

*God of*  
**JACOB**  
*God of*  
**ISRAEL**



*Isaiah 27:6*

*The*  
**Berean**  
**Call**

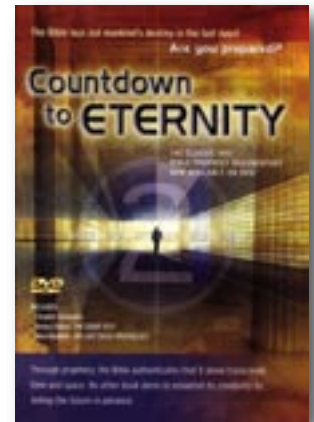
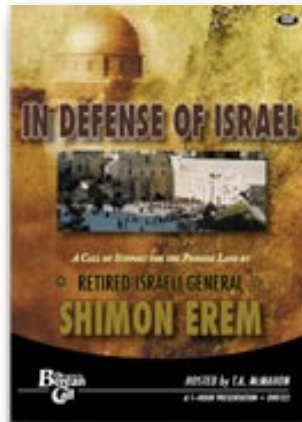
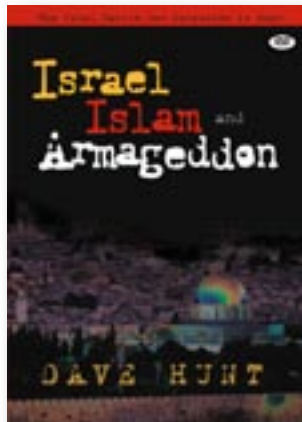
AUGUST 2006

*Part One*

by **DAVE HUNT**

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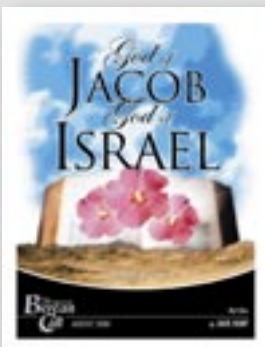
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**ON THE COVER:** The Rose of Sharon is one of the beautiful blooms grown in Israel, the world's largest floral supplier to Europe. This miracle of abundance from the desert was foretold in Scripture: "He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit" (Isaiah 27:6). The fulfillment of Bible prophecy in our day is a seal of assurance that we indeed have "a more sure word of prophecy" (2 Peter 1:19) and that what God has promised, He will finally accomplish in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ from Jerusalem. "For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations" (Isaiah 61:11); "In that day will I cause the horn of the house of Israel to bud forth, and I will give thee the opening of the mouth in the midst of them; and they shall know that I am the LORD" (Ezekiel 29:21).

# THE BEREAN CALL

“[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily, [to see] whether those things were so.”—Acts 17:11

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— VOL. XXI NO. 8 —

AUGUST 2006

## God of Jacob, God of Israel Part One

Dave Hunt

According to the latest *Fox News* polls updated June 26, 2006 (other polls basically agree), “fully 92 percent of Americans say they believe in God”; only 5 percent say they don’t, while the remaining 3 percent are not sure. In *How We Believe*, Michael Shermer, director of the Skeptics Society and publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, claims that “Never in history have so many, and such a high percentage of the [American] population, believed in God. Not only is God not dead as Nietzsche proclaimed, but he has never been more alive.”

This statistic, however, is not as encouraging as it sounds. When we ask what respondents mean by “god,” very few believe in—much less know—the *God of the Bible*. Yet belief in a false god is no better and could be even worse than believing in no God. For many, “God” is simply a “higher power.” Higher than what? *Power*? What kind? And how could a “power” of any kind have the infinite intelligence (or *any* intelligence) to design the atom, the universe, imprint the written instructions in a coded language on DNA for constructing and operating every cell, and create intelligent, personal beings with a moral conscience and a passion for purpose?

The very thought of a “power” creating *anything* is ridiculous! Then why is belief in a “power” so appealing? Did the *Star Wars* slogan, “May the Force be with you,” have that much influence? It went a long way toward changing movie fans’ thinking, especially among American youth. Of course, this has always been a popular idea because a power/force can’t impose moral laws, demand obedience, or judge and punish anyone—instead, it can be used for one’s own ends. Clearly, the true God who created us for a purpose holds mankind responsible for creation’s witness to His existence and for obedience to the moral laws He has implanted in every conscience (Rom 1:18-25; 2:14-16). He will not be *used*.

Furthermore, just as human beings are jealous of their individual identities, obviously the true God would insist on being properly identified. He will neither reveal Himself to, nor enter into a relationship with, anyone who will not acknowledge Him as He truly is. Nor will He look with

broad-minded favor on those who call Him a “higher power.” To do so is an insult to the true God! The God of the Bible (whose existence we have infallibly proved in prior articles) declares to wayward Israel, “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart” (Jer 29:13). Those who hope to find a god that suits their imagination will not find the true God.

It is common sense that the true God would only reveal Himself to sincere and earnest seekers who want to know Him in truth in order to obey Him. The first prerequisite to knowing God is the willingness—indeed, the passion—to know Him as He really is, not as one imagines or would like Him to be. It is no less idolatry to create an imaginary god in one’s mind than to make one out of clay, wood, or stone. So, who is the true God who proves Himself by unfailingly foretelling the future in the Bible?

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YE ARE MY WITNESSES, SAITH THE LORD,  
AND MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN  
THAT YE MAY KNOW AND BELIEVE ME, AND  
UNDERSTAND THAT I AM HE...

