

“Road Map” to Armageddon

Dave Hunt

The “Quartet” of Bush, Putin, UN, and EU is determined, through a division of land, to bring a “just and lasting peace” into the Middle East between Israel and her neighbors. Assuming they are sincere and not just working for their own interests, their mental state must be on a par with those who gave the Nobel Peace Prize to Yasser Arafat, a mass murderer, habitual liar, and the world’s leading terrorist, who has done more than anyone to destroy world peace. How thankful the West should be that Al Gore (who repeatedly, as vice president, warmly received Arafat into the White House) is not there now as president!

In fact, Muhammad, whose word cannot be changed, imposed upon every Muslim in every age the duty of exterminating all Jews. Only then can the “Last Day” (the climax of Islam) arrive. That fact makes “peace” between Israel and Muslims impossible—ever. Any apparent “peace” agreements signed by Muslim leaders are not worth the ink in their signatures! In the ten years prior to the signing of the Oslo Accords, 211 Israelis were killed by terrorists; in the ten years since, about 1,200 have been killed and 5,000 wounded.

No Arab/Muslim political or religious leader can contradict Islam’s founding prophet. Thus to continue to pursue a negotiated “peace” in the Middle East is the height of folly! Yet Western political and religious leaders continue to hold out that vain hope and to force concessions upon Israel that pave the road to her destruction!

Modern Israel occupies a relatively small piece of land. Arabs possess 700 times as much, with vast amounts of oil and minerals. Why are they determined to possess tiny Israel too? *Islam* says it belongs to them!

A sovereign Jewish state proves that Muhammad was a false prophet, and that Allah is not God. Muslims must destroy Israel!

Both the Bible and Qur’an agree that 4,000 years ago God gave the Promised Land to Abraham and his Israeli descendants. Yet, the Arabs claim ownership through Ishmael, Abraham’s first son. But God declared that not Ishmael, but Isaac, who would be born to Sarah, was the son and heir He had promised (Gn 17:15-21).

Like his father, Isaac also had two sons, Esau and Jacob; and again the Lord rejected the firstborn and gave the inheritance to the second—so the inheritance flows from Abraham to Isaac and on to Jacob, whose name God changed to Israel. Twelve times Yahweh calls Himself “the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,” declaring, “this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial to all generations” (Ex 3:15). More than 200 times, from Exodus 5:1 to Luke 1:68, Yahweh is called “the God of Israel.”

Muslims claim that the Bible was corrupted by later revisions. However, the Bible’s thousands of manuscripts, historical and prophetic accuracy, and the intricate integration of themes from Genesis to Revelation (none of which the Qur’an can boast!) reduce such a claim to nonsense. Furthermore, the Qur’an itself *supports* what the Bible says concerning Israel’s claim to the Promised Land:

“We made a covenant of old with the Children of Israel” (Surah 5:70); “We brought the children of Israel across the [Red] sea, and Pharaoh with his hosts pursued them...” (10:91). “...[B]ut we drowned him and those with him all together. And we said unto the Children of Israel...dwell in the land [and] hereafter...we shall bring you...out of various nations” (17:103, 104); “[W]e delivered the children of Israel... from Pharaoh.... We chose them, purposely, above all creatures” (44:30-32); “favored them above all peoples” (45:16); “Remember Allah’s favor to you...He...gave you what he gave no other of his creatures. O my people, go into the Holy Land which Allah hath ordained for you” (95:20, 21); etc.

The territory God gave to Abram (later renamed Abraham by God) and to his descendants was not “Palestine,” but Canaan: “Into the land of Canaan they came” (Gn 12:5, 6). There were no “Palestinians” from whom those who take that name today claim to be descended: “the Canaanite and Perizzite dwelled then in the land” (13:7).

Abram remained there the rest of his life: “...Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan” (13:12). God told him, “For all the land...to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever” (13:15); “...all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession” (Gn 17:8).

Abram settled in Hebron in Canaan and “built there an altar to the LORD [Yahweh]” (13:18)—not to Allah. Ten years later, Ishmael (the product of Abraham’s and Sarah’s unbelief) was born to him

through Sarah’s maid, Hagar. Fourteen years later, when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90, Isaac was born in Hebron to Abraham by his wife Sarah, exactly as God had promised.

