

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

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

Hebrew Roots and the Leaven of Works Salvation – Part Two

T. A. McMahon and G. Richard Fisher

I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

—GALATIANS 2:21

THERE IS A great amount of “frustrating the grace of God” by those involved in the Hebrew Roots Movement (HRM), primarily due to a lack of understanding regarding the difference between the Covenant of Law and the New Covenant of Grace. We celebrate this difference when we partake of communion. An all-inclusive explanation is beyond the scope of these two articles, but there are clarifying points that can be made in brief. Beginning with Galatians 2:21, we see that righteousness cannot come “by the law,” nor do salvation and sanctification. Just as salvation is the gift of God, so too is righteousness: “For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the *gift of righteousness* shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Therefore as by the offence of one judgment *came* upon all men to condemnation; even so *by the righteousness of one* the free gift *came* upon all men unto justification of life” (Romans 5:17-18). As H. A. Ironside noted, “We are not only freed from the law as a means of attempting to secure justification, but are also freed from the law as a means of sanctification.”

Matthew 28:20 is clear: as we disciple others, we are to teach them everything that *Jesus* commanded (a huge responsibility), not everything that *Moses* commanded. The believer in Christ who looks to the law as a means of righteousness is in serious error. All the righteous requirements of the law are not fulfilled *by us* but are fulfilled *in us* by Jesus Christ, who satisfied the requirements of the law *for and in* every believer (Romans 8:1-4). Christ fully completed every righteous requirement of the Law, and He gives that victory and standing to His followers. Swedish theologian Anders Nygren writes, “They who are ‘in Christ’ are by that very fact righteous, and not by a keeping of the law made possible by that fact. Their righteousness consists in the fact...that they no longer live of themselves but ‘are in Christ.’ Therein, and not through any keeping of the law is the righteousness of the law fulfilled” (Romans 10:4, see also Galatians 3:24-26).

In AD 70, the Temple in Jerusalem was completely destroyed. First-century Judaism died. In the fourth century, there was an aborted attempt at rebuilding the temple by Emperor Julian. We know from Scripture that when Jesus was sacrificed on the Cross, He, as the Lamb of God, satisfied the eternal penalty for mankind’s sin, and at that point He rendered the Temple and the priesthood obsolete (Hebrews 8:7-13; 10:1-9; 12:26-29). When Jesus cried, “It is finished,” He meant that not only was redemption complete but, as a result, biblical Judaism had completed that for which it was intended. Jesus alone was the focal point of salvation. The ripping in two of the Temple veil as Christ gave up His spirit (Matthew 27:51) signified that He had accomplished what

the Old Testament had prophesied. Christ’s death both fulfilled and ended the function of the biblical practices of Judaism with its temple, sacrifices, and priesthood. The way into the Holy of Holies and the very presence of God was now open and available to all. The Hebrew Roots Movement, however, seems to want to sew the temple veil back together.

To that end, in order for the religion of Judaism to continue without a Temple or a sacrifice or a priesthood, it had to be totally revamped to compensate for its losses. Israel’s way to God no longer existed. A new way had to be cobbled together. Old Testament requirements, additional traditions, modifications, and contributions from leading rabbis, were put together in documents known as the Mishnah (AD 200), the Jerusalem Talmud (AD 400) and the Babylonian Talmud (AD 500). The Talmud, with its more than twenty volumes containing input from hundreds of rabbis, is the book that dictates much of Jewish religious life today. Jewish Midrash consists of paraphrases of Scripture and Rabbinical commentaries. These are an added component in *latter-day* Judaism. The Talmud, however, is the chief source of its practices and beliefs, and a large portion of Talmudic practice is found within the Hebrew Roots Movement.

A notable exception would be the Jews who are called Karaites. They reject in total the Talmud and ultra-orthodox Judasim (calling it Phariseeism) and use only the Old Testament—period. The brilliant Hebrew Christian Alfred Edersheim said that applying the Talmud to Christianity was a huge mistake and that the Talmud had follies and superstitions of former days that needed to be refuted (*Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Volume 1, page VIII).

