarily "escape" the pollution of the world by attempting to conform, but Scripture plainly states that their conformity is not real because their true nature (as that of a dog or pig) soon manifests itself.

**QUESTION:** In one of your newsletters you said that before man was created, Satan had already rebelled and taken countless angels with him. You stated, "A rebellion led by Lucifer eons ago had taken place...." It sounds like you hold to some form of the "gap theory." Creation had a beginning, and "in six days the LORD made heaven and earth..." (Ex 20:11). I believe it is clear that the angels were created as well in those six days. God said, "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and *all the host of them*" (Gn 2:1). This "host" certainly could include angels (Neh 9:6, Ps 103:20-21, 1 Ki 22:19, et al.). God said the serpent was "made" just as the beasts of the field (Gn 3:1) and was "perfect in thy ways from the day thou wast created" (Eze 28:15). Where is the scriptural evidence that Satan rebelled "before man was

created...eons ago" as you have stated? In the beginning God said "everything" that He had made was "very good" (Gn 1:31). Are you implying a special creation of the angels at a different time and place before "the beginning of the creation?"

**RESPONSE:** You have clearly put much thought and study into it in the spirit of a Berean. However, you make some incorrect assumptions. The statement, "the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made" (Gn 3:1) does not include *Satan* as a "beast of the field." It includes the *physical serpent* in the garden through which Satan spoke. He is called "that old serpent," but he is not a literal, physical snake created with the other creatures. When Satan came into existence cannot be derived from this passage.

Second, you seem to assume that the creation of "the heavens and the earth" (Gn 1:1) includes what Stephen described as "the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56) and what Paul called "the third heaven" (2 Cor 12:2) where God dwells. The words "heaven" and "heavens" are used both for the physical "heavens" related to earth and a part of the physical universe (the atmosphere and the stars) as well as for *heaven*, the "Father's house," which has neither physical nor spatial relationship to earth. Surely the "place" where God dwells is neither physical nor part of the physical universe and must have *always* existed. This is also where angels dwell.

The creation spoken of in Genesis refers only to the physical universe. The heaven(s) in Genesis 2:1 refer to the stars, not to angels. In other places it is clear when "heaven/heavens" refers to the physical realm and when it refers to God's presence; also when "host" refers to stars and when it refers to angels. You seem to assume that "host of heaven" always means angels, which is not the case. For example: "as the host of heaven cannot be numbered" (Jer 33:22). The statements—"God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good" (Gn 1:31), and "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them" (2:1), as well as "from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female" (Mk 10:26)—all refer to the physical universe, which had a beginning, not to the dwelling of God and angels nor to angels themselves.

We have no biblical reason to believe that angels were created simultaneously with the physical universe and man. We are not told when they were created. Both Old and New Testaments show a close association of angels with God, and it would seem odd indeed if they did not exist until the physical universe was created. Surely the positions of power that angels manifest in the Book of Revelation seem to be of a more permanent nature than to have originated with the creation of the universe and man. One function of angels is to praise God and surround His throne. It hardly seems reasonable that there would have been no angels to worship and serve God before the physical universe (of which they are not a part) was made.

There even seems to be a hint that man's creation came about as a result of Satan's rebellion. Surely man plays the key role in the final defeat of Satan. We see this in the part played by Job in the controversy between God and Satan; Paul tells us that we "wrestle...against spiritual wickedness in high places [i.e., heaven]" (Eph 6:12).

God has existed forever. I think it reasonable that angels have been in His presence for "eons" of time by earth's reckoning, and also that Satan probably rebelled long before man was created.

# LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708  
or e-mail: [editorial@thebereancall.org](mailto:editorial@thebereancall.org)

## Dear Berean Call,

I have benefited from your ministry since the 80s. My family throughout my teen years was involved in a “Christian” cult. I was able to get out and my parents eventually left. But it was *The Seduction of Christianity* that freed the rest of the congregation. Someone read it and passed it around...it was not an authorized book for them to read. I am so enjoying your *Apostasy Update* with Carl Teichrib. You both have confirmed so many things I’ve wondered about and revealed things I was unaware of. Please continue your newsletter and podcasts. CJ (email)

## Dear Brothers and Sisters at the Berean Call,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. I have lapsed from your mailing list and would greatly appreciate receiving your newsletter again if possible. I’ve recently moved to our prison’s “faith-based” dorm and realized it is “multi-faith based.” A real mixed bag. One of the biggest doctrinal issues is the Hebrew Roots movement and Messianic Jews who are not Jewish or Hebrew.

I remember some of the articles in your newsletter touched on these issues, and I know I can easily refute the legalism from Galatians and Romans alone. Thank you for the help. JS (TX)

## Hello,

I’ve just re-watched a DVD of Dave Hunt on “Matthew 16 and the Cross.” I thought it was so good and would be wonderful for giving to others, saved or lost. I’m thankful to the Lord for the TBC ministry warning of what’s out there. I’ve seen a

smidgen myself. One pastor “declared” my town to have no more shootings. (Didn’t work.) Another commanded sickness to leave, with increasing volume, as if that would work. (It didn’t.) Another group [was] teaching “healing of emotions” per John Sandford—I left that group with your website address, which they looked up, [from] a March 2014 TBC Newsletter. Also a pastor recruiting unsuspecting women to anoint with oil [as they] went forward for prayer and healing. Then there was the keyboard player who put a single note on auto for “mood” during prayer—while he left for several minutes. Your heart must really ache with all you see and discover. RW (CT)

## Dear Tom,

I received information I thought you might be interested in since it relates to the field of psychology. I spent ten years in the seminary studying for the Catholic priesthood. In those days, we didn’t have any psychological teaching that I recall. This newer material seems to be something current, since there is so much discussion about the mental well-being of priests. The leadership in the seminary is seeking ways to cure their sexual problem. This just shows that there is a definite “elephant in the room.” Keep up the good work. PM (CA)

## Dear TBC,

[Apostasy Update #15] with Carl Teichrib was such an important discussion! I was caught up in exactly what these fine men were talking about for more than a decade until my great Lord and Savior Jesus Christ pursued me and removed the scales from my eyes. One thing I would like to add is that the deception is slow and subtle. The darkness sucks you in in such small amounts over time that you don’t realize how deeply into it you have become. At that point, it takes the hand of God to deliver you from it. Praise God, He pulled me out of this evil deception. I pray for my friends and family that are still prisoners of this. ANON

## QUOTABLE.....

God’s ultimate kingdom is far more wonderful than human imagination can even conceive: “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him” (1 Corinthians 2:9). The entire universe, so contaminated by Satan’s cosmic rebellion, will be replaced instantly by a “new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (see 2 Peter 3:13).

The new universe will be inhabited by those who have repented and received God’s remedy so that He could create them anew (Ephesians 2:8-10). In perfect bodies, no longer susceptible to temptation and sin, and filled with Christ’s love, theirs will be eternal bliss in God’s presence and the inconceivable adventure and joy of the wonders He has planned for all eternity.

At any moment it could be too late to respond, but as yet Christ’s gracious offer of pardon and eternal joy is still open: “He that heareth my word and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life” (John 5:24). “Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creature: Old things have passed away; behold, all things are become new (2 Corinthians 5:17)!”

—DAVE HUNT

## TBC NOTES

### God Bless America! Seriously?

In October of 2017, I wrote a TBC article titled “Bless God!” Sadly, Americans in general haven’t been blessed by God, nor have we blessed Him. It’s not just the fact that evil is increasing exponentially throughout our society. It’s more basic than that. We are a country of religious pluralism, i.e., one country, many religions. There’s the problem. God’s blessings, and our blessing Him, can only take place in obedience to His truth: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him *must* worship him in *spirit and in truth*” (John 4:24). That cannot happen among those who haven’t been born again, among those who do not believe John 14:6 or Acts 4:12: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father *but by Me*” and “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is *none other name* under heaven given among men, whereby we *must be saved*.”