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—ISAIAH 43:10

As we have seen in past articles, the Bible identifies Him as “the God of Israel” 203 times, “the God of Jacob” 28 times, “the God of Abraham” 17 times, and “the God of Isaac” 13 times. Never is He called the “God of any other ethnic group.” These designations are foundational to everything the Bible teaches, including the very character of God. To profess to believe in God and at the same time to hold a prejudice against God’s chosen people, the Jews, or against Israel, which turns these clear biblical identifications into meaningless titles, casts doubt upon whether one really knows the true God.

In His refutation of the Sadducees’ denial of the resurrection, Christ’s primary argument was based upon God’s statement to Moses: “I AM...the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob...this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations” (Ex 3:14,15). Clearly, this was the identity of the true God then; it is now and will be forever. God never changes.

Notice Christ’s reasoning: “Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God....[H]ave ye not read that which was

spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living” (Mt 22:29-32).

Christ is saying that if Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will not live eternally through a resurrection, then it would be a mockery for God to be identified with them eternally. He would be the God of, and have identified Himself with, beings of limited existence—scarcely a blip in eternity. To be called the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, if they no longer existed, would demean God.

If the nation of Israel is dead, or has been replaced by the church and does not have an eternal future, then the very term “God of Israel” would not be to God’s glory but a slur upon His character in view of His many promises that Israel would never cease to exist. Yet that is the position taken by those who say that Israel has been replaced by the church. In *The Last Disciple* (p. 88), Hank Hanegraaff has a key character say, “The covenant between God and Israel was broken with the rejection of His Son.”

Hank gives no explanation how an “everlasting covenant” could ever be broken, nor how Israel’s rejection of Christ could break a covenant that was not conditional upon her accepting Him, for which there were never any conditions Israel had to fulfill, and which God said He would bring to completion in the last days.

Indeed, at the same time that God promises eternal blessings to Israel in a full restoration in the last days, He also recites her unfaithfulness to Him without a hint that the many sins of Israel and the Jewish people would be any deterrent to His fulfilling all of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob:

...the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them...the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever....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 own ways, O house of Israel...in the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities....For I will...gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land...and will do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the LORD....I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. (Dt 1:8; Jer 7:7; Ezk 36:11, 22-26, 32-36)

Here again, as elsewhere (as we have said), it is quite clear that there are no conditions for Israel to fulfill, but God will, for the integrity of His name, fulfill every promise in spite of Israel's rebellion against Him. Furthermore, the prophets foretold that the Messiah would be rejected by Israel and crucified, yet in all of those prophecies there is never a suggestion that because of this rejection God would break His everlasting covenant with Israel. The covenant was made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—not with their descendants (Gn 12:1-3; 15:7, 18-21; 17:7-8, 19, 21; 26; 28:13; 1 Ch 16:14-18, etc.); it was never conditioned upon the obedience of their descendants, and therefore could not possibly be broken by anything those descendants did or failed to do. It is a slap in the eternal God's face to say that Israel has been replaced!

Scripture records literally hundreds of promises from God that Israel *as a nation* would never cease to exist (Jer 31:35-37, etc.). These cannot be annulled even by God himself. To do so would make Him a liar. Nor can they be spiritualized away as though the land of Canaan, which became the land of Israel, could simply mean the heavenly inheritance of the church.

It is irrefutable that Israel once possessed a physical, historical land that was given to her by God's eternal decree. It is equally an historical fact that she was expelled from this land by God himself for her rebellion. And it is no less an historical fact that Israel became a nation once again, May 14, 1948, and that millions of Jews have since returned to that Promised Land from more than 100 countries, just as Scripture foretold. This can be nothing less than the beginnings of God's promised restoration of Israel so that her latter end would be better than her beginning. A very few of God's many promises follow:

Unto thy seed will I give this land...forever...from the river of Egypt unto the...river Euphrates....I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee...for an everlasting covenant.... And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed...all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession...for unto thee [Isaac], and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father...the land whereon thou liest, to thee [Jacob] will I give it, and to thy seed.

Be ye mindful always of his covenant...which he made with Abraham, and of his oath unto Isaac; and hath confirmed the same to Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant....Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance....(Gn 12:7; 13:15; 15:18; 17:7,8;

26:3; 28:13; 1 Ch 16:14-18).

Citing the hatred of Israel's neighbors at that time, Psalm 83:3,4 foretells the Muslims' openly and oft-stated plan to wipe Israel off the map: "They have taken crafty counsel against thy people....Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation...." In the same effort to destroy her, Christian denominations have initiated a boycott against companies that do business with Israel. Replacement theologians such as D. James Kennedy, R.C. Sproul, and many others allied with them have rejected modern Israel as of any significance in the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In "An Open Letter to Evangelicals and Other Interested Parties: The People of God, the Land of Israel, and the Impartiality of the Gospel," they declare:

The inheritance promises that God gave to Abraham...do not apply to any particular ethnic group, but to the church of Jesus Christ, the true Israel....The entitlement of any one ethnic or religious group to territory in the Middle East called the "Holy Land" cannot be supported by Scripture. In fact, the land promises specific to Israel in the Old Testament were fulfilled under Joshua. [See *Judgment Day*, pp. 276-77]

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AND SO ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED: AS IT IS WRITTEN, THERE SHALL COME OUT OF SION THE DELIVERER, AND SHALL TURN AWAY UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB....

