

# The Berea Baptist Banner

*"Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth" Ps. 60:4*

## Creation and Christianity

By Tom Ross  
of South Point, Ohio

**"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"** (Genesis 1:1).

**"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made"** (John 1:1-3).

If the two passages of Scripture cited above were the only ones stating that God is the Sovereign Creator of all things and that Jesus Christ as God was an active participant in creating the universe, I would believe it with all my heart without any reservation. However, the truth of God as the Creator permeates the whole of Scripture. I believe that all the Scriptures reveal the fact that God created all things. I will go a step further. By reading the two passages together one cannot deny that there is a direct link between the work of Creation and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you deny that God is the Creator of all things you also must essentially



deny the Deity and finished work of Jesus Christ. If you truly believe that Jesus Christ is **"the Way, the Truth, and the Life"** (John 14:6) you must also acknowledge what He said, and what the Scriptures say about the Creation. Jesus clearly and unmistakably stated that God was the Creator in Matthew 19:4-6: **"And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."** In one brief passage of Scripture Jesus Christ affirmed that God made man, that there are only two genders, male and female, and that the law and sanctity of marriage is exclusive to

♦ (Continued on page 2)

## The Importance of Christ's Ascension

By Milburn R. Cockrell  
(1941 – 2002)

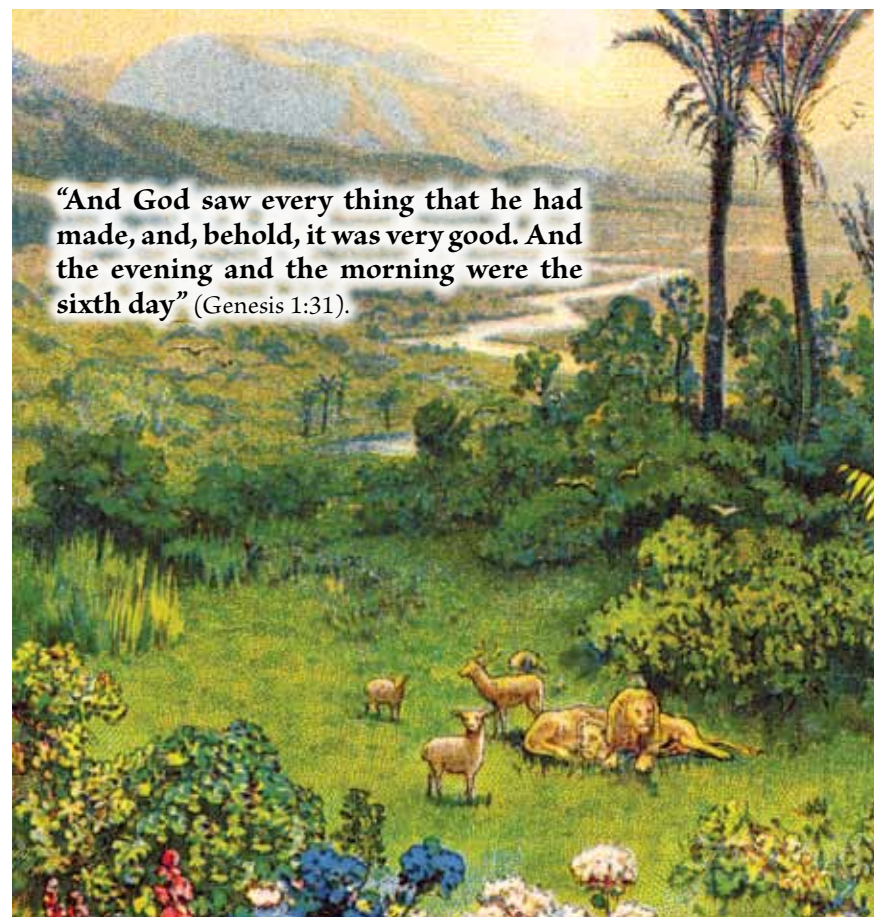
**"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory"** (I Tim. 3:16).

The theological trend of our time is to give a limited

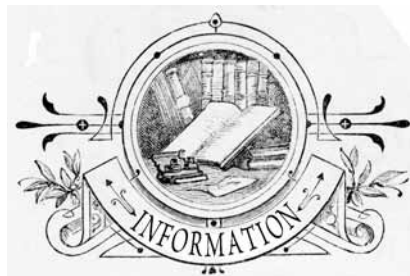


emphasis to the doctrine of Christ's ascension. Much is written, sung, and preached about His life and death, but little reference

is ever made of His return to the Father. The doctrinal importance of Christ's ascension lies not so  
♦ (Continued on page 21)



**"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day"** (Genesis 1:31).



## December 5, 2019 Volume XXXIX, Number 12

Whole Number 482

Editor: Christopher Cockrell

Staff: Sheron Cockrell, Marsha Kiser, Virginia Cockrell  
THE BEREBA BAPTIST BANNER (UPS 546470) is published monthly for \$6.00 per year by the authority of the Berea Baptist Church, 3881 Highway 363, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855. Periodical Publication postage paid at Mantachie, Mississippi.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BEREBA BAPTIST BANNER, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, Mississippi 38855-0039.