Nevertheless, we who worship God in spirit and in truth can bless God *as well as* bless America by sharing the good news of the gospel with fellow Americans as the Lord gives us opportunity. This we know because, “The Lord is...long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

T. A. McMAHON  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# NEWSWATCH

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise  
in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

## BABIES ARE BORN READY TO READ

**ICR.ORG, 12/17/20, "BABIES ARE BORN READY TO READ" [EXCERPTS]:** Dogs don't read the words on a page. Neither did Coco, the famous gorilla that learned to communicate using simple hand signs. So what affords humans the unique ability to read and write, and why do we do it?

The researchers discovered that newborn brains come prewired with similarly tight connections between the two areas.

Lead author Jin Li said, "It's interesting to think about how and why our brains develop functional modules that are sensitive to specific things like faces, objects, and words." Why indeed?

From a Darwinian perspective, our brains' functional modules would have incrementally developed over eons for our survival. But in what scenario would our ancestors have been forced to read or die? For that matter, how could such pressures reach into and rewire our brains? On the other hand, if humans came from supernatural creation instead of mere nature, then the possibility opens for God to have intentionally prewired our brains "to see words." And why would a Creator do that?

Reading is the key to understanding the most important information for time and eternity found in the Bible. Scripture says we were created for God, that our sins have driven a wedge between us and God, but that God sent His Son to take our sins upon Himself in order to restore our relationship with Him.

(<http://bit.ly/3bka7fy>)

## BOOK CANCELLED: SAID TO ASSAULT ISLAM

**FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 12/21/20, "PUBLISHER CANCELS BOOK DECRYING CANCEL CULTURE BECAUSE AUTHOR CRITICIZED ISLAM" [EXCERPTS]:** How mad has the world gone? This mad: apparently oblivious to the titanic dimensions of the irony, the publisher Little, Brown just canceled a new book, *Welcome to the Woke Trials: 'How Identity Killed Progressive Politics'* by British journalist Julie Burchill because of an "Islamophobic" twitter exchange Burchill had with Muslim writer Ash Sarkar.... And what was Burchill's crime? Did she use racial slurs? Did she call for genocide or violence against innocent Muslims? No, apparently all she did was note the readily demonstrable fact that according to Islamic tradition, Muhammad

married a child. But telling the truth is a dangerous enterprise these days.

The book, according to the report, "was promoted as a 'characteristically irreverent and entertaining' indictment of the 'outrage mob.'" But the outrage mob was not outraged by anything in the book itself. It was evidently outraged because Burchill asked Sarkar, "Can you please remind me of the age of the Prophet Mohammad's first wife?"

Burchill is clearly speaking about Muhammad's child bride Aisha.... But that's just a detail. Commenters raked Burchill over the coals for her supposed hypocrisy for ignoring child marriage in British history and claiming that Mary was a child when she married Joseph. Yet none of that was on point. No one would care about Muhammad's child marriage were his behavior not normative for Islamic law and imitated by all too many Muslims even today. So what Burchill said...was entirely based on fact.

But it is bitterly ironic that Burchill's book on cancel culture has now been canceled for whatever it is she said. That rather proves her point, doesn't it?

(<http://bit.ly/2XkQBHt>)

## FOLLOWING CHRIST IN KAZAKHSTAN COSTS

**PERSECUTION.COM, 12/21/20, "WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN KAZAKHSTAN" [EXCERPTS]:** Some churches worship openly, but they are closely watched. Raids on unregistered churches are common, and believers in attendance are fined. Kazakhs are used to Russian Orthodox Christians, but they are suspicious of those who hold services in the Kazakh native tongue. All religious activities must be registered with the government.