Thirty-seven years later, at the age of 127, Sarah died. Abraham was still living in Hebron, having been there more than 70 years. To bury Sarah, he bought the cave of Machpelah from Ephron the Hittite (23:1-20).

Thirty-eight years later, at the age of 175, Abraham died. Isaac and Ishmael buried him in Machpelah next to Sarah. Isaac lived in Hebron 110 more years. Isaac, Rebekah, Jacob, and Leah were also buried in the cave of Machpelah.

Abraham had entered Canaan 400 years after the flood and 300 years after the Tower of Babel. It was sparsely settled, the land was his for the taking, and he, Isaac, Jacob, and their families, lived there more than 300 years before temporarily moving to Egypt to escape a famine. There, for 400 years they were slaves, just as God had said, until the Canaanites became so wicked that He was forced to destroy them. God used Israel for that task, giving them Canaan as an everlasting heritage (Gn 15:13-16), as He had promised.

God referred to Isaac as Abraham’s “only son” (Gn 22:2). Thus Ishmael was not buried in Machpelah, but where he had settled far away, having “died in the presence of all his brethren” (Gn 25:17, 18). No Arab or Muslim was ever buried in Machpelah.

Arabs can’t claim a pure descent from Ishmael. Ishmaelites intermarried with Midianites (Jgs 8:5,12,22,24), Edomites (Gn 28:9), and Hittites (26:34; 36:1-4). In contrast, during 400 years as slaves in Egypt, the Israelites became an identifiable ethnic people who were led *en masse* into Canaan. We know who they are today.

Denying Israel’s God-given heritage, Yitzak Rabin, who had secretly promised Clinton he would give up the Golan, declared, “The Bible is not a geography book.” Shortly thereafter, he was assassinated, preventing him from giving to Syria the most strategically vital part of Israel.

It was not Arabs but Hebrews who settled in ancient Hebron and all of Canaan, creating Israel, whose kings ruled from Jerusalem over an empire stretching from the Sinai to the Euphrates. Around 600 B.C. they were conquered by the Babylonians and scattered to many nations.

Chased out of their land under God’s

judgment in the Babylonian dispersion, and later twice by the Romans, numbers of Jews always returned. This despised people continued living in Israel under the oppressive heel of various occupying foreign invaders for another 2,500 years. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared itself an independent nation once again. The Jews once again possessed their own land, as God had promised—but only that small fraction of it that had been allotted by the UN partition on November 29, 1947.

In contrast, the Arabs *never* lived in Canaan, but settled in the Arabian Peninsula. Not until the seventh century A.D., through the Islamic invasions, did Arabs come in any significant numbers into the land of Israel, which, in A.D. 135, the Romans had angrily renamed Syria-Palestina, after Israel's chief enemy, the Philistines.

The so-called Palestinians of today are Arabs whose ancestors came from Arabia. They are a Semitic people, with no relationship either to the Canaanites or the Philistines, who were not Semites. It is a blatant lie that today's "Palestinians" (who at the same time claim descent from Ishmael) are descended from the original inhabitants of the land of Canaan, which God promised to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their heirs.

David was first crowned king in Hebron and ruled there seven years before moving his throne to Jerusalem. This ancient city has no significance to Arabs/Muslims. Yet they have built a mosque at Machpelah, have forbidden access to Jews, and, at various times in history, have massacred Jews living there. Today Muslims are attempting to force out the few remaining Jews. They claim all of "Palestine" and state that Israelis are occupying land that belongs to them! And this fraud is the foundation for a so-called road map to peace!

President Bush, as a Christian, ought to tremble at God's solemn warning that He will destroy all who *divide* His land (Joel 3:2). Yes, *His* land: "the land shall not be sold [or traded] for ever: for the land is mine" (Lv 25:23)! Quartet, take heed: you are defying the God of Israel and will not escape unpunished!

Those who make "peace" by taking land from Israel, which God gave her, will be destroyed: "[A]ll that burden themselves with it [Jerusalem] shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it" (Zec 12:3).