—ROMANS 11:26

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An *everlasting* covenant fulfilled under Joshua, who only lived 110 years?! Hundreds of "promises specific to Israel in the Old Testament" had not even been foretold by Israel's prophets until centuries after Joshua died! Even the prophecies made by Moses during the lifetime of Joshua that Israel would sin and be cast out of the land were not fulfilled "under Joshua." This declaration by Kennedy, Sproul, et al., is such a defiance of the God of Israel that one finds it unbelievable coming from biblical "scholars"! Here is the Word of the Lord:

Therefore, behold, the days come saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, the LORD liveth which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt [in Joshua's day]; But, the LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country [Russia et al.], and from all countries whither I had driven them....(Jer 23:7,8)

This is being fulfilled in our day. When God told Moses that He would destroy Israel and make of him a great nation,

Moses reasoned with God that He would be going back on His Word if He did that, and His critics would say that He was not able to keep His promises. If even one failed, it would reflect on all His other promises. (Ex 32:9-14). Yet today, growing numbers of those who claim to be Christians are declaring that God's eternal covenant with Israel has been annulled!

If the everlasting covenant that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob swore to these patriarchs of Israel is not kept, then God has denied Himself. The same holds true for the literally hundreds of promises God has made that He would restore Israel fully to her land. If just one fails, then God has denied Himself and is not worthy of our trust. Here are a few of the many that could be cited:

As a shepherd seeketh out his flock...so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all the places where they have been scattered...and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel...in a good pasture....I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away...therefore, will I save my flock, and they shall no more be a prey....I will set up one shepherd over them...even my servant David [i.e., the Messiah].... And I the LORD will be their God...there shall be showers of blessing...they shall be safe in their land...no more be a prey to the heathen...none shall make them afraid... And...I will...do better unto you than at your beginnings: and ye shall know that I am the LORD...neither shalt thou bear the reproach of the people any more...for I will...gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land...that I have given unto Jacob...and I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes...and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore....(Ezk 34:12-16, 22-28; 36:11, 15, 24, 27; 37:25-28)

If "everlasting," concerning Israel, doesn't mean *everlasting*, then how can we trust the promise in John 3:16 of everlasting life to those who believe on Christ? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of Israel, is the only true God. The Messiah promised to Israel by Jewish prophets of God came 2,000 years ago. He is the Savior of all who believe on Him as the one who, in fulfillment of what the Hebrew prophets foretold, died for the sins of the world, rose from the dead, and ascended to the Father's right hand. He is coming in power and glory to punish the world for its abuse of His people Israel and to rule the world from David's throne in Jerusalem. Let us stand firm on the truth of Scripture and preach the true gospel of God, to the Jew first, then to the Gentile. TBC

## Quotable .....

God, being who He is, must always be sought for Himself, never as a means toward something else....Whoever seeks God as a means toward desired ends will not find God....

The mighty God, the maker of heaven and earth...will not aid men in their selfish striving after personal gain....Yet popular Christianity has as one of its most effective talking points the idea that God exists to help people get ahead in this world.

*A.W. Tozer, Man: The Dwelling Place of God, pp. 56-57*

Ironically, those who seek their ultimate value in the next world are the only ones able to do much good in this one.

*Herbert Schlossberg, Idols for Destruction, p. 333*

Promoting or accepting the right of people to abortion on demand is accepting a utilitarian view of human life—if the fetus is not useful or convenient...then we may dispose of it. Once we accept this utilitarian outlook...that man has no inviolable right to life—then none of us can be safe from annihilation.

*Dr. Paul Adreini, affiliated with the Mayo Clinic, cited in David Hocking, The Moral Catastrophe, p. 30*

## Q&A .....

**QUESTION: I asked a pastor at Rick Warren's church about the end times and the nation of Israel. Here is the response I received: "As you probably know, those with a strongly dispensational view of the end times believe that Jesus must return to the literal temple in Israel. This strongly affects one's politics, because for Jesus to return to the literal temple in Israel, there must still be an Israel, and Israel must control the temple area that is not the Dome of the Rock mosque.**

**"We teach that there are a number of views of the end times that are equally biblical. Because of this, our belief that the nation of Israel has a right to exist is not based on end time theology. It's based instead on our respect for Jews as the people of God, and the clear rights that God gives to nations in the Bible. We also believe strongly in the teaching in Romans 11 that there will be a great ingathering of the Jewish people to faith in Christ. Whatever plan God wants to use to bring as many of the Jewish people to himself as possible is the plan we'll rejoice in!**

**"...we support Israel's right to exist,**

**but more out of respect for Jews as God's people than out of any dispensational theology."**

**I would appreciate your reaction to this attitude toward the nation of Israel.**

**ANSWER:** You are right that the issue is the *nation* of Israel, not Jewish people in general. From the reply you received, Saddleback Church does not believe the many clear promises Scripture makes—not to some Jews scattered around the world, but to Israel itself—that she *must* and *will* continue to exist as a *nation*. Saddleback's position surprises me because Rick Warren personally put *Judgment Day* into President Bush's hands (for which I am grateful).

(By the way, I'm almost certain that Rick supports the pre-trib position, but this question is about Israel and has nothing to do with the Rapture.)

What does it mean to support Israel's right to exist "out of respect for Jews as God's people"? As we prove beyond dispute in *Judgment Day*, it is precisely *because* the Jews are God's chosen people that the God of the Bible made hundreds of promises to preserve, protect, bless Israel, and restore her fully so that her end will be better than her beginning. These promises are unambiguous and are the only biblical basis for Middle East peace now and always.

For Saddleback (or any other Christians) to ignore God's promises to Israel in Scripture is to thumb one's nose at God. To refer to "dispensational theology" is beside the point. It is irrefutable that God has promised Israel an eternal inheritance in the land He gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These promises are so clear that they cannot be misinterpreted no matter what one's eschatological or dispensational position.