Believers are commonly fined for distributing religious texts, discussing religion or holding worship meetings. Christian children are mocked at school. The families of Christian converts often beat them or otherwise publicly humiliate them. Unregistered churches must meet in private homes. In recent years, three Kazakh believers have been imprisoned on false charges. All three have been released.

Bibles are available, but they are unobtainable for many. Large churches often sell them. Rural believers must travel to cities to obtain a Bible.

(<http://bit.ly/2JXqeUY>)

## THE BEREAN CALL

Founder: Dave Hunt  
Executive Director: T. A. McMahon

### TBC ONLINE

To receive The Berean Call by email or to access our online archives, please go to [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)

To order items from this newsletter or to see additional resources, visit [store.thebereancall.org](http://store.thebereancall.org)

### DONATIONS

The Berean Call (TBC) has always operated on the belief that God will provide as we seek His face, so we do not make appeals for financial help. Although the ministry operates primarily on donations, these are freewill and not solicited. Through the years, TBC has seen God "do exceeding abundantly above" all that was asked or thought.

### CONTACTING US

tel: (541) 382-6210 • fax: (541) 385-6025  
orders and donations: (800) 937-6638 or  
(541) 382-6210

e-mail: [tbcoffice@thebereancall.org](mailto:tbcoffice@thebereancall.org)

website: [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org)

online store: [store.thebereancall.org](http://store.thebereancall.org)

The Berean Call is a nonprofit 501 [c] [3], tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of Oregon. It is overseen by an independent board which has full and final authority over all corporate assets, personnel, and affairs. (02/21)

## SHIPPING RATES & OPTIONS

### \$3 - DISCOUNT SHIPPING (US)

Your items will be shipped by the cheapest method, delivers in 7 - 21 days.

### \$7 - FASTER SHIPPING (US)

Your items will be shipped by USPS First Class Mail or faster, delivers in 3 - 7 days. (Street address required.)

If you require a specific shipping method, or want FedEx expedited shipping, we will charge you the actual shipping cost. Customers who buy at wholesale or ministry discounted pricing also pay actual shipping cost. Please provide a street address to get the lowest shipping cost.

### FOR INTERNATIONAL ORDERS ONLY:

Please use the calculation below to estimate your shipping costs. If actual shipping costs are less, we will adjust what we charge you. If shipping charges are more, we will contact you.

**First pound is \$15, each additional pound is \$5**

Example: a 10-pound package is \$15 (first pound) + \$45 (9 additional pounds) = \$60

We will use International Priority Flat Rate Boxes whenever possible to reduce postage costs.

If you pay with a credit card, we will charge the actual amount of shipping. If you pay by check or cash, we prefer to refund you with store credit. You may also choose to receive a refund by check or specify that the difference be used as a donation.



## NEW! 2020 NEWSLETTER REPRINTS AND ARCHIVES



### 1986-2020 Newsletter Archive on CD-ROM

**Hunt/McMahon**—TBC Newsletter Archive on CD-ROM contains every feature article and Q&A, along with select content from 1986 through 2020, plus index, all in PDF for Mac or Windows on one CD! A comprehensive and economical resource for Bereans desiring to add to their study tools—PDF is completely searchable by keyword or phrase, page number, year, or month! A digital download version of the Newsletter Archive is available for purchase at: [store.thebereancall.org](http://store.thebereancall.org).

**CDPDF**  
**eCDPDF**

1 CD-ROM

digital download (online)

wt .2

**\$15.00**  
**FREE!**



### 2020 Newsletter Reprints

**TBC**—Contains every feature article and Q&A plus select content from 2020. These loose-leaf, binder-ready reprints include the annually updated index (1986-2020) listing thousands of names and topics. 12 issues.

**2020**

wt .6

**\$10.00 SALE \$6.50**



### 1986-2020 Newsletter Reprints

**TBC**—Every feature article and Q&A plus select content from 1986 through 2020! Loose-leaf binder-ready reprints come with the annually updated index (1986-2020).