On September 13, 1993, under the triumphant gaze of a smiling President Clinton, Arafat signed, with Yitzak Rabin, the Oslo Accords on the White House lawn. The ink was scarcely dry when Arafat began publicly apologizing in Arabic to Muslims around the world. In fear for his life (remember Anwar Sadat's murder by

fellow Muslims for making "peace" with Israel), Arafat pleaded that he was only following the example of Muhammad and the Islamic law he established.

In A.D. 628, Muhammad led a few of his followers (recent converts to the new religion of Islam) from Medina back to Mecca, hoping to join thousands of pagan Arabs in the *hajj*. This annual pilgrimage to the Ka'aba (Islam, incredibly, claims it was built by Abraham and Ishmael!), with its elaborate ceremonies, had been practiced by pagan Arab tribes for centuries before Muhammad was born. He was turned back by the Meccans, but both parties signed a 10-year ceasefire known as the Treaty of Hubybiya, as part of which Muhammad relinquished his claim to being "the prophet of Allah."

This treaty allowed Muhammad the next year (A.D. 629) to lead a group of Muslims in the *hajj*. They joined thousands of "infidel" Arabs in the same pagan ceremonies that their ancestors had practiced for centuries (See TBC Q&A July '03 for the rituals).

In 630, Muhammad broke the ceasefire on a pretext and took over Mecca. At first, he allowed pagan Arabs to continue in the *hajj*, mingling with the new Muslims in the ancient rituals. Then he gave the pagans four months in which to convert to Islam or be killed. Thereafter, no non-Muslims were allowed into Mecca, as is true today.

So it is with Ramadan, which President Bush (like previous U.S. presidents) and other western leaders naively honor as a "holy Muslim holiday." Beginning with the first sighting of the new moon in the ninth month of the Muslim lunar calendar, Ramadan was celebrated by pagan Arabs in honor of Allah, the moon god, for centuries before Islam. To the *hajj* and Ramadan, Muhammad added the horror of *Jihad* and commanded Muslims to take over the world. That belief has cost millions of innocent lives and drives terrorism today.

Those promoting the Road Map to Peace are following a history of good intentions on the part of Israel and the West, which invariably have been betrayed by the Arabs/Muslims and have steadily made Israel's position more untenable. American presidents, one after another, have cajoled Israel into compromise after compromise with Arab/Muslim leaders that could only have been uproarious jokes as far as the latter were concerned. Always, the good intentions of Israel and the West have led only to their further humiliation.

Pursuing their impossible peace initiatives, world leaders defy the God of Israel and of the Bible. As the "heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing [and] the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD,

and against his anointed" (Ps 2:1-2), those with "ears to hear" (Dt 29:4; Ezk 12:2; Mt 11:15; 13:9, etc.) detect the terrifying sound of laughter: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision" (Ps 2:4).

We are in the late stages of the awesome fulfillment of Bible prophecy, behind which lies the omnipotent hand of God himself: "*I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem...*" (Zec 12:2, 3).

That remarkable prophecy is being fulfilled today. *Never before in history* have *all* those surrounding Israel been united to destroy her. This significant development in history and Bible prophecy has come about through the rise of Islam.

Bush wants a "democratic, viable" Palestinian state living in peace with Israel, but no democracy exists, *or can exist*, in a Muslim society. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East. Bush is trying to create democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq. If that could happen, it would shake the entire Muslim world. Islam cannot survive in freedom. No wonder there is such fanatical opposition from Muslims worldwide, even for the capture of that sadistic mass torturer and murderer, Saddam Hussein. Muslims hold 80 percent of the world's political prisoners.

America's precipitous withdrawal from Lebanon 20 years ago, fleeing from known Syrian/Iranian-sponsored terrorists instead of pursuing them, encouraged the terrorism rampant today worldwide. Can Bush really, with terrorist partners, stand up against the evil of terrorism? When will he admit that it is endemic to Islam? Will the strategic (politically correct?) time ever come for telling the truth? It remains to be seen whether the U.S. can eliminate terrorism, when our State Department secretly opposes Israel and favors Arabs.