What does it mean to support Israel's right to exist based on "the clear rights God gives to nations in the Bible"? What rights does the Bible give to Germany, or France, or the USA, et al., to exist? None! Is that all the right Israel has to exist? Within what borders? So the "Palestinians," too, have biblical rights to the land God gave to Israel?! And there are several "equally biblical" views?! God is being defied!

Israel was only voted into present existence by the UN in 1948; the Arabs rejected the UN decision and attacked Israel, swearing to annihilate her. They have continued to insist that Israel is occupying their historical land. In fact, the Arabs are occupying Israel's historical land! There is no way to settle this matter except for the world (including Arabs and Jews) to accept what the Bible says. But the paper you received from Saddleback treats God's promises as questionable "dispensational theology."

Contrary to Saddleback's granting Israel "the clear rights that God gives to nations in the Bible," the Bible itself declares that Israel is in a different category from all the other nations. Three times Israel is called "the apple" of God's eye (Dt 32:10; Lam 2:18; Zec 2:8). God promises the nation of Israel that He will bless those that bless her and curse those that curse her (Gn 12:3). No such promises were ever given to any other nation. To suggest that Israel only has the rights that God has given to all nations is a shocking rejection of clear biblical teaching! God distinctly tells Israel that He has "separated [and] severed [her] from other people" (Lev 20:24,26) and that she will not be "reckoned among the nations" (Num 23:9) because He has chosen her to be "a special people...above all people" (Dt 7:6).

God promises repeatedly, "O Israel...I am with thee...to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee" (Jer 30:10,11). How can any Christian who takes the Bible seriously say that Israel has rights no different from other nations and that alternate views about Israel's status today and in the future are all biblical?!

God promises to bring His chosen people back from all the countries where He has scattered them and to bring about a special "rebirth" of Israel as a nation. We have certainly witnessed the fulfillment of that promise by Israel's rebirth in 1948 and the subsequent immigration of millions of Jews to Israel from more than 100 countries—something unprecedented in the entire history of the world!

To believe in a last days "great ingathering of the Jewish people to faith in Christ" has nothing to do with Israel but with the church, and they are separate entities. Furthermore, it is only through God's establishment of Israel to the Promised Land that Israel will be restored to faith in Him.

The battle right now is between Islam (which says Israel must be destroyed) and the God of the Bible (who promises to preserve the nation of Israel forever). The God Christians believe in is called "God of Israel" 203 times in Scripture. Israel is the major topic of God's Word. To be wrong about Israel is to miss most of what the Bible says! If the Muslims' determination to destroy Israel is successful, then we will have to renounce Christianity as based on lies and all become Muslims! This is the issue. I think it is a bigger one than anything Rick Warren has addressed; and I pray that he will take the leadership in speaking out on Israel's behalf from a biblical viewpoint!

**QUESTION: Based upon Gal 2:20 ("I live by the faith of the Son of God"), some teach that Christ had to have faith in**

**God like any of us—that He did miracles by faith in God, was the perfect example of the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—and thus we can do the same—and that it is by the “faith of the Son of God” that we live the Christian life. But what faith did the Lord have, or need to have? As God in the flesh, He was very God and also very man. As a man, did He have to have faith in Himself as God? When He did “...the works which none other man did...,” was this by faith in God, or by His power as God? Please give me your thoughts on this subject.**

**ANSWER:** As you noted, those who teach this doctrine derive it from the KJV’s “by the faith of the Son of God.” This is not a wrong translation. It is simply old English and the KJV’s peculiar way of saying “by faith in.” Thus, the New King James renders it “faith in,” as does every other translation I could locate. English words continually change their meaning, so it is not surprising that the KJV could be misunderstood in some places.

The KJV’s old English sometimes means the opposite of that word’s meaning today. For example, “He who now *letteth* will *let*” (2 Thes 2:7) today means “allow.” But it comes from the Greek word, *katecho*, which literally means “to hold down.” In today’s English it would be, “he who now restrains.” So it is rendered in the New King James and elsewhere.

Thus, this doctrine that we live by “the faith of Christ” is based upon a mistaken understanding of the old English, which would be quickly cleared up by consulting other translations. “The Comparative Concordance” of *Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance* shows, on p. 145, that this clarification was made in the revised edition of the KJV—not only in Gal 2:20 but at 3:22 and elsewhere. I am not endorsing the revision of the Authorized Version, largely controlled by modernists such as Westcott and Hort, who were intent upon destroying the truth. In relation to Gal 2:20, however, no such motive could be ascribed for changing “faith of Christ” into “faith in Christ.” Indeed, I cannot imagine what “living by the faith of Christ” could possibly mean!

As you point out, the corollary of this teaching is the equally erroneous belief that Christ, while on this earth, lived by faith as an example for us. On the contrary, He told us to “have faith in God” (Mk 11:22)—but He *is* God and doesn’t live by faith in Himself. Nowhere do I find that Christ lived by faith. Yes, He said, “the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do... I can of mine own self do nothing...but the will of the Father which hath sent me...the

words that I speak, I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (Jn 5:19, 30; 14:10, etc.). But this is not something applicable to the Son only in His incarnation as a man. It is the consequence of His being eternally one with the Father and of the unity within the Godhead. Likewise, the Holy Spirit does nothing on His own (Jn 16:13).

Christ did miracles by His intrinsic power as God. When He told Nathanael that He had seen him under the fig tree where he was sitting when Philip called him, Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, thou art the Son of God” (Jn 1:49)! Jesus didn’t say, “You can’t draw that conclusion from the power I display; I simply do miracles by faith in God like any believer can.” So this teaching demeans Jesus and refuses to recognize His many declarations of His deity, which the rabbis understood and for which they crucified Him.