**102020**

wt 8.6

**\$65.00 SALE \$35.00**

## WIDE IS THE GATE DVD SERIES—SAVE \$36.00 ON THE SET!



### Wide Is the Gate, Volume 1

**Caryl Productions**—Today's new brand of Christianity has a different gospel and is targeting the younger generation with experiential spirituality, much of which is embracing the mysticism of Catholicism with its ecumenical philosophy of uniting people from all faiths to work together to bring about a new world of peace and harmony. The dangerous result of this new spirituality is the rise of today's "Christianized" occultism. Learn what Scripture teaches about the times we live in and the methods used by the New Spirituality to usher in the counterfeit kingdom of God on earth. 1 DVD, 240 min.

**DVD309** wt .2 **\$25.00 SALE \$20.00**



### Wide Is the Gate, Volume 2

**Caryl Productions**—Picking up where Volume 1 left off, this powerful series uses exclusive interviews with well-known authors and experts to examine the intrusion of the '60s and '70s New Age Movement into the professing church. Viewers will see how pagan eastern mysticism has morphed over the last four decades—from its repackaging as the "self help" psychology and holistic health movements of the '80s, to its seeker-friendly, megachurch appearance in the '90s, to its coming out in the 21st century as "the new spirituality." 1 DVD, 216 min.

**DVD316** wt .2 **\$30.00 SALE \$20.00**



### Wide Is the Gate, Volume 3

**Caryl Productions**—The final installment in the Caryl Productions series features the hyper-Charismatic and Pentecostal movements represented by a variety of names and leaders. This supposed "new move of the Holy Spirit" coined as the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) is also known as Third Wave, Latter Rain, Kingdom Now, Word Faith, Fresh Fire, and has many other names. Through careful biblical analysis, well-known experts help unravel the tragedy of growing deception in the church masquerading as revival, renewal, and vibrant new Christianity. 2 DVDs, 335 min.

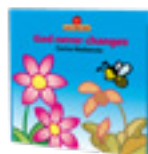
**DVD339** wt .3 **\$30.00 SALE \$20.00**

**SET97**

All three volumes of *Wide is the Gate* — SAVE \$36.00

wt .7 **\$49.00**

## BACK IN STOCK BOARD BOOKS FOR KIDS 3 AND UNDER



### God Never Changes

**Mackenzie**—Did you know that God never changes? Read this book and you will learn that God is the same

God always! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

**B53787** Ages 0-3 yrs wt .3 **\$4.00**



### God Knows Everything

**Mackenzie**—Do you want to learn about God? Did you know that God knows everything? Read this book

and learn how amazing God is! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

**B52794** Ages 0-3 yrs wt .3 **\$4.00**

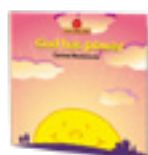


### God Is Kind

**Mackenzie**—Did you know that God is kind? Read this book and you will be amazed at how kind God really is!

Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

**B24763** Ages 0-3 yrs wt .3 **\$4.00**



### God Has Power

**Mackenzie**—In this board book, we learn that God has power. You'll be amazed! Part of the *Learn about God*

collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

**B24770** Ages 0-3 yrs wt .3 **\$4.00**



### God Is Faithful

**Mackenzie**—Do you know that you can really trust God? Read this book and you will learn about how

faithful God is! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

**B33817** Ages 0-3 yrs wt .3 **\$4.00**



### God Is Everywhere

**Mackenzie**—Did you know that God is everywhere? Read this book and you will learn about how amazing

God is! Part of the *Learn about God* collection. Christian Focus Publications, Full-color, board book, 12 pp.

