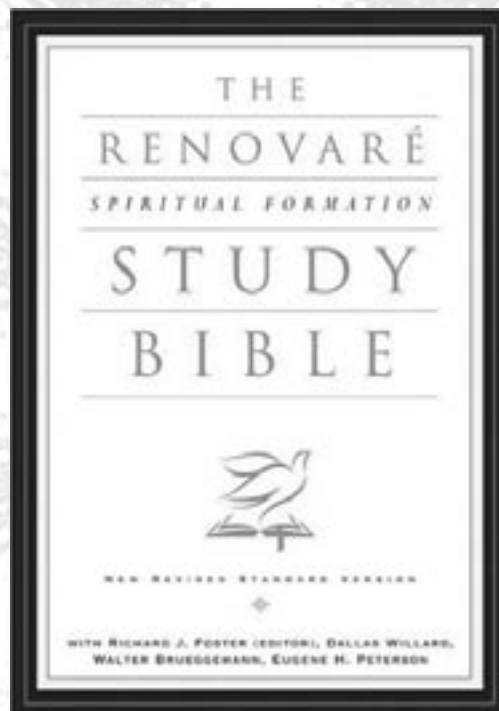


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**ABOUT THE FRONT COVER:** It is interesting to note that the logo for Renovaré study groups (diffused for effect) is a stylized sunburst around which 8 people hold hands. Strikingly similar to a Catholic monstrance (which holds the Eucharist in the "hub" of the sunburst), many ancient cultures also used a 4-spoke "solar cross" or 8-spoke "wheel cross" in their worship of seasons, deities, and the earth. These neo-pagan symbols are enjoying revival today in many pop-culture forms.

## The Bible Is God's Word!

Dave Hunt

God never adjusts Himself or His Word to the tastes of men. He never changes anything to appeal to the corrupt appetites of the ungodly in any age—all must come to Him on His terms. He commands all men everywhere to repent because of coming judgment (Acts 17:30, 31). “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD...” (Is 55:7). There is no softening of the gospel to make it “seeker friendly.”

Many claim to seek God but never find Him. Yet He has promised: “Ye shall seek ME, and find ME, when ye shall search for ME with all your heart” (Jer 29:13). The true God must be sought on His terms. It is not a question of music, videos, or other gimmicks to attract the youth, or of icons, candles, rituals, or other embellishments to create an aura of “sacredness.” The truth asks no props, only our fervent desire. The earnest seeker must come to God in repentance and cry out to Him for mercy.

God has spoken in His infallible Word. We must honor what He has said. Truth is not negotiable. Yet many Christian leaders promote wicked Bible versions such as Eugene Peterson's *The Message* (NavPress, 1993; see *TBC* Oct '95) that pervert God's Word. Men like Peterson have no conscience about changing what God says, replacing His words with their own.

Peterson is praised for this perversion by many Christian leaders such as J.I. Packer, Warren Wiersbe, Jack W. Hayford, and Richard Foster, founder of the *Renovaré* Movement and General Editor of the *Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2005). Foster loves *The Message* because it supports that movement. Peterson is “Consulting Editor, New Testament” of the *Renovaré Bible*. He reduces much of Paul's vital treatment of the gospel in Romans to metaphor, which he says is the “opposite [of] precise use of language” (p. 2045).

The *Renovaré* movement's major purpose is to subtly lead the church back into the occultism of the mystics of the early Roman Catholic Church through “spiritual disciplines” and “spiritual formation.” The *Renovaré Bible* is a major effort in that direction. A host of “scholars” contributed

commentaries, among them Bruce Demarest, Professor of Theology at Denver Seminary; Walter C. Kaiser, Jr., President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; Tremper Longman III, Professor of Biblical Studies at Westmont College; Earl F. Palmer, pastor of University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, WA and on the Board of Trustees of the long-apostate Princeton Theological Seminary (as was Sir John Marks Templeton).

The *Renovaré Bible* includes the Apocrypha and declares, “Most of the Church throughout much of history has accepted the Deuterocanonicals as Scripture....”<sup>1</sup> Not as *Scripture*. Nor were these 13 books, written during the time between Malachi and the birth of Christ, ever accepted by Israel as inspired. Indeed, 1 Maccabees states that God was not speaking through prophets and apologizes for its errors (9:27 and 14:41). Obviously, anything written during that silence from God could not be Scripture.

From the Apocrypha, the Roman Catholic Church justifies purgatory, prayers for the dead and their eventual redemption through a propitiatory sacrifice (thereby justifying the Mass), purchase of forgiveness of sins, worship of angels, prayers to the “saints” and their ability to intervene. Yet *Renovaré* asserts, “The Deuterocanonicals do not affect any central doctrine of the Christian faith.”<sup>2</sup>

The Apocrypha were never quoted by Christ or by His apostles, though the Old Testament is quoted in the New more than 250 times. Even *Renovaré* does not put the Apocrypha on the same level as the Bible but as helpful for “spiritual formation.” Then why include it in the same volume as Scripture—and without any warning concerning its heretical teachings?!

The *Renovaré Bible* introduces what it calls “Spiritual Disciplines” to help one's “spiritual formation.” Neither term is found in the Bible. *Renovaré* declares that the purpose of this study Bible is the “discovery, instruction, and practice of the Spiritual Disciplines.” In fact, many of these are occult “disciplines” not found in Scripture but advocated by the mystics as a means of getting in touch with God. Foster has been a major influence in seducing today's church with the same practices—and now has edited a Bible for the express purpose of justifying this seduction.

A number of commendable “Spiritual Disciplines” are mentioned, and some that are not commendable: “solitude,

confession...meditation and silence... secrecy, sacrifice, celebration.” These innocent words have a special meaning for Foster. Explaining his view of “celebration,” he writes: “We of the New Age can risk going against the tide. Let us with abandon...see visions and dream dreams....The imagination can release a flood of creative ideas [and] be lots of fun” (*Celebration of Discipline*, Harper & Row, 1978, p. 170).