Is Christ living by faith in heaven today and somehow His faith is imparted to us? Of course not. Is it His continuing faith since returning to heaven that sustains us? If so, then how do we account for the many sins and failures of Christians? He is God and shares the throne of the universe with the Father, of whom He said, “I and my Father are one” (Jn 10:30). How would this alleged “faith of Christ” express itself in our lives? It surely couldn’t be automatic. Must we have faith in “the faith of Christ” rather than in Him, as Scripture exhorts us? Peter refers to “the trial of your faith” (1 Pt 1:7). Jesus tells us to “have faith in God” (Mk 11:22). We are told repeatedly that our faith must be in Christ and in God. We must believe the gospel.

Furthermore, Christ often used the phrase, “thy faith” in speaking to those who put their trust in Him. Sinners are told to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Jn 3:16; Acts 16:31, etc.). Paul everywhere preached “faith toward [or in] our Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 20:21). I cannot find anywhere in Scripture where we are told to have faith in the faith of Christ. This is simply a misunderstanding of old English and is an unfortunate embarrassment to those who preach it.

## News Alert .....

**Telegraph [UK] 14/01/2006: ‘DIVINE MISSION’ DRIVING IRAN’S NEW LEADER [EXCERPTS]**—As Iran rushes towards confrontation with the world over its nuclear programme, the question uppermost in the mind of western leaders is “What is moving its President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to such recklessness?”

Political analysts point to the fact that Iran feels strong because of high oil prices, while America has been weakened by the insurgency in Iraq.

But listen carefully to the utterances

of Mr Ahmadinejad—recently described by President George W Bush as an “odd man”—and there is another dimension, a religious messianism that, some suspect, is giving the Iranian leader a dangerous sense of divine mission.

In November, the country was startled by a video showing Mr Ahmadinejad telling a cleric that he had felt the hand of God entrancing world leaders as he delivered a speech to the UN General Assembly last September.

When an aircraft crashed in Teheran last month, killing 108 people, Mr Ahmadinejad promised an investigation. But he also thanked the dead, saying: “What is important is that they have shown the way to martyrdom which we must follow.”

The most remarkable aspect of Mr Ahmadinejad’s piety is his devotion to the Hidden Imam, the Messiah-like figure of Shia Islam, and the president’s belief that his government must prepare the country for his return.

One of the first acts of Mr Ahmadinejad’s government was to donate about £10 million to the Jamkaran mosque, a popular pilgrimage site where the pious come to drop messages to the Hidden Imam into a holy well.

All streams of Islam believe in a divine saviour, known as the Mahdi, who will appear at the End of Days. A common rumour—denied by the government but widely believed—is that Mr Ahmadinejad and his cabinet have signed a “contract” pledging themselves to work for the return of the Mahdi and sent it to Jamkaran.

Iran’s dominant “Twelver” sect believes this will be Mohammed ibn Hasan, regarded as the 12th Imam, or righteous descendant of the Prophet Mohammad.

He is said to have gone into “occlusion” in the ninth century, at the age of five. His return will be preceded by cosmic chaos, war and bloodshed. After a cataclysmic confrontation with evil and darkness, the Mahdi will lead the world to an era of universal peace.

This is similar to the Christian vision of the Apocalypse. Indeed, the Hidden Imam is expected to return in the company of Jesus.

Mr Ahmadinejad appears to believe that these events are close at hand and that ordinary mortals can influence the divine timetable.

The prospect of such a man obtaining nuclear weapons is worrying. The unspoken question is this: is Mr Ahmadinejad now tempting a clash with the West because he feels safe in the belief of the imminent return of the Hidden Imam? Worse, might he be trying to provoke chaos in the hope of hastening his reappearance?

Western officials [suspect] that Iran’s president actually relishes a clash with the West in the conviction that it would rekindle the spirit of the Islamic revolution and—who knows—speed up the arrival of the Hidden Imam.

## Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

Sept 8-10 (Dave & TA)	<b>Great Lakes Prophecy Conference</b> Appleton WI (920) 735-1242 www.ccappleton.org
Sept 12 (Dave)	<b>Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa</b> Santa Ana CA (714) 979-4422
Sept 16 (Dave)	<b>Midwest Hebrew Ministry</b> Arden Hills MN (612) 866-8014
Sept 29-30 (Dave)	<b>Calvary Bible Chapel</b> Macomb MI (586) 977-1849
Oct 1-2 (TA)	<b>Christliche Versammlung Thurstrasse</b> Frauenfeld Switzerland 41 (0)52 720 48 57
Oct 7 (TA)	<b>Centre Biblique Européen</b> Lausanne Switzerland 41 (0)21 887 75 63
Oct 4-6 (Dave)	<b>Winnipeg Prophecy Conference</b> Winnipeg MB (204) 853-7786 www.wpgpc.org
Oct 18-22 (Dave)	<b>Midnight Call</b> Brazil 51 3241-5050 www.chamada.com.br
Nov 3-5 (Dave & TA)	<b>TBC Conference</b> Bend OR (800) 937-6638 www.thebereancall.org
Nov 10-11 (TA)	<b>Calvary Chapel Men's Retreat</b> Lynnwood WA (425) 672-4377
Nov 12 (TA)	<b>Calvary Chapel</b> Lynnwood WA (425) 672-4377
Nov 23-26 (Dave)	<b>Calvary Chapel Vladimir</b> Vladimir Russia

