



LAMB OF GOD by DAVE HUNT

# **NEW ARRIVALS!** POWERFUL TRUE ACCOUNTS OF GOD'S GREATNESS



### **Jungle Pilot**



*Hitt*—In 1956, pilot Nate Saint and four other missionaries were killed in Ecuador by the Waodani (Auca) Indians they had come to serve. *Jungle Pilot* is the gripping story of Nate's faithful service and enduring legacy for Christ and His kingdom. This new edition tells the original story and brings it up to date through the epilogue and timeline written by Nate's son, Stephen, who recently returned to the jun-

gles of Ecuador to see and record the remarkable progress in the work pioneered by Nate and his missionary friends. Discovery House Publishers, 320 pp., \$14.99 retail.

B00225

(wt 1.0) \$12.00



### God of the Untouchables



*Hunt*—Dave Hunt tells the poignantly human, true story of Paul Gupta, a young Hindu, raised in the heart of India, who found salvation that all men seek! Everyone who has been tempted to turn to the East for enlightenment, who has been intrigued by Eastern mysticism, who is thinking of trying Eastern meditation,

should read *God of the Untouchables*—proof that Jesus Christ is still the only answer to the world's problems. Straight Street Publishing, 140 pp.

B01279

(wt .7) \$9.00

### **PRAISE REPORT:** TBC'S NEW WEBSITE NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY VISITED our completely overhauled website, we hope you will soon. In addition to a new look, there are a number of exciting features that enable expanded accessibility to all of our online content. You'll be amazed (we are!) at the capabilities of our new in-house server (which includes high-end search hardware) making virtually every TBC on-line document searchable by any keyword(s) you supply. It's fast—and thorough. Newsletters are available in both HTML and PDF, and are now posted in Spanish and German as well! An incredible array of audio files are also available, making this (we pray) an invaluable research tool for all Bereans.



ABOUT THE COVER: The empty cross and innocent lamb are symbolic illustrations of spiritual truth beyond our present comprehension...the true and entire significance behind these enduring symbols goes far beyond our highest thoughts.

# THE BEREAN - CALL

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

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#### Lamb of God Dave Hunt

The Bible claims to be the Word of the only true God. In addition to historical, archaeological, and scientific proofs, there are numerous internal proofs. No such evidences exist for other "sacred writings." The Bible was written during 1,600 years by 40 prophets, most of whom lived in diverse cultures, at different times in history, yet who never contradict but complement each other. For the Qur'an, Muslims must take the word of Muhammad, just as the Book of Mormon rests solely upon Joseph Smith's word. But every *biblical* prophet is confirmed by 39 other prophets, and they condemn the "scriptures" of every religion!

It would be difficult for a single author to avoid contradiction when dealing with such a lengthy period of detailed history involving so many individuals and nations and covering such a wide variety of subjects as does the Bible. But 40 different prophets writing with one voice over a period of many centuries? There can be only one explanation: divine inspiration!

Hundreds of prophecies uttered centuries and even thousands of years before their fulfillment are the irrefutable proof God offers of His existence, and these identify beyond question His Word to man—a proof absolutely unique to the Bible. Besides proving that the Bible is God's Word, fulfilled prophecies develop themes woven like golden threads through the entire tapestry of Scripture.

One of the major themes is redemption: the only means by which a holy God can justly forgive and be reconciled to His creature, man. The Bible denounces all of the world's religions as inspired by "the god of this world [Satan]" (1 Cor 10:20; 2 Cor 4:4). They all teach that their god or gods can be appeased by works and religious rituals. The Bible alone is clear in its declaration that salvation "is the gift of God [a gift cannot be earned or merited]....Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us" (Eph 2:8; Ti 3:5).

God's Word allows no room for accommodation, dialogue, or compromise. Truth does not concede anything to error and has nothing to discuss with lies. Yet for many years, the Roman Catholic Church has been in "dialogue" with Hindus, Buddhists, and Muslims, all of whose religions diametrically oppose the Bible. (A Catholic-Buddhist conference in a Kentucky monastery purported to find "common ground" between Christ's suffering on the cross, the Buddha's "Four Noble Truths," and Buddhist meditation-Los Angeles Times, July 27, 1996). How is such confusion possible? Because centuries ago, Catholicism, like the non-Christian religions, developed a "Christian" system of works and sacraments for salvation. And for many years now, Baptists and evangelicals (whose ancestors broke away from Catholicism during the Reformation) have been in "dialogue" with the Roman Catholic Church. Meanwhile, at the UN and at the leadership level of most "faiths," the clamor for a oneworld religion is growing ever louder.

Biblical Christianity stands alone against the ecumenism that every religion will eventually embrace under Antichrist. The Gospel is separated from all religions by the uncompromising declaration of every biblical prophet that for God to forgive sins

And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, behold the Lamb of God!

—Јоні 1:36

and reconcile man to Himself, the penalty for sin must be paid in full. That penalty is death (eternal separation from God, the giver and sustainer of life), and it was pronounced upon the entire human race: "The soul that sinneth, it shall die....For the wages of sin is death..." (Ezk 18:20; Rom 6:23). This penalty cannot be waived even by God himself, who is bound by His eternal Word. But God sent His Son to become a man through a virgin birth to suffer in our place the punishment He had pronounced upon mankind.