Many in the HRM claim to be “*Torah* observant” (living according to Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), when what they actually are is *Talmud* observant. Adherents of the HRM believe that they are following biblical customs when, in fact, they are recreating later practices and even medieval traditions. For example, the wearing of the *yarmulke* or *kippa* (a type of skull cap) by Jewish men is a human tradition with no basis in the Law of Moses. Another apparent necessity in the HRM is the wearing of what is called a “prayer shawl,” also called a *Tallit*, a Hebrew term that is found in the Talmud but *nowhere* is there evidence of such a practice in the Hebrew Old Testament. The widespread practice of interpreting Talmud content as though it were true to biblical content creates misinformed Jews. Among HRM followers there is a serious lack of searching out the *genuine biblical roots* of their beliefs and practices, including the aforementioned erroneous belief that the Gospel of Matthew, and perhaps the other three Gospels, were first written in Hebrew. More critical, it seems, is the lack of understanding of the Old Testament versus the New Testament, and the concept of Law versus grace.

The New Testament in every way surpasses the Old Testament, spiritually and functionally. John Reisinger explains: “The whole subject is as clear as crystal the moment we see that Christ established a New Covenant that replaces the Old Covenant, and that the New Covenant brings with it new and higher laws of conduct that are based entirely on grace. These new laws are just as objective as any law under the Old Covenant. These objective commands can demand a kind of behavior that Moses could never

demand simply because these new laws are based upon truth and power of grace.” The Old Testament reaches its intended goal in Christ, and that fullness and fulfillment is given to believers by virtue of Christ in them (Galatians 2:20-21). Living it out can take place only by the enablement of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling those who have been born again. As Lewis Sperry Chafer points out, “The law of Moses presents a covenant of works to be wrought in the energy of the flesh; the teachings of grace present a covenant of faith to be wrought in the energy of the Spirit.” In other words, Grace empowers us while the Law condemns us.

Many who participate in the HRM may not realize that in their misplaced zeal to draw nearer to God they are actually moving in the opposite direction. They keep bits and pieces of the law, with neither rhyme nor reason for their choices, as they ignore or avoid the *judgments* meted out by the law. The law is an entirely unified system much like a seamless garment. One cannot arbitrarily keep what one wants and ignore the rest. That is simply “cafeteria Judaism,” as if the law were a pick-and-choose smorgasbord. James 2:10 is clear: “For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.” The law confronts us with the fact that we need mercy and grace found in Jesus alone.

Sadly, those of the Hebrew Roots Movement understand neither law nor grace, and are unwittingly fulfilling what Hebrews 2:1 warns against: “Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” The current slippage includes major doctrinal errors by HRM leaders, e.g., those involved with Dual Covenant salvation.

Dual covenant teaching promotes the belief that Gentiles are saved *through* Jesus, and Jews are saved *without* Jesus, presumably under the Mosaic or Abrahamic Covenant as they try to keep the various parts of the Law of Moses. Those who recognize the impossibility of keeping the law respond that nevertheless Jews by birth are automatically and unconditionally saved. If that were the case, why would Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, declare regarding his kinsmen, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved” (Romans 10:1)? Paul is clear that the Gospel is for the Jews (Romans 1:16) first and foremost. Furthermore, John writes, “But as many as received him, to them gave he the power to become the sons of God, even to them who believe on his name: *which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*” (John 1:12-13). Scripture is absolutely clear: Jesus is the *only way* for Jew or Gentile to be saved (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Grace trumps race.