The Bible foretells a false peace, by which Antichrist will "destroy many" (Dn 8:24,25). Tragically, Israel will be deceived, tear down the security wall now being built, and drop its guard, opening the door to "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer 30:7) and Armageddon (Ezk 38:11,12,14,16). Two-thirds of all Jews worldwide will be killed (Zec 13:8,9). Those who survive will believe in Christ and be saved when He rescues them and they recognize the crucified, resurrected Lord as their Messiah and God (Zec 12:10; Mt 24:13; Rom 11:25,26).

We must not abandon Afghanistan or Iraq. I receive letters from missionaries there who say, "The minute the American and British troops pull out, we are dead!" It is time for Christians to pray as never before—and to do all they can to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to both Muslims and Jews.

TBC

Quotable

Wolfe's smooth, engaging book chronicles the rise of the megachurch, both its sociology and its theology. While virtue is important, sin is couched in the language of therapy, not theology. Wolfe himself, a non-believing Jew, writes: "But somehow I am not pleased with this retreat from sin, for the ease with which American religious believers adopt nonjudgmental language and psychological understanding of wrongdoing is detrimental to anyone...."

David Wolpe, senior rabbi at Sinai Temple in Los Angeles, in his review of Alan Wolfe's book, *The Transformation of American Religion*

[TBC: That an unbelieving Jew and a rabbi are concerned with the decline of biblical truth in the professing evangelical church in America ought to sound an alarm for all Christians.]

Research continues to reveal a steady theological collapse among professing Christians in America. Secularists, liberals, and Muslims do not need to fear conservative Christians, says Dave Shiflett in *The Wall Street Journal*. They [conservative Christians] don't really believe that there is such a thing as the heathen, tending to believe instead that every religion is equally valid.

Gene Edward Veith, "Unbelieving born-again," *World*, 12/6/03

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof [i.e., the gospel which is the power of God unto salvation]...they will not endure sound doctrine....

2 Tim 3:5; Rom 1:16; 2 Tim 4:3

Q&A

Question: I agree with your statement in the October TBC that "the genes the mother and father contribute to the body have nothing to do with the spirit and soul that the Holy Spirit creates in each body at conception." Wouldn't that mean, however, that God is responsible for creating a soul with a sin nature? Something is wrong here. Can you help me?

Answer: God created Adam's and Eve's soul and spirit, but He did not give them a sin nature. They sinned because they had the power of choice and rebelled against God. The Holy Spirit indwelt the spirit within Adam and Eve. When they sinned, the Holy Spirit withdrew, leaving them spiritually dead. Their offspring, therefore,

had souls and spirits *without* the indwelling Holy Spirit, having inherited spiritual death from Adam and Eve.

Question: The same logic must be applied to the phrase, "thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee" (Ps 2:7; Heb 1:5, 5:5) as you apply to Calvin's declaration that "in the very head of the Church we have a bright mirror of free election...[Christ] did not become the Son of God by living righteously, but was freely presented with this great honor...." Why do you insist upon Calvin being self-contradictory on this point when he was using a biblical phrase?...I would encourage you to completely drop that section [on p. 233 in *What Love Is This?*] accusing Calvin of such damnable and sickening heresy....

Answer: Thanks for your concern for accuracy in my book *What Love Is This?* I must, however, disagree with your defense of Calvin's likening what he calls Christ's alleged "election" to sonship, to election of certain people to salvation. You quote, "Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee" (Ps 2:7), from several translations (one would be enough), as well as the quotation of Psalm 2:7 in Hebrews 1:5 and 5:5.

You then claim that this statement refers to a time when "Christ became the Son of God." When would that have been? It must have been in eternity past, because Christ was clearly the Son of God before being born into the world ("and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?" - Prv 30:4; "a child is born [the babe through Mary]...a Son is given [the eternal Son of God incarnate] - Is 9:6). But there is no point in eternity that could be called "this day." Time began with the creation of the universe (Gn 1:1). Furthermore, we agree that Christ, who is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb 13:8), is eternally the Son of God. Therefore, there could have been no time when "Christ became the Son of God" as Calvin states and you contend in his defense.

Do we then have a contradiction in Scripture? Of course not. Psalm 2:7 is not referring to Christ becoming the Son of God at all. That never happened. He *always* is the Son of God. Paul tells us that the phrase in Psalms 2:7, "this day have I begotten thee," refers to His resurrection: "God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up [resurrected] Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee" (Acts 13:33). This agrees with His being called "the firstborn from the dead" (Col 1:18).

