

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

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

Until the Day

Dave Hunt—First published in November 2008

IN 1983, I wrote a book titled *Peace, Prosperity, and the Coming Holocaust*. The first chapter was called, “A Contrary Scenario,” which I based on my understanding of Scripture. Here was the situation as I recall it: interest rates in the US were over 20 percent; the stock market was around 700 on the DOW, and the experts were predicting a crash that would make 1929 seem like prosperity; the housing market was dead, with tens of thousands of houses unsold and apartments vacant; the most popular books in Christian bookstores were about “the death of the dollar, the imminent international financial collapse, the pending Soviet attack on Israel, etc.” Gloom and doom prevailed.

In that first chapter, I gave my opinion based on Scripture that the doomsayers’ predictions were wrong: Reaganomics would work, prosperity was on the way, and there would be no imminent invasion of Israel. Unknown to me at the time, the Soviets had placed a cache of their weapons in Lebanon for a million-man invasion army. Israel hauled it all out, thousands of truckloads, after their invasion of Lebanon in June 1982 to stop the incessant shelling of Israel and to quell terrorism.

This “contrary scenario” held true for 25 years. Then came the current worldwide financial near-collapse after years of building “prosperity” on impossible debt. Very serious problems have bankrupted banks and businesses, have put tens of thousands out of work, and have adversely impacted millions of hard-working citizens. Of course, the problems are being “solved” by governments printing money and accumulating more debt. Where is this taking us now?

Some are fearing the possibility of another 1929-like stock market crash and Depression. Most economists, however, doubt that this could happen with all of the new regulations that are being put into place. Above and beyond worldwide financial problems, my real interest is in the Rapture, which I still believe could happen at any moment.

Christ declares that the days just before the Rapture will be like the days of Noah and Lot. Notice, however, that although those were times of gross immorality, He doesn’t even mention that fact. Here are His words:

“And as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all.

“Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.... Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh” (Luke 17:26-30, Matthew 24:37-39; Matthew 24:44).

In the cases of Noah and Lot, judgment and destruction fell instantly after the believers were taken out. But that scenario does not fit with what the Bible tells us will follow the Rapture: further prosperity and even greater persecution of Jews worldwide.

No Old Testament illustration perfectly conveys the full New Testament prophecy. In Noah’s and Lot’s day the phrase, “until the day” or “the same day,” meant *within that very 24-hour period*. The New Testament, however, has in mind “the day of the Lord,” which begins with the Rapture, includes the Great Tribulation and the Millennium, and ends in the new heavens and new earth.

Christ’s warning is centered on the fact that the idea of the Rapture, which should be much comfort to the believer (see John 14:1-3) will instead be the *last thing* most Christians are expecting or even hoping will occur. False prosperity will make many Christians reluctant to leave earth for heaven (“Let the Rapture occur before I die, but not yet!”). It will be a continuation of the spirit of Laodicea, which has played a major role in the apostasy into which the church has been sinking ever deeper since the end of World War II. We could almost say that this spirit has been present from the beginning of the church after Christ ascended back to heaven, having spent 40 days with His disciples in His resurrected body. That was a glorious time for His bewildered followers to come to know their Lord in a new way, to remove any lingering doubts from their minds, and to get them started in fulfilling the “great commission” that He had given to them.

Oddly enough, in spite of fierce opposition and persecution, the thousands of new disciples were not eager to leave their homes and jobs in order to obey their Lord’s parting command to “go...into all the world, and preach the gospel...” (Mark 16:15). It was still too comfortable for them in Jerusalem. It took the “great persecution” that followed the stoning of Stephen to scatter the disciples “abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria...” (Acts 8:1). Far from going into hiding, as the eleven had done on resurrection day, “Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where [not ‘giving their testimonies’ but] preaching the word...” (Acts 8:4). The church thrived under persecution. This was a time of real growth, which the “church growth movement” (that Robert Schuller, in a 1974 book, claims he began and of which he said Bill Hybels was his most successful student) eventually corrupted.