## Letters .....

### Dear Dave,

How I thank the Lord for the gift of discernment that He has given to you. It breaks my heart to see so many who at one time stood firm on the unchanging Word of God but are now drifting into the cunning, deceitful tricks of the enemy and don't even realize it—thinking they are furthering the work of the Lord, they instead are heading into the path of apostasy. EI (PA)

### Dear Fellow Labourers in Christ,

You have been a great help in warning me of many unscriptural assumptions. It is so easy for Christians to *catch* the spirit of the age instead of *seeking to correct* the spirit of the age. DW (Canada)

### TBC:

I came across your website by "chance" today. I really enjoy your balanced view

and application of Scripture. Usually...when comparing Calvinism to Arminianism, King James to modern translations, etc., there are typically camps on the fringes that are partially right. I have always thought that Biblical understanding and teaching is...a balance of the fringe ideas, and reading your works has reinforced those thoughts. RB (AZ)

### Dear Brothers in Christ,

Thank you so much for writing this book (*Yoga and the Body of Christ*) on the demonic strongholds involved with Yoga. Christians are constantly sucked into becoming politically correct on all fronts. I am very thankful to Jesus Christ for your ministry. LS (email)

### Dear Berean Call,

I appreciated the fact that you balanced your criticism of Rick Warren with your recognition that he is saved....It answers those critics who say you are too harsh or not loving. ET (PA)

### Dear Berean Call,

One of the "desserts" of your newsletter is...*"TBC Extra."* In your dealing with the "new" movies and fiction, I'm happy to see my own thoughts put into words: "The church is mustering its troops to battle lines against phantom enemies while the adversary is softening her up from within....Marketing and entertainment have risen to the top of evangelicals' list of 'How to Make Christianity Convenient and Popular...'" (6/06). Thank you for sharing the truth that is the Word. JS (OR)

### TBC:

Too bad the "Bereans" are so violently anti-Catholic they resort to lies, half-truths, and vilification in their propaganda. Save your time and postage and work at converting yourself. Nowhere in the Bible does it say you have to believe only what's in the Bible. (Anonymous)

[TBC: We're sorry, but we cannot remove you from our mailing list since you didn't give us your name.]

### To The Berean Call,

*A Woman Rides the Beast* is very informative and is really opening my eyes. I now understand that the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd-century church was very different compared to the Roman Catholic Church throughout the ages. I was...considering returning to the Catholic Church when I get out of prison...until I found out that it doesn't believe the Bible to be literal, and they don't believe in the end-times, as far as the anti-Christ, mark of the Beast, rapture, etc....My plan now is to get out and find a Bible-believing church and get involved by being a servant for Jesus. MB (prisoner, CA)

### Dear T.A. McMahon,

I read with interest your article dealing with psychology....The word "sensual" in Jude 19 comes from the Greek word, "Psuchichos," from which we get our word "psychology." It refers to a life which centers on self. One should note Proverbs 18:2 in this case. The subject...must deal with feelings. Basically, it must make one feel good....It does not have eternity set in the heart. It deals only with the moment....It has a goal of present satisfaction only....The message is nearly always a relational message. It keeps our focus horizontal instead of vertical—on Christ. I find it is interesting that Jude 18 sets this attitude in the last days, combined with II Timothy 4:2-8. I believe we are seeing a fulfillment of this prophecy by what is heard on radio, television, and in the bookstores. At one time, one could go into a bookstore and find most of the shelves to be Bibles, commentaries, or doctrinal-type books. There would be perhaps one shelf that dealt with psychological things, often centered around the family. Now all that is reversed....Praise God, our redemption draweth nigh! AB (email)

## TBC Notes

### Opportunity for Ministry

When the *Psychology and the Church* DVD came out, one ministry contacted their local public access television station to air it. They filled out a simple form, signed a responsibility statement for content, paid a \$15 dubbing fee, and loaned the DVD to them. *Psychology and the Church* has now been aired seven times and will be used again in the future.

Here is an opportunity for ministry for those of you who live in areas where there is public access television. Call the public access station; obtain the simple form; complete it, and send it to them with the DVD.

If you do not have a *Psychology and the Church* DVD, we will send you a complimentary copy for public access use. If the public access station charges a small dubbing fee, you can send the receipt to us and we will reimburse you.

The Berean Call gives permission for the use of the DVD on public access stations. Questions? Call us at 1-800-937-6638.

T.A. McMahon  
Executive Director

The Berean Call is a nonprofit 501 [c] [3], tax-exempt corporation registered in the State of Oregon. It is overseen by an independent board which has full and final authority over all corporate assets, personnel, and affairs. (8/06)

## Too “Hot” for True Thought?

In this world where self is exalted and image is everything, it should come as no surprise to hear of a new online magazine targeted at moms between the ages of 18-35 that focuses on beauty, health, sex appeal, relationships, astrology, etc. The women featured are beautiful, strong, and very self-focused. They have produced a book to promote their philosophy of “Me First” and speak openly of “falling madly, unabashedly in love with yourself.”

The website is called “The Hot Mom’s Club.” Its home page announces, “Welcome to HMC! A resource for moms who refuse to check their sense of style or sexuality at the white picket fence!”

The book they offer is called *The Hot Mom’s Handbook* and carries their logo—a silhouette of a woman who strikes a “Charlie’s Angels” pose, complete with spike heels, big hair—and two children clinging to her. (You, too, can buy the T-shirt with this logo from their online store and become a “hot mom”!) Contributors to the book include (among many) such notables as Kathie Lee Gifford; Daniella Clark, “widely credited for starting the rage of the now-standard low-rise jeans”; actress Kelly Preston (Scientologist); Elizabeth Blanchard, yoga instructor and wife of yoga guru Mark Blanchard; Diana Lang, spiritual counselor and yoga teacher (from whom one can get a one-and-a-half-hour astrological reading for \$200); and Sheila Kelly, who has turned exotic dancing into exercise workouts to “empower women everywhere.”