In the West, meditation means to think deeply about something, but in the East it means to empty the mind in order to open it to the spirit world, leading to mystical experiences of “God.” Purporting to reject Eastern mysticism, Foster says, “Christian meditation is an attempt to empty the mind in order to fill it.” He seductively suggests: “John was ‘in the Spirit on the Lord's day’ when he received his apocalyptic vision (Rv 1:10). Could it be that John was trained in a way of listening and seeing that we have forgotten?...Let us have courage to...once again learn the ancient...art of meditation” (*Celebration*, pp. 14,15). The idea that John had a special technique for hearing from God is heresy of the worst sort, but foundational to *Renovaré's* promotion of “spiritual disciplines” and “spiritual formation”!

The arousal of the imagination through fantasy and visualization is a major theme in Foster's *Celebration*. He acknowledges that “prayer through the imagination” was taught to him by Agnes Sanford, who popularized “inner healing,” a major source of much of the occultism in the Charismatic movement. (For documentation of her full-blown occultism, see *TBC* July '89.) We have dealt with these errors in detail in *The Seduction of Christianity, Beyond Seduction, and Occult Invasion*.

Foster writes in *Celebration*, “In your imagination allow your spiritual body, shining with light, to rise out of your physical body....Reassure your body that you will return....Go deeper and deeper into outer space until there is nothing except the warm presence of the eternal Creator. Rest in his presence. Listen quietly [to] any instruction given” (p. 27). This is astral projection and occult contact through the imagination and is the major technique used by shamans to contact their spirit guides.

Yet Foster claims that it leads to Christ and God: “Take a single event [from Scripture]. Seek to live the experience,

remembering the encouragement of Ignatius of Loyola (Jesuit founder) to apply all our senses to our task...represent to your imagination the whole of the mystery...as an active participant....You can actually encounter the living Christ in the event, be addressed by His voice...touched by His healing power...Jesus Christ will actually come to you" (p. 26). *Not so!* You cannot call Jesus Christ from the right hand of the Father to appear to you—but any demon will be happy to pretend to be Jesus.

In like manner, the *Renovaré Bible* honors Catholic heretics and occultists as "saints" and their writings as a framework within which to understand Scripture. *The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola* are endorsed even though they involve occult techniques that have caused many to be demonized (see *TBC* Mar '00).

Sadly, the *Renovaré* explanatory notes deny the Divine authorship of much of Scripture—even that Moses wrote the Pentateuch. Yet they hypocritically declare, "We read the Bible literally, from cover to cover...[and] in context."<sup>3</sup> *Renovaré* claims that Genesis 1-11 is neither historic nor scientific,<sup>4</sup> and that the entire book of Genesis is merely a collection of myths:

Genesis began as an oral tradition of narrative stories passed down from generation to generation....These stories [gradually] took on theological meaning....Over time [they] were written down and collected together (Gen 12-50), and a prologue (Gen 1-11) was added....Borrowing from other creation accounts...stories with parallels to ancient Near Eastern religious narrative and mythology were reshaped with monotheistic intent....These strands of varied materials were gathered and edited into the written text....<sup>5</sup>

What wickedness for Christian "scholars" to unite with skeptics to declare that Genesis, which is foundational to the Bible, is just an edited compilation of mythology and folk tales! If Genesis is not literally inspired of God, then how can we have confidence in any other part of the Bible? What about Paul's statement that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tm 3:16), or Peter's "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pt 1:21), or Christ's many quotations from Genesis and references to "the things that Moses commanded" (Mt 8:4; 19:7; Mk 1:44; 7:10; 10:3, 4; 12:19, 26; Lk 16:29-31, etc.)?

Contrary to *Renovaré*, the Bible itself declares in numerous places that *under the inspiration of God* Moses wrote the Pentateuch: "And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book...and Moses wrote all the words of the LORD...and Moses wrote this law, and delivered it...unto all the elders of Israel....And...Moses...commanded the Levites...put it in...the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God...." (Ex 17:14; 24:4; Dt 31:9, 25, 26, etc.).

"The law of Moses" is referred to repeatedly (Jos 8:31-32; 23:6; 1 Ki 2:3; 2 Ki 14:6; 23:25; 2 Chr 30:16; Ezr 3:2; Ne 8:1; etc.). Jesus called the Pentateuch "the law of Moses" (Lk 24:44). The Gospel of John is filled with affirmations that Moses was a prophet who wrote much Scripture (Jn 1:17, 45; 5:45, 46; 7:19-23, etc.).

Of Daniel, the *Renovaré Bible* declares, "We do not know who wrote it or exactly when it was written...it was most likely partially written during Antiochus Epiphanes' persecution of the Jews in Babylon, which began with the desecration of the Temple in 167 B.C."<sup>6</sup> So it is the work of an imposter pretending to be Daniel 400 years after the fact! To escape admitting that Daniel prophesied centuries in advance the breakup of Alexander's empire under four generals, the rise of Antiochus Epiphanes, and the pollution of the temple, skeptics had to invent a later date for these prophecies. *Renovaré* echoes this lie, robbing Christians of an essential proof of the validity of the Bible and depriving the unsaved of life-giving truth!

Daniel is written in the first person, telling events that happened to the writer four centuries before 167 B.C.: "When I...Daniel, had seen the vision (8:15)...I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days (8:27)...In the first year of Darius...I Daniel understood (9:1,2)...I Daniel was mourning three full weeks (10:2)," etc. (For evidence that Daniel authored his book in the sixth century B.C., see Q&A Sept and Oct '01.)

The *Renovaré* "scholars" continually downplay the powerful Old Testament prophecies of Christ (pp. 22, 32, 1375, 1377-8, 1384, etc.). The key prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7 of the coming Messiah, who is "the mighty God, the everlasting Father," is said to speak of "human agents" (p. 997).