The drift away from the Word of God—and especially the New Covenant—has become a flood within the HRM. Its affinity for Judaism screams for an answer to the question we brought up earlier—*which Judaism?* Is it Orthodox, Reform (Progressive), Conservative, New Age, or any of the other sects and subdivisions of Judaism? This question is not being answered in the HRM let alone even being asked. None of these subcultures in Judaism represent *biblical* Judaism, nor do they come even close. Superstitions, divination, necromancy, and kabbalistic practices abound. Modern Judaism in *all* of its forms is monotheistic (and in some cases agnostic) and rejects the essential scriptural doctrine of the Trinity.

Where the HRM yearns for legitimate Old Testament practices, it misses the all-important fact that they were only a *shadow* of things to come. All of the types pointing to those things have been completely accomplished by Jesus. Yet followers are taught that such things are *spiritually* efficacious and therefore necessary for the Gentile believer today. Not so. “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or the Sabbath days: which are a shadow of things to come...” (Colossians 2:16-17). Notice that verse 16 includes *feast days* and the *Sabbath* as insubstantial shadows; how much more then are the non-shadow paraphernalia derived from nonbiblical traditions and customs, e.g., yarmulkes, prayer shawls, modes of dress, twisted

payots (side curls), Western Wall prayers, red strings on the wrist, shofars, etc. For the Jew, these things have some supposed spiritual value even though they are not by God’s instruction. According to Scripture, employing unbiblical practices in an attempt to gain spiritual merit opens the practitioner to dire consequences—perhaps not as dramatic as what took place in the lives and “strange fire” deaths of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1), but nothing good can come from approaching God by using man’s ways.

Adherents of the Hebrew Roots Movement are attracted to things of the Law and to an obsolete Judaism, both past and present. Some early connections include cultish doctrines such as are found in Seventh-Day Adventism, with its penchant for selective laws, and the Worldwide Church of God (WWCG). Dean Wheelock, who trademarked Hebrew Roots in the mid-1990s and publishes a magazine under that name, was educated at the WWCG’s Ambassador College. He left the WWCG, yet declared, “Most of what I learned from that organization, I still hold to [i.e., laws].” Joe Kovacs is an executive editor for *WorldNetDaily* (WND), a major promoter of the HRM (WND offers a luxury Alaskan cruise coming this fall featuring Hebrew Roots’ writer Mark Biltz). Kovacs’s writings feature the theology of the late Herbert W. Armstrong, the founder of the Worldwide Church of God (See TBC article: <https://goo.gl/m1zk1C>).

In its erroneous endeavors, the HRM has drifted away (if indeed it was ever there) from the Church, the bride and the body of Christ which comprises Jews and Gentiles. Galatians 3:28 makes that clear: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” Colossians 3:11 confirms that the new believer in Christ is “neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free, but Christ is all, and in all.” Elwood McQuaid reminds us, “Today’s church is a body of twin remnants of Jews and Gentiles. It is not a Gentile institution; and when a Jewish person becomes a believer in Jesus, he or she does not become a Gentile. Nor, for that matter, is it an extension of Judaism. Gentiles are not transformed into Jews, nor do they become a new branch or extension of Judaism. The church is unique.”

The HRM confuses both Jews and those in the church. The movement becomes something of a hybrid that is neither Judaism nor Christianity. It is a charade of both Judaism and Christianity. It has synagogues that are not synagogues, rabbis that are not rabbis, and anachronistically mixes Talmudic traditions with New Testament concepts and words, thus creating a new religious belief system and practice. Both sides are very confused. Its elitism is illusory; its pretended insights and superiority are often imaginary. In summary, the HRM is a form of manmade spirituality and therefore stands in opposition to the Word of God.

How might we minister to those who have become involved with the Hebrew Roots Movement? Although conditions of engagement may be very different at times, involving family members, or friends, or those in leadership who are believers, we must recognize that any change of their hearts can be accomplished only by the Holy Spirit who alone can bring about repentance. Nevertheless, we can be used of the Holy Spirit to explain what the HRM teaches and how it is contrary to Scripture. Paul instructs us regarding biblical correction: “And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth. And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Timothy 2:24-26). We are to be steadfast not strident, gentle, patient, teaching with meekness, and most of all remembering that only God can bring them to “the acknowledging of the truth.” Finally, and most important, our endeavor on their behalf must be supported by unceasing prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Hebrews 4:16).