A redefining of common terminology seems to be prevalent these days, and this website is no exception. “Hot,” we discover to our surprise, means “empowered”! Who would have thought? I checked *Merriam Webster Online*. Interestingly, that definition was not one of the many listed—or even suggested.

The website promotes other books besides its own. One is called *Burnt Toast*, written by Teri Hatcher (of *Desperate Housewives* fame). The premise of this book seems to be that moms get stuck with the worst of everything: doing without, eating the burnt toast while their children eat the good slices, sacrificing themselves so that their families get the best. Apparently (in this world of new definitions), this is a *bad* thing. Hatcher believes there needs to be a balance, and moms should, in fact, get the good stuff.

Okay, so blah, blah, blah. What else is new? Why the fuss? Why even bother to mention it?

Simply because the publisher and promoter of this book is none other than Thomas Nelson—which, on its own website, promotes itself as “the world’s largest publisher of Bibles in English”; the same Thomas Nelson, Inc., whose founder’s goal 200 years ago, they say, was to “Honor God and Serve People.”

*The Hot Mom’s Handbook* is being published under Nelson’s “imprint,” which they call Naked Ink. *Naked*? As in “[Adam] said, I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10)? No, no! “Naked,” they hasten to explain (with yet another new definition), means “authenticity and transparency and vulnerability.” Ah, I see.

In an article about the book posted on the *Philly.com* website, columnist Karen Heller writes, “...produced by Naked Ink, a division of Christian bookseller Thomas Nelson...” So although the book is very decidedly not Christian—nor is it being promoted as Christian—it is still being published, marketed, and distributed by a publisher who is *known to be* “Christian,” and whose founder, they boast, “to the end...demonstrated the faith and integrity that had guided him throughout his life. When told his death was near, he replied calmly, ‘I thought so; my days are wholly in God’s hands. He doeth all things well. His will be done!’ Then he picked up his Bible on his bedside table and said, ‘Now I must finish my chapter.’”

In the “Thomas Nelson History” section of the website, they

write, “He (Nelson) could scarcely have imagined the road that lay ahead for him—and for the company that would forever bear his name.” What would he say if he saw the road that his company *has* taken?

From a legacy of publishing Bibles and such works as John Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *The Vicar of Wakefield*, Nelson currently carries titles on successful marketing, worship in the Emerging Church, books on landscaping, and a hunting and fishing guide.

And now, as if they had not strayed far enough from the paths of righteousness and fallen headlong into the “counsel of the ungodly” (Psalm 1:1), they are contentedly standing in the “way of sinners” and sitting “in the seat of the scornful” with the publication of a book that flaunts God’s command that no one is to “think of himself more highly than he ought to think...” (Romans 12:3). This book (and the website) promotes sex outside of marriage (many of the contributors refer to themselves as “single mothers by choice”—and that doesn’t, with these women, always mean adoptive mothers), astrology, yoga and meditation, along with a completely hedonistic lifestyle that is the very antithesis of the example set by the godly women defined in Proverbs 31; Titus 2; 1 Peter 3:5,6; Acts 9:36-42, and throughout the Scriptures. What business does a “Christian” publishing company have being associated in any way with such things?

(An interesting aside regarding a comment on Nelson’s website: “In the early 1900s, Thomas Nelson and Sons was one of the largest publishers in the world. Yet by the century’s midpoint it had declined significantly. Its direction had shifted from producing overtly Christian materials to offering popular ‘coffee table’ books on any number of subjects....It...began to struggle financially.”)

The company still proclaims, “By the grace of God, we have been honored to...spread God’s Word around the globe.” One wonders what they think constitutes “God’s Word.” What will be the effect on Christianity and the next generation of this blending of works that glorify the Lord and edify the body of Christ with those that bring shame and dishonor to His name? Does Thomas Nelson, Inc., take responsibility for this mixed message that is going forth from their company in “the name of the Lord”? Do truth and love and honor and commitment and sacrifice mean anything, or have they all been redefined to fit the purpose of the moment?

I have always marveled at the sweetness of the Lord and His faithfulness to give good things to His children—His willingness to sacrifice everything for us and to set the perfect example of the perfect parent. (“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps...”—1 Peter 2:21.) As a mother who has raised five children, I find it remarkable that the Lord has blessed me in so many unforeseeable ways as I stumbled through motherhood, uncertain of nearly everything but that the Lord was with me through it all—giving me indescribable love for my children as I watched them grow and mature, desiring nothing more than to see them take their place in the body of Christ—and even finding myself developing a taste for burnt toast along the way!

How sad that so many young women will miss the blessings that *not* focusing on oneself can give, and who, in the empty pursuit of satisfying themselves, will never learn the joy of sacrificing for others.

How tragic that a company like Thomas Nelson, which has been given the opportunity to do so much good, has chosen instead to wallow in the mire—all the while proclaiming boldly on their website (from the *New Century Version* of the Bible): “If the Lord doesn’t build the house, the builders are working for nothing” (Psalm 127:1).