Sadly, Calvin was simply wrong on this point as on many others.

Question: We appreciate your ministry so much. You have been a great help to us. Could you please address the church growth movement, specifically the purpose driven church and [purpose driven] life branch of it. This has come into our church and we are more than uneasy about it. Please help us understand what is going on in this huge movement that seems to be exploding all over the world.

Answer: I deal with this somewhat in next month's article. It is so important, however, that either Tom or I will have to do a full article (or perhaps more) dealing with it in depth. We cannot give at the moment the full answer which your thoughtful question deserves. Please be patient with us.

Question: Why does Revelation 17:8 (and maybe Revelation 13:8, depending on the translation used) refer to those "whose names were not written in the book of life from the creation of the world..."? Could that, coupled with Psalm 69:28, Revelation 3:5, and Revelation 22:19 mean that the names of all mankind are in the Book of Life, then later blotted out one by one as each Christ-rejecter crosses the line of final renunciation? I always thought that only after we believed the gospel were our names written in the Book of Life. If this were not the case, wouldn't Calvinists say, "See! He has already chosen those whom He will save; their names are already written down before the foundation of the earth!"?

Answer: Several verses speak of God blotting or not blotting names out of the book of life: "I will not blot out his name out of the book of life" (Rv 3:5); "God shall take away his part out of the book of life" (Rv 22:19); "...if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.... Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book" (Ex 32:32,33).

These references to blotting out of the book of life allow only two possibilities: 1) everyone's name is written in the book of life from eternity past, indicating God's desire for all to be saved, until they have irrevocably rejected Christ, when their name is blotted out; or 2) when a person gets saved, his name is placed in the book of life for the first time, and when He later turns against Christ, his name is blotted out. Neither of these fits Calvinism. The first denies that God only intends to save a select elect, and the second denies the eternal security of the redeemed.

References to those "whose names *are* in the book of life" (Phil 4:3; Rv 21:27) and those "whose names *are not* written in the book of

life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rv 13:8; 17:8; 20:15) offer no clue as to how or why names are written or are not written there. They only tell us that at the end of history, some names will be found, and some names will not be found written therein. But the fact that names can be and in fact are blotted out of the book of life is clear.

Of the two alternatives above, since the second one, which allows for some of the redeemed to lose their salvation, contradicts Christ's clear promise ("shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death unto life" - Jn 5:24), we must opt for the first. Comparing all of the verses, we can only conclude that, in keeping with God's desire that all be saved, from eternity past every person's name is written in the book of life of the Lamb, slain from before the foundation of the world. Whose names are blotted out? The names of those who refuse to yield to the wooing of the Holy Spirit. For this sin, there is no forgiveness (Mk 3:28; Lk 12:10).

Thus there is nothing in what Scripture says about the "book of life" to give any comfort to Calvinists, but only discomfort.

Question: Why does Revelation 18:24 say that in her (the Roman Church) was found the blood of prophets, and of saints and of all that were slain upon the earth? Clearly some people were slain by robbers, wild animals, Muslim terrorists, etc.

Answer: Christ makes a similar statement: "That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth...all...shall come upon this generation" (Mt 23:35,36). Why would one generation be considered guilty for all the murders committed against the "righteous"? For the same reason that by simply partaking of the forbidden fruit, Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden, and death came upon all mankind. No matter how small their "crime" may seem, it was rebellion against God—and that is the essence of all sin.

Moreover, Christ is not speaking of one particular generation of people living at any particular time in history. He used "generation" in a descriptive sense: "generation of vipers" (Mt 23:33); "faithless and perverse generation" (Mt 17:17; Mk 9:19; Lk 9:41); "wicked generation" (Mt 12:45); "evil and adulterous generation" (Mt 12:39), etc. Those who are characterized by unbelief, evil, and rebellion against God are guilty of every sin. Thus James says, "whosoever shall...offend in one point [of the law] he is guilty of all" (Jas 2:10). Breaking even one of the Ten Commandments in any way is rebellion against God, which could not be

forgiven by a righteous, holy God except by Christ's payment for sin upon the cross. Thus it cannot be said that Christ only died for the sins of certain people and not for others. He had to pay for Adam's sin, that is, for sin itself.