TBC

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 • Bend, OR 97708
or e-mail: editorial@thebereanall.org

QUESTION: Did Isaiah expose himself totally when the Lord commanded him to go naked before Israel? If so, this really concerns us. We can hardly imagine the Lord approving of a man or a woman completely exposed for three years! This is just mind boggling.

RESPONSE: The Hebrew word translated “naked” in our English translations can speak of a partial nudity or full nudity. In the context we read: “At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, *Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot. And the Lord said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia.*”

“Sackcloth” was an outer garment that went over what they wore as undergarments. They may not have had jockey shorts or briefs, but they did have garments that covered their private parts. Yet, it was regarded as nakedness when individuals humbled themselves by removing their outer garments. David’s wife Michal criticized him when he danced in a linen ephod during the return of the Ark to Jerusalem: “Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows *shamelessly uncovereth himself!* And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. And *I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour*” (2 Samuel 6:20-22, our emphasis).

Michal said David had “shamelessly uncovered himself,” but it is clear that he had set aside his kingly robes and was wearing a linen ephod. “And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod” (2 Samuel 6:14).

How many times have we heard some pastors preach that David exposed himself totally? He did not, yet in putting aside his normal attire he did show his own humility and desire to please the Lord as much as Isaiah desired to show the “nakedness” of Israel before its enemies.

QUESTION: What does it mean in Isaiah 43:7, when it says that God made us for His glory? If we humans made something for our glory, that would sound arrogant. I know that God is not arrogant.

RESPONSE: Isaiah 43:7 reads, “Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.” This simply means that the good that people may see in us, in our conduct, our work, and our accomplishments, is designed to point to the grace, mercy, and Lordship of God, who truly is the one working in our lives.

The Lord Jesus stated in Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

The noted Bible commentator Matthew Henry wrote, “If a man can take up the profession of Christ, and yet remain graceless, no other doctrine, no other means, can make him profitable. Our light must shine, by doing such good works as men may see. What is between God and our souls must be kept to ourselves; but that which is of itself open to the sight of men, we must study to make suitable to our profession, and praiseworthy. We must aim at the glory of God.”

Conversely, when David sinned with Bathsheba, the Lord judged him, saying, “By this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die.”

The point is that God desires all to be saved, although all will not be. Nevertheless, our conduct as we walk with the Lord should reflect the glory of God who is working within us. As 1 Timothy 2:4 tells us, God “...will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”!

QUESTION: Believers are spoken of as being “adopted” into God’s Family, but the Bible also speaks of believers being born of God. I don’t understand how a person can become a member of a family by birth *and* adoption. Can you give me any insight?

RESPONSE: The terms are not contradictory but are in fact “complementary.” That is, they speak of *aspects* of a believer’s salvation. Adoption is commonly defined as “‘the act of leaving one’s natural family and entering into the privileges and responsibilities of another.’ In the Bible, adoption is one of several family-related terms used to describe the process of salvation and its subsequent benefits. God is a father who graciously adopts believers in Christ into His spiritual family and grants them all the privileges of heirship. Salvation is much more than forgiveness of sins and deliverance from condemnation; it is also a position of great blessing. Believers are children of God” (*Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology: Adoption*).

So, “adoption” speaks of the “positional” status of the believer who is “adopted” into the Family of God.” Yet, the adoption isn’t all that happens to a believer. Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). And, 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

In other words, when we experience the “new birth,” we are “fitted” to enter the family to which we, in the grace of God, are adopted into. We are by grace “forgiven” and “delivered from condemnation.” We are a “new creation,” created to be part of the Family of God.

QUESTION: Why do Christians quote Leviticus condemning homosexuality while they ignore the rest of the prohibitions?