The notes reduce Isaiah's prophecies to "tradition" (pp. 982, 983), would have us believe that much of that book was not written by Isaiah (there are "three authors"—pp. 982, 1068), and even deny that chapter 53 prophesies Christ's sacrifice for our sins (p. 984)! *Renovaré* describes the book of Isaiah as "poetic imagination...Isaiah imagines," etc. The *Renovaré* "scholars" declare, "The prophets of Israel are not to be thought of primarily as...predictors of the future...they were poets" (p. 1079). Through poetry, Jeremiah attempts "to make sense of the events of his day..." (p. 1080). Blasphemy!

*Renovaré* rejects the powerful prophecies of Daniel, including the proof of 9:24-26 that Jesus is the Christ. There is not a word about the image foretelling the four world kingdoms and revival of the fourth (Roman Empire) under ten heads (2:36-45) to be destroyed by the Messiah when He sets up His everlasting kingdom. Nor is there a word about the future apocalyptic significance of the four beasts of Daniel 7 coinciding with Revelation 13. The wrath of God poured out upon earth during the

Great Tribulation (*Renovaré* avoids that term) are described as "natural disasters straight out of Exodus" (p. 2268). Yet even the magicians in Egypt told Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God" (Ex 8:19).

All of the major prophecies so crucial in proving the Bible to be the Word of God and Jesus of Nazareth to be the Messiah are either not commented upon, or are spiritualized away as pertaining to the "faith community" and its "spiritual formation." There is no recognition of the great prophecies in Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc., of Israel being brought back into her own land in the last days, and that she must endure forever (Ezk 35-37, etc.). For example, the powerful prophetic promise from God to bring back the Jews scattered around the world (Jer 31:8-14) is interpreted as a promise to all homeless people (nothing about Israel), and God's promise that Israel can never be destroyed (31:35-37) is ignored!

Israel is treated as having been replaced by the church. Incredibly, the valley of dry bones brought back to life in Ezekiel 37, which is clearly declared to be "the whole house of Israel" (37:11), is interpreted as the birth of the church at Pentecost! Ezekiel 38-39 is not about Armageddon, with real armies attacking the nation of Israel back in her land in the last days to be rescued by the Messiah, but is about "dark forces" always at work in the world.

There is no commentary at Revelation 1:7 about the Second Coming of Christ (p. 2269), no evidence of belief in the Rapture; only that Christ will one day "return and overcome the wicked powers" (p. 2266). Revelation is reduced to a "pastoral letter meant to sustain the suffering and hearten the weary faithful" (p. 2267). The Antichrist and False Prophet (Rv 13) are de-personalized as "dark forces of evil" (p. 2281). The woman on the beast (Rv 17) has no prophetic significance but "embodies those institutions that across the ages have sold themselves to the dark forces..." (p. 2284). There is nothing about the city that it is clearly said she represents. So the fall of Babylon (Rv 18) "pictures the ultimate collapse of all human institutions given over to the lust for power..." (p. 2285).

The marriage of the Lamb to His bride (Rv 19) is not a real event in heaven but "symbolic of the many different celebrations that bring joy and jubilation" into our lives (p. 2287). The thousand-year reign of Christ (Rv 20) is not a real event, and the armies of the world coming against Christ and the saints at Jerusalem after Satan's release merely symbolize "the armies of darkness [which] surround us" (p. 2288).

This "Study Bible" is one more step on the slippery downward path into deepening apostasy. The Bible is being mocked in the church. Let us stand firmly, vocally, and actively in defense of God's holy, infallible, inerrant, and sufficient Word!

**TBC**

## Quotable

Christianity...walks with strong step and erect frame...kindly, but firm...gentle, but honest...decided, but not churlish. It does not fear to speak the stern word of condemnation against error, nor to raise its voice against surrounding evils...[and] does not shrink from giving honest reproof....It calls sin sin, on whomsoever it is found....

Both Old and New Testaments are marked by fervent outspoken testimonies against evil. To speak smooth things in such a case...is not Christianity. It is a betrayal of the cause of truth and righteousness....Charity covereth a multitude of sins; but it does not call evil good because a good man has done it; it does not excuse inconsistencies because the inconsistent brother has a high name and a fervent spirit....

*Horatius Bonar (1808-89)*

There is freedom to choose which side we will be on [good or evil] but no freedom to negotiate the results of the choice....By the mercy of God...[the gospel message] announces the good news of redemption accomplished in mercy; it commands all men everywhere to repent and...to surrender to the terms of grace by believing on Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. We must all choose whether we will obey the gospel or turn away in unbelief....Our choice is our own, but the consequences of the choice have already been determined by the sovereign will of God, and from this there is no appeal.

*A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy*

## Q&A

**Question:** You have serious differences with Karl Keating, the head of Catholic Answers. I've seen the video of your debate in Detroit. [See offering list.] But he made a special report titled, *Endless Jihad: The Truth About Islam and Violence*, to "Expose the Little-known Threat Posed by Radical Islamists." The six-page ad agrees with you about Islam. Shouldn't we join forces with Roman Catholics against Islam?

**Answer:** No. The ad uses the terms "militant/militants," "radical Islam/radical Islamists," "extremist/extremists," "fanatics," etc., more than 20 times. He fails to point out that Islam itself is the problem, not its extremists or fanatics. That fact is crucial in combating this violent, anti-Christ, anti-God, anti-Semitic, and anti-Israel religion. We must

expose the truth of what Islam really is, has done, and continues to do. We must counter Islam with the truth of God concerning salvation for all in Christ alone.

Yet Vatican II recognizes Islam as a valid religion that worships and serves the true God of the Bible. How can Islam be faulted, if Muslims worship the one true God? Keating quotes John Paul II in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, blaming the denial of religious freedom upon "fundamentalist movements." The Pope meant evangelicals, but Keating inserts "Muslim" between "fundamentalist" and "movements" to make it appear that the Pope had Muslims in mind, which was not true.

The Roman Catholic Church lacks the moral basis to judge Islam, having slaughtered millions of true Christians and Muslims as Islam has slaughtered non-Muslims by the millions. The gospel alone can rescue Muslims—yet Rome adds so much to it (the Mass, holy water, relics, prayers to Mary, purgatory, transubstantiation, infant baptism, etc.) that we can no more partner with them than with Mormons, Muslims, Hindus, et al.

**Question [from Scotland]:** In *Global Peace and the Rise of Antichrist*, you admit that the signs for the Second Coming have only manifested in the last 60 years (establishment of Israel, weapons capable of destroying all flesh on earth, apostasy, ecumenism, multinational economy, etc.). Without these signs the Second Coming could not have taken place, so the Rapture, which precedes it by seven years, could not have occurred. Thus your teaching of imminency must be wrong.

Christ couldn't have raptured His Church in the 1700s, for example, since the conditions of Matthew 24, 2 Thessalonians, Revelation, etc., were not present: nation of Israel in her own land, weapons of mass destruction, global economy, apostasy, world religion, etc. The Lord can come at any time now, but couldn't have even 70 years ago. I want to believe that the Rapture was imminent from the very beginning until now, but how can you defend that doctrine?

**Answer:** Israel could have been brought back into her land and all of the conditions necessary for Great Tribulation events could have been pulled together in short order at any time in history. We can't imagine how this could have happened, but God could have caused it, no matter how impossible it seems to us today. He is the God of the impossible, able to do anything, and that must include these developments as well, at any time.

**Question:** In your recent article, you said that the USS *Liberty* was picking up Israeli military communications during the Six-Day War in 1967, relaying them to Britain's giant computer installation on Cyprus, from which complete maps were generated and sent to the Arab armed forces, giving them information of Israeli troop positions and movements that could have prolonged the war at great cost of lives or even caused an Israeli defeat. I asked about this from someone who has a USS *Liberty* website. He replied, "The account you mention is baloney...originally written by Anthony Pearson in his soundly discredited book, *Conspiracy of Silence*....Pearson's version was picked up and repeated by Loftus and Aarons in a travesty called *The Secret War Against the Jews*"....

**Answer:** Thank you for your letter. I am always open to valid correction, which this is not. There is one glaring error, however, which neither you nor anyone else has pointed out: I said that the USS *Liberty* was sunk by the Israelis; in fact it was only put out of commission.

It is not true that "Pearson's version was picked up and repeated by Loftus and Aarons in...*The Secret War Against the Jews*." Out of 91 footnotes, only 3 refer to Pearson's book in the 26 pages they devote to this incident—and this was the basis of their report?! Ridiculous!

The author of an article on the website to which you refer states, "John Loftus and Mark Aarons boast a long list of 'investigative' reports, mostly about Nazis, Jews, and plots against Jews. *The Secret War* is one more effort in this growing genre...over 500 pages of print and more than 120 pages of source notes and bibliography to 'expose' a long list of mostly unprovable crimes against the Jewish people and the Jewish state told confidentially by anonymous and unidentifiable 'old spies'."

The scornful reference to "this growing genre" betrays a strong anti-Israel and anti-Semitic bias and resentment that anyone should even mention plots and crimes against Jews—yet they have suffered more than any other people in history! Does he even accept the Holocaust? Anti-Semitism is further confirmed by his response to Aarons' and Loftus's statement that the ship was off the Israeli coast. He scoffs: "The only 'Israeli coast' in sight was land the Israelis had captured just before we arrived."

In fact, the Gaza Strip was part of the "Promised Land" given to Israel by the "God of Israel"<sup>1</sup> 4,000 years earlier. Egypt captured it during the 1948 War, and Israel had finally taken it back. During



the 19 years that Egypt held this area, and Jordan held East Jerusalem and the West Bank, no one mentioned a “Palestinian State,” which could have been formed. Instead, the Arabs themselves put the “Palestinians” in refugee camps, deliberately nourished their hatred of Israel, and turned them into terrorists murdering innocent Israeli civilians.

The *Liberty* incident is shrouded in secrecy. No one can *prove* anything. We can, however, use simple logic, starting from what all agree upon. For example, all agree that Israel knew the *Liberty* to be an American ship, yet deliberately attacked and put it out of commission. That makes no sense if its mission were friendly or neutral. What would be Israel’s motive?

Some suggest that Israel wanted to draw the U.S. into the war by claiming that the Egyptians or Syrians sank the ship. For this unlikely ploy to work, the *Liberty* would have had to be sunk quickly in a surprise attack, leaving no surviving witnesses. Yet the contrary is clearly the case, as both sides agree. Nine reconnaissance flights over the course of the morning, giving the ship plenty of time to report them, hardly constitutes a surprise attack! The only sensible explanation is that Israel was making certain of the *Liberty*’s clandestine mission.

Furthermore, it is clear that Israel did not intend to sink the ship when it finally attacked at 2:00 PM, but only to destroy its intelligence capability. The Israeli Air Force is among the best in the world. It could have sunk the *Liberty* swiftly in one strike. Instead, the Israeli pilots strafed and napalmed the deck to wipe out the communication antennas, and sent a torpedo into that part of the hold housing the electronic intelligence center.

No logical reason has been given by the critics why this American ship that Admiral Thomas Moorer described as “the most sophisticated intelligence ship in the world in 1967” was off the coast of Israel four days into a war between Israel and the Arabs surrounding her! The Israelis must have had urgent security reasons for attacking this American ship and incurring the wrath of their only ally and chief supporter—and the White House, caught betraying Israel, had good reason not to defend it. Aarons and Loftus offer the only sensible explanation, and it is supported by testimony of both Israeli and American former intelligence personnel.

The website you quote pooh-poohs “anonymous and unidentifiable ‘old spies’” as a source. So these highly regarded and long-established authors have simply been lying for years, citing from fictitious sources invented details not only about the *Liberty* incident but dozens of other

intriguing stories as well? Absurd! Remaining “anonymous and unidentifiable” is the nature of spies, active or retired.

Critics of Aarons and Loftus provide no rational explanation for the deliberate Israeli attack on a known American ship, or for the established cover-up originating at the highest levels of the Israeli and U.S. governments. The mystery dissolves with the knowledge that American fighter planes from two aircraft carriers already on their way to the rescue were *called back by direct order from the White House*—and the fact that the U.S. went along with Israel’s phony excuse that they mistook the *Liberty* for an Egyptian ship.

This statement by Admiral Thomas Moorer is revealing:

U.S. military rescue aircraft were recalled—not once, but twice—through direct intervention by the Johnson administration. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara’s cancellation of the Navy’s attempt to rescue the *Liberty*, which I confirmed from the commanders of the aircraft carriers *America* and *Saratoga*, was the most disgraceful act I witnessed in my entire military career.<sup>2</sup>

Or was the real disgrace a U.S. betrayal of Israel to curry Arab favor, and *that* was the reason for a cover-up? There is no other rational explanation. Web pages abound pressing for Congressional investigation, many by survivors of the *Liberty* attack, criticizing the government for not telling the truth and accusing the U.S. of a cover-up at the highest level. Top Naval officers, such as Admiral Moorer, have demanded an investigation—to no avail. Why do these legitimate demands meet only silence? Moorer calls the *Liberty* incident “one of U.S. history’s most shocking cover-ups.”<sup>3</sup> These facts support what Aarons and Loftus were told by “the old spies.” There is no other explanation.

All of the information put forth by eyewitnesses confirms that the attack was deliberate on a ship that the Israelis knew was American. That undeniable fact, together with the conniving insistence of both the U.S. and Israelis that it was all a case of mistaken identity, has aroused the anger of survivors, as it well might. It has also added fuel to a hatred of Israel that was already simmering. One group of survivors declares: “We are NOT anti-Semitic. We ARE anti-Israel. We know that Israel has controlled the American congress for years...to the point where 34 dead sailors can go un-investigated!”

An unwillingness to face the truth forces the critics into such absurdities. So the White House and Congress are, after all, mere pawns in the hands of the Israelis? Anyone who believes that is obviously blinded, if not by anti-Semitism

then by anti-Israelism, which is simply the former by another name.

The web page from which you quote cites James M. Ennes, Jr., a naval lieutenant aboard the *Liberty*. Did Ennes know the *Liberty*’s secret mission? Would he tell the truth about it if he knew? Clearly, most of the crew had no idea why Israel attacked. To them it was deliberate murder. Far from avoiding Ennes’s eyewitness account, Aarons and Loftus cite it in support.

## News Alert

**Lexington Herald-Leader, 7/16/05 (AP):** Grapevine TX—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, an alliance of 1,800 congregations that oppose conservative leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention, removed mention of Jesus Christ from its constitution at an annual meeting, Baptist media reported.

Previously, the fellowship’s stated purpose was to bring Baptists together so “the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be spread throughout the world in glad obedience to the Great Commission,” referring to Jesus’ call to win disciples.

The new language says the purpose is “to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission.”

The 2,300 voters defeated two bids from the floor to refer the change to a committee.

Southern Baptist Convention leaders criticized the rival group for making the change. The Rev. Russell Moore, a dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said “this represents the eclipse of Christ.”

But the Rev. Bob Setzer of Macon, Ga., moderator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said “Jesus is present in all we think, do and say in CBF, and anybody who reads that statement otherwise is not being fair to (Jesus) or us.”

## Endnotes

### Article Endnotes:

- 1 Richard J. Foster, ed., *The Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2005), xxx.
- 2 Ibid., Foreword, xvii.
- 3 Ibid., General Introduction, xxxi.
- 4 Ibid., 14-15.
- 5 Ibid., 13-15.
- 6 Ibid., From the introduction to Daniel, 1245, by James M. Rand.

### Q&A Endnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Exodus 5:1 and 202 other places.
- <sup>2</sup> *Stars & Stripes*, January 16, 2004.
- <sup>3</sup> Ibid.

## Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

Aug 27 (Dave)	Steeling the Mind Bible Conf Colorado Community Church Englewood CO (800) 977-2177 • (208) 762-7777
Sep 7 (TA) 9-10 (Dave, TA) Sep 11 (Dave)	Calvary Chapel Prophecy Conf. Appleton WI (920) 735-1242
Sep 16-18 (Dave)	Amazing Fulfillm't of Bible Prophecy 2005 Charlotte Prophecy Conf Charlotte NC (800) 937-6638 • (800) 845-2420
Sept 30- Oct 2 (TA)	Men's Retreat, Wild Horse Canyon Antelope OR (541) 478-3458 • (541) 383-5097
Sept 30- Oct 2 (Dave)	Believers in Grace Fellowship Marion IA (319) 373-3087
Oct 7,8 7pm (Dave)	Prophecy: Peril & Promise Texas State University San Marcos TX Calvary Chapel of the Springs (512) 353-7759
Oct 9 (Dave)	Calvary Chapel South Austin Austin TX 512-576-5433
Oct 19-21 (Dave, TA)	Winnipeg Prophecy Conference Winnipeg MB (204)837-3699
Oct 24-27 (Dave)	Brazilian Prophecy Conference Poços de Caldas/MG www.Chamada.com.br 0300-789-5152 (calling from Brazil) 55-51-3241-5050 (calling from U.S.)
Oct 28-30 (Dave)	Igreja Batista Esperança São Paulo Brazil 11-5571-9721

## Letters

TBC,

I would like to take a moment to thank you folks at TBC customer service. I've made many orders online and no one comes close to you. With most I can expect to wait three to four weeks for delivery. With you I've never waited more than four days! I look forward to my next purchase with you. Well done and thank you. RW (CA)

Dear Dave,

Thank you for your latest *TBC* article on "Consumer Christianity." I so appreciate your blatant forthrightness (amen and amen!). You're a fighter for the only cause that counts—the truth of faith and Christ's redemption, reconciliation, justification—by biblical standards only. RG (WI)

Dear Dave,

For some time I have questioned why you spend so much time refuting Calvinism when there are so many other problems in the church. But after yesterday, I no longer question this. I have taught a women's Bible study for over a year. One of the women went to a conference with R.C. Sproul and John MacArthur. She came back with CDs and

played them for the group. Overnight, I felt a change in their attitude about how to study the Bible (e.g., we don't need to have the Old Testament to understand the New) and an attitude about the Jews that seriously disturbed me—not a hatred for Israel, but that Israel is not really important....I guess I had to experience the effects of Calvinism personally before I could see the devastating effects of this doctrine. JS (NJ)

Dear TBC,

It is good to have sound knowledge of the cults. It is perilous not to be aware of the tricks of Satan. Even better is the digging deep into the depths of the Scriptures that we may behave wisely as we learn to trust and obey. JS (WI)

Dear friends,

We have been working with the youth in our church for about six months. We were just told that we can no longer be the youth leaders because we will not teach *The Purpose Driven Life* in our Sunday class and our Wednesday night class. Your words of truth have helped support us in our own feelings about this "strategy for building the church," as our pastor states. JG (MT)

Dear Dave,

I am 92, an intercessor, [without much] income. I can't give, but I love to read your *Berean Call*. Also, I love to defend you—whenever anyone judges you. MB (CO)

TBC,

Please refrain from sending any material from your ministry. You have gone beyond "brother discussion" on Calvinism. I prefer the reformed faith over yours. JG (NH)

Dear Dave,

Thank you so much for all your work. I'm 77 years old, alone, handicapped, and almost poor—but I'm relatively contented and happy. I'm on my way home. I was born and raised Catholic and even spent six years in a Jesuit seminary, but now through God's love I am a biblical Christian. You sent me *A Woman Rides the Beast*. I read it and read it and I rejoice! JJ (NJ)

Dear Dave,

I have just received your latest newsletter. I see people are after your scalp. Still, never mind—think of your reward in heaven. Be faithful to God's Word...you are right to raise the alarm. But let's look up and give our best for Christ. It's our only hope. CV (Australia)

Dear TBC,

Your monthly magazine is an inspiration to my roommate and me. The "seeker-sensitive," purpose-driven movement has invaded this and other prisons. You'd think

with the razor wire, twenty-foot-high fences, and guard towers, we (of all people) would be safe from indoctrination of such delusions....In the third chapter [of *A Purpose-Driven Life*], Rick Warren quotes Dr. Bernie Siegel. My roommate asked the instructor why Rick Warren would quote a man who believes we are all "the Christ." Then Rick uses Isaiah and Job as examples of lives "without a purpose" and "being without God"....Our dorm counselor told the class after my roommate had spoken, "Now that the devil has had his five minutes...." DC (prisoner, GA)

TBC:

You diligently test the latest wind of doctrine with the pure Word of God. Your vigilance is refreshing the saints who desire the pure milk of the Word. Glory be to His name. "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb"—Rev 22:1. P&MS (CO)

## TBC Notes

### The Berean Buzz & Prayer Requests

*Here's what's been happening lately at TBC:*

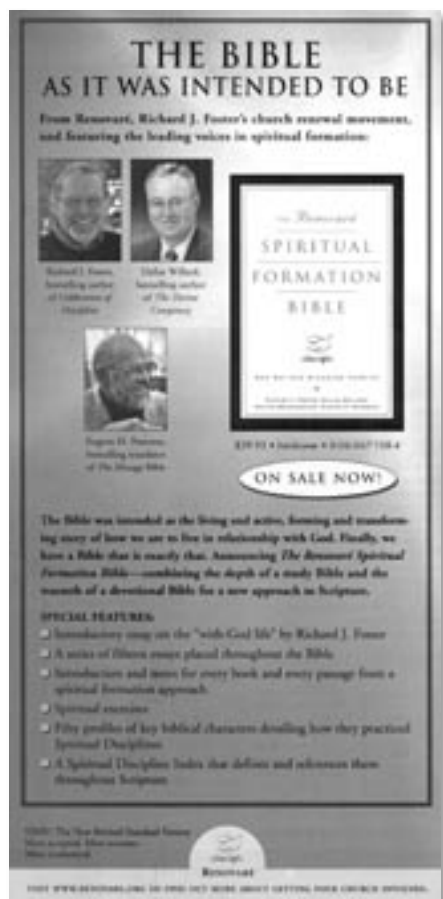
- The friendly voice of Cheri Peón del Valle, who for 10 years helped with Dave's scheduling, will be missed. She has moved to Sacramento to minister to her daughter, who suffers from a rare disease. Please pray for them.
- The production of our upcoming video "Psychology and the Church: Critical Questions, Crucial Answers" is on task to be completed by the end of September. Pray for the success of this project.
- Dave and Ruth's daughter Janna has been diagnosed with advanced cancer and they covet your prayers for her.
- We recently returned from the Christian Booksellers Convention in Denver, where we launched our fledgling TBC Book Publishing. We began this endeavor because of the reluctance of major Christian publishers to publish Dave's writings. Please pray that our efforts will be fruitful in reaching as many as we can who need to be informed and encouraged in the truth.

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. (08/05)

# "Critical Praise" for Renovaré Bible not too critical

Considering that The Renovaré Spiritual Formation Study Bible mirrors "higher criticism" (a movement in which intellectuals question the authorship and authenticity of Scripture portions—particularly prophetic passages—akin to the ungodly "Jesus Seminar") and incorporates New Age terminology and methodology (under the guise of "spiritual formation") and then packages it with a problematic translation, one wonders just how closely other Christian endorsers have examined its contents—or the teachings of Renovaré. Below is the two-thirds-page ad, prominently featured next to the publisher's box on page 6 of the July 2005 issue of Christianity Today. It is interesting to note that although the Renovaré logo appears at the bottom of the ad, the publisher (nowhere mentioned) is actually Harper Collins (which incidentally also publishes The Satanic Bible by Anton La Vey). Harper Collins owns Zondervan, the largest "Christian" publishing company, which recently formed a partnership with Youth Specialties to create materials for the Emerging Church movement—which is in turn a primary importer/exporter of Catholic mystic tradition, being marketed to evangelicals as "vintage" faith or "authentic" Christianity.



Ad appearing in the July 2005 issue of Christianity Today (shown about 1/2 actual size)

## Endorsements of Renovaré Bible include Popular Christian Authors

"The Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible ... is unrivaled as a classic work of biblical theology suffused with a pastoral heart."

—BRENNAN MANNING, author of *The Ragamuffin Gospel* [endorsed by Eugene Peterson and Max Lucado; Manning is a former Franciscan priest]

"This Bible is greatly needed."

—TONY CAMPOLO, author of *Speaking My Mind...* [embracing homosexual marriage, espousing a similar "soft" view of Romans as Eugene Peterson's *The Message*]

"With great enthusiasm, I open The Renovaré Spiritual Formation Bible. One could not assemble a finer team to compile it."

—MAX LUCADO, [prolific author; pastor, Oak Hills Church, signer of Evangelicals & Catholics Together II]

"This Bible helps us desire intimacy with God, not just know the typical facts and knowledge."

—DAN KIMBALL, author of *The Emerging Church* [with contributions by Rick Warren and Brian McLaren], and Pastor of Vintage Faith Church

"...[T]he most spiritually-impactful Bible of our time."

—JOHN ORTBERG, Teaching Pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, author of *If You Want to Walk on Water...* [endorsed by Dallas Willard; a former teaching pastor at Willow Creek, Ortberg holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Fuller]

"[An] outstanding resource ... Christians of many different traditions will appreciate this ecumenical resource devoted to spiritual renewal."

—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY [this secular trade journal is politically—and religiously—"correct"]

< AD LISTS SPECIAL FEATURES: "The Bible as it was intended to be" [God needs our help?] • "A new approach to Scripture" [from Catholic mystic tradition?] • Essays on the "with-God life" [how is this different from Universalism?] • "Notes for every book and passage from a spiritual formation approach" [what kind of 'formation' remains after dismissing Genesis 1-11 as a collection of myth and folklore handed down by oral tradition? What 'formation' occurs when key prophetic passages are selectively expurgated, and the deity of Christ compromised?] • The last three points (in fine print below ad border): "The NRSV: Most Accepted" [by whom?] • "Most Accurate" [by what measure?] • "Most Ecumenical" [Bingo! This one the copywriters got right.]

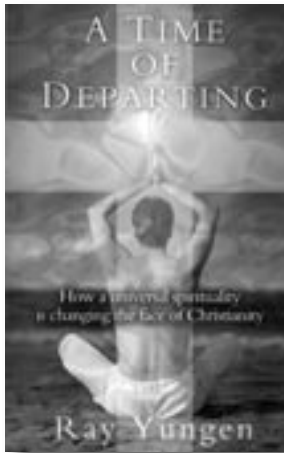
## A LOOK AT THE "SPIRITUAL FORMATION" OF THE RENOVARÉ EDITING TEAM

**RICHARD FOSTER** [Excerpt from Ray Yungen's letter, "Richard Foster: Promoting Eastern Mysticism by Proxy"]: "Richard Foster advocates a prayer movement that indeed can be proven to have strong links to Eastern mysticism.... To proclaim to be evangelical in every aspect but to say, 'Thomas Merton tried to awaken God's people'...is a contradiction of major proportions. It is an oxymoron to try to lump Biblical evangelicalism and Thomas Merton together.... The fact that Foster quotes Merton 13 times in the latest edition of *Celebration of Discipline* is just further proof that he does indeed adhere to Merton's teachings.... Since Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen mystically perceived the 'divine' in everyone this in effect made them New Agers.... Foster [is] promoting Eastern mysticism by way of proxy." [See TBC's offering list for Yungen's book, *A Time of Departing*]

**DALLAS WILLARD:** During an instructional role-play, this question was posed to Willard. [Hypothetical Seeker:] "I still struggle with how I should view those who have other beliefs. I'm not sure I am ready to condemn them as wrong. I know some very good Buddhists. What is their destiny?" [Willard:] "I would take [you] to Romans 2:6-10: 'God will give to each person according to what he has done. To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.' What Paul is clearly saying is that if anyone is worthy of being saved, they will be saved.... I am not going to stand in the way of anyone whom God wants to save.... It is possible for someone who does not know Jesus to be saved." ["A Conversation with Dallas Willard," *Cutting Edge*, Winter 2001, Vol. 5 No. 1]

**EUGENE PETERSON:** "The importance of poetry and novels is that the Christian life involves the use of the imagination, after all, we are dealing with the invisible. And, imagination is our training in dealing with the invisible, making connections.... I don't want to do away with or denigrate theology or exegesis, but our primary allies in this business are the artists.... Why do people spend so much time studying the Bible? How much do you need to know? We invest all this time in understanding the text which has a separate life of its own and we think we're being more pious and spiritual when we're doing it.... [Christians] should be studying it less, not more. You just need enough to pay attention to God.... I'm just not at all pleased with all the emphasis on Bible study as if it's some kind of special thing that Christians do, and the more they do the better." ["A Conversation with Eugene Peterson," *Mars Hill Review*, Fall 1995, Issue No. 3: pgs 73-90]





## A Time of Departing

*How a universal spirituality is changing the face of Christianity*

**Yungen**—A revealing account of a universal spirituality that has infiltrated much of the church today, this book exposes subtle strategies to compromise the gospel message with Eastern mystical concepts cloaked under the wrappings of contemplative prayer and “the silence.” The author’s calm presentation is honest and forthright, fair and balanced—and his conclusions are inescapably founded in truth.