From the very beginning, “prosperity” has been a dangerous condition for most Christians to handle. The “health-and-wealth... name-it-and-claim-it” gospel, which Copeland learned from Kenneth Hagin, Sr., and which he claimed the Lord commissioned him to preach, has been promoted by the Crouches and the heretics and frauds of various stripes that they have sponsored on their worldwide TV network. This supposed “gospel” has always been wrong, but with “Christian” television and publishing promoting it to an apostate church, the deadly Laodicean mentality that has been germinating for centuries is now in full bloom. Being “rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing” (something unknown to the “little flock” that Christ left behind and to whom He promised the kingdom—Luke 12:32), has become a sign of God’s “blessing” in today’s “growth-industry Churchianity.”

The Rapture is almost a forgotten hope. Most Christians are too comfortable on this earth to be willing to leave it for heaven. Matthew 24 is a key chapter in understanding the timing of the Rapture. Verse 34 has generated heated controversy: “Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.” This is also recorded at Luke 21:32. The disagreement

centers around the meaning of the phrase “this generation.” There are three possible interpretations of that phrase:

1. Preterists hold that by saying “this generation,” Jesus referred to those living on earth at that time and that the Matthew 24 prophecy was fulfilled within that generation in the AD 70 siege and destruction of Jerusalem. That is clearly wrong because in those days, all flesh was not in danger of being wiped out (v. 22) by bows, arrows, swords, and spears. Today’s weapons could turn this earth into a glowing ember, devoid of any life, drifting silently through space. Much more is included in Christ’s warning that didn’t occur at that time: the greatest tribulation ever for Jews (v. 21), since exceeded by the Holocaust, with even worse yet to come, ultimately bringing full repentance and salvation to Israel (Zechariah 12:8-13:9). Nor did any of the events foretold in verses 27-31 take place in AD 70.

2. Others think that Jesus meant the generation living on earth when Israel returned to her land in 1948. How could “generation” in that sense be defined? Surely it couldn’t include those not yet born. It must be a generation already established and still alive—and this particular one is now nearly gone.

In my opinion, Jesus was not talking about either of the above. There is a third possible meaning, which I would respectfully suggest. The key is the way Jesus, John the Baptist, and Peter all used the word “generation.” The Bible is its own interpreter: “generation of vipers” (Matthew 3:7; Matthew 12:34; Matthew 23:33; Luke 3:7); “evil generation” (Luke 11:29); “evil and adulterous generation” (Matthew 12:39); “wicked generation” (Matthew 12:45); “wicked and adulterous generation” (Matthew 16:4); “faithless generation” (Mark 9:19); “faithless and perverse generation” (Matthew 17:17, Luke 9:41); “adulterous and sinful generation” (Mark 8:38); “untoward generation” (Acts 2:40).

Scripture indicates that although many *individual Jews* will be saved, Israel as a whole will continue in unbelief and rebellion against the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. When will Israel at last repent and return to faith in the only true God, the God of Israel? Not until the armies of the world, led by Antichrist at Armageddon, have pushed Israel to the brink of defeat. That is when Christ himself in His “Second Coming” will return visibly to earth and destroy Israel’s enemies (“every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him” —Revelation 1:7). Then all Israel will repent of their departure from the Lord of hosts and rejection and crucifixion of her Messiah, and “all Israel shall be saved...” (Romans 11:26). There will be an unprecedented time of mourning in Israel (Zechariah 12:10-13:1) as every Jew alive will realize that Jesus Christ, the one they crucified and had despised ever since, died for their sins and is the Redeemer whom their own prophets had promised.

