

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

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

The Wide Gate Is Booming – Part One

T. A. McMahon

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

—MATTHEW 7:13-14

ALTHOUGH THE WORD of God is timeless, I’m continually amazed yet very thankful at how it speaks to what’s going on now, meaning within our very hour. These two verses from the gospel of Matthew are prime examples, so let’s start with an understanding of them.

To enter in at the strait gate—or narrow way—is to enter the Kingdom of God, which can only take place when one is born again. And when that takes place, a believer receives the gift of eternal life, the consummation of placing one’s faith in Jesus for paying the full penalty for sin. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit” (1 Peter 3:18).

Humanity has the choice of entering through the narrow way...or through the wide gate. Since Scripture tells us that the consequences of entering the wide or broad way leads to destruction, it’s a wonder that “many” choose that way. Then again, given the sinful heart of man and the seductive power of Satan, it’s no surprise.

Two points need to be made regarding an individual’s choice. Since one who enters at the strait gate has chosen and received eternal life, he is eternally secure. On the other hand, if one chooses to *enter* the broad way, he has *rejected* the gospel of salvation—which is the only way of salvation—and has chosen eternal damnation. But what then of a born-again believer who is attracted to and bewitched by some of the seductions of the broad way?

Galatians 6:7-8 warns us that we’re not to deceive ourselves: “God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption.” Colossians 3:25 adds, “But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.” We’re also told that Satan’s lies promise liberty, whereas they are actually creating deceived servants of corruption, thus bringing them into bondage (2 Peter 2:19).

Yet for the believer who sins, God’s mercy prevails as he cries out for forgiveness. “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions” (Psalm 51:1). True believers indeed sin,

but they don’t love or continually *practice* sin (1 John 1:8-9).

It should be obvious that the “wide gate” is booming. One reason is given in Revelation 12:12. It indicates that Satan knows that his time of destruction is coming to an end and his response is “great wrath.” That’s good news...and bad news. The devil is about to be finished! Hallelujah! Yet the effectiveness of his wickedness is nearing its greatest hour.

Are there any indications of that happening today? Some of us who are baby boomers (being in our 60s and 70s) often wonder if we’ve been transported today to another planet, something not unlike Pergamos “where Satan’s seat is” (Revelation 2:13).

My best friend in the Lord has been Dave Hunt. He passed away in 2013. I know the Bible condemns necromancy, that is, communicating with the deceased (which today is being promoted as a special dispensation supposedly given to “Christians”). Nevertheless, in my imagination I’ve wondered how I could answer a simple question Dave might ask, such as, “So, Tom, what’s going on back on earth?” I could give him no answer short of him thinking I was hallucinating or reverting back to my Hollywood screenwriting days.

Moreover, I doubt that anyone reading this who’s under the age of 20 could relate to the differences now compared to the days of my youth. It’s not that my generation was righteous—far from it. Most weren’t even Christians, that is, biblically Christian. The most you could say favorably regarding the Christianity of my youth is that this era of history was not as blatantly antichrist as it clearly is today. However, it was certainly right at the “wide gate” of Eastern Mysticism, also known as the New Age Movement (NAM). This era ushered the religion of Hinduism to the west with great success, primarily by gutting it of its spiritual terms and selling it as ancient methods for healing and self-improvement.

The NAM’s financial success at that time is incalculable. Moreover, as a religion purposefully disguised, it has both

tricked and transformed American culture. If that sounds a bit far-fetched, ask this question to a group of people—that is, most any group of Americans: “Is Yoga a religion?” Their response would be more of a that’s-a-dumb-question look, meaning “Of course not! It’s an exercise program.” Or ask a group of teens what the letters YMCA stand for. Very likely the teens will tell you the “Y” stands for Yoga. Furthermore, it’s not a wild guess that the vocabulary and understanding of Hindu terms such as karma, mantra, deva, avatar, nirvana, etc., far-and-away exceed the teen’s knowledge of Christian terminology.

Although the United States is often touted as a Christian country, that’s actually not the case. In truth it is a pluralistic nation that allows the practice of different religions and the worship of numerous gods. That alone should disqualify us as a “biblically”

NOW WE BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN...
THAT YE BE NOT SOON SHAKEN IN
MIND, OR BE TROUBLED, NEITHER BY
SPIRIT, NOR BY WORD, NOR BY LETTER
AS FROM US, AS THAT THE DAY OF
CHRIST IS AT HAND.

LET NO MAN DECEIVE YOU BY ANY
MEANS: FOR THAT DAY SHALL NOT
COME, EXCEPT THERE COME A FALLING
AWAY FIRST, AND THAT MAN OF SIN BE
REVEALED, THE SON OF PERDITION....

—2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-3

Christian country. We have never met God’s absolute and perfect criteria. Add to that the fact that many “Christians” today wrongly consider conservatism as a chief characteristic of Christianity, so they would regard our country’s shift to liberalism or socialism or even communism and Marxism as the major change taking place in our country—at least at the political level.

Once the trend away from traditional values and works gained a foothold here, religion in the US quickly turned to Eastern Mysticism, which started in all seriousness in the 1970s. Hindu gurus flooded our shores as missionaries, promoting their religious beliefs. But then they had to change their tune, dropping the obvious religious aspects by declaring them to be health programs, or simply forms of medical science. That was necessary because religion was not allowed to be introduced into our secular schools. Eastern meditation such as Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’s Spiritual Regeneration Movement was banned in our schools because it was clearly the religion of Hinduism. But that was only a bump in the road for the missionaries of the millions of Hindu gods. It would be no problem to easily fix that.

Maharishi, who was the favorite guru of the Beatles, simply changed Spiritual Regeneration to Transcendental Meditation and sold it as a “scientific method” for achieving relaxation. That ended all the legal objections. The Beatles and other rock groups joined the promotion, as well as popular Hollywood celebrities, and the gurus had little difficulty converting the masses.

The now popular New Age Movement bewitched our country and much of the world. Here in the West, millions eagerly accepted Hinduism that has been remodeled to make it appeal to our materialistic cultures. How successful was it? It not only turned the West to the East, but it transformed our culture! As a college student, the first time I heard the word Yoga, ironically, was at the YMCA. Not so today.

Most who live here in Central Oregon may be aware of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, the East Indian guru who set up his ashram on nearly 70 thousand acres just north of Bend near Antelope, Oregon. Rajneesh was ousted from this country for being a part of a plot to poison the legislators in Jefferson County in order to take political control of the county. By God’s intervention, the “Big Muddy Ranch,” as it was popularly known, was taken over by Young Life and used as a Christian camp to minister the Word of God to young people.

As noted, the influence of Hinduism and Eastern Mysticism on the West cannot be calculated. The most popular series in the history of theatrical movies was based on the theology of Hinduism. It’s called *Star Wars*. In addition to the nine films that spanned 42 years, it became one of the top grossing media franchises of all time, exceeding \$70 billion. For four decades young and old alike have learned of a theology that is the direct opposite of biblical Christianity.

Star Wars, for example, teaches that God is an impersonal Force. This “force” has a light side and a dark side but is completely devoid of morality. It also can be manipulated by humans. Everything that exists is a part of the Force. That is called “pantheism.” The Force is said to contain powers that can be developed as one submits to it. Occult powers such as “levitation, telepathy, teleportation, mind reading and control,

manifesting energy fields”—all of which are beyond the natural makeup of the universe. They are, in fact, the same demonic powers condemned in Isaiah 47. They attempt to usurp God’s power in pursuing and realizing our godhood (v 10), which manifests itself as “wickedness.”

They include “sorceries,” “enchantments,” “demonic counsels,” and seeking to know the future from the stars. However, Isaiah 47:11 warns of the consequences of such a pursuit: “Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.” That warning was not just for that time period—in fact, we’re seeing the evil intensifying today.

Although much of the promise of achieving occult powers is directed at enticing young people with the dream of developing the god-like powers of superheroes, a far more widespread seduction has taken place. It involves the realm of healing through what’s being called alternative medicine. It’s actually a revival of the practice of shamanism.

A shaman, also called a witch doctor or a medicine man, is a mediator between humans and the spirit world. Anthropologist Michael Harmon, one of the world’s leading experts on shamanism, points out that the field of holistic medicine is simply ancient shamanism being practiced in our culture under the umbrella of “science” with new labels such as visualization, aspects of psychoanalysis, hypnotherapy, meditation, positive mental attitude, stress reduction, and mental and emotional psychotherapies.

The fundamental mode of a shaman is to enter into an altered state of consciousness (ASC) in which contact is made with a spirit entity who provides power and guidance in order to supposedly alleviate all kinds of illnesses. Witchdoctors and medicine men have relied upon drugs to achieve an ASC, but they also look to meditation, music, dance, and various forms of sensory deprivation. Yet no amount of psychologized labels and scientific-sounding consciousness-altering techniques can change the fact that contact with, and in

many cases possession by demonic spirits takes place. That’s the documented history of shamanism.

The world today is being persuaded to believe that normal objective reality experienced in ordinary consciousness is unreal and that the illusion experienced on drugs, in Yoga, or in other altered states of consciousness is the true reality.

That belief is reflective of what Satan fed to Eve in the Garden of Eden: “...the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die.... Ye shall be as gods....” It’s the lie of godhood that completely contradicts reality. Denying normal objective reality is the wide gate and the broad way that “leadeth to destruction.” In both cases they present the lie of godhood for humanity (Genesis 3:4-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4), which is the utmost blasphemy. It’s also the ceaseless message received from the spirit entities contacted while one is in altered states of consciousness.

As ludicrous as the Adversary’s attempts at flipping reality is, he has no choice. Why? He has no truth... which doesn’t mean he doesn’t have a gameplan for the destruction of humanity.

[TO BE CONTINUED]

AND I HEARD A LOUD VOICE SAYING IN HEAVEN, NOW IS COME SALVATION, AND STRENGTH, AND THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD, AND THE POWER OF HIS CHRIST: FOR THE ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN IS CAST DOWN, WHICH ACCUSED THEM BEFORE OUR GOD DAY AND NIGHT.

AND THEY OVERCAME HIM BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY; AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH.

THEREFORE REJOICE, YE HEAVENS, AND YE THAT DWELL IN THEM. WOE TO THE INHABITERS OF THE EARTH AND OF THE SEA! FOR THE DEVIL IS COME DOWN UNTO YOU, HAVING GREAT WRATH, BECAUSE HE KNOWETH THAT HE HATH BUT A SHORT TIME.

—REVELATION 12:10-12

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@theberean.org

QUESTION: How much power do Satan, his minions, and the Antichrist have? Can they heal?

RESPONSE: That Satan has great power is unarguable, as Job chapters 1 and 2 demonstrate. He is, however, restricted in this power: “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power [within a specific limit]; only *upon himself put not forth thine hand*. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD” (Job 1:12). Regarding an “ability” to heal, however, we must recognize that Satan is not the Creator and can’t bring life and healing. As Paul clearly told the pagan philosophers on Mars Hill, “For in him [the Lord] we live, and move, and have our being...” (Acts 17:28). In Exodus 15:26, the Lord declared, “...for I am the LORD that healeth thee.”

In contrast, Satan can only afflict. Job 2:7 tells us, “So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.” Although Satan can afflict, he can also withdraw the affliction, thus giving the *appearance* of a healing: “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light” (2 Corinthians 11:14).

During His earthly sojourn, Jesus encountered a woman who for 18 years had been crippled by a spirit (Luke 13:11). Jesus identifies her infirmity as being from Satan: “[T]here was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and...could in no wise lift up herself.... And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, *whom Satan hath bound*, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?” (Luke 13:11,16). Satan’s power is real but easily overcome by our Lord. Jesus’ miracle of healing clearly showed His authority over Satan.

The hallmark of Satan’s end-times deception is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10: “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.” He is the master of deception, and if “healing” will attract those being deceived, he will produce a counterfeit healing.

QUESTION: How could God allow such cruelty to befall mankind, such as the ignorant millions in India suffering starvation, pain, disease, etc., and brainwashed into a false religion?

RESPONSE: I sense the pain of your heart. There are some key words in your important question; the first is “allow.” This is not the world as God wants it to be or made it to be; it is the world that man has made in his rebellion and that God has allowed.

Why would God “allow” sin, suffering, idolatry, etc., all of which will lead to eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire? The biblical answer is clear: He has given man the power of choice. Without free will, we could neither love one another, nor God, nor respond to His love for us. Love is the highest expression of God’s character and image in the man whom He created. Obviously, love must come from the heart, or it is not love. The ability to love would be meaningless without the ability not to love and even to hate: obedience is meaningless unless one has the option and ability to disobey.

Rejecting free will, the Calvinist says that this evil world is exactly as God predestined and brings to pass. But the very

conscience God has given us will not allow such a wicked charge against God who “is love” (1 John 4:8,16), who is “good to all: and his tender mercies are over all His works” (Psalm 145:9), and who desires “all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). That many will suffer in the Lake of Fire for eternity is not what God desires for anyone!

Your next key word is “ignorant.” On the contrary, God has given each person the witness of creation and conscience. No matter at what time in history or in what place and society anyone is raised (even in the pagan Far East, like India or China, where one-third of earth’s population lives), the Bible says that “they are without excuse” (Romans 1:19,20). No one is totally “ignorant”—and to those who obey the light God has given them, *more* light and grace will be given. But those who reject the light of creation and conscience that God has given to all are given up by God to their own willful perversions.

Your third key word is “brainwashed.” In fact, no one is a pawn of Satan without first having rejected the light God has given them in creation and conscience. Even then, Satan may need to do little, because “every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed” (James 1:14).

The world in Noah’s day was so far from what God desired it to be that “it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart” to such an extent that He said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth...” (Genesis 6:6,7). Indeed, God destroyed everyone except one man and his family, Noah, who “found grace in the eyes of the LORD” (v 8).

Jesus said that in the last days just before His return, conditions on the earth would be as they were “in the days of Noah [and] in the days of Lot” (Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-30). So we know that the world of sin and suffering you describe is not God’s doing. Has He allowed it? Yes. But the only other alternative would have been to destroy mankind. We are glad that He did not, because many, like Noah, have found grace by accepting salvation in Christ Jesus—and there is a new universe coming, entirely without sin or suffering!

QUESTION: I disagree with what you have said concerning the rich young ruler. “The issue was not the young man’s salvation but rather service to Christ.” In fact, salvation is in view and not service, for this ruler asked, “What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

RESPONSE: Yes, the young ruler did ask what he should do to inherit eternal life. But there was *nothing* he could do! Having already broken the law, his keeping it perfectly in the future (even if that could be done) would not pay for past sin or justify him. And so it is with all mankind.

Though he claimed that he had kept the law perfectly, that wasn’t true, for “all have sinned.” Nor was Christ giving him conditions for salvation, for “by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight. . .” (Romans 3:19-23).

If “selling all and giving to the poor” is essential to salvation, then none of us are saved. It was Christ’s means of revealing to the young man his love of riches, and that he didn’t, as he claimed, love his neighbor as himself. Certainly, Christ was not telling him that if he sold all he had and gave to the poor he would be saved. That act would merely be the means of his starting to follow Christ.

LETTERS

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Dear TBC,

How can ANY fiction, whatsoever, be the truth that sets men free? ...or be the truth that edifies the children of God? It IS painful to be denied the temptation of “entertainment”; we are surrounded by it in this generation. Do we ever NEED to appeal to the flesh for the will of God to be done? Or does faith come by hearing... and hearing by the Word of God? The apostle Paul said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” ...Is Jesus going to sit around watching TV? What benefit is there to mixing God’s truth with fiction that would be superior to His holy Word unfettered? I say these things from love, to a last-generation church, that is BURIED in distractions of every kind...asleep, not enduring sound doctrine. The LORD is soon to return to gather His church home.... May we wake up...lift up our heads...and encourage and admonish one another to righteous living, with a hunger for His Word, which is available to all. Invest your time well. AH (email)

Dear T. A.,

I enjoyed and I am still digesting the June 2023 Newsletter, Volume XXXVIII Number 6: “Mysticism and the Coming World Religion—Part Three.”

You said that...“Another necessary element in regard to preventing being seduced or deceived by the increasing apostasy may be the most difficult one to satisfy or maintain. It has to do with fellowship”—page 2.

TBC NOTES

Ephesians 6:12-13

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

That’s a verse many of us have read dozens of times, but I don’t think we understand how significant it is—read “treacherous.” First of all, with whom are we dealing? It was not a physical entity but a spirit being who committed the first sin (Is 14:14). Secondly, it was a rebellious spirit being who deceived the first human into disobeying God (Gen 3:4-5).

Moving ahead to our day and hour, our world, particularly our too often questionable medical community, is turning more and more to *non-physical entities* for insights and power regarding physical healing. The most sought after and effective device for this shamanistic healing approach is contacting demonic spirits and obtaining their power while in an altered state of consciousness.

In other words, according to the Scriptures, the “powers” are obtained from the “rulers of the darkness of this world” and stem from “spiritual wickedness in high places.”

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Would you be able to develop that Topic, the third one, “Finding Fellowship!” a little more? My wife and I are having a tremendous and difficult time finding a church that just teaches and preaches God’s Word here in Milwaukee, WI. Many think “Dispensationalism” is an old outdated system of belief. Few believe in a Pre-Trib Rapture. Few believe that Israel and the Church are to remain separate. Very few preach or teach any Eschatology! Many are into Calvinism and Reformation Theology. Many, many Lutheran and Catholic Churches here in Milwaukee, WI. Many Baptist Fundamental Churches are into King James Onlyism. BR (email)

Greetings in Jesus’ name,

I am responding to the TBC Notes section of the May newsletter, encouraging readers to send in their questions about *The Chosen* series in order that people would critically think about the series’ content. Here are my comments/question(s):

Would Jesus support New Age concepts, taking focus off of Himself unto self-seeking men?

In the episode where the character portraying Jesus is talking to the Nicodemus character, “Jesus” asks Nic, “What does your heart tell you?” [The Bible tells us:] “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jer 17:9)

“My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever” (Ps 73:26, emphasis mine).

Wouldn’t fabricating the Holy Lord’s words be a dishonest representation of His character? When the character portraying “Jesus” is speaking to the children in episode 3 of season 1, he speaks passages that were designed to be heard by the Pharisees, changing the dynamics of what the real Jesus was speaking about. Changing the recipient of the message changes the message because the context changes; in this case, the rebuke intended for a Pharisaical audience is softened as it becomes a lesson for children.

Do people know that God’s words are not to be trifled with? Should we abandon the warning given in Matthew 12 on the basis of “it’s just a movie/fiction” mindset? *Where is the fear of the Lord??*

“A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. *But I say unto you*, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matt 12:35-37, emphasis mine).

Thank you for taking the stand your ministry does regarding *The Chosen* series. AT (WY)

NOTE: Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive. We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

QUOTABLE.....

“The false prophets in Jeremiah’s day ridiculed predictions of coming judgment and boasted of peace and safety when the Judge stood at the door (Jer 6:14; 8:11). It is the same today and will be until the vials of the wrath of God are actually being poured out upon the earth (1 Thess 5:3). Men prefer these soft-spoken teachers of error who prophesy smooth things (Is 30:10) to the faithful men of God who declare unflinchingly the Word of the Lord without fear or favor. But in the day of Christ, when everything hidden is brought to light, God’s true servants will be recognized and rewarded, and the preachers of falsehood will be dealt with in judgment.”

—H. A. IRONSIDE

NEWSWATCH

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

SOMETIMES IT TAKES A BABY

INTELLECTUALTAKEOUT.ORG, 6/27/23, “SOMETIMES IT TAKES A BABY TO BRING OUT THE HUMANITY IN US” [EXCERPTS]: Air travel today might be considered the triumph of individualism. It involves people in their own bubbles rushing to destinations with little human contact. It is a case of Hobbes’ “every man against every man” as all travelers compete with each other to navigate inside the lonely crowd.

However, something extraordinary occasionally breaks the isolation, and people come out of their worlds and communicate with others. Such rare moments give a glimpse into how interesting people can be.

The main character in this drama was an unassuming baby at the back of the plane. For a full ten minutes during the boarding process, the poor terrified infant could not stop crying at the top of his lungs despite the mother’s desperate attempts to calm him.

It seemed all but certain that the mother and child would be expelled as the minutes ticked by when something unexpected happened. About a dozen rows from the front, a voice rang out, “Miss, give the poor baby a break! We can take it! It’s no problem.”

That first lone voice unleashed a chorus of support from all over the plane. The cabin erupted in cries to let the baby stay. Everyone offered to put up with the crying. There was a certain joy in their offers of sacrifice.

(<https://bit.ly/46cSmvO>)

COURT: NO PROTECTION FROM GENDER TRANSITION

FRONTPAGEMAG.COM, 6/27/23, “COURT STRIKES DOWN STATE LAW PROTECTING MINORS FROM GENDER TRANSITION MEDICAL ABUSE” [EXCERPTS]: An Obama-appointed federal district court judge in Arkansas, District Court Judge James M. Moody Jr., struck down Arkansas’s ban on “gender transition procedures” performed on any individual under eighteen years of age. Judge Moody...claimed it violated the Fourteenth Amendment’s Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses and the First Amendment.

For biological girls, radically transformative surgeries, preceded by testosterone replacement therapy, can include double mastectomy and what transgender activists like to call “bottom surgery.” The latter could entail removal of the uterus, removal of the vagina, and changing the clitoris into a penis. These surgical procedures often entail serious, long-term complications and are irreversible for the rest of the girl’s life.

For biological boys, radically transformative surgeries, preceded by chemical castration, can involve breast augmentation and penile inversion vaginoplasty.

Arkansas’s Attorney General Tim Griffin vowed to appeal Judge Moody’s decision. “I am disappointed in the decision that prevents our state from protecting our children against dangerous medical experimentation under the moniker of ‘gender transition,’” he said, [adding], “There is no scientific evidence that any child will benefit from these procedures, while the consequences are harmful and often permanent.”

(<https://bit.ly/3LkdpAj>)

“PREHISTORIC” PADDLEFISH?

ICR.ORG, 6/30/22, “‘PREHISTORIC’ PADDLEFISH?” [EXCERPTS]: Evolutionists consider the freshwater paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) of the class Actinopterygii to be a prehistoric creature, a primitive bony fish “50 million years” older than the dinosaurs—making the freshwater paddlefish “350 million years” old. They look bizarre, and they have always been paddlefish.

This alleged “prehistoric” creature is impressively designed with special cellular sensors called *electroreceptors*. These hair cells are contained in a structure called the ampullary organ located on the extension or beak-like process of the paddlefish’s snout (rostrum). The fish can detect steady (tonic) electrical discharges of zooplankton—their favorite food. God also designed the paddlefish with sensory pores covering much of the skin surface that extends from the rostrum to the gill or opercular flaps.

The paddlefish has made the news recently because decades ago its habitat in Texas (they are also found in the Mississippi River basin and China) was disrupted by a dam that was built upstream. The waterflow needed for the fish to survive was altered, causing the fish to die out in the 1970s.

But think of all the environmental disasters that would befall every square inch of the Earth’s surface during the supposed 350 million years. The calamities would be legion, including earthquakes, drought, natural pollution, volcanoes, extreme changes in salinity, pH, and oxygen concentration, continental drift, asteroid strikes, flooding, and freezing. But the robust little paddlefish was able to endure all of these apocalyptic events spanning many millions of years—until it encountered a dam in Texas.

(<https://bit.ly/44YLq01>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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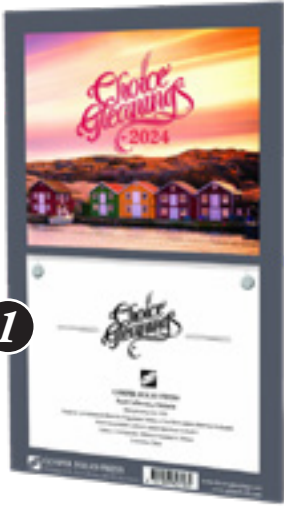
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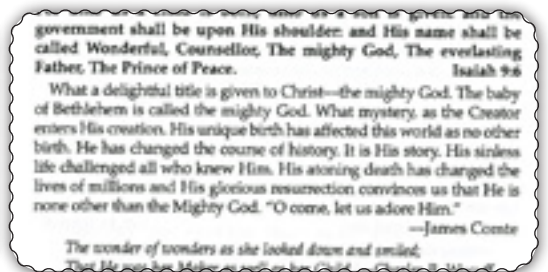
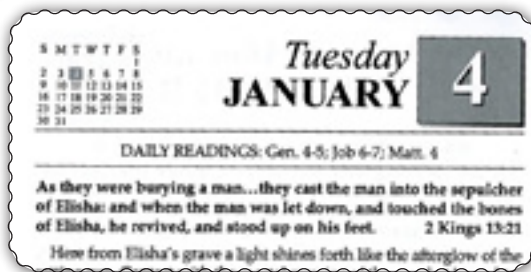
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Gospel Folio Press—With the uncertainties of the future as we enter another new year, it's a blessing to know there is a "lighthouse" to guide us through the stormy seas of life. Contributors to this beloved devotional calendar have prayerfully submitted their thoughts on God's Word, providing light to our pathway and comfort and guidance for each day. *Choice Gleanings* (originally named *The Remembrancer*) has been bringing inspiration and encouragement to Christians since 1940! Now available as a wall calendar or spiral bound for use on a desk, table, or windowsill.

- 1 CA01 Wall-style Calendar - Available now (no back orders) wt 1.0 \$11.00
- 2 CA02 Desk-style Calendar - Available now (no back orders) wt .6 \$11.00



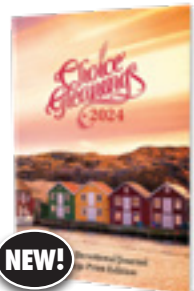
NOTE: Calendar images differ slightly from actual product. Inside details (shown right) have been reduced in size.



Choice Gleanings 2024 - Daily Devotional Pocket Planner

Gospel Folio Press—Now the *Choice Gleanings* devotional calendar is also available as a convenient pocket planner! Contains the same devotions as the desk and wall calendar but is small enough to fit into your purse or pocket! **FEATURES INCLUDE:** Month at a glance • Daily readings • Page per day • Inspiring devotional • Appointment & to do list • A twelve-hour (eight a.m. - eight p.m.) appointment schedule • Durable semi-exposed wire-o binding (will open flat) • Dimensions: 4.0 x 7.0 in.

CA04 AVAILABLE NOW — NO BACK ORDERS! wt .5 \$10.00



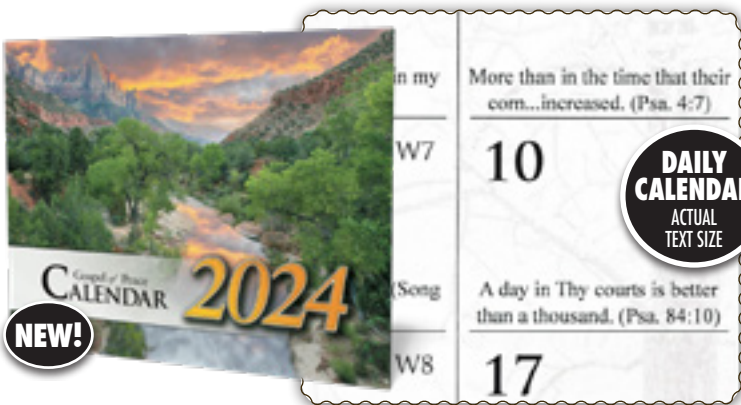
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Gospel Folio Press—Enjoy *Choice Gleanings* as a year-long journal! Along with daily verses to take you through the Bible in a year, you will gain insight and comfort from the devotional messages. Ample space is included to record your notes and prayers every day of the week! **FEATURES INCLUDE:** Month at a glance • Daily readings • Inspiring devotional • Appointment & to do list • Durable semi-exposed wire-o binding (will open flat) • Dimensions: 6.0 x 8.5 in.

CA03 AVAILABLE NOW — NO BACK ORDERS! wt 1.2 \$14.00

NOTE: Choice Gleanings products are available only for a limited time. Order now before they're out of stock—no back orders!

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2024 Gospel of Peace - Wall Calendar

Bible Truth Publishers—This beautiful, high-quality appointment calendar provides large-print Bible verses with a different scenic picture for each month. Great for you to enjoy or give to your loved ones. Available in three formats—daily and monthly Bible verses, monthly Bible verses, and a gospel verse calendar designed to witness to the unbelievers in your life. **FEATURES INCLUDE:** Previous and next month at a glance • Major US and CAN holidays • Daylight Savings Times marked • 26 pages • Dimensions: 11 x 8.5 in.

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Hunt—Whatever you believe and why, one thing is certain: Today’s world is the scene of a strange and growing paradox that seems to mar an important transformation in the history of mankind. For even as scientific and technological advancement is accelerating at an exponential rate, we are witnessing the greatest explosion of occultism of all time. Your friends, your family, your neighbors—and quite possibly, even your church—are wondering: Is America at the threshold of a glorious “rebirth” into planetary enlightenment, peace, and brotherhood? Or have we, as “forward-thinking” Americans in our search for higher levels of human potential, opened a spiritual Pandora’s box? The Berean Call, 294 pp.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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FALSE CHRIST COMING—DOES ANYBODY CARE? BOOKS BY WARREN B. SMITH



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A “Wonderful” Deception

Smith—Five years after writing *Deceived on Purpose: The New Age Implications of the Purpose Driven Church*, former New Age follower Warren Smith continues to reveal how Christian leaders—wittingly or unwittingly—are leading the church into a spiritual trap. And while biblical prophecy is being minimized and explained away, a powerful spiritual deception is being used to prepare the world—and the church—to accept a New Spirituality and a false New Age Christ. *A “Wonderful” Deception* explains how all the puzzle pieces are in place for the “strong delusion” described in 2 Thessalonians while preparing believers in Jesus Christ to effectively stand against it. Mountain Stream Press, 243 pp.

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The Light That Was Dark

Smith—Warren Smith’s fascinating spiritual journey begins with a dramatic reading by a traveling psychic. Following the psychic’s explicit instructions, Smith prays to spirits on “the other side” and asks for their spiritual help in his life. After that prayer, a number of mysterious, seemingly “meant to be” personal encounters and spiritual experiences propel him forward on his journey. Follow the trail as a bewildered Smith and the woman who is soon to become his wife are compelled to come to terms with the nature of good and evil. After surfacing from a series of tumultuous and harrowing incidents, he shares his journey’s startling and inescapable conclusion. Mountain Stream Press, 167 pp.

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False Christ Coming

Smith—Just as Hitler telegraphed his plans in *Mein Kampf*, so Antichrist has telegraphed his plans through his designated false teachers. Author Warren B. Smith is a former follower of this coming New Age “Christ.” *False Christ Coming—Does Anybody Care?* describes the deceptive teachings that undergird Antichrist’s deceptive “Peace Plan.” Smith’s book is a wake-up call to a church that remains strangely silent and in deep denial about the very deception that Jesus warned would come in His name (Matthew 24:3-5). Read this book and then warn your friends and family (2 Corinthians 2:11). Mountain Stream Press, 159 pp.

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Daily journals, planners,
and more—see page 6

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Halloween, Paganism, and the Bible

Hodge—What does Halloween actually celebrate? Bodie Hodge addresses the origin and purpose of Halloween, while showing its roots in Paganism dating back to times before Christ and potentially prior to the dispersion at the Tower of Babel. Throughout this powerful teaching, Bodie continually looks to what the Bible says about the topics as he reflects on how we as Christians should respond. Answers in Genesis, 1 DVD, 61 min.

DVD364 wt .2 \$12.50



A Biblical & Historical Look at Halloween

Hodge—When did modern-day Halloween get started? What is the original source for Halloween? What are the evils of modern-day Halloween and what can a Christian do? Find the answers to these questions and more, in this concise booklet! Answers in Genesis, 23 pp.

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