RESPONSE: Leviticus contains two types of prohibitions for a precise reason. Much of the book (as well as Numbers and Deuteronomy) is given over to specific prohibitions that the nation of Israel was to observe as “a special people unto Me.” Consistently, whether these prohibitions concern eating of particular foods, wearing of specific garments, or other ceremonial considerations, the Lord says to Israel, “These are unclean [or an abomination] to you” (Leviticus 11:7,11, etc.). This is one kind of prohibition, clearly applicable to Israel alone.

On the other hand, moral issues, such as adultery, sorcery, child sacrifice, bestiality, incest, homosexuality, etc., are said to be abominations (period). Penalties against those who commit these behaviors are assessed thus, because it is “My [God’s] judgment” (Leviticus 18:4). The Law remains the standard to judge the world (Rom 7:7), but the believer “fulfills” the intent of the Law by the Spirit, who dwells within us (Galatians 3:25). For more information see TBC feature article October 1, 2015 (<https://goo.gl/KPn9cW>).

LETTERS

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Dear TA and Staff,

We were first introduced to Dave at a “radio rally” in 1993 and have received your monthly newsletters since 1998. The ministry has helped us and many around us to “stay the course.” Your books and newsletters have positively armed our children and those we are blessed to disciple.

May the Lord continue to bless, guide, and protect the families represented by The Berean Call. CL (MO)

Warm Greetings [Excerpt],

I just finished reading the January 2017 edition of *The Berean Call* newsletter and have been very much touched and blessed by the main article, the questions and answers, and letters that relate to the authority and sufficiency of the Word of God in all matters. We indeed have an amazing God.

This brings me to say a very heartfelt “Thank You” first to Him and to you folks for faithfully holding and proclaiming the Word of God and standing against the many subtle errors propagated

by man and devil. The arrival of *The Berean Call* each month is always a reminder to seek and love the truth. This is of particular meaning to me. As an engineer, I am required to deal with and live in the real world in technical and scientific truth, and as a man, in the truth of God’s Word. Please continue to hold fast to the Lord Jesus Christ. CT (ND)

Shalom,

Please remove me from your mailing list. Over the years of receiving your publication, the writings and your books spend more time criticizing others for their beliefs. If you spent half the time in your ministry focusing on yourself as you do focusing on others, you might do well. Come out of Babylon and examine yourselves for a change, because your interpretation falls very much inline to the many errors that Babylon represents.

Spend more time examining your own fallacies and then we can talk. Work out your own salvation and stop criticizing those who at least are actually focusing on themselves. Your ministry is muddled water and hypocritical and it saddens the heart of our Savior. RS (TX Prisoner)

Dear Berean Call

I just had to write a response to your main article about Hebrew roots. My husband and I are both of Jewish extract, both parents Jewish. What we see in Hebrew roots is about as far from Judaism as the east is from the west. It saddens me to see many Gentile believers embrace Hebrew roots, dressing like “frum” Orthodox Jews. I just cannot understand why any of them would want to go back to these Old Testament and Rabbinic traditions when we have everything we need in Jesus. Is it to sell books? Is it to draw people?

As a Jew, I find it an apostasy when I go into a place and Hebrew is written incorrectly, when “Things Jewish” are misrepresented and, the pronunciation is wrong. I just had to say *bravo!* Thank you for writing part one, and I eagerly look forward to reading your part two. God bless you and keep up the great work in Messiah Jesus. BS (TX)

QUOTABLE

Humanism denies absolute truth and biblical values. Thus, there is no right or wrong. Students are to accept relative answers based on personal needs. Public school literature now teaches children to become better citizens in a new world order. Country, family, and God are no longer goals to be achieved, but instead they are seen as causes for bigotry, narrow-mindedness, prejudice, and intolerance. The humanist teaches our children new thought patterns that meet the goals of the emerging elitist class who will equip society for global governance.

During the past one hundred years, humanism has grown bolder in its attack against the founding fathers of our nation. In the field of public education more schools have closed their doors to the Bible. In many instances, teachers are prohibited from encouraging students to follow the teaching of Christ. Ironically, it is easier to teach the Koran, the writings of Buddha, or Yoga than Christianity. Fewer teachers are familiar with the exhortations of the men who established our nation; and as a result, relativism has inflicted great harm to a once great nation, as well as to a once vibrant Christian evangelical movement.

—Paul Smith, in *The New Evangelicalism: The New World Order*

TBC NOTES

Issues Related to “Hanging Out”

Young people love to hang out, and they are often queried by parents regarding who their friends are. This note however is not about our kids. Rather it’s about adults and parents, and it raises questions about with whom they are socializing. Too often we lose sight of the fact that the company we keep influences our lives for good or not so good and reveals how these relationships affect our walk with the Lord. Witnessing to unbelievers is our biblical mandate. Camaraderie with them, i.e., friendship among people who spend a lot of time together, at least begs the question, “Who is influencing whom?”

Psalms 1, 1 Corinthians 5:11, and 15:33 include a few of the warnings related to the company a believer is to keep and not to keep. This also includes fellowship with professing Christians and even true believers whose worldly lives and beliefs don’t seem to reflect biblical Christianity. The ultimate check regarding a believer’s association with unbelieving friends is whether or not they feel free to share about their love for Jesus and His love for them. If there is a restriction against such sharing that they are willing to accept for the sake of keeping the relationship viable, that temporal relationship will end very likely with eternal separation—the believer from them and they from God.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” —1 John 2:15-17

T. A. McMAHON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEWSWATCH

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

HATE CRIME FOR QUOTING THE BIBLE TO GAY TEEN

TELEGRAPH.CO.UK, 2/5/17, "PREACHER LOCKED UP FOR HATE CRIME AFTER QUOTING THE BIBLE TO GAY TEENAGER" [EXCERPTS]: A Christian evangelist was accused of a hate crime and locked up in a cell after preaching from the Bible to a gay teenager.

Gordon Larmour, 42, was charged by police after telling the story of Adam and Eve to a 19-year-old who asked him about God's views on homosexuality.

The street preacher referred to the Book of Genesis and stated that God created Adam and Eve to produce children.

Within minutes he was frogmarched to a police van, accused of threatening or abusive behaviour 'aggravated by prejudice relating to sexual orientation'—despite not swearing or using any form of offensive language. The father-of-one spent a night in custody and faced a six-month ordeal before a sheriff cleared him of any blame.

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

LEFTIST FIGHT CLUB TO FIGHT REPUBLICANS

CAMPUSREFORM.ORG, 2/6/17, "LEFTIST FIGHT CLUB' TRAINS UCF STUDENTS TO FIGHT REPUBLICANS" [EXCERPTS]: The "Knights for Socialism" group at the University of Central Florida (UCF) held a workshop [February 5] to teach left-wing students how to "BASH THE FASH" with a "Leftist Fight Club" open to everyone but Republicans.

"In response to the record number of hate crimes against Latinxs, Immigrants, Muslims, Women, the LGBTQIA+ community, Jews, African Americans and other minorities since the rise of Donald Trump and other Alt-Right Neo-Nazis, Knights for Socialism has decided to host a series of self-defense clinics for anyone that wants to learn how to BASH THE FASH," asserts the Facebook event page for "Leftist Fight Club: The Rumbles at Lake Claire."

A local amateur boxer was on hand to teach basic hand-to-hand combat techniques at the self-defense clinic, in order to help the socialist students better protect themselves from potential hate crimes performed by those sympathetic to "Donald Trump and other Alt-Right Neo-Nazis."

Scott Benton, a UCF College Republican [said] that he considers the impulse toward violence to be a natural

consequence of the intellectual indefensibility of leftists beliefs, saying, "If you can't hang with someone on a debate stage, then you resort to other means to try and justify your cause." Other students, however, say they feel less safe on campus because of the event.

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

WITCHCRAFT TO FIGHT BOKO HARAM

USAToday.COM, 1/12/17, "CAMEROON USES WITCHCRAFT TO FIGHT BOKO HARAM" [EXCERPTS]: In the war on terror, guns and bombs just haven't been enough. So Cameroon is trying spells and curses too.... About a year ago, Cameroonian President Paul Biya urged citizens to use witchcraft against Boko Haram...who have terrorized West Africa for years.

After Biya's call...hundreds of militia fighters rushed to sorcerers, commonly called "marabouts," to obtain lucky charms and talismans to protect them in battle.

"Since I have this gris-gris, I have no problem," said Mohamad Ahmed, a member of a local militia in Mora, referring to a small cloth bag typically worn around the neck or wrist. Filled with supposedly magic objects and paper inscribed with verses from the Koran, Bible or other holy scriptures, gris-gris originated in Africa but are common among voodoo practitioners in the Caribbean as well. Women often don them for contraception.

"It is so powerful," said Ahmed. "The fetish protects its wearer. If someone shoots at you, the bullets have no effect...." Ahmed noted that he has not been shot to test the charm, however.

Ironically, witchcraft is illegal in Cameroon [with] fines and prison sentences of as long as 10 years on those convicted of black magic.

However, "it is well known that occult ceremonies are practiced in the political circles of Cameroon at a very high level," said Henriette Ekwe, a Cameroonian political analyst and good government advocate.

She maintains that the call for occult help isn't a good sign.... "What is surprising," she went on, "is that the head of state advocates the practice of witchcraft prohibited in Cameroon. How many times have we thrown old people into cells on the grounds that they are accused of practicing black magic in the villages?"

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

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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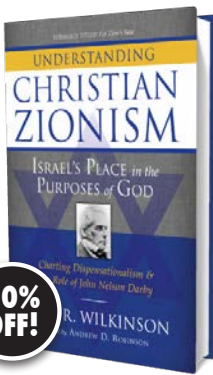
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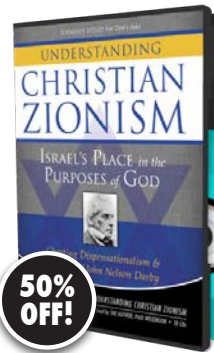
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of Christ. No one has contributed more to this cause than its leading architect and patron, John Nelson Darby, an “uncompromising champion for Christ’s glory and God’s truth.” Edited by Andrew D. Robinson, *The Berean Call*, 358 pp.

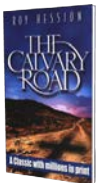
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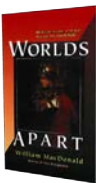
being laid squarely at the feet of Christian Zionists, the need to define this movement, trace its origins, chart its historical development, and evaluate its impact has never been more necessary” (an excerpt from the introduction). Read by the author. 12.5 hrs.

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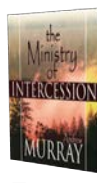
Hession—This is an updated edition of a book written by missionary and evangelist Roy Hession in 1950 in which he profiles the nature of religious revival and lays out the prerequisites and consequences of the activity of God in the heart of the hungry seeker. This book is the result of that testimony. Hession shows us how brokenness, humility, and repentance prepare our hearts to receive the fullness God wants us to have. Seize this opportunity to learn how Jesus can fill you with His Spirit through brokenness, repentance, and confession. CLC Publications, 131 pp.

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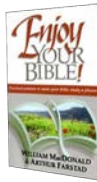
MacDonald—Biblical insights into the battlefield where two kingdoms vie for loyalties. There is the kingdom that the Bible calls “the world” and there is the kingdom of God—they are worlds apart. *Worlds Apart* is a battle plan calling the church to action. With the author, we tour the battlefield, inspect the armory, meet the combatants, and learn the strategies for victory. Gospel Folio Press, 101 pp.