As for the church, anyone who knows God’s Word has mourned the fact that for decades we have been steadily sinking ever deeper into apostasy such as few men and women of God could have imagined only fifty years ago. There are a multitude of causes, but a major one is the way God’s Word is despised today, even by some who call themselves Christians, and even by many church leaders. What God has inspired “holy men of God” to put down in writing and that the canon of Scripture comprises is looked upon as boring and must be presented in ways that will appeal to the modern mind. We have movies and DVDs by the dozens dramatizing “thus saith the LORD.” For one’s teaching from the Word of God to be recorded onto a DVD is one thing. To present the Bible not in the pure words of Scripture but by a *dramatization* thereof on a DVD is an abomination. Imagine the pride of anyone who attempts to “improve” the Holy Word of God! These revisionists, instead of improving, actually trivialize, mutilate, and destroy what God has said.

Many Christians, especially their children, are so enamored with TV that they can’t sit still to read the Bible. Christ is called “the Word of God.” He is the “Living Word”...the “word of truth” (Psalm 119:43), “word of life” (Philippians 2:16). Never is He called the “picture” of truth. We are “born again...by the word of God...the word which by the gospel is preached...” (1 Peter 1:23-25). There

are scores of such verses. Let’s try to modernize a bit for this new generation: “born again by the DVD of God...the living DVD...the DVD of truth...the DVD which by the gospel is preached, etc.” Paul told Timothy to “preach the word” (2 Timothy 4:2). He didn’t say “Revise or dramatize the word”! This is not a matter of semantics. It’s the difference between God’s way and man’s way, between life and death!

We dare not succumb to the apostasy that has invaded the church. As Amos declared, there is a famine for the Word of God—not because it’s not available to hungry readers but because *it is not being preached* in many churches that only a few years ago were sound in doctrine and truly preached the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit. The flock has been fed phony “translations.” Surely we are seeing “a famine...of hearing the words of the LORD” (Amos 8:11). Not only is God’s Word not being preached, but most of those who think they are doing so are using false “Bibles,” to the detriment of their souls and those of their hearers.

Eugene Peterson is a case in point. He dares to call *The Message* “another version of the Bible” when in fact it perverts the Bible! T. A. McMahon has brought us up to date on Rick Warren (TBC, 9/08). The compromises that Rick has made, relative to the gospel, break my heart. I have been reluctant to put him in the same category as such enemies of truth as Peterson, yet *The Message* continues to be Rick’s favorite “Bible” (see TBC, 4/04 for quotations from *The Message*). He has influenced millions to follow his example in following Peterson. He now seems to believe that it is more important to give lost souls food and medicine for this life through his P.E.A.C.E. Plan than to give them the gospel for eternity; more blessed to give them physical and temporal blessings than to lead them to heaven.

We must ask ourselves repeatedly whether we truly believe that our Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven and whether we live according to His words. Can we say with Paul, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ”? Do we really believe that this gospel is “the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes” and that the world is lost without Christ? Has the full and awesome meaning of that fact truly gripped our hearts and minds? I speak to my own heart first.

TBC has thoroughly and often exposed the false gospel of Roman Catholicism that is still sending countless millions to hell. Yet in spite of excellent exposés by others as well, the Catholic “gospel” gains an ever-wider acceptance among evangelicals. There used to be many sound authors and leaders who powerfully opposed Roman Catholicism. Now scarcely anyone raises an objection to this religious system that has likely sent as many to hell as has Islam. One becomes exceedingly weary reminding evangelicals from Billy Graham to Rick Warren that Roman Catholicism is damning billions—especially when these two men lead the evangelical church in embracing Catholicism as just another way to heaven. Didn’t the Lord in “the great commission” command His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature? Has that command ever been revoked? Absolutely not! It still holds for every Christian today. But which gospel should one preach? The gospel has been so perverted, compromised, and Catholicized that “the power of God unto salvation” has been taken out of it for fear of giving offense. Would those in hell thank us for sparing them the offense that would have taken them instead to heaven?

Do we withhold the gospel from the unsaved for selfish reasons? Are some of us ashamed of the narrow gate that the gospel forces us to present to those who prefer the broad road to destruction? The Word of God is clear: “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe” (Proverbs 29:25).

Time is short and eternity is forever. We need to reexamine our hearts and begin to live as though we really believe this.