The fact that the payment for sin can be made only by a sinless victim is an integral part of the theme of redemption all through the Bible. Clearly, no sinner can pay for his own sins: "The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination ... " (Prv 21:27). Salvation can only be by God in grace crediting Christ's death in payment for the sins of all mankind to those who accept salvation on His terms. This is seen in the animal sacrifices Jews were to offer. The fact that these sacrifices had to be repeated over and over proved that they were only temporary anticipations of a true sacrifice, which God would eventually provide: "For the law ... can never with those sacrifices [bring perfection]. For then would they not have ceased to be offered?" (Heb 10:1,2).

Furthermore, from A.D. 70 to the

present, Jews have been unable to offer the sacrifices that were established by God's specific instructions in the Torah. This fact carries very serious consequences, especially since the destruction of the Temple and the resulting cessation of sacrifices did not happen by chance but were God's judgment upon rebellious Israel as His prophets foretold: "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice ... " (Hos 3:4,5). Jesus declared that Gentile control over Jerusalem would continue until Armageddon: "Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Lk 21:24). This is a remarkable prophecy still being fulfilled, as we document in Judgment Day.

So how can Jews (or Gentiles) receive God's forgiveness, since the Levitical sacrifices He specifically commanded ceased nearly 2,000 years ago and are still impossible today? The answer to that question is given in the theme of redemption that flows through Scripture.

Central to this theme are the numerous references to a lamb as a redemptive sacrifice for sin. The first sacrifice that God accepted was the lamb offered by Abel (Gn 4:2-4; Heb 11:4). The fact, however, that animal sacrifices were only a picture of a coming sacrifice, which alone could fully atone for sins, was clear from the very beginning for two obvious reasons: 1) animal life was never equated in value to human life; and 2) as we have already seen, animal sacrifices had to be repeated, proving that they could not remove the guilt of sin.

Yet, the Old Testament prophetic pictures present amazing insights. The offering of Isaac by Abraham on an altar is a classic example. Muslims claim that Ishmael, not Isaac, was the son offered—an obvious lie because it doesn't fit Islam. Allah is not a father, has no son, Islam has no redemptive sacrifice, and denies Christ's death for sin.

God's command to Abraham, however, to offer his "only son Isaac" (Gn 22:2), has undeniable prophetic meaning in relation to the biblical sacrifice of God's "only begotten Son" (Jn 3:16). Father Abraham's offering of Isaac on an altar has meaning only in relation to the biblical account of Father God offering Christ on the Cross for man's sins. Nor could it be a coincidence that the very place where God told Abraham to offer his son became the site of the Jewish Temple and its sacrifices. Islam tries to steal this also by saying that it was from the place where "Ishmael was offered" that Muhammad ascended to heaven. That unbiblical claim, however, has been recently discredited by Muslim authorities. (See *Judgment Day*)

In Abraham's cryptic response to Isaac's question, "Where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (Gn 22:7), the mystery seems to deepen: "God will provide himself a lamb" (v. 8). God himself will be the sacrificial lamb for man's redemption? Did Christ refer to this statement when He declared, "Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad" (Jn 8:56)? Isaiah revealed both that the coming Messiah would be God's son: "unto us a son is given" (Is 9:6) and also that He would be YAHWEH, called "the God of Israel" 203 times in the Bible: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father" (Is 9:6)! A baby born to a virgin would be God's son and at the same time would be the Father?! Yes. As Jesus declared, "I and my Father are one" (Jn 10:30).

Isaiah also foretold that the Messiah would be the promised lamb sacrificed for the sins of the world: "The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all....[H]e is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Is 53:6,7). No wonder John the Baptist, when "looking upon Jesus as he walked... saith, Behold the Lamb of God...which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29,36). The intricate interrelationship between scriptures by so many different prophets from Genesis to Revelation is awesome!

The most complete Old Testament prophetic picture of the coming lamb is in the Passover. The detailed instructions settled in advance the controversy at the root of today's conflict in the Middle East over the land that God promised to Abraham: "I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee... all the land of Canaan [there was no such place as "Palestine"!], for an everlasting possession..." (Gn 17:8). Because Ishmael (though illegitimate) was Abraham's firstborn son, the Arabs, who claim descent from Ishmael, say they are the "seed" of Abraham to whom the Promised Land was given. The Bible, however, clearly says that Abraham's descendants through Isaac and Jacob are the "seed" and true heirs (Gn 17:19; 26:3,4; 28:13; 1 Chr 16:15-18, etc.) According to the Bible, the claim of Arabs and Muslims to this disputed land is a fraud—yet the UN, EU, USA, et al., accept it as the basis for a "peace" that defies the God of Israel!

Muslims say that the Bible was changed by Jews and Christians. That won't fly. The God of the Bible defines the seed that inherits the land so clearly that any "change" would be impossible: "...thy seed [i.e., that inherits the land] shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years.... But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again..." (Gn 15:13-16).

The Jews, not Arabs, were slaves in Egypt for 400 years, then were brought "in the fourth generation" into the land of Canaan. Arabs did not come into "Palestine" until the brutal seventh-century-Muslim invasion after Jews had lived there for more than 2,000 years. This is irrefutable history proved by the Passover.