—Barbara Romine



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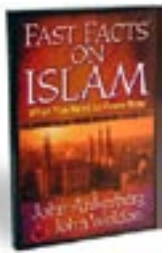
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## The Wall

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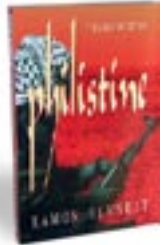
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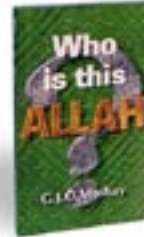
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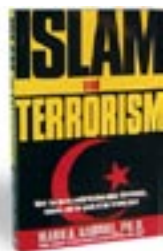
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**Moshay**—Many people in the West have little knowledge of Islam, and many Muslims have not been taught the difference between the teachings of the Bible and the Qur’an.

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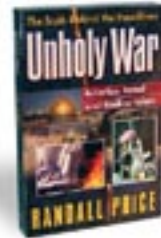
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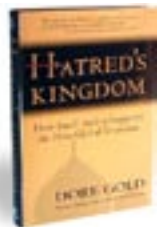
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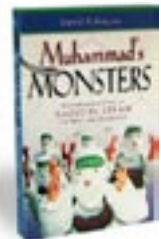
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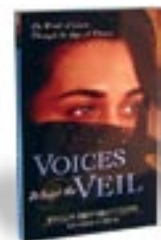
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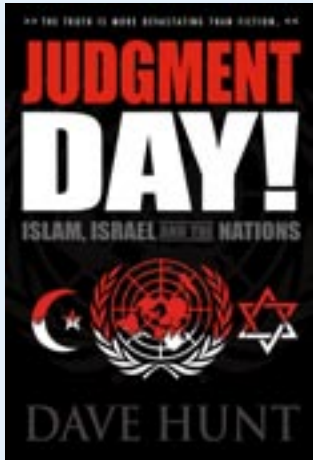
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**B97027** wt .8 \$14.00

BUT AND IF YE SUFFER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS’ SAKE, HAPPY ARE YE: AND BE NOT AFRAID OF THEIR TERROR, NEITHER BE TROUBLED. BUT SANCTIFY THE LORD GOD IN YOUR HEARTS: AND BE READY ALWAYS TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERY MAN THAT ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE THAT IS IN YOU WITH MEEKNESS AND FEAR: HAVING A GOOD CONSCIENCE; THAT, WHEREAS THEY SPEAK EVIL OF YOU, AS OF EVILDOERS, THEY MAY BE ASHAMED THAT FALSELY ACCUSE YOUR GOOD CONVERSATION IN CHRIST. —1 PETER 3:14-16

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 <b>ECONOMY</b> Free shipping via Library Mail	 <b>EXPEDITED (UPS)</b> UPS ground: add \$3.00 Overnight/2-day/3-day: at cost	<b>CANADA / INTERNATIONAL*</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>WEIGHT (UP TO)</th> <th>GLOBAL PRIORITY/ GLOBAL EXPRESS</th> <th>SURFACE MAIL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>\$11.</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>\$16.</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>\$22.</td><td>n/a</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>\$27.</td><td>\$23.</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>\$36.</td><td>\$24.</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>\$40.</td><td>\$25.</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>\$44.</td><td>\$27.</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>\$49.</td><td>\$29.</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>\$53.</td><td>\$31.</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>\$57.</td><td>\$33.</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>\$65.</td><td>\$36.</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>\$74.</td><td>\$41.</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>\$83.</td><td>\$43.</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>\$91.</td><td>\$46.</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>\$99.</td><td>\$50.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> add'l per pound \$3.00 \$2.50	WEIGHT (UP TO)	GLOBAL PRIORITY/ GLOBAL EXPRESS	SURFACE MAIL	1	\$11.	n/a	2	\$16.	n/a	3	\$22.	n/a	4	\$27.	\$23.	5	\$36.	\$24.	6	\$40.	\$25.	7	\$44.	\$27.	8	\$49.	\$29.	9	\$53.	\$31.	10	\$57.	\$33.	12	\$65.	\$36.	14	\$74.	\$41.	16	\$83.	\$43.	18	\$91.	\$46.	20	\$99.	\$50.
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**\*NOTICE: International customers now have two shipping options:**

**#1 Global Priority/Global Express:** This is the fastest option. Packages to most countries can take up to two weeks, but most will arrive sooner. We will resend your items or issue a refund if your package does not arrive within four weeks.

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**6 TOTAL WEIGHT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Canada / Int'l only—please round UP to nearest pound)

**7 TOTAL YOUR ORDER:**

Product/Resource Total \_\_\_\_\_  
 ← Shipping Fees \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gift to Ministry \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

IF MY FUNDS EXCEED PRODUCT AND SHIPPING COSTS, PLEASE KEEP BALANCE AS A GIFT

*Thank You!*

AUGUST 2006

The Riverhouse  
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NOVEMBER 3-5, 2006: Anticipation continues to build for TBC's first "hometown" conference titled "The Seduction of Christianity TODAY." The theme is to alert Christians to beliefs and practices that are undermining the sufficiency of the Scriptures and the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Topics include: Church-growth Through Marketing and Purpose-Driven Methods; The Psychological Seduction and Corruption of Counseling; The Catholicizing of Evangelical Christianity; The Emerging Church Mystical Movement; Popular Perversions of the Bible; The Islamic Threat, and much more. Plan now to join Dave Hunt, Greg Durel of Reaching Catholics for Christ, and authors Dr. Martin and Deidre Bobgan—for a time of great teaching and wonderful fellowship this coming November. We hope you can join us! For more details, visit [www.thebereancall.org](http://www.thebereancall.org) or call 1-800-937-6638.



DEIDRE BOBGAN



MARTIN BOBGAN



GREG DUREL



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