**B24800** Ages 0-3 yrs wt .3 **\$4.00**

**SAVE UP TO 30% ON BOBGAN BOOKS! AND SAVE 33% ON THE SET****Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!**

**M&D Bobgan**—*Stop Counseling! Start Ministering!* tells why Christians should be opposed to counseling and literally Stop Counseling! and Start Ministering! Central to ministering is helping individuals in need to overcome their fixation on their problems and encouraging them to become Christ-centered on a daily basis. EastGate Publishers, 325 pp.

**B17229** wt 1.0 ~~\$17.00~~ **SALE \$12.50**

**The End of "Christian Psychology"**

**M&D Bobgan**—What can be wrong with "Christian psychology"? "Christian" psychologists have simply borrowed their theories and techniques from this world's wisdom. Packed with biblical and scientific evidence, this book thoroughly demonstrates that professional psychotherapy, with its underlying psychologies, is questionable at best, detrimental at worst, and a spiritual counterfeit in any event. EastGate Publishers, 290 pp.

**B00127** wt 1.0 ~~\$13.00~~ **SALE \$9.50**

**Person to Person Ministry**

**M&D Bobgan**—This book reveals the innate sinfulness of problem-centered counseling, shows how it leads Christians into feeding the flesh and quenching the Spirit, and gives reasons why Christians must abandon this approach. EastGate Publishers, 250 pp.

**B07212** wt .8 ~~\$14.00~~ **SALE \$9.50**

**Hypnosis – Medical Scientific or Occultic**

**M&D Bobgan**—The Bobgans examine hypnosis from scientific, historical, and biblical perspectives. They explore and answer such questions as: What is hypnosis? Is hypnosis a natural experience? Is all hypnosis the same or are there different types or varying degrees? Hypnotism is potentially dangerous at its best and is demonic at its worst. EastGate Publishers, 142 pp.

**B00186** wt .5 ~~\$9.00~~ **SALE \$7.00**

**Competent to Minister**

**M&D Bobgan**—What can believers do to help individuals suffering from problems of living? What should churches do for suffering souls? This book calls Christians back to the Bible and to the biblically ordained ministries and mutual care in the Body of Christ that have effectively cared for souls for almost 2000 years. EastGate Publishers, 251 pp.

**B00119** wt .8 ~~\$13.00~~ **SALE \$9.50**

**Psychoheresy**

**M&D Bobgan**—*Psychoheresy* exposes the fallacies and failure of psychological counseling theories and therapies; reveals the anti-Christian biases, internal contradictions, and documented failures of secular psychotherapy; and explodes firmly entrenched myths that undergird these unholy unions. EastGate Publishers, 468 pp.

**B00003** wt 1.4 ~~\$16.00~~ **SALE \$14.00**

**Christ-Centered Ministry**

**M&D Bobgan**—The purpose of this book is to reveal the origins and faults of problem-centered counseling, to describe Christ-centered ministry and how it differs from problem-centered counseling, and to encourage local congregations to minister as God has called them to do without the influence of the psychological or biblical counseling movements. The radical proposal is to discourage problem-centered counseling and to encourage Christ-centered ministry. EastGate Publishers, 134 pp.

**B80500** wt .5 ~~\$11.00~~ **SALE \$8.00**

**12 Steps to Destruction**

**M&D Bobgan**—*12 Steps to Destruction* is written for those who are suffering from the trials of life and for those who want to help. It is for those who have tried Twelve-Step programs and recovery treatment centers and found them lacking. And, finally, it is to encourage Christians who offer such programs to return to the faith once delivered to the saints. EastGate Publishers, 260 pp.

**B00054** wt .9 ~~\$12.00~~ **SALE \$10.50**

**Against Biblical Counseling**

**M&D Bobgan**—The authors have provided a readable, challenging, controversial, and thought-provoking book about the rapidly expanding biblical counseling movement. EastGate Publishers, 203 pp.