Israel's deliverance came about through God's judgment in ten plagues upon Egypt, the final one requiring the sacrifice of a lamb by any who would escape that doomed land. That event was ever after to be commemorated with the Passover supper first eaten that historic night: "And this day shall be unto you for a memorial....[W]hen your children shall say unto you, What mean ye... ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD's passover...when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses" (Ex 12:14,26,27).

Who keeps the Passover? Not Arabs! Only Jews keep it worldwide to this day. When an event witnessed by many people is immediately commemorated with a special

BUT WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, AS OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH AND WITHOUT SPOT.

-2 Thessalonians 2:11

remembrance kept ever after, we have proof that it happened as memorialized. The annual Passover proves the slavery of Israel in Egypt and her deliverance, as the Bible declares, and that the Jews are therefore the heirs of Abraham with title to that land by a deed God signed 4,000 years ago and recorded in Scripture.

Non-Jews have neither right nor purpose in keeping the Passover; yet it has become popular for Gentile Christians to celebrate the Jewish "seder." True, the Passover lamb pictures Christ, the Lamb that Abraham told Isaac God would provide—but so did each Levitical offering, yet Christians don't offer those, so why would they celebrate the Passover? It commemorates ancestral deliverance from Egypt, in which Gentiles have no part.

But wasn't the "Last Supper" the Passover, and didn't Christ give it new meaning, to be celebrated continually until His return? "A new meaning"? Impossible! The Passover feast with roast lamb has historic significance involving an "everlasting covenant" (Gn 17:7; 1 Chr 16:15-18, etc.) concerning the Promised Land. That meaning cannot be changed. Jews (not Gentiles) are commanded by God to keep it "for ever" (Ex 12:14). Christ Himself could not give a "new meaning" to the Passover! Furthermore, the Last Supper was not the Passover. It occurred the night "before the feast of the passover" (Jn 13:1) and without a lamb. The next morning, the rabbis were still keeping themselves undefiled so they could "eat the passover" (Jn 18:28). That afternoon, when Christ was on the Cross, it was still "the preparation of the passover" (Jn 19:14)—i.e., the lambs were being sacrificed to be eaten in the Passover supper that night.

But didn't Christ say, "I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer" (Lk 22:15)? Yes, but "this passover" is not the Passover with roast lamb to be kept only by Jews in memory of deliverance from Egypt. "This passover" was something new inaugurated by Christ to be kept with bread and wine (in memory of His body broken and blood shed) by all who believe on Him (Jews and Gentiles). Why did Jesus, then, call it a "Passover"? Because as Israel was delivered by the death of a lamb from Egypt, so it commemorates deliverance for believers from sin, this evil world, and judgment to come, through the true "Lamb of God": "as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew [proclaim] the LORD's death till he come" (1 Cor 11:26). Paul said, "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Cor 5:7).

If animal sacrifices could not pay for sin, what was their purpose? They were physical illustrations of spiritual truth beyond our present comprehension. Christ continually used the physical to symbolize the spiritual: ("drink of the water that I give...I am the true vine...the door...the bread of life...except you eat my flesh and drink my blood," etc.). We do the same today. For example, we sing hymns about being "washed in the blood of the Lamb." We are not speaking literally. Grievous error enters when symbol is made substance, such as Catholicism's eating of the wafer that is believed to be Christ's physical body. That would be like swallowing pages of the Bible in order to "feed upon God's Word" (Dt 8:3; Jer 15:16; 1 Pt 5:2, etc.)!

The significance behind the sacrificial lamb goes far beyond our highest thoughts. In John's vision, he is told that "the Lion of the tribe of Juda...hath prevailed to open the book." Turning to see the "Lion," he sees "a Lamb as it had been slain..." (Rv 5:5,6)! How can a powerful lion appear as a newly slain lamb—and in what way could Christ be seen as such in heaven?! Of the heavenly city, we are told that "the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rv 21:23). The Bible ends with reference to the eternal "throne of God and of the Lamb" (22:1,3).

We can only fall down in prostrate wonder and gratitude, rejoicing that one glad day we will join the redeemed around that throne in the eternal chorus, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain" (Rv 5:12). At last we will "see him as he is" (1 Jn 3:2) and understand fully, having been transformed into His image for all eternity! —TBC

### Quotable

Government is not a solution to our problem, government is the problem.... Abortion is advocated only by persons who have themselves been born....I believe the best possible social program is a job....The government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

-President Reagan

If we were entirely honest, wouldn't some of the favorites we sing most lustily sound rather like this: "I Surrender Some"..."He's Quite a Bit to Me"..."Where He Leads Me, I Don't Always Follow"..."Jesus is Some of What I Need"..."I Sort of Love You, Lord"..."Just as I Pretend to Be"...etc.!

-Anonymous

Keep faithful in your work. Let your aim be as steady as a star. Leave the world alone to brawl and bawl. You may be assaulted, wronged, insulted, slandered, wounded and rejected. You may be abused by foes, forsaken by friends, and despised and rejected of men. But with steadfast determination and unfaltering zeal, pursue the great purpose of your life that He has given you and the object of your being, until at last you can say, "I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do."

-Anonymous

Q&A.....

QUESTION: I found an organization on a website whose members call themselves "Born-Again Mormons." They claim to be true Christians who reject most of the doctrines of Mormonism, and their Statement of Beliefs looks pretty good. But one of their main philosophies is that they must remain in the Mormon Church in order to evangelize the lost within that body. Is this possible? What do you know about them?

ANSWER: Some saved Catholics also say they want to remain in their Church to evangelize. It doesn't make sense. One's very presence at Mass or during the sacraments of the Mormon Church implies full agreement therewith. And how could one partake without endorsing the false doctrines underlying the sacraments? Impossible! A Catholic partaking of Mass is eating a "Christ" who is still suffering, is being immolated and offered for sin, did not pay the full price of our redemption on the Cross, and has been turned into billions of wafers to be ingested repeatedly into the stomachs of members to propitiate their sins.

Likewise, the Mormon partaking of the sacraments is agreeing with church teaching behind them and with the prayers and hymns; that Christ is a created being and half-brother of Lucifer (actually there is an unlimited number of "Christs" and "Lucifers" out there somewhere on an infinite number of other "earths") who could not and did not pay the full penalty for sin through His death; that one must work for one's salvation, which is exaltation to godhood, etc. Yet the head of this movement says he partakes of the Mormon sacraments while opposing the doctrines upon which they are founded. Furthermore, the sacraments are forbidden by official church doctrine to any non-member or even to a member not in good standing, but he has found a local church that winks at official rules.

Contradictions abound! The leader of the group was, at his request, excommunicated several years ago, but now is trying to get back in to "evangelize" from within, so he once rejected what he now wants us to accept. Obviously, to stay in the Mormon Church (or the Catholic Church, et al.) gives the appearance of approval. In fact, "Bornagain Mormons" do approve of the church and its activities but not of its doctrines, and they imagine they can change the latter from within: "We believe that the doctrinal LDS Church is in error but that the physical organization remains beneficial. We are not out to destroy the physical church but seek to confront and help remove any doctrines which demand anything more than faith in Jesus Christ for salvation."

Yet the church is founded upon and embodies its doctrines. Belonging to the church requires approval of its doctrines. One cannot oppose the foundation while supporting what is built upon it. Nor can one attend and participate without seeming to approve the doctrines upon which church services and activities are based. The website says, "We seek to overthrow any and all non-biblical LDS doctrine and replace it with Christian Truths from a position of activity inside the Church." This is self-contradictory and self-defeating.

Furthermore, like the Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses) the Mormon Church is a cult. Anyone who openly questions its false Christ, false salvation, and other false doctrines (much less opposes them) would be excommunicated just as one would be excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church for openly opposing its false gospel. A true Christian could only remain inside the Mormon Church dishonestly and in dishonor of his Lord.

The website, bornagainmormon.com, argues that just as "Jack-Mormon" is an accepted term to Mormons, so "Born-again

Mormon may be applied in a similar way." No, the two terms are not similar at all: "Jack Mormon" is a Mormon who doesn't practice; "born-again Mormon" is one who isn't a Mormon but pretends to be. The website goes on to explain: "we use the term Mormon the way a Jew uses the word Jew, a woman uses the term Woman, or a South African uses the title of South African." But the analogy fails. One is born a Jew, woman, South African—a fact that has nothing to do with one's beliefs. Though some Mormons say they were born Mormons, to be a Mormon is a matter of one's beliefs, not birth.

These people seem to be sincere Christians, but they are very confused and are confusing Mormons and non-Mormons alike. Recently on TV the leader said: "I am not going to...try to discern whether you are talking about the real Jesus or the false Jesus. When you say you are talking about Jesus I believe that opens the door to the true Jesus Christ." This could not be more irrational and unbiblical!

Paul said that believing in "another Jesus [and] another gospel" opens the door not to truth but to devilish error (2 Cor 11:2-4)! The same leader also said that he would "not use Bible verses or talk about doctrine...[but] just talk about Jesus." So the Word of God is avoided because the truth might offend! But one cannot "talk about Jesus" except as defined by sound doctrine. Furthermore, Peter declares that we are "born again...by the Word of God...which by the gospel is preached" (1 Pt 1:23-25). This group claims to oppose the false doctrines of the Mormon Church-but how can Mormonism be effectively opposed without communicating that fact and presenting the truth from the Bible?! Confusion, confusion!

Here we have one more example of apparently well-meaning Christians hoping to get people saved with an inoffensive gospel that can't save. We have given many examples, from Joel Osteen's Sunday sermons to Rick Warren's series of articles in *The Ladies' Home Journal*. This delusion seems to be spreading, from President Bush's politically correct whitewash that calls Islam a religion of peace, to the religiously correct omission within today's church of anything offensive to unbelievers. We need to oppose this error and stand for the truth!

QUESTION: I recently saw the documentary, *End of the Spear*. The willingness of these five missionaries to lay down their lives to get the gospel to the Aucas convicted me of my own shallow commitment. Though it moved me in places, however, the film was a huge disappointment.

That a gay activist was chosen to play the part of one of the missionaries is 6

shocking. But the greatest disappointment was that the gospel—that all have sinned and that Christ is God who became a man and paid the penalty demanded by God's justice for our sins—was missing! The transforming power of the gospel and faith in Christ was never explained as the reason for the change in the lives of the Aucas!

Nor does the film depict the godly lives of these men. Jim Elliot was unfairly and dishonorably portrayed as a reckless buffoon; the missionaries never prayed, read their Bibles, mentioned Jesus, or conversed about God. No church services were shown or even implied. These five young men could have been Peace Corps workers or anthropologists, rather than missionaries. The film could have been promoting pacifism or nonviolent response to persecution. Am I too harsh?

ANSWER: I saw an earlier version, not the final. The film does a disservice both to the missionaries (three of whom were dear friends of mine) and to the Lord for whom they gave their lives in response to His giving His life for them and for the Indians. I don't know who wrote the script or produced the film, but this is obviously part of a growing movement to water down the gospel by removing everything that would "offend" the nonbeliever. Such a "gospel" saves no one. The film as you describe it is an insult to the five martyrs, dishonoring to their Lord, and misleading to viewers!

QUESTION: [The questioner is a 10-yearold boy.] From reading 2 Kings 24:8-17 and 25:27-30, I wonder whether Jehoiachin might have repented to the Lord while he was in prison. Although chapter 24 tells that he "did evil in the sight of the Lord," 25:27-30 says that when King Evilmerodach began to reign over Babylon he took Jehoiachin from prison, gave him a throne above the other kings in Babylon, and a daily allowance for his needs until his death. I don't think that God would have given him this throne if he had not repented—would He?

ANSWER: I commend you for studying the Bible so diligently. However, advancement in and recognition by the world is not always a sign of God's blessing, though it could be. Wasn't God's blessing upon Daniel demonstrated by the authority given to him in Babylon? Yes, but God blessed Daniel because of his godly life and also to put him in position for a specific purpose in God's plan, as well as to give us the Book of Daniel.

Nothing of that nature is related about Jehoiachin: neither a godly life nor usefulness to God in Babylon. I think we would be told if that were the case. Everything we read about this man indicates that, like most of the kings of Israel and Judah, he would not repent no matter what judgment from God came upon him. The world rewards those who please it in rebellion against God. This was probably the case with Jehoiachin, though we can't be sure.

Certainly there is no hint that Evil-merodach (Amel-Marduk in Babylonian) was a servant of God, as we are told concerning Cyrus and Nebuchadnezzar. Without more information, we dare not speculate about Jehoiachin's or anyone else's repentance.

QUESTION: In Genesis 11:1-9 Nimrod builds the Tower of Babel in the land of Shinar. In Zechariah 5:5-11, the city needs to be rebuilt on its base. What keeps that city from being rebuilt now? The river still runs by there to make it a hanging garden city. I know Rome fits the description to many people in some ways, but I wouldn't confine myself to that possibility alone when I read other scriptures that apply to Babylon. Many people believe that the "temple" that the Antichrist will desecrate is the Dome of the Rock. That is not a temple, it's a mosque. What do you think?

ANSWER: The Dome of the Rock could not be desecrated by the Antichrist because it is already an abomination to God, so there is nothing to desecrate—and certainly nothing in Babylon. We are clearly told that Antichrist will "sit in the temple of God..." (2 Thes 2:4), and that could only be the Jewish Temple rebuilt on Temple Mount. It must happen. We have shown why the Muslims will want the Dome moved to Medina where it belongs, making way for the Temple. (See *Judgment Day*)

Could the ruins of Babylon in Iraq (now under reconstruction) become the headquarters for the Antichrist? Anything is possible. It would, however, seem highly unlikely that Antichrist would establish his headquarters in such an inconvenient place. There is not and never will be a deepwater port on the Euphrates next to Babylon. Yet upon her destruction, sailors and ship owners made wealthy by Babylon's demand for goods of all kinds (who are apparently coming and going in and out of her port at the time) can see the smoke of her destruction (Rv 18:17-19).

There were originally no chapter divisions between Revelation 17 and 18. Both concern the same city. Some of the same descriptive elements given in Revelation 17:2,4 are repeated in 18:3,9,16. And the description given in 17 identifies the woman as Rome/ Vatican/false worldwide church of the last days—not as a rebuilt Babylon in Iraq. (See *TBC* Jul/Aug '93 and *A Woman Rides The Beast*)

#### News Alert ...... Santa Barbara News-Press, 4/16/06:

**PROTESTANTS FIND NEW IMAGES OF JESUS** [Excerpts]—For Harriett Ghormley, art in her hometown Protestant church consisted of empty crosses and a few stained glass windows. There were no statues of Mary cradling Jesus, no paintings of the Last Supper.

She and other art students at the evangelical Westmont College admit that it was a bit of a challenge to think of God in terms of pictures, icons and sculptures.

"We do not use devotional images well in the Protestant tradition," said Lisa DeBoer, an art history teacher at Westmont. After receiving a \$10,000 grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Mich., art students began a project to stretch the limits of traditional Protestant worship. Taking their cue from Catholics and Orthodox Christians, who view icons as central to their faith, the students created pictures based on various stories of Christ's last days on earth.

The project is similar in concept to the Catholic and Anglican tradition of walking the Stations of the Cross during the Lenten season that leads up to Easter. During Easter, Catholics and some Protestants follow a set of 14 pictures or sculptures that depict Jesus during his most horrifying moments: being condemned to death, then forced to carry a heavy cross; falling down, meeting disciples, and finally, death by crucifixion.

Through art and practice, Catholics emphasize that "we are redeemed by virtue of our participation in Christ's suffering," said David Morgan [Valparaiso Art History professor]. Perhaps because of the popularity of "The Passion of the Christ," Mel Gibson's brutal film that followed Jesus through the Stations, evangelicals and Protestants are beginning to experience more of his suffering.

Ms. Ghormley, a senior, painted an Eastern Orthodox icon inside a phone booth to depict two disciples unknowingly inviting Jesus, who they thought was a stranger, to dinner. She wanted to juxtapose the ideas of breaking bread with strangers and communication, she said. After completing the project, she began attending St. Athanasius Orthodox Church in Goleta.

[TBC: This is just one more example among hundreds revealing the rapid drift away from what God's Word says about how we are to worship Him, i.e., "in spirit and in truth" (John 4:23,24). Will taking the idolatrous "cue from Catholics and [Greek and Russian] Orthodox" worship forms also lead our visually oriented young evangelicals to the same false gospel? This movement is gathering distressing momentum!]

### Dave & T.A.'s Itinerary

<b>May 12-27</b> (Dave)	Prophetic Witness Ministries UK Tour 017 7245 2846 http://www.pwmi.org/
May 28 am (Dave)	Calvary Chapel Portsmouth Portsmouth@calvarychapel.com
pm	Calvary Chapel London 020 7828 5520 www.calvarylondon.co.uk
<b>Jun 16-18</b> (Dave)	Calvary Chapel Rome Rome Italy www.calvarychapelrome.org
<b>Jul 1-8</b> (Dave)	Word of Life Schroon Lake NY (518) 494-6000 www.wol.org
<b>Jul 10-13</b> (Dave/Staff)	<b>Christian Booksellers Assoc. Con</b> Denver CO
<b>Aug 4-5</b> (Dave)	Hope for Today Conference Chino Hills CA (800) 752-4253 www.davidhocking.org
Aug 6 (Dave)	Calvary Chapel Golden Springs Diamond Bar CA (909) 396 1884
<b>Sep 8-10</b> (Dave & TA)	Great Lakes Prophecy Conference Appleton WI (920) 735-1242 www.ccappleton.org
<b>Oct 4-6</b> (Dave)	Winnipeg Prophecy Conference Winnipeg MB (204) 853-7786 www.wpgpc.org
<b>Oct 18-22</b> (Dave)	Midnight Call Brazil 51 3241-5050 www.chamada.com.br
<b>Nov 3-5</b> (Dave & TA)	<b>TBC Conference</b> Bend OR (800) 937-6638 www.thebereancall.org

#### Letters .....

#### Dear TBC,

In your March issue of TBC, you state that "Christian psychology cannot reconcile science and faith. Why not? Because psychology is not a science, nor can it be Christianized." I see the same parallel in the Creation/Evolution debate: "Evolution cannot be reconciled with faith. Why not? Because evolution is not a science, nor can it be Christianized." They try, by adding millions and billions of years to the biblical account of creation [e.g.]: Progressive Creation, Gap Theory, Day Age theory, etc. But "Let God's word be true, and every man a liar" (Rom 3:4). The false belief in evolution is the foundation of all bad science, physical or psychological. GC (CA)

#### Dear Friend,

Thank you for the definitive article, "Psychology and the Church" (Mar '06). I

was immediately reminded of the words of Jov Davidman, wife of C.S. Lewis: "I am coming to think that the easy diagnosis of 'neurosis' whenever anybody behaves badly or irrationally is an outgrowth of humanist and Utopian thinking about the nature of man....[M]ost moderns feel that man is naturally good; therefore, a 'healthy' man...is a perfectly good one, and all sins are illness which can be cured!...The word 'normal' has been perverted into a synonym for 'healthy.' We who know there's such a thing as original sin must find it tragicomic to see so many people paying thousands of dollars to selfappointed experts of the mind in order to be 'cured' of being human!" GT (IA)

#### Dave,

V.

I just read your comment in *Honest Doubts* regarding the many who sought to stop you from writing [on] Calvinism. Let me say I'm so glad you [continued]. And I would...guess that thousands of other evangelical pastors like myself would agree....If Calvin was right in his five points and all he built upon it, three-fourths of the N.T. and half the O.T. types need to be ripped from my Bible! Dave, don't lay this issue down.... Having been preaching the gospel now for 25 years, I believe I am speaking for thousands of evangelicals when I say [to you], "Job well done!" (email)

#### TBC:

I understand your need to tell the negative....But, I think with all the opportunities to witness to those who don't know the truth, you're missing the love that needs to be told and are rather stuck on the [bad things]. Paul didn't go around telling the negative, but balanced it out with the Good News, which I think you're missing. You guys know the TRUTH....Get the real message of the LORD out to those who don't get it...and thanks for all the work you do. (email, MN)

#### TBC,

I have just been made aware of the Emergent Church movement....[My] pastor...was reading books by [Brian] McLaren. Also in the church...we saw a program called *Be Still* and on it was the Lectio Divina prayer ....When I questioned the pastor, he didn't see that there was anything wrong with it. They mentioned doing a Novena and flashed a picture of the virgin Mary with a halo around her head....I just picked your book *Seduction of Christianity* off our shelves and have started reading. My husband read it 20 years ago.... I am amazed because it seems like you just wrote it today. RC (email)

#### Dear Dave, T.A., and Staff,

Some years ago a friend sent my name (without me knowing) to you to [subscribe] to

the *TBC* newsletter....He now pastors a church [and] has been an inspiration to me through his consistent and determined desire to serve our Lord. We don't agree on everything. I hold the doctrine of election—he doesn't. It never interferes with our fellowship. You may be asking, "Why did I need to know that?" For this reason: May you realize that God is using you to minister to, exhort, edify, and encourage a lot of people that don't agree on everything. Thank you. Thank you also for exposing things and people...and movements that seek to harm the gospel cause (Jude 3b, 4). GJ (MI)

#### Dear Mr. McMahon,

I can't remember if I wrote you that I planned to read the Bible thru, but I am .... Soon I will be 86 years old. When I was a child, I purposed never to live to be 80 because everyone I knew who was 80 was weak, sick, and falling apart, and I did not want to go there. I believe the Lord is blessing me with good health physically and spiritually because daily I read His Word; I also memorize ... review ... and recite it! [Soon] Lord willing, I will participate in a [Scripture recitation meeting]. People will come from everywhere to recite the New Testament. I will be reciting the book of 1Timothy. May the Lord continue to bless you as you read thru His Word and may He also challenge you to memorize it! "Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11). VH (TX)



#### Come and See Us...

Dave and I have participated in many conferences, and we both agree that meeting fellow believers at different places around the country and the world and having the opportunity to interact with them, along with enjoying the hospitality shown us, makes the trips both valuable and memorable.

Now the hospitality is on us as we invite you to visit us in our hometown of Bend, Oregon, for our first conference. TBC will feature an open house on Friday before the conference begins so you can see our facility and meet the staff. We are all very excited about this event. So, the Lord willing, we hope to greet you here!

> *—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. (5/06)

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### **"NEW REFORMATION" PROPHETS PEDAL PRODUCTS WITH PROMISE OF POWER**

The Chinese introduced genuine snake oil as a cure-all to North American railroad workers in the 19th century, evidently believing (as many ancient cultures did) that serpents possess supernatural healing power. Such "miracle" remedies have long been fraudulently sold to desperate souls lacking discernment but who muster up enough misplaced faith (and fortune) to "buy" the claims of a hypnotic huckster. In the name of Christianity, innumerable shysters have sold so many bills-of-goods (such as bottled "healing water") to trusting victims, that the true Gospel—the free gift of Eternal Life—is difficult to give away to dying souls.

Today's New Spirituality, however, has created a more "discerning" Christian marketplace for sophisticated aids to healing, prayer, and "worship" in the form of exclusive oils, candles, and incense. In search of greater "prophetic" power and blessing, an increasing number of professing evangelicals are purchasing expensive accessories to enhance their prayer life and worship experiences. In contrast to the greedy grifters who in former times pedaled "snake oil" placebos, not all of the modern-day purveyors of these "prophetic" wares are corrupt. Some are undoubtedly "deceived and deceiving others" but a few seem to take genuine pride in their exotic concoctions.

One such company, prominently featured by the web-based "Elijah List" (a promotional network for the prophets and apostles of the Word-Faith, New Apostolic Reformation, and Kingdom-Dominion camps), manufactures "Third Heaven Vision Anointing Oil." [This is a reference to Paul's testimony in 2 Corinthians 12:2 and to the dwelling place of God.] What is interesting about this oil, however, is not its ingredients or its intended use but the story of its origin and its alleged effects on individuals:

Tom [Panich] had been blending fragrances for several years when one day while he was in the shower, what seemed like a lightning bolt from God's Glory came down upon him and the voice of the Holy Spirit began to speak to him about what to call His oil. Tom was caught up in a stream of God's manifest Glory (as an open vision), and he began to tremble vigorously under the power of the Lord. After the shaking stopped, excitedly, he ran into the kitchen to tell his wife that the Holy Spirit had told him to name His anointing oil "Third Heaven Vision."

The critical concern over "Third Heaven Vision Anointing Oil" is not just whether it is properly concentrated or that the producer is making an unfair profit (though at \$10 per 1/2 oz and \$8 per 1/4 oz, it sells for 40 to 70 times more than olive oil alone!) but the *testimony* of the maker—with the endorsement of the increasingly popular Elijah List (a non-profit company that bombards a rapidly growing e-mail list with "prophetic words" and related product offers)—that there is some extraordinary, supernatural blessing conferred upon the contents that transfers to the user or recipient:

Many intercessory prayer warriors who use "Third Heaven Vision" anointing oil mention that the oil has a strong breaker anointing upon it. This is consistent with the reports received of the breaker anointing that is upon Tom's drumming. The breaker is the Lord God Almighty inhabiting the praises of His people.

What exactly is a "breaker anointing"? Mr. Panich shares in his testimony that he used to "drum for the spirits of the world," but he now believes that his war-like drumming can somehow "break" the powers of darkness. This, of course, is unbiblical mysticism. In addition (if his account is accurate) the process by which the oil is made, and its apparent effect on people, is occultic in nature. Tom (a self-described "apothecary and drummer for God") seems to brood over each batch of oil with a manner and care that is also used by his pagan counterparts who brew designer potions for spell-casting:

Each time Tom blends a batch of oil [a mixture of frankincense, myrrh, spikenard, rose of Sharon, cassia, calamus and olive oil], a strong presence of the Lord's Glory comes upon him and he trembles vigorously ("vibrating all over the place," his wife would say!) Also, on various occasions when Tom has put full boxes (144 bottles) of the anointing oil in the hands of two separate strong intercessors, they have both been hit by the anointing and power of the Lord, nearly falling to the ground.

In addition to placing emphasis on a magical number of bottles in a case, and ascribing a "breaker" anointing to the oil (practitioners of *vodoun* anoint

with oil to make or break curses), another red flag—endemic to New Wave prophetic adherents—is the war-like nature and purpose of their mission:

The Lord has given [the creators of] "Third Heaven Vision" anointing oil as a means of providing funds (Acts 18:3) to forcefully advance His Kingdom across America and to the nations.

The fallacy of Kingdom-Dominion theology has long been addressed in *The Berean Call*; but regardless of these aberrant views, Panich is not alone in his pursuit of "heaven-scent" funds. A simple internet search turns up dozens of purveyors of oils and incense used for religious purposes—a surprising number of which claim to distill and bottle "biblical" scents for a variety of needs. One company proudly specializes in "all natural Biblical Aromatherapy Candles for prayer and worship," with the claim that their "In His Presence" anointing oil (made with pure, therapeutic-grade essential oils from Israel) is "preparing the Bride of Christ" for "personal encounters with the Lord." Other companies seem less concerned with an evangelical slant but appear convinced nonetheless of the mystical and magical powers of "biblical" oils:

We strive to bring you the purest quality (not synthetic) of biblical anointing oils available... We believe in the holy teachings of the Bible and that there is a basic theme throughout all religions, and that is honoring God and His love for all people. No matter what religion you choose, these anointing oils can be used by you.

Another company's product promises even more lofty results to starstruck customers for the stellar price of \$98.00 per quarter-ounce:

Experience the superconductor that the ancients kept hidden away.... It has been called the Fruit of the Tree of Life, and Star fire-Gold of the Gods. White Powder Gold is the residue from the golden calf that Moses melted down [and] is believed to have been used in his anointing in order to enhance the receiver's blessing. It allowed the recipient to align his will to the Divine Will of God. It empowers your prayers into a much higher level of understanding.

These obviously unbiblical claims are patently false; but still more websites feature a dizzying array of oils to anoint and dress the body, as well as sacred objects for ritual purposes. Are all of these people crooks? Not necessarily by criminal definition; whether Wiccan, *Vodoun*, or "Christian," some are quite sincere. So why is it wrong for Bible-believing Christians to create custom oils, scents, and candles for worship? There are two reasons:

First, attempting to recreate oils or incense used by Old Testament priests—or to experiment with original recipes as a means to enhance one's spiritual "experience"—is ignorance at best and an abomination at worst. We are now part of a new priesthood that offers "spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 2:5-9). Second, all of the above examples share mutual error in claiming that some spiritual power or benefit can be derived from a physical substance—this is witchcraft! Unfortunately, the acceptance and practice of occult techniques is on the rise in evangelical circles. One woman concerned with her husband's TV watching habits was advised by another professing Christian, "Rub it down [with oil]! It works for me!"

There is no question that the process of anointing with oil is a biblical procedure, used at various times and for specific purposes both in the Old and New Testaments. However, as with other customs and ordinances (i.e., bap-tism and communion) the methodology and materials have been subject to much embellishment and corruption. Biblical Christians may still anoint as prescribed by Scripture (only for the sick, and only by elders—James 5:12); but any healing is not a by-product of the oil's rarity, purity, or spiritual preparation (common olive or cooking oil will suffice). Just as biblical communion is a symbol, so is the use of oil for external anointing. Nowhere in Scripture is it used for "breaking" or "binding" or for creating a prophetic "power boost" nor are there any recipes or formulas for "worship aids" of any kind.

But as mystical beliefs, pagan practices, and shamanic techniques continue to infiltrate the church, one thing is clear: an increasing number of well-intentioned (but naïve) believers will continue to misplace their faith and money—deceived anew by the lure of the Serpent's "miracle cure."

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I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise [shall] continually [be] in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear [thereof], and be glad. O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together" (Psalm 34:1-3).

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, [bless] his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases: Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good [things...] (Psalm 103:1-5).

Hunt—How can I bless God? How can I magnify the Lord? How can we bless Him who is so much greater than we are or ever will be? As human beings, we are pitiful creatures, infinitesimal in God's sight. And yet, he desires to have an intimate relationship with us. Believe it or not, there is something within you that God cannot take from you, that He desires

from us. Our greatest gift back to God is that of ourselves. To him we can yield our heart and surrender our soul. Our great God and creator, Lord and Savior, deserves so much more than we can give. Our words are inadequate, and our understanding is limited, but one day "we shall see him as he is." May the Holy Spirit give us a greater measure of understanding that we may indeed give him glory and praise.

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