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: Is there any teaching in the Bible that says men are so different from women? There are so many conferences for women where they are taught differently from what they teach at conferences for men. Is this scriptural? When I read in the Word that “man shall not live by bread alone,” doesn’t it mean “man and woman”? Are all these men’s conferences and women’s conferences born out of the world system of psychology? I would certainly appreciate your answer.

RESPONSE: The Bible certainly takes into account differences between men and women, not only the obvious physical ones, but in the role each is to play in the home and family, and also in the church. The husband has a distinct leadership role in the family. That does not, however, mean that the wife is without influence in decision making. The husband is exhorted to love his wife as himself; and real love seeks the blessing and honor of the one loved. Yet the woman is clearly not “to teach, nor usurp authority over the man” (1 Timothy 2:11-12) in the church, and that would surely include the home. So there are some clear differences. However, as far as salvation, one’s relationship with Christ, and living the Christian life are concerned, there is no difference.

As you point out, very rarely does Scripture address itself to either men or women distinctly. The reasons are obvious: all are sinners, all need the same redemption and maturity in the LORD, and the basis of spiritual growth for each is the same.

The words “man” or “men” as used in the Bible almost always refer to both men and women, such as in the verse you quoted in your letter, and nearly everywhere else. When Psalm 119:9 says, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word,” the phrase “young man” surely also means “young woman.”

The “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22) is obviously for men and women equally; when Paul says, “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18), he is speaking to men and women; when he writes to “the saints,” whether at Corinth or Ephesus or Colosse, he is writing to both men and women. It is only on rare occasions, such as when Paul addresses husbands and wives, that any distinction is made. In fact, he states that “in Christ,” just as there is no longer Jew or Gentile, so there is no longer “male or female.” Obviously, while physical differences remain, spiritually there is no distinction.

Spiritual life and growth, the application of God’s Word, the faith that we hold, and our love for God and total reliance upon Christ as our very life, all apply equally to men and women. Therefore, if there were to be separate meetings for men and women, they would be of very limited nature. Today’s growing tendency to hold long conferences and workshops and seminars specifically for men or women should be viewed with caution.

QUESTION: You once stated that “...‘my people’ refers to Israel, not to the church; and ‘I will heal their land’ refers to the promised land of Israel, not to the United States.” If Christians are not God’s people, then who are they? What about Nineveh? Do you not believe that God might heal our nation just as He did Nineveh? I understand that God will not answer prayers addressed to other gods, but is it in vain to pray to Him for a national revival?

You also said that “Christians are ‘not of this world’ but have been called ‘out of this world’ to be in it but not of it.” If Christians and Israelites are two distinctive people in God’s eyes, and if Christians have been called out of this world, then

to where are the Israelites called? Are they destined to stay on earth during the Millennium, while Christians are not? I am confused. Would you please clarify these issues for me?

RESPONSE: That Christians are distinct not only from Jews (“Israelites,” as you call them) but also from Gentiles (i.e., from all non-Christians) is clear: “Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God” (1 Corinthians 10:32). The gospel is both to Jews and Gentiles; and when either believes, he or she becomes a new creation in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8-10) and a new member of His body, the church (Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:30, etc.). Nor am I the one who said Christians are “not of this world” but have been called “out of this world.” Christ said that: “Ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world” (John 15:19). Of His followers, Christ said in prayer to His Father: “... these are in the world.... I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world” (John 17:11, 15-16).

I don’t say it is vain to pray to God for national revival or to heal our nation. I have often prayed for that myself, and it should be the heart’s desire of every Christian in this country. I only say that there is no biblical promise that such a prayer will be answered, as there is for Israel in 2 Chronicles 7:14. Prayers for America legitimately express our longing for God’s blessing and salvation to come upon all mankind. We are, however, to pray with understanding.

Thus, when we pray, “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven,” we realize that will never happen until Christ returns and reigns. Yes, Christians are “God’s people”—not His earthly but His heavenly people. The church has no land; it is the Jews to whom God gave a specific land. God never gave America to the American Christians or Germany to German Christians. Therefore I cannot properly apply God’s promise (that when His people cry to Him He will “heal their land”) to anyone but the Jews, His people, and to the land of Israel, which He promised to them.

To inherit the kingdom eternally on earth, Jews must have the same faith in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that those patriarchs had. In my opinion—and many Bible scholars disagree—everyone, whether Jew or Gentile, who believes in Christ both before and after the Rapture, but before the Second Coming, will be in the church. Jews who have rejected Him but who at His Second Coming “look upon” Him and believe in Him when He descends from heaven to rescue them at the Battle of Armageddon (Zechariah 12:10)—like Gentiles who believe at that time as well—will continue into the Millennial Kingdom to experience Christ’s earthly reign on David’s throne.

Jews, of course, will be gathered by angels “from the four winds” on earth to Israel (Matthew 24:30-31). They are destined to dwell upon the earth in the Millennium and in the new heavens and new earth. The prophets promised this blessing to Israel (Isaiah 62; 65:17-25; Jeremiah 30:8-11; 31:1-12, 27-40; Ezekiel 34:11-31; 36:8-15, 22-38; 37:21-28; 39:21-29; Zechariah 12:10-14:21, etc., etc.). All of Israel will believe in Christ when He appears to rescue her in the midst of Armageddon. There will not be an unbelieving Jew left upon the earth, as the verses just referred to declare and so do many others, such as Matthew 24:13, Romans 11:26, etc.

Christ’s bride, the church, will be united with Him eternally. She will always be at His side and will comprise people from all nations, including Jews. All will be made one in Him to rule and reign, both during the Millennium and throughout eternity (Matthew 19:28; Luke 19:12-19; 22:30; Revelation 20:4, etc.).

LETTERS

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

Dear TA and the Berean Call staff,

I have wanted to write for a long time and finally sat down to do it. Thank you very much for your ministry over the years. I have always enjoyed TBC and read the newsletter each month with great enjoyment. The purpose of my letter is to commend you for your fairness over the years. You see, I was raised in the Cleveland Tennessee Church of God, which is a Pentecostal church. I am now a member of an Assemblies of God church and have enjoyed the media church out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Brother Tom, I am old enough to remember when Jimmy Swaggart had Dave Hunt on his program. Dave had just written *The Seduction of Christianity*, and I always admired Brother Swaggart for giving the book a fair hearing.... Although I know you are not from a Pentecostal background, you have *never* been unfair to them. I think that is fantastic! While you very properly critique the excesses of some who claim to be Pentecostal/Charismatics, you are always fair in your analysis. I am very conservative in my Pentecostal experience. I do not support the terrible excesses, nonsense, and abuses that have happened over the years with so many. TBC has been a tremendous blessing to me. I learned doctrine and apologetics from you and Dave Hunt and it has made me a better Christian. DF (KY)

Hello,

I read your email and the differences in the so-called *Message* bible/book. Also, some years ago a church I was attending had us read through *Purpose Driven*.... I remember not agreeing with various things I read, and especially I could discern that the Holy Spirit was not part of the contents. I was looked down on and felt

shunned. I did leave that church. I pray for the Holy Spirit to make me sensitive in discerning lies that creep up sometimes in Bible studies. I'm thankful to know that your ministry continues to stand firm in the truth of God's Word. NM (email)

Dear Berean Staff,

The beginning of a New Year and decade—already the future does appear grim. These are truly days described in Matthew 24 and other scriptures. I'm very thankful for your ministry, which provides truth and comfort and warnings of what's coming. May God bless you all and the work you do. I'm so thankful to be able to support you with prayer. CW (NE)

Dear Tom and Everyone at The Berean Call,

I had not heard of this current "The Send" deception—at least not by this name. Every movement has to have a new name or title to try to advance Satan's deceptive pattern. The name may change, but the "experience" is always the same. And there is no repentance. Thank you for your many years of holding to God's pure and plain Word. RD (NV)

Dear Tom and All at the Berean Call,

"Tragedy Compounded" is a vitally important message written in the fruit of the Spirit, using sound biblical doctrine by a deeply concerned watchman who has been weeping on the wall for a very long time. Suicide is no answer for anyone. Self absorption, whatever form it takes, denies the needs of others and most of all, denies Christ (Luke 10:27). Yes, the Word of God washes clean our repentant sins and is indeed the only healing balm for all emotional breakdowns, crises, and stresses—available to all who are truly "born again" (1 John 1:6-7, 1 John 5:4-5). It is shocking to witness many Christians embracing the trendy labeling and ghastly solutions of the fraudulent, money-making psychology industry. My heart aches as I daily pray for all affected by the worldly practice of psychology and psychiatry, from its deceived practitioners to its vulnerable patients. All are its victims! This idolatrous organization has no respect of persons—it takes no prisoners. Psychotherapy of the "self" is extremely dangerous, but equally so are the torturous drug regimes and ever-growing bizarre therapies and the "involuntary treatment orders" forced on terrified mentally ill adults and minors. HG (Australia)

TBC NOTES

Labor of Love

The Bible teaches that there is nothing we can do for our salvation beyond simply believing the gospel. Eternal life can be obtained only by receiving Christ by grace through faith. Period. It cannot be of works. On the other hand, once we have been saved there is much for us to do—and some of it is simply plain hard work. As just one example, prayer comes to mind.

Prayer takes discipline. Christ's disciples seemed to have had little discipline when they were with Him that night in the Garden of Gethsemane shortly before He was crucified. They couldn't pray with Him even one hour. In Luke 18:1 we find the exhortation that we "ought always to pray, and not to faint." Still, many if not most Christians have trouble maintaining an effective prayer life. They become weary of it.

In many cases this happens because in our going to God for something we focus on the "something" rather than the "going to God." Hebrews 11:6 tells us that God "is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." When intimate fellowship with the Lord becomes our primary motivation, our prayer life and every other good work turns into a labor of love.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

QUOTABLE

The uncertainty of life and the inevitability of death are two of the most basic elements of human existence. Logically, then—even for those who think death ends it all—what *may* lie after death deserves at least some attention and planning before it may be forever too late. And it is only reasonable that prior to that awesome moment of death, which overtakes all in its own time and without discrimination, one needs to be absolutely certain of what death will bring and exactly why. *Absolutely certain*? Of course, because nothing less will do. Regardless of one's religious belief or lack of it, death puts its exterminating stamp upon every earthly passion, position, possession, and ambition. There is a finality to death that shouts, "Too late! Too late!" Inasmuch as death could come knocking at any time, regardless of one's age, health, or expectations, there is a great urgency in knowing—with certainty beyond question—what lies beyond death's door. No matter how young we may be or how healthy we may seem, that dread event draws steadily and inexorably closer for each one of us—and often comes as an unwelcome surprise.

—DAVE HUNT

NEWSWATCH

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

AMERICAN'S FUZZY ON HOLOCAUST DETAILS

RELIGIONNEWS.COM, 1/22/20, "POLL: WHAT DO AMERICANS KNOW ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST? SOME, NOT MUCH" [EXCERPTS]: A new poll suggests Americans know about the Holocaust, the genocidal campaign against European Jews, but they're fuzzy on the details.

Most Americans (69%) know the Holocaust took place roughly between 1930 and 1950. And they know the Nazis created ghettos where Jews were forced to live (63%). The new Pew Research Center poll shows that fewer than half of Americans can correctly cite the number of Jews killed in the Holocaust—6 million....

This year's remembrance day also marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

(<http://bit.ly/372YGD1>)

THE PLAN TO REPLACE GOD

ICR.ORG, 12/31/19, "THE PLAN TO REPLACE GOD" [EXCERPTS]: After reviewing the writings of some 18th- and 19th-century thinkers, I'm convinced that the popularity of ideas like "millions of years" and "organic evolution" prevalent today didn't come from scientific data but from clever strategies and crafted stories.

One early strategy used straw man arguments to demote the biblical Flood. In this all-too-common break with logic, opponents of a view attack an imagined version of that view instead of the real one. Combatants claim victory over their opponents when all they really did was beat up a flimsy conception of their own making.

For example, in 1720 René Réaumur studied sedimentary layers near Tours, France. He noticed fossil leaves mixed with broken shells. He thought the leaves were "laid too neatly to be attributable to such a violent event as the Noahic cataclysm." Réaumur assumed a flood that could not, during a whole year, present the mudflow rates needed to deposit leaves. But the real Flood may well have done it.

Similarly, from 1749 to 1788 Comte de Buffon used his high position in Paris' Royal Academy of Sciences to promote his own ideas of vast ages for the earth in his 36-volume work *Histoire Naturelle*. The very phrase "natural history" supplants biblical history with a view that's supposedly based on sedimentary layers. But layers convey no history. Eyewitness accounts do.

Thus, the phrase leans on mere anti-biblical interpretations of layers. Buffon mentioned Noah's Flood, but his straw man version of the Flood was too gentle to disturb Earth's supposedly pre-existing rock layers—or even its trees and plants.

Since today's local floods can rip up rock, a worldwide flood would devastate all landscapes. Claiming the Flood was either too gentle to leave any trace or too violent to deposit leaves makes it easier to ignore. Straw man versions of Noah's Flood paved a path for imagined eons to deposit rock layers long before the Genesis events. This long-age view still strangles minds today. It keeps many would-be believers from trusting the Bible, including its good news.

(<http://bit.ly/2S34DeQ>)

A TOUGHER STANCE TOWARD IRAN'S MULLAHS

GATESTONEINSTITUTE.ORG, 1/23/20, "THE EU NEEDS TO TAKE TOUGHER STANCE TOWARDS IRAN'S MULLAHS" [EXCERPTS]: The European Union really needs to do two things as soon as possible: stop criticizing the Trump administration for its Iran policy, and halt its appeasement policies toward the ruling mullahs of Iran who have committed some of the worst crimes against humanity, not only in Iran but abroad.

Most recently, many innocent citizens of Canada, Iran and the EU were killed when an Iranian missile downed a Ukrainian passenger plane. The Iranian leaders first attempted to mislead the international community, veil the truth, and deny any involvement in the strike. The Iranian government also rejected cooperating with international investigators. "We will not give the black box to the manufacturer [Boeing] or America," said Ali Abedzadeh, the head of Iran's Civil Aviation Authority.

After Tehran, however, was faced with overwhelming evidence, including credible intelligence reports from several governments as well as a video showing that the plane was hit over Tehran, the Islamic Republic was forced to admit that it had shot down the passenger plane.

The IRGC's shooting down of the passenger plane has sparked anger and fury inside Iran and abroad. Iranians took to the street protesting the regime and demanding that Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei resign.

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

THE BEREAN CALL

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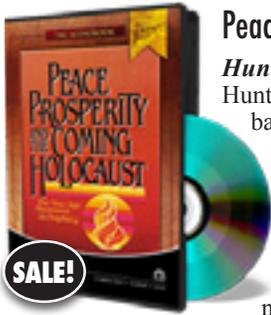
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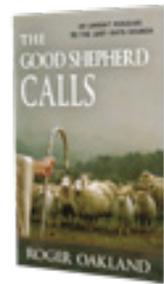
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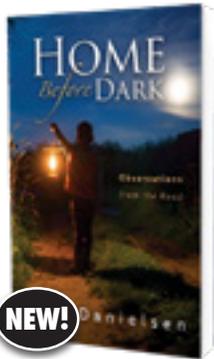
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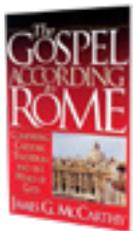
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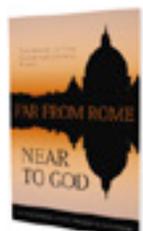
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