Consequently, the false church, which has promulgated a false gospel that sends to eternal damnation those who believe it, is guilty of the death of everyone (i.e., of death itself). Just as Adam's sin brought death upon all, so the denial of the only remedy by the false church maintains the power of that universal death.

Question: In TBC of July 1998, you responded to a question concerning the fact that Bill Watkins, senior acquisitions editor of Broadman and Holman, had told an audience to throw away your books as worthless, full of holes, etc. You indicated that you had spoken with him and asked him, as a brother in Christ, to provide you with documentation of any errors in any of your books so that you could make necessary corrections. Did he ever do so?

Answer: No, I am still waiting to hear from him. The same is true of other critics who, in talks or on websites, book reviews, etc., make sweeping accusations that my books are full of spurious Bible interpretations, misquotes, false accusations, and so many lies that my writings cannot be trusted. Almost invariably, they give no examples and never respond to my request for documentation to prove their charges. As for the few examples that have been given, I have answered them, but my responses are disregarded and the same charges persist.

News Alert

Los Angeles Times, 12/6/03: One of the nation's leading evangelical Christian seminaries has launched a federally funded project for making peace with Muslims, featuring a proposed code of ethics that rejects offensive statements about each other's faiths, affirms a mutual belief in one God and pledges not to proselytize.

The \$1-million project, initiated by Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, is being hailed by both sides as a pioneering attempt to ease continuing conflict. But, in an illustration of sharp theological divides, some conservative evangelicals are challenging the ethics code and asserting that they do not believe in the same God as Muslims.

Tensions between Muslims and evangelical Christians have been aggravated by

a series of negative remarks about Islam by national evangelical leaders since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Those included the characterization of Islam by evangelist Franklin Graham as an evil religion, and assertions by the Rev. Jerry Falwell that the Prophet Muhammad was a terrorist, and by the former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the nation's largest Protestant denomination, that Muhammad was a "demon-possessed pedophile."

The Fuller project, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (news-web sites), is intended to develop practical peacemaking practices for Christians and Muslims, publish a book about them, and train local communities in their use. It is the latest of several efforts that Fuller has launched since Sept. 11 to build bridges with Muslims.

Excerpts from "The Two Jeruselems," The SCP Journal, vol. 27:2-27:3, 2003, pp. 16, 17:

In 740 AD, the Emperor of Khazaria, in the steppes of Russia, declared his subjects "Jewish" after his own conversion to Judaism. Genuine rabbis were summoned from Babylonia to teach his subjects Pharisaic Judaism in the Khazar kingdom that flourished from the sixth to tenth centuries. If one wonders about the ghettos of Warsaw, Budapest, Prague and throughout Eastern Europe being so far from Palestine, it is because their Jewish inhabitants never came from Palestine but were descendants from the mass conversion of the Khazar Empire.

What does this imply? That most of the Jews "returning" to Palestine never came from Palestine in the first place; that they are not even of the lineage of Shem. They are Gentile converts. This throws a massive curve ball, from an eschatological and theological standpoint at the prospect of Jews returning to the modern State of Israel under divine sanction.

In reality, upwards of 85 percent of today's Jews are descended from the Khazars....

[TBC: This is a rather shocking example of the growing support among evangelicals for "replacement theology," which teaches that God has completely rejected the nation of Israel in favor of the church. It is "shocking" because a.) the historical information presented and the conclusion drawn are erroneous, b.) O.T. end-time prophecies literally directed at Israel must now be fulfilled by the church, and c.) the Jewish author has unwittingly contributed to the new anti-Semitism developing in Christendom. This is a stunner coming from a normally, biblically sound apologetics ministry! (See TBC Nov. '01; Jan., Apr. '02; Q&A, Mar. '96; Jan. '03)]

Dave's Itinerary

Jan. 14	Berean Calvary Chapel Kirkville NY (315) 656-7107
Jan. 16-17 Conference	Calvary Chapel Finger Lakes Farmington NY (585) 398-3550
Jan. 18	Calvary Chapel Finger Lakes Sunday am and pm services
Feb 6-8	Iglesia Palabra Viva Miami FL (305) 461-9929
Feb. 21-22	Grace Bible Chapel Springfield IL (217) 544-7419
Feb. 29- March 1	Calvary Chapel Lafayette IN (765) 477-7744
March 5-7	Calvary Chapel Prophecy Conf. Kernersville NC (336) 996-6880

Letters

Gentlemen:

I have received your paper for several months or more and approve most of what I read in it. I am 94 and my eyesight is almost gone. It has been uplifting to know that there are some besides myself who hold steadfastly to the truth, when so many do their best to distort it. I am asking you to discontinue sending me a copy; I expect to go home shortly. Keep up the good work! WP (RI)

Dear Berean Call,

In your "Letters" section, I was sorry to read the statement by JS (MA) "I found the pearl of great price—the kingdom of God on earth, the Roman Catholic Church and Jesus truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Eucharist." This statement makes JS an idolater. According to Revelation 21:8, idolaters have their end in "the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." MJ (IA)

Dear Dave and Staff:

A comment to RO (MI) [Dec '03]: I hate to break your bubble, but your logic is flawed. Why would "millions of well-studied Christians speak out against the Antichrist during the Tribulation when there are only a few that are telling the truth now...when we have freedom of speech! We have a billion idol worshipers (Rome) and another billion or so Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and the like, and all I see on TV...are Charlatans, Crazyies, Catholics, Charismatics...preaching feel-good lies, health/wealth deceit, that truth is hate, and the insanity that all religions are the same.... I realize this goes against the flow,

TBC Notes

Witness Practice Program

Have you ever thought about *practicing* witnessing to people? Of course, I'm directing this to fellow believers who love the Lord but have yet to share the gospel with anyone.

Usually, reluctance to witness stems from a lack of confidence in knowing "exactly" what to say. Every truly born-again Christian must have understood the gospel well enough to have received it, but articulating those beliefs may be held back by self-conscious thoughts of inadequacy in expressing them.

The gospel is so simple that a child can understand and receive it. While there is no "exactly what to say" formula, the Bible presents critical issues that are necessary for lost people to understand. They are sinners, and as such, God's justice requires their eternal separation from Him. Acknowledging their condition and the utter hopelessness of saving themselves, they must repent by turning to God, the only Savior, for His solution. Demonstrating that He is perfectly "just, and the justifier" of sinners, as well as perfect in love and mercy toward sinners, God the Father sent God the Son, to become "flesh" (John 1:14) in order to pay the full penalty for *all* humanity's sin. Salvation is received *only by faith*. As one understands who Jesus is and that only He could—and did—fulfill what was necessary

for mankind's salvation, he then must place his trust in Christ. By grace through faith in Jesus alone, a sinner receives the gift of eternal life: "...whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

What may be needed to motivate some to share this glorious good news is simply some practice. Set up a situation in which a person role-plays someone sincerely desiring salvation. Make sure the questions allow the person witnessing to articulate the basics of the gospel. As the practice sessions develop, add questions that compel a deeper explanation of the gospel than "What must I do to be saved?" For example, "Why is salvation only through Jesus?" or "Why is faith the only thing God requires?"

Make this an ongoing exercise among fellow believers and especially among family members, with particular encouragement to your children to practice witnessing to you and vice versa. This could take place at dinnertime, on extended car trips, during home Bible studies, in Sunday-school classes, and any place where believers gather.

Practice makes perfect (i.e., *maturity* in the faith)!

T.A. McMahon
Executive Director

but we're going to go through the Tribulation. JK (CA) [TBC: No, we won't.]

Greetings,

I am incarcerated. In this "Den of Uncaged Demons," we who are Christians are surrounded with all persecution. This culture in which we live is filled with greed and preys upon the youth, leading them to the pit of hell. All those who call on the name of Christ Jesus must be prepared to confront false doctrine, so I am so grateful for you guys. JB (prisoner, NY)

Dear Dave, Tom, and all,

Just a quick note to let you know how much my husband and I enjoy and appreciate the *Search the Scriptures Daily* radio program. Thank you for the time and effort that you invest in them and in the entire ministry. TH/DH (WI)

Dear Mr. Hunt,

You have generously provided your superb newsletter for many years without a

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single request for financial support. Do not be dismayed by your critics who allow their opinions to be distorted by personal bias and preconceived notions of Scripture. Your Christ-like responses to them are an excellent example for the rest of us. MB (IL)

Dear Mr. Hunt,

Words cannot express our gratitude for the research you've done (under the guidance of the Holy Spirit) on the teaching and doctrines of John Calvin. We are a family, community, and mission field torn apart by a group of men who came proclaiming they had the real truth, and all else were heretics (including you)...Our friends (missionaries) left the mission field because they no longer believed in their message or their mission. Many families, friends, missionaries, and churches were and still are being affected. It's been heart-breaking, gut wrenching, and many, many tears have been shed. We thank the Lord that you are willing to suffer the wrath of these men, who are pounding out Calvin's teachings to the unsuspecting masses. Sadly, it is they who are leaving a trail of destruction, sadness, and much wasted precious time, everywhere they go. JH/SH (WA)

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE WATCHTOWER

Jehovah's Witnesses' Works Salvation

What things are involved in getting "saved"? (Acts 16:30) The prime requirement is: "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will get saved." (Acts 16:31) This involves taking in accurate knowledge of God's purposes and his way of salvation. Then faith has to be exercised in Jesus Christ as the Chief Agent of salvation. (John 3:16; Titus 2:14) This places the Christian in a saved condition, **but he must now persevere in doing God's will and continue to adhere to all of God's requirements for the rest of his life. Only then will he be saved to eternal life.** (Matthew 24:13)" (*The Watchtower*, 12/15/1989; pp. 30)

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

—ROMANS 4:4, 5

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

—EPHESIANS 2:8, 9

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

—TITUS 3:5

ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES

In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...

—JOHN 1:1, 14

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.

—I TIMOTHY 3:16

And Thomas answered and said unto him [Jesus], My Lord and my God.

—JOHN 20:28

Jehovah's Witnesses' False Christ

What comes through very clearly to an impartial reader [of the Bible] is that God alone is the Almighty, the Creator, separate and distinct from anyone else, and that Jesus, even in his prehuman existence, is also separate and distinct, a created being, subordinate to God.

...Jehovah God alone is Almighty. He created the prehuman Jesus directly. Thus, Jesus had a beginning and could never be coequal with God in power or eternity....

Not only is Almighty God, Jehovah, a personality separate from Jesus but He is at all times his superior. Jesus is always presented as separate and lesser, a humble servant of God. (*Should You Believe in the Trinity?* pp. 12, 16, 20)

Spurgeon on Jeremiah 23:6

"Read that verse, and you will clearly perceive that the Messiah of the Jews, Jesus of Nazareth the Saviour of the Gentiles, is certainly Jehovah....Oh, ye Arians* and Socinians, who monstrously deny the Lord who bought you and put him to open shame by denying his divinity, read you that verse and let your blasphemous tongues be silent, and let your obdurate hearts melt in penitence because ye have so foully sinned against him. He is Jehovah, or, mark you, the whole of God's word is false, and there is no noun for a sinner's hope. We know, and this day we testify in his name, that the very Christ who did lie in the manger as an infant was infinite even then; that he who cried, cried for very pain as a child, was nevertheless saluted at that very moment as God by the songs of the creatures that his hands had made. He who walked in pain over the flinty acres of Palestine, was at the same time possessor of heaven and earth. He who had not where to lay his head, and was despised and rejected of men, was at the same instant God over all, blessed for evermore." (Jehovah Tsidkenu: The Lord Our Righteousness, A Sermon by C. H. Spurgeon, June, 1861)

*Arius (A.D. 250–336) taught anti-trinitarian heresies 1,600 years prior to Watchtower founder Charles Taze Russell. The Watchtower's heretical view of Christ is simply "Arianism".

Is Jesus Jehovah?

"I, even I, am the LORD [Jehovah]; and beside me there is no saviour."

—ISAIAH 43:11

ISAIAH 45:15, 21

HOSEA 13:4

LUKE 1:47; 2:11

JOHN 4:42