**B00097** wt .7 ~~\$10.00~~ **SALE \$8.00**

**SET83** TBC Reg. \$115.00 — **SAVE \$38.00** (Set includes all nine Bobgan books seen above!) wt 7.3 **SALE \$77.00**

**RESOURCES ON LIFE'S TRIALS AND HARDSHIPS—SAVE \$7.50 ON THE SET****Strength for Tough Times**

**Kneass**—Surprising events have been happening in America, and things in which we used to trust no longer seems reliable. How can we find security, peace, and joy under such circumstances? Only God has enough love, power, and faithfulness to be our Defense, our Rescuer, and our Refuge. He is the solid Rock on which we can safely stand (Psalm 62:5-7). Everything else is only "sinking sand." It promises safety for a while, but sooner or later it fails us. How can the believer apply these scriptural principles to everyday life? *Strength for Tough Times* contains practical lessons that were learned the hard way—in the furnace of affliction. That is where we discover how much we can trust God. The author knows something about affliction, because she watched her husband die, and she herself is a cancer survivor. She can testify that God is faithful. He loves us, and He promises to bring good out of everything that happens to those who love Him (Romans 8:28). Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 131 pp.

**B31102** wt .5 ~~\$11.50~~

**The Value of Suffering**

**McMahon**—The question of "suffering"—both personal and corporate—is often raised by skeptics within and without the church. "Why God?" is the cry. "How long, O Lord?" T. A. McMahon is now blessed to testify not only to the goodness and provision of God but also to the joy—and yes, the value—of suffering. 1 CD, 53 min.

**CD157** wt .2 ~~\$5.00~~

**When Christians Suffer**

**Case**—Thomas Case, a prisoner of the Lord during dark days for the gospel in England, believed that "Discourses on affliction can never be out of season... Providence has so ordered that whosoever will follow the Lord fully like Caleb (Nm 14:24) will be exposed to the world's hatred, but the glorious Spirit will rest upon them (1 Pt 4:14)." Banner of Truth, 122 pp.

**B10429** wt .2 ~~\$6.00~~

**SET202** TBC Reg. \$22.50 — **SAVE \$7.50** (Set includes B31102, CD157, and B10429) wt .9 **SALE \$15.00**



## Future

**Kalisher**—This full-color booklet, written by Meno Kalisher, provides solid teaching on chapters 2, 7, and 9 of the book of Daniel (the 70 weeks). The author begins by showing the incredibly precise fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy as it relates to the crucifixion of the Messiah.

Following that encouragement "and with increased faith in the inerrancy of God's Word...we can look ahead to the certain fulfillment of his yet outstanding prophecies without a shadow of a doubt." Designed with helpful visuals and a unique timeline across each spread of pages that shows major future events, Kalisher explains the effect of these events on the Jews, Gentiles, the church, Tribulation Saints, and the Remnant of Israel. Jerusalem Assembly, 35 pp.

B00033

wt .2 \$5.00

### TBC ORDER FORM — PLEASE SUBMIT ENTIRE PAGE

#### 1 ORDERED BY: ☐ address correction or change below

Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### 2 CONTACT INFO: In case we need to contact you regarding your order

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

To sign up for automatic e-mail news, please visit our website: [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org) and click on "subscribe" to create a user name and to see the newsletter options.

#### 5 ORDER RESOURCES: Please print all information clearly and use catalog item codes

Item Code	Title/Product Description	Price	Weight (Int'l Only)	Quantity Ordered	Total Weight (Int'l Only)	Total Price

★ **SHIPPING NOTE:** U.S. CUSTOMERS MUST CHOOSE \$3 SLOWER SHIPPING OR \$7 FASTER SHIPPING. INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMERS SEE PAGE 5 FOR SHIPPING RATES.

6 WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ (Int'l only) 7 TOTAL ORDER: Product Total \_\_\_\_\_ Shipping Fees \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

☐ IF MY FUNDS EXCEED PRODUCT AND SHIPPING COSTS, PLEASE KEEP BALANCE AS A GIFT **Thank You!**