LOCATION OF PUBLISHING CHURCH: Our church is located on state highway 363 about one mile south of Mantachie, Mississippi. Readers are always welcome to visit our services.

CHURCH PHONE: 1-662-282-7794.

PUBLICATION POLICIES: All matter for publication should be sent to the editor. All manuscripts are to be typed and double spaced. All such material becomes the property of BBB and will not be returned unless requested by the writer. We reserve the right to edit and condense all materials sent to us for publication.

The publication of an article does not necessarily mean the editor is in complete agreement with the writer, nor does it mean he endorses all this person may have written on other subjects.

COPYING PRIVILEGES: Unless otherwise stated any article published in this paper may be copied by other publications, provided they give proper credit line stating that such was copied from this publication, and the date of publication; provided that such materials are not published for profit. If we are not on an exchange list with the publication

copying, it is requested that a copy of the issue containing the article be sent to our address. All copyrighted materials may not be copied without written consent.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY with paid circulation in most states in the U.S.A. and some foreign countries.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - U.S.

One year.....\$6.00  
Two years.....\$10.00  
Five years.....\$24.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATES - FOREIGN One Year \$45

PLANNING TO MOVE? Notify us three weeks in advance. The post office will only forward periodical mail for 90 days. They charge us \$.70 for each "change of address" they have to send us. Please save us this expense and the post office time.

BUNDLES TO ONE ADDRESS: These are sent for \$4 per paper for a year. An example: 10 papers for one year at \$40 or 20 papers for one year at \$80.00.

A PAPER WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION: Some times people write to us and say that they did not subscribe for the BBB. They are receiving our paper because someone else has paid for their subscription.

We trust the BBB will be received as an outstretched hand to you. Take what you find helpful and discard what you cannot use. If you do not want to receive such a gift subscription, please write to us. We are happy to cancel such a subscription. We do not want to go where we are not wanted.

DISCLAIMER: The Editor assumes that the articles submitted for publication in the BBB are written by the person whose name they bear, unless otherwise indicated by a quote from another writer. However, the Editor cannot personally guarantee that this is the case in all articles which appear in the BBB.

The purpose of the Berea Baptist Banner is as follows:

1. To honor God and to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To preach the gospel to lost sinners.
3. To spread the whole counsel of God's Word.
4. To encourage God's preachers and to strength-en His churches in the most holy faith.
5. To motivate God's children to a closer fellow-ship around His Word.
6. To inform people of world events in light of Bible prophecy.
7. To condemn and expose error wherever it may rear its ugly head.
8. To stimulate Christian growth in grace.
9. To make the Devil and his demons as mad as possible.

# Creation and

(Continued from page 1) ♦

the union of a man and a woman. Was Jesus mistaken, ignorant, or lying? If you truly believe that the Scriptures identify Jesus Christ as "**God...manifest in the flesh**" (I Timothy 3:16), and the only qualified Saviour of sinners, then you must also believe that He is truth personified and as such was incapable of lying, guile, or deceit. I Peter 2:22 positively states this truth: "**Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth.**" I believe that Jesus Christ is God, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, and as such it is impossible for Him to lie (Heb. 6:18). Hence I believe the Word of God and the words of Christ are absolutely true, inspired, and infallible. Because I am a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I categorically deny the heresies of evolution.

Very early in my Christian life I had the privilege of knowing and being taught by Dr. Gail Terrell, who was the Dean and a professor at Temple Baptist College. Brother Terrell was an expert in Creation Science and often held seminars teaching the truth about the Biblical account of Creation. Dr. Terrell instilled in me a love of the study of Biblical Creation. Brother Terrell has gone on to glory and I will always be thankful for his influence in my life.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF MODERN EVOLUTIONARY THOUGHT AND THE EVILS IT SPAWNED

For nearly 1900 years of Christian history, the Biblical account of Creation was generally accepted by those who professed to be Christians. In fact, due to the influence Christianity had on the world, a majority of the population believed the Creation

account of Scripture as well. This consensus began to change after Charles Darwin came out with his "*On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*," first published November 24, 1859. Christians, preachers, theologians, and Seminary professors across the wide spectrum of professing Christianity began a slow, incremental, progressive descent into evolutionary theory. Many felt pressured by the scientific community to alter or explain away the Scriptural view of God as the Creator. Some devised theories that paid lip service to God as the Creator, while at the same time compromised with evolutionary theory.