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MacDonald/Farstad—The words “enjoy” and “study” used on the cover of this book may seem a contradiction to many people. For a Christian, studying God’s Word should become a delight, a pleasure, a joy. This little volume will help chart excursions on the limitless seas of the written Word of God. About the authors: For decades William MacDonald addressed the key issues of Christianity in clear and simple terms. Arthur Farstad, before his death in 1998, was recognized as an able and eloquent defender of the Majority Text of the Greek New Testament. Gospel Folio Press, 124 pp.

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McMahon—The question of “suffering”—both personal and corporate—is often raised by skeptics within and without the church. “Why God?” is the cry. “How long, O Lord?” T. A. McMahon is now blessed

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Kerby Jr./Thorwall—Lifelong gamers Carl Kerby, Jr., and Drew Thorwall take a unique approach to more than 70 video games and systems by breaking down the messages within from a biblical perspective. They want to teach parents and gamers *how* to think, not *what* to think. Apolomedia, 142 pp.

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Various—This booklet presents specific Scriptures to help guide Christians in their use of technology-based systems so that they can recognize how to better glorify the Lord and walk worthy of Him (Colossians 1:10). Biblical Discipleship Ministries, 69 pp.

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Illustra Media—*Flight* is a unique wildlife documentary. An exploration of the animal kingdom from a perspective ignored by television and the scientific establishment. Instead of presenting a worldview based upon the blind, undirected process of Darwinian evolution, *Flight* offers a compelling look at the design and purpose woven throughout the fabric of life on Earth. *Flight* combines stunning images and computer animation with cutting-edge research and an original musical score to celebrate birds and their incomparable ability to live in the skies. 1 DVD, 63 min.

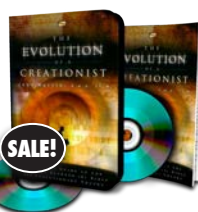
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Noah's Flood - Washing Away Millions of Years

Answers in Genesis—Can you believe in millions of years and a worldwide flood, or are they mutually exclusive? Are there modern-day examples of layered canyons being formed in a matter of hours (not millions of years)? Dr. Terry Mortenson answers these questions and many more in this fast-paced illustrated talk that considers both the biblical teaching and the geological evidence. He earned a PhD in the history of geology and is a speaker, writer, and researcher with Answers in Genesis-USA. 1 DVD, 72 min.

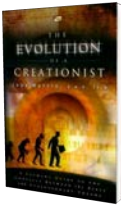
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The Evolution of a Creationist (DVD set)

Martin—This 4-part DVD set includes: "Evolution or Creation...Does It Really Matter What We Believe?" (60 min.), "Fact or Fraud...Is Evolution Evolving?" (56 min.), "Cause or Coincidence...Did Earth Begin with a Purpose or Probability?" (50 min.), and "How Young is Earth?" (65 min.). Included with the video series is a 70-page workbook. 2 DVDs (231 min.), 1 workbook (70 pp.).

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The Evolution of a Creationist

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

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Flood by Design

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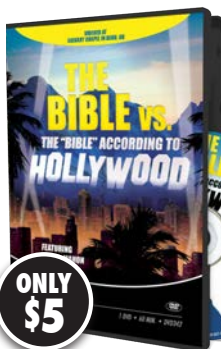
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The Bible vs. The "Bible" According to Hollywood

TBC—In the last couple of years, we've seen the release of an onslaught of "biblical" movies and TV-show productions—including *Noah*, *Exodus: Gods and Kings*, and

A.D.: The Bible Continues. Many believers and pastors have said that Hollywood is finally doing Christianity a "favor" by creating quality Christian entertainment. But are these productions truly biblical and God honoring? What's wrong with "Bible" movies? T. A. McMahon answers these questions and examines many of these popular productions as a Berean—in the light of God's Word. 1 DVD, 60 min.

DVD342

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