“For the next eight months I studied [Renovaré and Richard] Foster’s work, focusing on his promotion of contemplative prayer. Foster became a riddle; his statement of faith and other writings seem clearly evangelical in nature, making it understandable why he has struck a chord with so many learned Christian readers. On the other hand, he also avidly endorses a practice that leads to a mystical panentheistic\* understanding of God.” (page 71)

This helpful resource makes sense of difficult subject matter in a nontechnical and friendly-but-challenging way, speaking the truth clearly and lovingly.

**B01206**

(Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 176 pp, \$12.95 retail)

**\$11.00**

A VITAL RESOURCE FOR UNDERSTANDING OUR TIMES, FOR RECOGNIZING DECEPTION AND FOR RESISTING TODAY’S MOST ENTICING DISTORTIONS OF TRUTH. I RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO ALL.

—Berit Kjos, *Kjos Ministries*

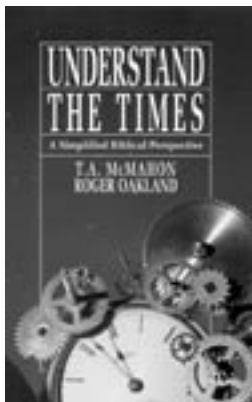
PROVIDES A SOBERING OVERVIEW OF HOW FAR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH HAS BEEN INFLUENCED BY THE DECEPTION OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT.

—Roger Oakland, *Understand the Times*

### \*Pantheism vs. Panentheism

As Yungen explains, “Panentheism is the foundational worldview among those who engage in mystical prayer. Fr. Ken Kaisch, a teacher of mystical prayer, made this very clear in his book, *Finding God*, where he noted: “The first and most important result [of this prayer] is an increasing sense of God’s Presence in *all things*’ (emphasis mine).... Here lies the core of panentheism: God is in everything and everything is in God. The only difference between pantheism and panentheism is *how* God is in everything....” (page 35)

“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away [a time of departing] first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.... And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time.” —2 THESSALONIANS 2:3-4,6



## UNDERSTAND THE TIMES

*A Simplified Biblical Perspective*

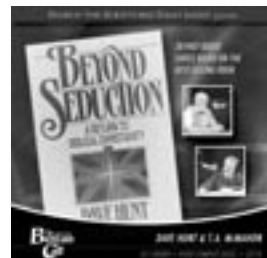
—T.A. McMahon, Roger Oakland

The Lord Jesus rebuked those would-be followers who could understand the signs in the sky but could not understand the times. That “the times, they are a-changin’” many would agree. However, exactly where things are headed and what the changes may bring has even the experts somewhat perplexed. This

challenge to all followers of Christ is addressed in an easy-to-understand biblical perspective of prophecy, spiritual deception, and the blessed hope we have in Christ. The Scriptures claim that only God knows and unerringly makes known the future. They also claim that God wants us to know what is ahead so that we might prepare for such events. As the Psalmist writes concerning the Scriptures: “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

**B00388**

**\$8.00**



## BEYOND SEDUCTION NEW!

*Search the Scriptures Daily Radio*

—Dave Hunt, T.A. McMahon

In this 28-part radio series, Dave and Tom discuss relevant issues from Dave’s out-of-print (but not out-of-date!) bestseller, *Beyond Seduction: A Return to Biblical Christianity*. Topics include: Is today’s Christianity biblical? • What does the Bible teach about self? • Is your self-esteem too low? • How can God love worthless people? • What does it mean to ‘earnestly contend for the faith’? • Does having faith give you power? • What must you have to please God? • Can Christian faith be a science? • Does the Bible provide all the counsel we need? • Does psychotherapy contain God’s truth? • Can psychotherapy cure sin? • Visualizing the answer to your prayers • Does seeing help you believe? • Does God like rituals and symbols? • Imagination or revelation? • Is the Gospel a positive message? • Is prophetic revelation ongoing? • Will the world convert to Christianity? • What is the biblical hope for the Christian? • and more. Over 10 hours of biblical teaching and discussion!

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**AT114** (8 audio tapes, \$39.99 retail)

NEW! **\$32.00**

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VT035	A Question of Origins - VHS	60	17.00	12.75	VT086	Journey of Life - VHS	40	9.00	6.75
DVD028	A Woman Rides the Beast - DVD	58	20.00	15.00	DVD093	Lest We Forget - DVD	74	20.00	15.00
VT028	A Woman Rides the Beast - VHS	58	20.00	15.00	VT093	Lest We Forget - VHS	74	20.00	15.00
DVD043	An Urgent Call - DVD	120	10.00	7.50	DVD072	Life's Story - DVD	55	20.00	15.00
VT043	An Urgent Call - VHS	111	10.00	7.50	VT072	Life's Story - VHS	55	20.00	15.00
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DVD065	Incredible Creatures V2 - DVD	60	20.00	15.00	VT088	Voice of the Deep - VHS	30	9.00	6.75
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DVD090	Incredible Creatures V3 - DVD	80	20.00	15.00	VT073	Warriors of Honor - VHS	80	20.00	15.00
VT090	Incredible Creatures V3 - VHS	80	20.00	15.00	VT059	What Love is This? - VHS	80	24.00	18.00
DVD051	Israel, Islam & Armageddon DVD	60	20.00	15.00	DVD010	Witnesses of Jehovah - DVD	58	20.00	15.00
VT051	Israel, Islam & Armageddon VHS	60	20.00	15.00	VT010	Witnesses of Jehovah - VHS	58	20.00	15.00
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(NOTE: multiple item discount does not apply to sale price.)



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—Shimon Erem, July 2005

*[see page 2 for more details on JUDGMENT DAY!]*