Evolutionary philosophy also played a huge role in the repudiation of the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture. German rationalism combined with higher criticism of Scripture infected professing Christendom. Evolutionary theory, German rationalism, and higher criticism combined to cast a shadow of doubt upon the veracity of Holy Scripture. New translations of Scripture sought to replace the King James Authorized Version among English speaking people. Many were led astray from the truths of the inspiration of Scripture, the literal Creation account of Genesis, the Virgin Birth of Christ, Christ's blood sacrifice, and His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead. These doctrines were identified as fundamentals by those who wanted to stand against the rising tide of liberal theology. Hence, the Fundamentalist Movement was born in the early 1900's in response. Unfortunately, the Fundamentalist Movement

♦ (Continued on page 3)

## Tune in to the Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS	
WCNA, Myrtle, MS.....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	95.9	3,000	FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY .....	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000	AM
WFTA, Tupelo, MS.....	Sunday 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000	FM
KARL, Blaine, WA .....	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000	AM

## WAITING IN THE COLD?



Look at your mailing label on the front page of this month's paper. If you see above your name "Expires 12/2019" then this will be your last issue. So renew now, so you will not have to sit in the cold instead of reading the *Banner*.

Berea Baptist Banner  
PO Box 39  
Mantachie, Mississippi  
38855

(662) 282 - 7794

[www.bereabaptistchurch.org](http://www.bereabaptistchurch.org)

request@bereabaptistchurch.org  
bbchurch@nexband.com

## Planning a move?

Please let us know your new address. The post office charges us \$.61 for each returned wrong address.



# Creation and

(Continued from page 2) ♦

spawned its own doctrinal identity and took many sound Baptists away from the truth about the Lord's Church by emphasizing a mythical, universal, invisible church.

The "Scopes Monkey Trial" decided on July 21, 1925 played a huge role in allowing the theory of evolution to be taught in the public school system. William Jennings Bryant, a prominent lawyer of the day, was made to look like a fool in his weak defense of Creationism. Clarence Darrow, with the backing of the American Civil Liberties Union, defended John Scopes who had been teaching evolution in his High School science class. Darrow wanted Scopes to be found guilty so that they could appeal the ruling so he asked the jury to render a guilty verdict. This tactic prevented Bryant from making a closing statement. The Dayton, Tennessee jury delivered a guilty verdict and Scopes was ordered to pay a \$100 fine. Two years later the Tennessee Supreme Court overturned the verdict on a technicality. This was a pivotal moment in the spread of evolutionary theory. Atheists, progressives, and secular humanists with the backing of the ACLU and the Communist Party began to incrementally take control of public education. The goal to get Christianity and the Creation account of Scripture out of public education and ultimately out of the public discourse, was championed by John P. Dewey, who many call the "Father" of the modern day public school system. He was an atheist, an evolutionist, and a secular humanist who was one of the major contributors to "The Humanist Manifesto" first

published in 1933.

Evolutionary theory started being taught as scientific fact in high schools and universities. Young people were being taught that the origin of the universe came about through a series of random acts of chance. Many ascribed to the "Big Bang" theory of origins. Young people were taught that they evolved from animals to become humans. Eugenists like Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, ran with evolutionary philosophy. Since man was really only a highly evolved animal, his breeding could be selectively managed to produce a superior humanity. She recommended abortion and forced sterilization as a means of "culling out" and purging the undesirables out of society. She specifically targeted poor, minority communities and others that she deemed to be unproductive and unintelligent. She was a true Socialist who believed that the elites could socially engineer and produce a utopian society. Adolph Hitler, a Nazi Socialist also believed in evolution and social engineering, and claimed that the Aryan race was superior to all others. He insisted that Jews were the cause of the world's problems and sought to exterminate them from German society. Six million Jews were exterminated in the Holocaust in the name of the evolutionary progress of a supposed superior race.

By the 1960's evolutionary philosophy, secular humanism, atheism, and progressive ideology had permeated nearly every aspect of American culture. The crusade of one woman, Madeline Murray O'Hair, an immoral atheist and Communist sympathizer, brought a lawsuit against the Baltimore city schools claiming that prayer

and Bible reading in the public school was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court ruled in her favor and declared prayer and Bible reading in schools to be unconstitutional. O'Hair was also famous for establishing the American Atheists and was a tireless activist against anything involving God, Christianity, or the Bible. She successfully started the conversation to remove Scripture and specifically the Ten Commandments from all government funded spaces.

Evolutionary philosophy contributed to the free-love, Sexual Revolution of the 1960's and 1970's. All kinds of perversity and sexual immorality have been promoted and practiced ever since. Secular humanists believe only in relative morality with no restraint. "If it feels good, do it" is the philosophy of the day. Abortion on demand became legal in 1973 allowing a woman to exterminate and kill the child in her womb. Homosexuality came out of the closet. Pornography and sex trafficking of children became easily accessible. Sodomite marriage was legalized by the Supreme Court. Transgenderism, an attempt to change one's biological sex, in a philosophy that displays the ultimate rebellion against the Creator, is now front and center in the culture war. Pedophilia is next on the docket to define deviancy down in an attempt to normalize perversity. All of these deviant behaviors are linked to evolutionary philosophy and a humanist world view. They all seek to destroy the Biblical idea of what a family is and how it should function in society.

Evolutionary philosophy is at the center of the global cooling/warming/climate change agenda. Nearly every weather event is now blamed on "man-made" climate

change. Environmentalists essentially believe that man can somehow control the weather and the climate through global government regulation. Thus completely denying the truth that our Creator is in control of the weather and the environment. The ultimate aim of environmentalists is to dethrone God and make people think man can somehow "save" the planet.

Evolution is a religion which enables people to write their own rules and then demand, by way of government coercion, that others obey its edicts. Evolution is based on a faulty humanistic world view that rejects God, His Word, and His laws. The blind acceptance of evolution as scientific is directly linked to secular humanism, socialism, communism, abortion, and the breakdown of the family unit. This is why we face a serious moral dilemma in our world. Evolution is a repudiation of God not only as Creator, but God as God! This is why the teaching of Creation by God is so critical to Biblical Christianity.

## WHOSE AUTHORITY: GOD'S WORD OR MAN'S WORD?

1. Everyone bases their world view and belief system on God or men, or a combination of both. As Christians we believe that the Holy Scriptures are God's inspired revelation to man. The Bible reveals God's will and His infallible truth. The principles of Scripture are to be the foundation of all faith and practice in every area of life. Believers are commanded to study the Word and apply it: **"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babbling: for**

♦ (Continued on page 4)

# Creation and

(Continued from page 3) ♦

**they will increase unto more ungodliness"** (II Tim. 2:15-16). In so doing, we must reject or shun the errors, philosophies, and faulty ideologies of ungodly men who reject God's Word. Jeremiah 8:9 states: **"The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?"** This verse may definitely apply to how we reject evolutionary philosophies.

God's Word reveals Him to be all knowing and wise: **"Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite"** (Psalm 147:5). Unlike sinful men, God's knowledge and understanding are not darkened by human depravity or deceit. He is a God of absolute truth and righteousness and His Word reflects His glory. Hebrews 4:12-13 declares: **"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."** It makes good spiritual sense to trust the Word of the One who knows all, sees all, and unto Whom we are accountable. Our trust and reliance upon God's Word reveals that we truly believe the Scriptures to be inspired and infallible. Believers heartily endorse the truth expressed in II Timothy 3:16-17: **"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**

**That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."**

Ken Ham in his book, *The Lie: Evolution*, wrote:

"The Bible claims that God knows everything. He has all knowledge. If this is true, then the Bible is the word of Someone who knows everything there is to know. If we want to come to right conclusions about anything, the only sure way would be to start with the word of the One who has absolute knowledge. We Christians must build all of our thinking in every area on the Bible. We must start with God's Word, not the word of finite, fallible man. We must judge what people say on the basis of what God's Word says—not the other way around." (pg. 24)

2. When people willfully choose to accept the authority of man's opinions and writings then they must rely upon flawed and depraved philosophy. The Bible warns against trusting in the sinful philosophies of error prone men: **"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"** (Col. 2:8).

I agree with the conclusion of Henry Morris:

"...The writer is convinced, from having discussed the subject of evolution with hundreds of people, that the main reason most educated people believe in evolution is simply because they have been told that most educated people believe in evolution!" (*The Twilight of Evolution*, pg. 26)

3. As Christians we must accept, believe, embrace, and agree with what God's Word says about Creation. We must do so without apology! God plainly states in the Holy Scriptures that He is the

Creator of all things. Consider the passages in just the first nine chapters of Genesis where the Scriptures emphatically declare that God is indeed the Creator:

1:1: **"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."**

1:7: **"And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so."**

1:16: **"And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also."**

1:21: **"And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good."**

1:25: **"And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good."**

1:27: **"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."**

1:31: **"And God saw every thing that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."**

2:2-4: **"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the**

**LORD God made the earth and the heavens."**

2:9: **"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."**

2:22: **"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man."**

3:1: **"Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"**

5:1-2: **"This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."**

6:6-7: **"And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."**

7:4: **"For yet seven days, and I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."**

9:6: **"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."**

I typed the Scriptures in Genesis out because I did not want the reader to merely gloss over the references. There is no wiggle

♦ (Continued on page 5)

# Little Hills

By Nathaniel Hille of  
Plant City, