

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN:
AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL
BE UPON HIS SHOULDER:
AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Wonderful,

COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD,
THE EVERLASTING FATHER,
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

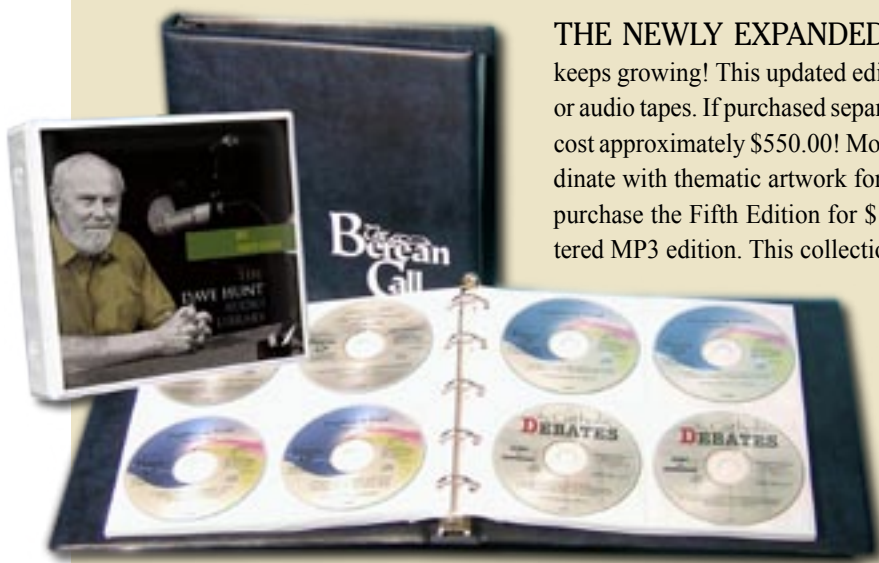
Isaiah 9:6

The
Berean
Call

DECEMBER 2006

THE DAY CHRIST WAS BORN

by **DAVE HUNT**

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ABOUT THE COVER: Peace cannot be achieved personally until the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, reigns in our hearts. And peace on this earth will not be seen until the King of Kings comes to reign. But startlingly enough, even His bodily presence will not turn men from their self-determination to rule their own kingdom (see Rv 20:7-10). A surprising discovery to some, the kingdom of God is *not* the millennium. The Word of God distinctly tells us, “Thy kingdom is an *everlasting* kingdom” (Ps 145). Even Nebuchadnezzar knew this (Dan chaps. 4 and 7). Isaiah 9:6, the verse that we know so well (and particularly quote on Christmas), promises: “For unto us a child is born. Unto us a son is given. And the government will be upon his shoulders. And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father....” But wait—what does the next verse say? “And of his kingdom and peace there will be *no end*.” No end! Yet, the millennium ends—with the greatest war the world has ever seen. Satan has been loosed, he deceives the nations and they march upon Jerusalem. At that time, Jesus himself has been reigning over this earth for 1,000 years. The wolf lies down with the lamb. He has brought peace to this earth. However, this temporary peace is not the promised kingdom of God, but the final proof of the incorrigible nature of

the human heart. The everlasting kingdom involves a *new* heaven and a *new* earth (Rv 21:1), to be inhabited by those who have been willing to become new creatures in Christ Jesus, and have allowed Jesus Christ to take over and make them new—those for whom “old things [have] passed away...all things [have] become new” (2 Cor 5:17). That is our glorious hope, not only at this time of year but every single day—this, truly, is “Wonderful!” —[adapted from writings by Dave Hunt]

THE BEREAN CALL

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

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DECEMBER 2006

The Day Christ Was Born

Dave Hunt

We are not referring to December 25. That may or may not be when Christ was born. There are conflicting theories: 1) that December 25 was set by Christians to counter the Roman Saturnalia celebration each December 17-23, which "led to widespread drinking and debauchery, so that among Christians... 'saturnalia' came to mean 'orgy'"; 2) that early Christians set the date of December 25 by assuming that Mary visited Elizabeth immediately after her (Mary's) conception, and then calculating the time of Elizabeth's conception as six months earlier (Lk 1:23-25)—based on Jewish records and tradition concerning the schedule of priestly temple duties and Zacharias's "course of Abia" (Lk 1:5); and 3) that it replaced the feast of Saturnalia, as Will Durant claims, which is probably the most popular criticism of the date.

Regardless of the day, Christ's virgin birth into this world as a babe was an event of such stupendous proportions that Paul declared: "great is the mystery..." (1 Tm 3:16)! The Creator of all (Jn 1:3) entered into His creation as one of its creatures, knowing everything He would suffer at the hands of those rebels that He had brought into existence through Adam and Eve. The hatred, misunderstanding, false accusations, abuse, rejection, mockery, and finally, the scourging and crucifixion that He would endure from those who owed their very existence to Him had long been foretold by Hebrew prophets *under His inspiration*.

His mother, Mary, was not "the spouse of the Holy Spirit," as Roman Catholicism says. She was the spouse of Joseph and not a polygamist. The "Lord of glory" (1 Cor 2:8) humbled Himself to live as a baby, child, man, and finally unto "the death of the cross" (Phil 2:5-8). As a child, he was subject to his "parents." When Mary or Joseph asked the boy Jesus to do some menial task, He didn't respond, "Who do you think you're ordering around? I'm *God!*" He quickly and humbly did their bidding.

Joseph was not His father, yet the child Jesus lived such a normal life that even Mary, who had at first pondered much in her heart (Lk 2:51), fell into the habit when speaking to Jesus of referring to Joseph as "thy father" (Lk 2:48). Joseph was certainly the head of the household, and the child Jesus obeyed him.

The One who had made the universe

out of nothing and who knew every particle—from the innermost depths of each atom to the outermost reaches of the cosmos—confined Himself to an obscure life in a small home and carpenter shop in Nazareth. There, as Joseph's bright young apprentice, He "learned" to fashion wood with crude tools and became known as "the carpenter's son" (Mt 13:55). His workmanship and creativity must have been fantastic. We are told nothing about those early days, except for His visit to the temple at the age of twelve (Lk 2:41-52), when He astonished the rabbis and reminded Mary and Joseph that His *real* Father had sent Him into this world for a special purpose.

AS MY FATHER HATH SENT ME, EVEN SO SEND I YOU. —JOHN 20:21

It was infinite love beyond our comprehension that caused our Lord to leave the glory and power He had rightfully known for eternity as God the Son, to become a man in order to purchase a bride with His own blood. He came "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Lk 19:10). When He accepted that mission from His Father ("my Father hath sent me"—Jn 3:17, 10:36, 20:21; Heb 1:6), our Lord well knew that the incarnation would not be temporary but eternal. He forever became one of us but without sin.

On David's throne in Jerusalem, as Israel's promised Messiah, He will "reign over the house of Jacob for ever" (Lk 1:33). He remains "the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tm 2:5), the only mediator between God and man, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever" (Heb 13:8). For all eternity He will bear the marks of Calvary, and heaven's throne will forever be "the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rv 22:1).

How could anyone have known who He really was, since His glory was veiled in human flesh? Any true believer of that day, who was in touch with God, knew the Word, and looked for the Messiah, would have known Him. Daniel 9 and Nehemiah 2 plainly told everyone who was willing to read and understand that it was the prophesied time for the Messiah to come. Anna the prophetess and Simeon, a devout Jew who looked for the Messiah, both recognized Him immediately, even as a baby (Lk 2:25-38).

Though there was some excuse for not knowing Him as a child, there was no defense for not recognizing Him after He

began His ministry. The miracles alone that He did were sufficient to prove that He was the Messiah. And He must have been a very special person. Even the officers sent by the Pharisees to arrest Him acknowledged, "Never man spake like this man" (Jn 7:46)!

Who could have failed to realize that here was "God... manifest in the flesh" (1 Tm 3:16)? Almost everyone! Very few recognized and admired the God-likeness of Jesus of Nazareth. Instead, their innate sinfulness despised His purity. Of the vast majority, in fulfillment of prophecy (Ps 35:19, 69:4, 119:161), Christ sadly declared, "They hated me without a cause" (Jn 15:25). It seems incredible!

John the Baptist recognized that Jesus was sinless: "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?" (Mt 3:14). Yet later, even he doubted (Lk 7:19), in spite of all of the proofs God had given him (Jn 1:33,34). The Apostle John was one of the few who recognized Him: "We beheld his glory... as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.... That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; for the life was manifested..." (Jn 1:14; 1 Jn 1:1,2).

Tragically, "though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him" (Jn 12:37). The Pharisees knew that His miracles were genuine, that He had raised Lazarus after four days in the grave; but they still justified themselves in determining to kill Him *and Lazarus* to preserve their positions of leadership. No wonder God declared, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9).

The devils recognized Him during His ministry, even though they may not have known who He was as a babe: "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God" (Mt 8:29; Mk 1:24). Jesus did not cast out demons in the name of the Father but by His own authority, and they obeyed Him (Mt 8:28-32; Mk 1:25; Lk 4:35).

The universe, which He as the eternal Word had spoken into existence, knew and obeyed His voice. He calmed storms with a word (Mk 4:39). Yet even then His disciples did not know who He was. They were afraid and "said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him" (4:41)?

Jesus said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (Jn 17:3). That

does not mean that any neighbor acquainted with Him as a child when He grew up in Nazareth had eternal life. It means to know Him in spirit and in truth—the way that we must worship God (Jn 4:24). It is not enough to say the words with one's lips ("I love you, Lord...I worship you") but to know and love Him in one's heart as He truly is.

Even though Jesus is God, and Mary is the mother of Jesus, that does not make her the "mother of God," as Catholicism teaches. Nor did she remain a virgin. The birth of her "firstborn son" (Mt 1:25) in Bethlehem was not the birth of Christ *as God* but of His human body, soul, and spirit—"a body hast thou prepared me" (Heb 10:5). She was the honored mother of the *man* Christ Jesus. But she was not the mother of the eternal Son of God, who created this universe, is one with the Father, and "was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14).

Christ existed as God's Son long before the incarnation (Ps 2:12; Prv 30:4; Is 9:6; Dn 3:25, etc.). He had, from all eternity, ruled with the Father on His throne as the Son of God: "Unto the son he saith, thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom" (Heb 1:8).

Mary had the unique honor of being the means by which the Son of God became man—but she was not the mother of the eternal One who had created the universe. She wasn't the mother of the Son of God, "whose goings forth have been from...everlasting" (Mic 5:2). To call Mary "the mother of God," as official Catholic doctrine teaches, is the worst blasphemy possible.

Paul makes a particular point of saying, "He was...seen of angels." They witnessed the unfolding of this mystery. We are not told the angels' thoughts or whether they had any advance notice of the incarnation, but Christ's birth into the world as a man must have been a mystery even to the "multitude of the heavenly host" that praised God at Christ's birth (Lk 2:13).

Could this really be the One they had worshiped as the eternal Word, the Creator of all—and here He was a helpless baby in Mary's arms nursing at her breast?! Could that be possible? Yes, there was the command: "When he bringeth the firstbegotten into the world...let all the angels of God worship him." (Heb 1:6). What a mysterious occurrence that day when Jesus was born!

Paul calls this most amazing and important event in the history of the universe not only a great mystery—but *the* mystery: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tm 3:16). The mystery of godliness was unveiled in

the incarnation of Jesus Christ!

Invading this rebellious planet from heaven itself came the only perfectly godly man who would ever live. All the rest of mankind are sinners. Eternally, those in heaven will be sinners—saved by grace.

Yes, "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God"—except for one man. It is a great mystery how anyone who is fully man, as Christ is, could live without ever sinning. Yet Scripture assures us: He "did no sin" (1 Pt 2:22); "who knew no sin" (2 Cor 5:21); and "in him is no sin" (1 Jn 3:5).

Indeed, it was not possible that Christ could sin. He faced every temptation, but He never had to struggle to keep from yielding. Sin had no attraction for Him: "The prince of this world [i.e., Satan] cometh, and hath nothing in me" (Jn 14:30). There was nothing in the "Holy One of God" (Lk 4:34) that was in the least attracted to sin.

GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND
PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE.
—MARK 16:15

He left us "an example, that [we] should follow His steps" (1 Pt 2:21). But how can we follow the steps that lead to the Cross? If we are to be godly, the only godly One must live in us: "I travail in birth...until Christ be formed in you" (Gal 4:19). It must be "not I, but Christ liveth in me" (Gal 2:20). But how can He indwell sinners? This is another part of the "mystery of godliness."

There was only one way mankind could be redeemed from the penalty of eternal death. For a Holy, righteous God to justly forgive sinners, the full penalty for sin must be paid (Rom 3:9-28). A sinless man, undeserving of death, would have to die for the rest of mankind: "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Rom 5:19).

Although the eternal Son of God, through the virgin birth, became fully man, He remained fully God. As sinless man, He could justly die for sinners. And only as infinite God could He pay the full penalty for the sins of all mankind. Even as a fetus in Mary's womb, He did not cease to be the One who said, "I am the LORD, I change not" (Mal 3:6). This is the most difficult part of the mystery. We cannot understand it, but we believe it because God says it—and we realize there was no other way.

As God and man in one person, Christ took the full weight of God's wrath upon sin for all mankind. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23). He tasted "death for every man" (Heb 2:9). That had to include "the second death," which all who refuse to believe

on Him who died for them will endure for eternity in the Lake of Fire (Rv 20:11-15).

Calvinism, however, teaches that Christ died only for an elect whom God had predestined to heaven. It claims that God loves the entire world—but not with the same kind of "redeeming love" for all: those who are predestined to eternal torment are loved with a lesser love, but loved nevertheless, because God blesses them in this life with sunshine and rain, etc. That is why we titled the book, *What Love Is This?* It is not love of *any kind* to fail to rescue any who could be rescued. Calvinism claims that God could save everyone if He so desired, but doesn't. That is not love.

The parallel Old Testament passage to "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom 6:23) is "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way..." (Is 53:6). Isaiah adds, "and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." The iniquity of all who "have gone astray" [i.e., who have sinned] was laid on Christ at the Cross.

Christ said that "as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (Jn 3:14,15). Poisonous serpents were sent by God as punishment for Israel's sin. Those bitten were dying. The serpent is a picture both of Satan and of sin that has bitten all mankind unto the death. God's remedy was: "Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and...[not an elect among those dying, but] *every one that is bitten*, when he looketh upon it, shall live. [It] came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten *any man*, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Nm 21:5-9—emphasis added).

Christ said that just as all who had been bitten could look in faith upon the brazen serpent and live, so all who have sinned can look in faith to the "Lamb of God [on the Cross] tak[ing] away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29), and receive eternal life as a free gift of God's grace. That is the good news of the gospel. We need to proclaim it everywhere.

What a day it was when Christ was virgin-born in Bethlehem! And what a day it is when He comes to live eternally in the hearts of those who believe on Him! This is the victory of godliness that every Christian should be experiencing—yet many do not know all that is theirs in Christ. Let us live godly lives and proclaim the good news to all. **TBC**

Endnotes

1. Richard Ostling, Associated Press, http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2004/12/23/special_reports/religion/21_50_1412_22_04.txt.
2. Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1950), VI 75, III 657.

Quotable

Temptation doesn't come from God but from within....It's not God...Satan, his demons, or the world's evil system that entice us to sin....it is our lustful nature.... Our flesh, our fallen nature, has a desire for evil...even though we've been redeemed and have received a new nature, we still have an enemy within. The resident passion of the flesh, not God, is responsible for our being tempted to sin.

John MacArthur, Truth for Today, 323

It must be the settled purpose of your heart to will nothing, design nothing, do nothing, but so far as there is reason to believe that it is the will of God. It is as great rebellion against God to think that your will may ever rightly differ from His as it would be to boast in His universe that you have not received the power of willing from Him....To think that you are your own, or at your own disposal, is as absurd as to think that you created yourself.

William Law, The Power of the Spirit, 20

Q&A

QUESTION: Solomon declared: "Wisdom crieth without.... Turn you at my reproof:... Because...ye have set at nought all my counsel...I will mock when your fear cometh....and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind....Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer..." (Proverbs 1:20-30). How does wisdom "cry aloud" in everyone's ears and finally mock those who won't listen? How can all mankind hear her voice and be held accountable for not heeding her counsel?

RESPONSE: Wisdom must be the voice of God in every conscience (Rom 2:14,15). The frightening declaration that those who reject her will eventually agonize over their folly is a solemn warning of the eternal torment of tortured consciences in the Lake of Fire.

Only after he was in hell did the rich man see clearly the horror and selfish folly of his sinful life of self-indulgence—but it was too late. The wisdom that had insistently tried to reprove him in his conscience and that he had despised all of his life was what he longed to heed in hell—but it was too late. Wisdom, which he had spurned, taunted and mocked him, as it will for eternity! So clear was his understanding in that place of torment that he wanted to warn others of the horrible fate they were bringing upon themselves by their rejection of God and His laws written in every conscience.

Though he knew there was no remedy for himself, he begged Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, "lest they also come into this place of torment" (Lk 16:27,28). In harmony with wisdom's voice in Proverbs, Abraham rejected the rich man's argument that his brothers would take heed if Lazarus returned from the grave: "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead" (Lk 16:31).

What an indictment of folly! What an exposé of the stubbornness of the human heart! And what a stinging rebuke to those in the charismatic movement who claim they were taken to heaven and/or hell and commissioned by God to come back to tell of their experience! And what a denunciation of their gullible admirers on TBN, from Paul and Jan Crouch on down, who honor their unbiblical tales!

QUESTION: Why does world opinion (UN, EU, Russia, media, etc.) generally go against Israel, and why is it often so viciously backed by false accusations? Is this of any significance for today, or is it merely what God foreordained?

RESPONSE: God did not foreordain anti-Semitism and the hatred of Israel rampant in the world—and He will severely punish those persons and nations guilty of it. He *foretold* this hatred, but He does not *cause* it. As John MacArthur says above and as Jesus declared, evil comes from the human heart: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man..." (Mt 15:19,20).

Of course, Satan does all he can to stir up anti-Semitism and hatred of Israel. As we explain in *Judgment Day* (See resources), Satan's only hope to escape his final doom is to destroy Israel. He has made the destruction of Israel and the extermination of all Jews one of the foundations of Islam; he has persuaded Europe and most of the rest of the world to believe the lies of the Arabs who claim to be descended from the original "Palestinians" (a people who never existed); and he is persuading not just the D. James Kennedys, Hank Hanegraaffs, and R.C. Sprouls but increasing numbers of Christians that the church has replaced Israel.

Why would Satan be immune from God's judgment if Israel were destroyed? The answer is simple. God has made hundreds of promises to preserve the Jews and to bring them back into their own land, where He will never allow Israel as a nation to be destroyed (Jer 31:31-40; Ezk 36:22-38, etc.). It is to Israel restored in the last days that Christ will return to rescue His people at

Armageddon and to reign over them and the world from the throne of David in Jerusalem.

Without Israel, there could be no Second Coming. God would have been proved a liar by His failure to fulfill His hundreds of promises to Israel and would have lost the moral ground for judging and punishing Satan and removing him and his man, Antichrist, from the earth. Satan would be firmly in control of the world and its inhabitants for eternity. The Rapture would have occurred, and the church would be safe in heaven.

With no people of Israel for Christ to return to and rule over, with no throne of David in Jerusalem upon which He could reign, the world would be under Satan's control for eternity. No new heavens and new earth would be possible.

QUESTION: Why should Christians care about the Middle East in general, and specifically about Israel?

RESPONSE: As stated above, this is the key issue upon which the future of earth and heaven—indeed, the entire universe—depends. God has tied His name and integrity to Israel. He is called the God of Israel 203 times and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob 12 times. Depending upon what happens in the Middle East, God will either be vindicated or discredited. His name and integrity will either be upheld in perfect purity and power, or He will be disgraced as a liar who cannot make good upon His promises to His people Israel. That's how important the regathering and ultimate blessing of Israel is!

If the Muslims, UN, EU, et al., succeed in destroying Israel, the integrity of everything God has said throughout His Word would be placed in question. If "forever" and "everlasting" don't really mean forever in relation to Israel ("all the land...to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever"—Gn 13:15; "I will give unto thee and to thy seed after thee...all the land of Canaan [not 'Palestine'—there was no such place] for an everlasting possession"—17:8; "the covenant which he made with Abraham...Isaac...Jacob...Israel for an everlasting covenant, saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan..."—1 Chr 16:16-18, etc.), then how can we be sure that the promise of "everlasting life" (Jn 3:16, etc.) means forever?

If Satan were stronger than God and able to make God a liar by preventing His promises to Israel from being fulfilled, then how could we ever be secure, even in heaven itself, from Satan's schemes and power?

Such is the importance of Israel and what happens in the Middle East. There is a real battle going on between God and Satan

for the eternal destiny of planet Earth and of all mankind. Wake up, pray for God to tear down the Islamic curtain (more vicious and impenetrable than the Iron Curtain ever was) so that Muslims can hear and receive the gospel without fear of being killed for their faith. Firmly oppose Islam and replacement theology, pray for the salvation of Jews and Muslims alike, and do all you can to bring the gospel to them and to the whole world.

QUESTION: A friend belongs to the United Pentecostal Church and believes in “Jesus only,” rejecting the Trinity. Jesus says that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. These people don’t believe in the Holy Spirit at all. Isn’t that blasphemy? Could United Pentecostals be Christians? How could they even believe in the true God?

RESPONSE: We have just revised our tract on the Trinity, so I suggest you get some copies of that (See Resource Pages). In that tract, I think you will find all the information you need about the Trinity to prove that the God of the Bible is a triune Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three persons but One God. This is taught in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

Could someone be saved who believes that baptism should be in the “name of Jesus only,” that Jesus alone is God, and that “Father” and “Holy Spirit,” refer to modes of manifestation, or to offices, not to persons? That is a good question. Let us see what the Bible says.

Obviously, to lead someone to Christ, one need not first explain the Trinity. The gospel as defined by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15 declares that “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures...” (1 Cor 15:3,4). There is no mention of the Trinity or even that Christ is God. Yet Christ declared, “If ye believe not that I am [i.e., “that I am the I AM, Yahweh”—“he” is in italics, meaning that it was supplied by the translators], ye shall die in your sins” (Jn 8:24). Obviously, then, although we are only told of one brief statement by Paul and Silas to the Philippian jailor, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31), they surely had already explained who Jesus Christ is, or “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” would have been meaningless.

Of course, United Pentecostals believe that Jesus is Yahweh, so they would seem to believe John 8:24. Yet John tells us, “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he

hath both the Father and the Son” (2 Jn 9). To abide in the doctrine of Christ, one must have both the Father and the Son—surely not as modes or offices but as distinct persons.

John begins this epistle extending “mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love” (v. 3). It is quite apparent that both the Father and Son are individual persons of the Godhead and that both are involved in our salvation.

In the Garden, Christ prayed, “O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt” (Mt 26:39). To suggest that Christ is praying to an “office” or to Himself reduces the Bible to nonsense. The doctrine of Christ includes His relationship to His Father.

I don’t see how those who deny that the Father is a real person within the Trinity can be saved because, according to John, if they don’t abide in the doctrine of Christ, they don’t have God. This is not some obscure error to be overlooked. It is of vital importance to deliver these people from this grievous heresy.

QUESTION: Was Israel’s response to Hizballah “disproportionate,” as the critics say?

RESPONSE: This issue already seems to be ancient history, which shows how fast time passes and how quickly one forgets. Let me ask you a question: “What should the United States do if Canadians or Mexicans were shooting rockets across the border at us and our citizens were being killed? What kind of response should be made in such circumstances. Our leaders must respond in kind in the manner most calculated to stop the attacks and deaths of innocent people. This is what Israel did.

Israel responded with great restraint under very difficult conditions. Hizballah [which means “the army of Allah”] hid the terrorist attackers within groups of civilians, even launching their rockets from civilian apartments. Israel has the weapons to make short work of their surrounding enemies (God said He would make them like fire to devour their enemies round about, and that promise has been fulfilled—Zec 12:6). Instead, to save Lebanese lives and at the increased cost of their own lives, Israeli troops went in on the ground to fight the terrorists hidden among civilians.

Who does the world condemn? Israel, of course. All the problems in the Middle East are blamed on Israel—supposedly caused by her very existence. That hatred is sponsored by Satan.

News Alert

The People, UK, 11/12/06 [Excerpts]:

Under an astonishing loophole in British law, Muslims who settle here with up to four wives are entitled to a raft of benefits.

If the wives married in a country where polygamy is legal, they can all hit the UK taxpayer for jobseeker’s allowance, housing benefit and council tax relief. And if these harems have children they can also claim child benefit and family tax credits. The exhausted husband also gets a jobseeker’s allowance of £90.10 a week for himself and his first wife. Extra wives get £32.65 each.

Work and Pensions Secretary John Hutton was unaware of the bizarre system until *The People* began investigating. There are believed to be hundreds of harems in Britain. Polygamy is common across the Middle East and Africa. Welfare minister Philip Hunt admitted: “British law recognises those marriages. Income-related benefits can be paid for more than one wife.”

* * *

ChristianityToday.com, Nov 2006: INTO THE

SILENT LAND: A GUIDE TO THE CHRISTIAN PRACTICE OF CONTEMPLATION, [Excerpts]—The bright evangelical mind—always so active and in pursuit—must leap great hurdles of spiritual and intellectual activity to shut itself down and be still. Theologian Martin Laird offers a roadmap to this practice of silence and God-awareness with warmth and reason.

Like many trained in Christian contemplative practice, Laird is a Roman Catholic, of the Order of St. Augustine—those charged by Pope John Paul II to be “teachers of the interior life.” Laird, an associate professor in theology and religious studies at Villanova University, obeys the charge with grace and clear instruction.

In his compact primer, he charts the path leading to silent surrender and “watchfulness” before God. As such, the book’s great contribution might be its reminder that in our noisy, chaotic, thinking world, God is not somebody we need to flag down or acquire: “God is the ground of our being.”

Laird’s book defines how to sink back into God’s ground—physically with breathing, mentally with “prayer words,” and spiritually with interior surrender. Through anecdote, Scripture, and classic wisdom, Laird illuminates a Christian path into the silent land. An able guide, he makes the trip more than worth the journey.

[TBC: More aptly named Apostate Christianity Today, this once-evangelical magazine continues to promote Roman Catholicism, as well as a myriad of other heresies (and heretics!) that are leading Christians away from the Scriptures.]

Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Dec 29-31 (Dave) | Calvary Chapel Ft. Worth Ft. Worth TX (817) 838-8381 |
| Jan 16 (Dave) | Berean Calvary Chapel Kirkville NY (315) 656-7021 |
| Jan 18-21 (Dave) | Calvary Chapel Finger Lakes Farmington NY (585) 398-3550 |
| Feb 23, 24 (Dave) | Bible Skeptics Conference Whitby ON (905) 922-2589 |
| Mar 9-11 (Dave) | Westside Bible Church Meridian ID (208) 938-9424 |
| April 13-14 (Dave) | S. Manitoba Prophecy Conf. Winkler MB (204) 325-6714 |
| April 20-21 (T.A.) | Discern. the Times Bible Conf Saskatoon SK (306) 717-0374 |

Letters

Mr McMahon,

Why are you two so reluctant to call a spade a spade when it comes to Rick Warren? His misuse of the Word proves he and his movement are leading many away from the truth. RW (CA)

Dear TBC,

A friend briefly looked over my May issue of *TBC*....Your publication is what she has been looking for: the meat of the Word, end-time apostasy, etc. Praise the Lord for your ministry. SS (OR)

Dear Brothers and Sisters at B.C.,

Thank you so much for your work! A good friend...gave me Dave Hunt's book *Judgment Day!* I was astonished to read of things I would never have known if it were not for the faith of a man in God's power and protection. Bless you, Dave, and praise to our Great God for all...who are not intimidated by the satanic madness [Islam], which attempts to tower over reason and true Christianity. JG (NH)

TBC,

Thank you! I went through the *Purpose-Driven Life* program in a Spanish Evangelical church....I was so caught up in this that I ignored so many signs that clearly showed that this book is contrary to the true Word of God....I even gave this book to an editor of a prominent Spanish newspaper, who is not a Christian. I have to make amends to this and make sure that he finds out the truth. How confused he will be!.....I intend to alert Spanish churches in my area about what is evidently not of

God. Many brothers and sisters...must be warned. (email)

Dear Berean Call,

I started listening to your radio program [*Search the Scriptures Daily*] in April 2005. I fell in love with Dave and Tom's commentary and edification and instruction every Monday night. It was the highlight of my week to be informed on the latest apostasy in the church. TH (prisoner, VA)

[*TBC: Warnings about apostasy are only part of the program.*]

Dear Mr. Hunt,

This is not a question, this is a "thanks" from the bottom of this Christian heart. I am glad you are there crying out in these apostate days. The truth is precious, and fewer and fewer there are that preach it or write about it. Even these new version bibles are subtly stealing away the precious Words of God. God bless you, your family, and your staff. LD (email)

Hello,

I just wanted to write you in response to your radio program in "Contending for the Faith," titled, "Are you confused by our website?"...After I listened to what you said, I checked out the website bereancall.com [note: TBC's website is thebereancall.org—see TBC Notes, Oct '06]. I found the same deceit and false doctrines that you had pointed out on your program. There is a message forum on the bereancall.com website, so I left a correctional comment....I asked why he would malign Dave Hunt by replacing "Hunt" with a different last name. When I typed in "Hunt" on the forum, it was edited to appear as "Golly." I wrote that if he is truly part of the body of Christ, he should repent of his ways. I wrote this in love and sincerity. However, when I checked on the bereancall.com website, my comments were deleted. I pray that [this person] will receive the Truth with an open heart and will be convicted by the Holy Spirit. (email)

Greetings,

Your article on Theophostic [counseling—Sep '06 TBC Extra page, by Jan Fletcher] was well done and timely. Your article on Psychology in the October '06 newsletter is an incredible and accurate summation....I will share both with others, especially [those] in "Christian counseling." I have a BS in psychology (totally useless) and have considerable experience in counseling....Several years ago I was led through a couple of Theophostic sessions. You were too kind. I didn't know I could invoke Jesus to show up at will—just like a demon! Incidentally, four years later, the "therapist" is backslidden, ill, "not well." Surprised? (Anonymous by request)

Dear Sirs,

Actually, I'm writing to let you know I learned something from Rick Warren's book *Purpose-Driven Life*....I had read through the NKJB each year for 10 or 12 years. Mr. Warren's use of so many different Bibles in his scripture references left me baffled. My solution was to look [them] up in my Bible. I would read a few verses before and after his references. I soon learned that, while his references made sense, they were out of context with what I thought the Bible was saying. It's like people are putting a phrase in the computer's concordance and using the version that says what they want said. The important thing I've learned from looking up all these scriptures is how much I've missed just reading straight through the Bible—Thank you, Rick Warren! And that gives me even more appreciation of your program [*Search the Scriptures Daily*], which gives meaning to our Lord's Word. DW (WA)

TBC Notes

Here, or in the air!

We thank the Lord for His blessing mightily our first TBC conference here in Bend, Oregon. We had to limit the size, since the new convention center we had originally booked was not ready for occupancy. Nevertheless, the 450-plus attendees didn't mind being squeezed into an alternate facility. Not only were there no complaints, but hotel staffers told us they couldn't remember serving a nicer group of people. Great witness! Also, great conference, according to the deluge of thank you letters and phone calls we've received.

Many are hoping to return to Bend next year for our second conference, should the Lord tarry in His coming for His church. At present, the date decided upon for next year's conference is Friday through Sunday, August 10-12, and the theme will be "Israel and Prophecy." We will keep you posted regarding further details.

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. (12/06)

"I Know..."

I know your...tribulation, and poverty. — REVELATION 2:9

SEVEN TIMES IN HIS LETTERS to the churches of Asia, the Lord Jesus says, "I know" and usually those words are used in a favorable sense. "I know your works...your labor...your patience...your tribulation...your poverty...and charity...and faith." In those words "I know" there is tremendous comfort and sympathy and encouragement for God's people.

Lehman Strauss points out that when Jesus said "I know," He did not use the word *ginoske*, which frequently means to know in the sense of realizing through progress in knowledge. He used the word *oida*, which suggests fullness of knowledge, to know perfectly, not merely from observation, but from experience.

Though suffering saints are unknown and hated by the world, they are known to the Lord and loved by Him. Christ knows the persecution and poverty of His own; He knows how the world looks upon them. Many a tired, tried, and troubled saint has been strengthened and encouraged by those two monosyllables, "I know." Those two words uttered by our Savior touch our troubles with the smile of God, and make this world's suffering "not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

They are words of sympathy. Our Great High Priest knows what we are going through because He has been through it Himself. He is the Man of Sorrows and is acquainted with grief. He has suffered, being tempted.

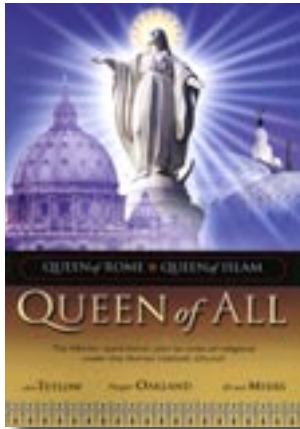
They are words of sharing. As the Head of the body, He shares the trials and persecutions of the members. "In every pang that rends the heart, the Man of Sorrows has a part." He not only knows intellectually what we are going through; He knows it as a matter of present experience. He feels it.

They are words of promised help. As our Paraclete, He comes alongside to bear our burdens and wipe away our falling tears. He is there to bind up our wounds and to drive back our foes.

Finally, they are words of assured rewards. He knows everything we do and suffer because of our identification with Him. He keeps a careful record of every act of love, obedience and patience. One day soon He will richly repay.

If you are passing through a valley of sorrow or suffering just now, hear the Savior saying to you, "I know." You are not alone. He is with you in the valley, will bring you safely through, and will lead you safely to your destination.

AS MANY EYES TURN TO ROME AT CHRISTMAS, THESE RESOURCES REVEAL CAUSE FOR CONCERN



Queen of Rome, Queen of Islam, Queen of All

Tetlow/Oakland/Myers—According to the book of Revelation, a woman will reign over the kings of the earth in the final days. The apostle John marveled with great amazement when he saw the woman who says in her heart, “I sit a queen” [Rv. 18:7]. We are even told that she will sit over the nations [Rv. 17:15]. The Prophet Isaiah also foresaw a woman who is called “The Lady of Kingdoms” [Is. 47]. Ironically, Isaiah predicts that her true identity would remain concealed until the very end. With all the prophecies now lining up, it seems strange that many believers are unaware of the “woman’s” agenda. Yet, God explains why, for He foresees the Lady saying in her heart, “None seeth me” [Is. 47:10]. It is time to uncover this mystery and expose the identity of the

Queen. The Bible’s perfect track record guarantees that the activities surrounding the Queen will affect the entire world. How can we escape? What can we do to prepare for what may soon take place? This book presents God’s answer.

B06112

Eternal Productions • Paperback • 154 pp.

wt .6 \$10.00



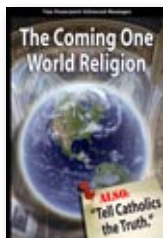
Messages from Heaven

Eternal Productions—Reports of paranormal and supernatural activity are on the rise worldwide. For instance, tens of millions visit apparition sites hoping to encounter the Virgin Mary. Many believe

that these increasing manifestations signal the advent of a new era on earth. Those who follow the apparitions believe Mary has come to turn us back to God, while others insist that these events are either fabrications or the working of Satan. Does the Bible anticipate apparitions, signs, and wonders? How might the apparition of Mary and other paranormal events transform the world in the third millennium?

DVD048 DVD, 79 minutes wt .3 \$20.00

B06104 Book, 271 pages wt .1.0 \$14.00



The Coming One World Religion

Gendron—Discover the most effective way to witness to Catholics by using the most trustworthy authority for truth. Also discover how the Vatican’s strategy for a one-world religion is taking place without any resistance from the Body of Christ.

DVD071

90 minutes wt .2 \$20.00

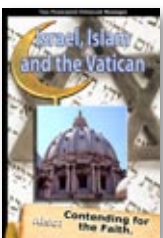


Another Jesus?

Oakland—Rome teaches that Jesus is literally and bodily present wherever a consecrated Host is found. By chronicling the growing cult of eucharistic adoration and the trend of eucharistic evangelization, Roger Oakland points viewers back to a “more sure word of prophecy” and the true Jesus of the Bible.

DVD147

60 minutes wt .3 \$15.00



Israel, Islam, and the Vatican

Gendron—Video presentations by Mike Gendron, with PowerPoint. See how these three monotheistic religions are influencing the events leading to Armageddon. Also see why we must contend for truth in these days of great deception and compromise.

DVD092

93 minutes wt .2 \$20.00



The Emerging Church

Oakland—“Emergent” leaders say that in order to go ahead, we must go back in time and reintroduce mystical techniques that include candles, incense, icons, statues, prayer stations, and sacraments. Be armed with Truth from this DVD.

DVD149

60 minutes wt .3 \$15.00

MISSION STORIES—FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

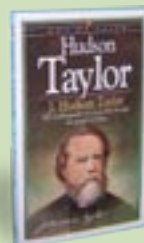


Amazon Adventures

Banner—The Amazon Rain forest is the oldest and largest rain forest in the world, and one of the longest rivers on the planet cuts through its heart. Written for ages 8–12, this informative book provides more instruction on biblical/scientific truths for the edification and enjoyment of the young reader. Valuable insights are given by using unusual Amazonian animals—a fascinating part of God’s creation—as allegorical of the attributes of God and our relationship with Him. Join in the adventures and experience the exciting and dangerous life of a pioneer missionary in South America. Christian Focus, paperback, 86 pp., \$7.99 retail.

B24401

wt .3 \$7.00



Hudson Taylor

Taylor—Previously published under the title *To China With Love*, this book recounts the thrilling story of Hudson Taylor and the eventual formation of the China Inland Mission. Few men have been such an instru-

ment in God’s hands for proclaiming the gospel to a vast population and bringing so many Christian churches into being. In his own words, the faithful missionary Hudson Taylor gives a practical and humble recount of his life in the Lord’s service. Enjoyable for the whole family, reading level is age 12 to adult. Bethany House, paperback, 159 pages, \$5.99 retail.

B39515

wt .2 \$5.00



Isobel Kuhn: Lights in Lisuland

Howat—Isobel Kuhn’s teachers discouraged a belief in God and promoted evolution. Isobel was so confused that she didn’t even think that life was worth living any-

more. Discover what brought this questioning, antagonistic teenager from doubts to faith in Christ, and find out how she affected the lives of countless people on the mission field of China. This short but encouraging story of a woman who—in spite of her inner ordinary human struggles—persevered in doing God’s will, which became a delight to her. Reading level 12 to adult. Christian Focus, paperback, 155 pp., \$6.99 retail.

B00102

wt .3 \$6.00

NEW!

Search the Scriptures Daily NOW ON DVD VIDEO!



BEGINNING with the month of November 2006, TBC's nationwide radio ministry will be available in studio-quality broadcast video format on DVD—for viewing at home, church, or wherever you may carry a portable DVD player or computer.

Response to our "pilot" online vidcast has been greatly encouraging—and we're very pleased to announce the premiere video edition of **Search the Scriptures Daily**—now available by monthly subscription! You'll be able to enjoy every radio broadcast by VIDEO—not only listening to Dave and T. A. encourage, exhort, and expound from God's Word but also by watching them interact in the radio studio during each recording session. With three camera angles and quality post-production, you'll feel as though you're sitting in the broadcast engineer's booth with TBC's on-air announcer, Gary Carmichael.

Our prayer for this project is not only to bring current listeners into our broadcast studio in a more personal way but to encourage a broader distribution of our weekly program in a format that will introduce this powerful ministry resource to a much wider viewing audience.

- Each monthly DVD includes 4 or 5 broadcasts of about 50 minutes each
- Nearly 4 or 5 hours of broadcast viewing for just \$8.25 per month (\$99 annual introductory offer)
- Sent to your home (or gift recipient) each month at no additional charge

SPECIAL OFFER FOR CHARTER SUBSCRIBERS \$179.88 retail value — only \$99.00!



Video Broadcast Subscription

Watch all 52 weekly broadcasts of **Search the Scriptures Daily** on DVD, conveniently mailed to your home 12 times a year. With 2 to 3 hours of programming on each disc (\$14.99 retail value). For a limited time, be a charter subscriber and save almost \$80 off the retail value and \$21 off TBC's regular subscription price of \$120. Each month, you'll receive a disc containing 4 or 5 programs (depending on the number of weeks in that month) for a total of 52 programs per year — that's less than \$2.00 per video program!

As an added benefit, you may order as many subscriptions at this price as you like (only \$8.25 per month!) for church, friends, and family—through December 31, 2006. (The regular subscription price will be \$120 per year, beginning January 1, 2007.)

HURRY!
Charter offer
ends 12/31/06



DVD Subscription (12 discs)

RDDVY

Reg. \$120.00-

\$99.00



DVD Single month(s) — (specify)

RDDVM

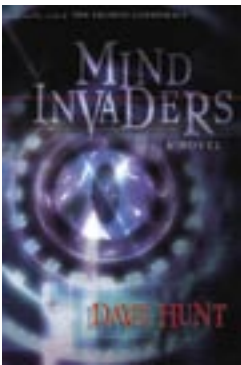
Reg. \$12.00-

\$10.00



WARM WINTERTIME CLASSICS

With colder weather and shorter days come great opportunities for reading & sharing these titles



MIND INVADERS

The Archon Conspiracy: A Novel

Hunt—Based on an original screenplay by Dave Hunt and T.A. McMahon, this suspenseful tale of international intrigue and psycho-spiritual warfare brings to mind the axiom “the truth may be stranger than fiction.” Opening doors to the unlimited vistas of the mind, the Archons share their gift of psychic power, promising a new era of peace. But then governments

get involved.... Discovering the CIA and Russian Intelligence’s battle for psychic control, famed journalist Carla Bertelli delves into the power behind the Archons. Convinced they are benevolent, she is devastated when Ken renounces the paranormal and embraces Christianity. Torn between her love for Ken and her contempt for his “demons theory,” Carla plunges into a search for the truth that becomes a desperate race against time.... TBC, 378 pp.

B60354

(Retail \$14.99)

wt 1.1

\$13.00



TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Scripture’s Secret Invasion of the Communist Soviet Union

Hunt—This compelling real-life drama of terror, mystery, and suspense behind the Iron Curtain is the true story of Hans Kristian, Bible smuggler to the Soviet Union. As Hans recounts to Dave, he quickly came to a startling realization: “I was staggered by the relationship these

people had with God, because it raised a devastating question: If this was Christianity, then what was the game we were playing in the West?” Originally titled *Mission Possible* in 1975, this exclusive TBC edition is a facsimile of the 1987 Harvest House edition titled *Secret Invasion*, with a redesigned commemorative cover. It is our prayer that this valuable historical record will inspire a new generation of Spirit-filled missionaries to “go...and teach all nations” the good news of the Gospel of Christ Jesus. TBC, 224 pp.

B60361

(Retail \$12.99)

wt .7

\$11.00

NOTE: Our office will be closed December 25 and January 1

DECEMBER 2006