

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

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

God of Jacob, God of Israel — Part Two

Dave Hunt — First published in September 2006

LAST MONTH WE NOTED that the only true God, the Creator of the universe and all things therein—the God of the Bible—has linked His name with and tied His integrity to Israel. Yet many evangelicals, including well-known leaders, insist that Israel is of no significance to God any longer, having been cut off for rejecting Christ and now having been replaced by the church. There are even groups (not only among white supremacists or cults such as Herbert W. Armstrong's die-hard followers today) who persist in the ridiculous theory that the "Ten Lost Tribes" of Israel migrated to the British Isles and that therefore all those of British descent are the true Jews today. Some go so far as to say that all of the "white races" are the true Jews—as though not only England but all of Europe and Russia was uninhabited wasteland until these remnants of the "Ten Lost Tribes" settled there.

We have proved that the ten tribes taken to Assyria (2 Ki 17:6-23) were not "lost" but make up most of those called Jews today (see 2 Chr 34:35; Q&A Nov '92, May '96). Far from Israel being cut off, hundreds of prophecies foretell Israel's importance in world affairs in the last days, the attack of all the world against her at Armageddon, her rescue by the Messiah, and her glorious final restoration in the Millennial Kingdom. Nor is there ever a reference to Israel anywhere in Scripture that could possibly be interpreted as meaning the British Isles or the British people, much less the "white races"!

Most of the more than 2,000 references to Israel or Israelites in the Bible and the thousands of prophecies (already fulfilled or yet to be fulfilled) pertain to the historical land of Israel in the Middle East, whose boundaries are clearly described (Gn 15:18-21), or to the people who lived there for nearly 2,300 years, were cast out under God's judgment, and will be brought back by God so that not one ethnic Jew will be left outside Israel (Ezk 39:27-29).

We know who the Jews are today by DNA testing. The Israeli Immigrant Liaison Bureau requires DNA tests where there is some question as to the authenticity of claimed Jewish ancestry. Such tests would draw a complete blank if applied to the average person of British descent, and prove British-Israelism to be utter folly. No other ethnic group without its own land and scattered around the world for more than 2,000 years has or could maintain its DNA identity as have the Jews.

It is not important to know who is an American, German, Arab, Greek, et al. In contrast, it is vital to know who is a Jew. Why? About 70 percent of the pages of Scripture are taken up in recounting Israel's history and prophesying her future: her continued and unrepentant rebellion against God, His reluctant and long-delayed but finally severe discipline (the worst of which is yet to come), the Jews' worldwide dispersion, their re-gathering from all over the world back into their own land in the Last Days, hundreds of prophecies concerning Israel's present key role in world affairs, of her greatest trial just ahead (Jer 30:7) when two-thirds of all Jews on earth will be killed (Zec 13:8,9), and of her final restoration under the Messiah (Zec 12-14). Unquestionably, Israel is the major subject

of God's Holy Word. To be wrong about Israel is therefore to be wrong on almost everything in the Bible.

The One whom the Bible 203 times calls "the God of Israel" has sworn by an everlasting covenant that Israel, three times called the "apple" of His eye (Dt 32:10; Lam 2:18; Zec 2:8), will *never* cease to exist as a *nation*: "Therefore fear thou not...O Israel...though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I...will not leave thee altogether unpunished" (Jer 30:10-11). "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city [Jerusalem] shall be built...it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever" (Jer 31:38-40). The language could not be clearer here and throughout God's Holy Word.

These and hundreds of other promises from God to Israel recorded in Scripture are a sharp rebuke to those such as Hank Hanegraaff, D. James Kennedy, R.C. Sproul, et al., who teach that the church has replaced Israel. "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day...moon...and...stars...by night...if those ordinances depart from before me...then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever..." (Jer 31:35-36); "While the earth remaineth...day and night shall not cease" (Gn 8:22); "Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger...and I will bring them again unto this place [Israel], and I will cause them to dwell safely: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God...so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them" (Jer 32:37-42).

Israel has failed to fulfill her calling to be an example to the world of holiness in dedication to God (Lv 20:22-24, 26; Dt 6:4-5; 7:6, etc.). While there are many believing Israelis, some even within the military, Israel today as a whole remains as wicked and godless as America and the rest of the nations. God's "chosen people," living once again in the Promised Land in fulfillment of many specific biblical prophecies, refuse to honor in their daily lives the God of their fathers who has brought them there. Even in the present distress related to Gaza and Lebanon, the vast majority of Israelis trust in their own arms and determination instead of trusting the only One who can protect them and has promised to do so.

The triumph of tiny Israel in every war and against impossible odds is admitted by many in the IDF as defying ordinary explanation. Military officers giving pep talks to new recruits often tell of amazing events they have witnessed in past wars, but rarely is God's intervention hinted at, even when no other explanation would be possible. Israel as a whole has not yet been humbled to the point of acknowledging what the Psalmist prophesied: "If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, now may Israel say...when men rose up against us: then they had swallowed us up quick.... Blessed be the LORD, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth....Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth" (Ps 124:1,2,6,8). At Armageddon, however, this prophecy will become a reality to all who survive.

In contrast, Britain, along with America, will be among those "all nations" that God will gather and destroy at Armageddon (Jer 30:11; Jl 3:2; Zec 12:9, 14:2, etc.) for their mistreatment of Israel, and especially for dividing His land. In fact, Britain played a key role in robbing Israel of its land and giving most of it to the Arabs for

oil. Both Britain and America have betrayed Israel many times, and the U.S. State Department and British Foreign Service have opposed Israel from the beginning, as we document in *Judgment Day*. Those facts alone prove the lie of British Israelism.

So why would God faithfully help faithless Israel? He makes it clear to Israel from the very beginning, "...because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out...from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt..." (Dt 7:8). As we noted last month, referring to her ultimate restoration and blessing (which He has promised through the Messiah), the God of Israel declares: "Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen... be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel...I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it" (Ezk 36:22,32,36, etc.). In spite of Israel's present disregard of Him, "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Ex 3:15,16 and ten other places in the Bible) is fulfilling His promises to those patriarchs through their descendants—and the day is coming when all Israel who survive Armageddon will believe.

Most Jews worldwide await the Messiah's first coming, unaware that He already came and was rejected and crucified. Jesus warned the Jews, "I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive" (Jn 5:43). Tragically, it will take Armageddon for the surviving Jews to repent, turn to the God of Israel, and embrace the One who comes in His Father's name. In that greatest distress ever faced by Israel, God declares that the one-third whom He will bring alive "through the fire...refine[d] as silver is refined...as gold is tried [shall] call on my name, and I will hear them" (Zec 13:8,9).

When they see with their own eyes the Messiah come to rescue them, and discover to their shame who He is, "...they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him...a great mourning in Jerusalem..." (Zec 12:10-14). Why such extreme sorrow at being rescued by the Messiah? The God of Israel declares: "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (12:10)!

At Armageddon, when Yahweh comes to the rescue, He reveals Himself as the One whom Israel has pierced! Pierced?! When and how could Israel pierce the One who told Moses, "there shall no man see me, and live" (Ex 33:20)? God, "a Spirit" (Jn 4:24), cannot be pierced—but the Messiah coming as a man could be. Jesus, who fulfilled every Messianic prophecy, was pierced on the cross. Why was He crucified? For claiming to be God (Jn 10:30-33)!

Yahweh is speaking in the first person, yet two persons seem to be involved: "...they shall look upon *me* whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for *him*..." This *him* seems to be another person—and yet He must also be Yahweh! Is Yahweh two persons? In fact, He declares Himself to be three in one! Consider this: "I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I..." (Is 48:16). Surely the one speaking must be God because He has been speaking from the very beginning. Yet He adds, "The Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me" (Ibid.). Here we encounter God, the Lord GOD, and the Spirit of God.

Could this be what the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostle John to write, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"? Surely this One called the "Word," who existed from the beginning and *is* God, must be the same God to whom Isaiah refers who speaks from the beginning.

But the similarities in these two verses don't end there. Both raise almost identical questions. In Isaiah, how can God be *sent* by God; and in John, how can God be *with* God? There is only one solution: the Messiah must *be* God. When Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" (Jn 10:30), the Jews accused Him of blasphemy. When they picked up stones, Jesus asked why they wanted to kill Him. Their instant reply was, "for blasphemy...thou, being a man, makest thyself God" (vv. 31-33). For the Messiah to declare His deity was the ultimate heresy, worthy of death? No!

According to the Hebrew prophets, the Messiah *had* to be God and, at the same time, the Son of God. If God has a Son, who *Himself* is God and one with His Father, that would dissolve the rabbis' objections. We encounter God's Son a number of times in the Hebrew Scriptures. Speaking prophetically, the Psalmist presents God as declaring of one who is to come, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" (Ps 2:7). Jehovah's Witnesses and others who deny Christ's deity take this as referring to Christ's birth on earth as the beginning of His existence. That cannot be the case, however, because God speaks of His Son as already existing and warns a God-defying world, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry.... Blessed are all they that put their trust in him" (v 12).

That the Son of God already existed before His incarnation is clear from a number of other statements by the Hebrew prophets. Solomon quotes the prophet Agur asking this question: "Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment?" The obvious answer is "God." Then he asks, "what is his son's name..." (Prv 30:4), proving that the Son of God already existed at that time. Shadrack, Meshach, and Abednego were cast into a huge furnace so hot that the flames killed those who threw them into it. Nebuchadnezzar, astonished to see these three Hebrews walking alive in the flames, observes another with them and in wonder exclaims, "the fourth is like the Son of God" (Dn 3:25)!

While promising salvation through the coming Messiah, Yahweh repeatedly declared that He himself was the only Savior: "I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no savior" (Is 43:11); "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Is 45:22). And yet this salvation goes to "the ends of the earth" by another who must Himself be God and the Messiah: "I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth" (Is 49:6). Of whom does God speak?

Unquestionably, the Hebrew prophets all agree that God exists as a tri-unity: three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) but one God—and that in the Messiah He becomes man without ceasing to be God. Christ's claims that He was God and man, and one with His Father, agree with the prophets. Isaiah declared: "For unto us a child is born..." (Is 9:6). This refers to His humanity, derived, as foretold, from His virgin mother, Mary: the "seed" of the woman (Gn 3:15). But Isaiah adds, "unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder....Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David..." (Is 9:6,7). Surely the Son given must be the already-existing Son of God—and He must be the Messiah, because He will rule on David's throne.

But Isaiah declares that the Messiah is God! His name is "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God." And He is also "The everlasting Father." Here is the same mystery: God is both Father and Son, and He alone is the Messiah! Most Jews still refuse to recognize this identity of the "God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." This is one place where they agree with their bitterest enemies, the Muslims. The Qur'an condemns to hell anyone who believes in the Trinity (Sur 5:72-74)!

So the fact that Yahweh has come as a man who was pierced to the death, resurrected, and will return to rescue Israel at Armageddon is in perfect agreement with the Hebrew prophets. When Israel sees her God in this form coming to her rescue, it will be painfully clear that He has been to earth before, where He was rejected and pierced to the death. So Jesus was only echoing the prophets when He said to the inhabitants of Jerusalem as He was being "brought as a lamb to the slaughter" (Is 53:7) on the way to the Cross: "Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord" (Mt 23:39). At last they will understand "the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob"—and "all Israel shall be saved" (Rom 11:26)!

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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

or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: Do you know anything about groups called “gene-testing services?” Apparently they have convinced many to believe they come from monkeys.

RESPONSE: It has been well documented that man actually is closer “genetically” to pigs. That’s why we have for decades used biological parts that have been grown in pigs. As a scientific publication notes, “Pigs share a number of surprising comparable traits with humans. For instance, we both have [relatively] hairless skin, a thick layer of subcutaneous fat, light-colored eyes, protruding noses and heavy eyelashes. Pig skin tissues and heart valves can be used in medicine because of their compatibility with the human body. Medical students often practice suturing on pig’s feet.”

We have not thoroughly researched “customer gene-testing services” and consequently cannot respond with specific details to your question. Nevertheless, there is one point of particular interest: “Apologists” for the theory of evolution point to a similarity between man and chimpanzees of up to 96 percent, leaving only a 4 percent difference in DNA. But even evolutionists point out that, although humans and chimps are judged to have many identical genes, the biological functions are often used in different ways.

Going further, another scientific writer notes, “The sheer fact that pigs and humans are mammals means that we share some genes. But it is simplistic to put an actual figure on the amount of genetic material we have in common,” says animal geneticist Professor Chris Moran from the University of Sydney’s Faculty of Veterinary Science.

“‘Making broad comparisons by saying...98 percent of [human] genes are similar to a chimpanzee or whatever else...tend to be a little bit misleading,’ says Moran. The amount of genetic material we share with other species depends upon what you compare. All living organisms have genetic information encoded in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), divided into units called genes. Information is transferred from the genes via a chemical called ribonucleic acid (RNA). Some RNA is translated into chains of amino-acid that make up proteins, the building blocks of every living cell. Scientists have discovered about 20,000 mammalian genes that encode proteins with similar basic functions. So if you compare the protein-encoding portion of our DNA we have a lot in common with a lot of mammals.

“‘Mammals have most of the same genes for similar biochemical and physiological functions. If you look at the details of the genes...there’ll be differences between them, but they’ll still be doing the same kind of function,’” says Moran (<http://www.abc.net.au/science/articles/2010/05/03/2887206.htm>).

As Dave Hunt wrote in the February 1997 newsletter, “In his book, *The Blind Watchmaker*, Oxford University zoologist Richard Dawkins, a leading evolutionist, calls biology ‘the study of complicated things that give the appearance of having been designed for a purpose’ (Richard Dawkins, *The Blind Watchmaker* (England: Longman 1986, 1). Indeed! One cell, the smallest living unit, could have 100,000 molecules and 10,000 intricately interrelated chemical reactions going on at one time. Cells couldn’t arise by chance! Dawkins admits that every cell contains in its nucleus ‘a digitally coded database larger...than all thirty volumes of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* put together.’ You can’t even imagine the odds against chance creating a thirty-volume encyclopedia! That’s for one cell—and there are trillions in the human body, thousands of

different kinds, working in unbelievably complex and delicately balanced relationships!”

Of course, since the Lord used the same building blocks in the creation of all life, we shouldn’t be surprised to see some similarities. Nor do we ignore the distinctions. And, we don’t see people rushing to admit they descended from pigs.

QUESTION: In the July 2016 newsletter, in answer to the question “Where did Jesus get His blood?” you said: “Jesus Christ, as the final High Priest, entered into heaven itself but not with His blood. That had been poured out on the ground (Jn:19:34).... If Jesus did not enter heaven with His own blood, how do you reconcile your statement with Hebrews 9:11-12, which says: “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (NKJV).

RESPONSE: You are quite correct that the NKJV says “with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all.” Other translations render it “*through* His own blood” or “*by the merit of* His own blood” (emphasis added). That clearly means that He didn’t physically take some of His blood with Him to the heavenly sanctuary, but on the merit, or the finished work, of His sacrifice He entered.

In Romans 5:9 we read, “Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.” Death from crucifixion came by heart failure, suffocation, or other physiological trauma but not primarily from loss of blood. Jesus didn’t die from loss of blood. When the soldiers who came to break His legs to hasten His death, they were surprised to see that He was dead already. Even so, one of them thrust his spear into Jesus’ side, and a great volume of blood mixed with water came out and poured on the ground.

Colossians 1:20 tells us that Jesus, “made peace through the *blood of his cross*, by him to reconcile all things unto himself...” (emphasis added). Now, the cross certainly didn’t have blood, so we recognize that the phrase “through the blood of his cross” simply speaks of His *death* upon the Cross. Throughout the Scriptures, it is clear that the consistent message is that the debt of sin was paid *by His death*. Hebrews 9:12 says, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, *Christ died for us*” (emphasis added).

As Leviticus 17:11 tells us, “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul”; and as Hebrews 9:22 tells us, “...without shedding of blood is no remission.” Again, this speaks of the death of the sacrifice.

We think that it is clear and consistent throughout Scripture that when it speaks of shedding the blood of the Lord Jesus, it is speaking of His death. Philippians 2:8 states, “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” His death, however, was not the end of the story. “For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life” (Romans 5:10).

LETTERS

To connect with TBC, write: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
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Dear Berean Staff,

As always, I am ever grateful to be receiving the *Berean Call* newsletter. It was God who heard my prayer, “Lord I want to know you.” I meant that with all of my heart. I just wanted to know Him! And have nothing to do with any false way. By His grace, He led me to one of Dave’s books, and it offered a free monthly newsletter. I didn’t want to be deceived any more. Each one of your newsletters has been invaluable to me [that we] can know God NOT by religion but by His Word. TS (IL)

Dearest Family at The Berean Call,

I was so sorry to hear of the Russians closing down on Christianity again [in your Daily Update.] I weep for my brothers and sisters who suffer so much and will suffer even more. Jesus will surely come sooner than anyone expects...I keep looking up.

I am listening to old audiotapes of Dave Hunt’s teaching from some 20 yrs back. What a great blessing, and so on target for today. I pray for all of you at The Berean Call. JD (Canada)

Dear Brethren at the Berean Call

I thank God for this ministry to continue blessing those with ears to hear the truth. God bless you, brethren, and thank you for the newsletter, which tells me the truth about this world and the many cults and other teachings. May my gift offering help you in any areas that need help. I am giving glory to God for this ministry to help the world understand the truth of the Word of God. I pray that He may bless you abundantly and guard you and keep you. FL (prisoner PA)

TBC NOTES

Good Things Ahead

We have been in the process of making changes that we pray will make TBC more fruitful and productive. It’s to that end that we covet your prayers.

One project that we’re excited about is the changes that we are making to our website. This has been a huge undertaking, and we hope to have it up and running by late fall. The goal has been to greatly improve access to our resource materials that deal with the multitude of issues we’ve addressed in our books, articles, and videos.

Another “work in progress” is a series of video presentations in which we introduce our apologetics material that deals with topics such as Roman Catholicism, the New Apostolic Reformation, Calvinism, the Hebrew Roots Movement, Seventh-day Adventism, and much more.

And one more thing: please pray as we make improvements to our phone system and online store so that they truly facilitate our communication with those who take the time to call us, whether to order materials, or to ask questions, or simply to request prayer. By God’s grace, and through your prayers and patient understanding as we work through these details, things should improve greatly.

T. A. McMAHON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends at TBC,

We have appreciated your publications over the years, but have been reluctant to support your ministry because of your pre-trib views. This one single false teaching has succeeded in creating a lazy, complacent “church” which has the attitude that “we won’t be here for the Tribulation—so why study?”

Some years ago when my husband shared Matthew 24:29-31 with a young Baptist man, his response was: “Well, if that’s true, I should get a gun and shoot myself right now!”

It is no longer “in the last days perilous times shall come,” for perilous times are upon us (2 Tim 3:1). Jesus Himself said, “in the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). SB (CT)

Dear TBC,

In part three of Tom’s series on New Age Mysticism, he did a good job warning believers about the dangers of martial arts. The church tries to put a Christian label on all the ungodly and worldly things they love to be involved with. In the eyes of today’s believers, being involved with the things of this world is no big deal—it’s harmless.

The world is falling apart, the lost are dying and going to hell, the return of the Lord is near, and what are God’s people doing? Taking “Christian” karate lessons that may poison their minds with wrong ideas. Tom hit the nail on the head when he wrote, “many people today appear to have lost the ability to really think, holding contradictory beliefs,” and leaving the Word of God rarely studied or referenced among Christians anymore. If we continue to waste our time on such nonsense and don’t get busy studying God’s Word, and laboring for Him, we’re going to end up standing naked, ashamed, and empty handed at the Bema Judgment, watching our black belt go up in smoke with the wood, hay, and stubble. BR (IL)

Dear TBC,

Dave has passed away, and Tom is a worthy replacement for sure. It is he who will have to deal with or listen to Seventh-day Adventist [responses] as I see it. Thanks from a Seventh-day Adventist who appreciates what you do there—well, except for a couple of things. DT (GA)

QUOTABLE.....

The fact that the glorified, holy Son of God could step through the door of heaven at any moment is intended by God to be the most pressing, incessant motivation for holy living and aggressive ministry (including missions, evangelism, and Bible teaching) and the greatest cure for lethargy and apathy. It should make a major difference in every Christian’s values, actions, priorities, and goals.

Since the imminent coming of Christ is intended to have such a tremendous practical effect on the lives of individual Christians and the church as a whole, and since all views of the Rapture except the pretribulation view destroy the New Testament teaching of the imminent coming of Christ, we can conclude that the issue of when the Rapture of the church will take place really does matter.

—Renald Showers, *Maranatha: Our Lord, Come!* p. 256

NEWSWATCH

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

BOKO HARAM: FOCUS ON KILLING CHRISTIANS

RELEVANTMAGAZINE.COM, 8/4/16, "NEW BOKO HARAM LEADER TO FOLLOWERS: FOCUS ON KILLING CHRISTIANS" [EXCERPTS]: The ISIS-linked terrorist group Boko Haram has announced that they have a new leader—and a new directive: They plan on “booby-trapping and blowing up every church that we are able to reach, and killing all of those [Christians] who we find from the citizens of the cross.”

The ISIS newspaper al-Nabaa announced that a man named Abu Musab al-Barnawi will now lead the Nigeria-based terrorist group and will make it their mission to fight “Christianization of society...” He said that instead of targeting fellow Muslims at mosques and market places, they’ll also be focusing their efforts to attack Christian humanitarian groups. He explained, “They exploit the condition of those who are displaced under the raging war, providing them with food and shelter and then Christianizing their children.”

Boko Haram has killed thousands of people in Nigeria and surrounding areas—most of them Muslims—in village raids, bombings and mass shootings in the last seven years. They are also responsible for the mass abductions of young girls, raping them and forcing them into relationships with militants.

(<http://goo.gl/AtBVxP>)

PEPPERED MOTH STILL NOT EVOLVING

ICR.ORG, 8/4/16, "PEPPERED MOTH STILL NOT EVOLVING" [EXCERPTS]: The moth earned fame as a key player in a classic evolutionary story in the late 19th century. In England, a population of peppered moths supposedly shifted their coloring from mostly white to mostly black after soot from the industrial revolution darkened their tree-trunk homes....That story helped rescue Darwin’s conception of natural selection from a round of early 20th century criticisms, such as a lack of supporting field evidence.

However, later researchers could not replicate the peppered moth results. Other investigators discovered that most of the story’s facts were essentially wrong. For example, peppered moths live mostly beneath leaves, not on tree trunks. One researcher staged photos of the moths on

sooty trunks—not where moths naturally rest....Biologists centered at the University of Liverpool discovered that a well-known form of genetic shuffling, involving a transposable element (TE), generated the dark versions of these moths.

The study authors wrote, “The insert was found to be present in 105 of 110 fully black moths (wild caught in the UK since 2002) and absent in all (283) typical [white moths] tested.” Clearly, even a century or so after England cleaned the soot off its tree trunks, both black and white moth varieties still thrive just fine in the wild.

(<http://goo.gl/HBCHQE>)

NOT CHEERING THE DROP IN DIVORCE

WORLD.COM, 7/20/16, "WHY AREN'T PRO-FAMILY GROUPS CHEERING THE DROP IN DIVORCE?" [EXCERPTS]: The marriage rate has been trending downward for decades. From 2004 to 2014, the U.S. marriage rate fell by 20 percent, a drop of 8.3 marriages per 1,000 unmarried women over age 15....

The report also noted the divorce rate’s steady decline since 1979....But those numbers do not tell the whole story, according to experts.

“[T]he declining marriage rate is not so much a reflection that marriage is no longer desired, but that, in a culture of distrust and divorce, it is fragile,” write Amber and David Lapp, research fellows at the Institute for Family Studies and co-authors of the report’s essay on marriage.

The Lapps assert young people today are not opposed to marriage—they are conflicted about it. They want a healthy, sustaining marriage relationship and desire to raise their kids within marriage, but they are afraid of divorce.

Because of this, we should be “cautious in our celebration” about the dropping divorce rate, writes Julie Baumgardner...author of the report....“Widespread divorce led people to believe that although relationships are good, relationship definition is risky...” The result for Gen Xers: risk avoidance, undefined relationships, and a widespread belief that marriage is just a piece of paper. Today’s young people are adopting that message, according to Baumgardner. Cohabitation “precedes most marriages while fewer cohabiting relationships transition to marriage.”

(<https://goo.gl/wW5GaZ>)

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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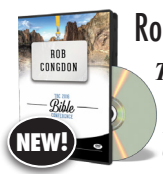
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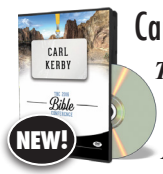
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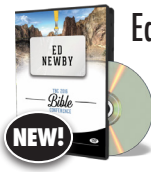
The Berean Call—Robert Congdon's sessions from the TBC 2016 conference include: *New Calvinism's Upside-Down Gospel*, *Oops! I thought I was a Four-Point Calvinist*, and Q&A. 2 DVDs

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The Berean Call—We give thanks to the Lord for allowing The Berean Call to have another outstanding conference. This year, alongside T. A. McMahon, we were encouraged by returning speakers Carl Kerby, Warren Smith, and Ray Yungen, and were also blessed by newcomers Robert Congdon, Larry DeBruyn, and Ed Newby. The topics ranged from evangelism, the New Age movement, Calvinism, and more! Our speakers covered a wide variety of issues plaguing the church today but all pointed back to where our salvation lies: in Christ alone! 12 DVDs

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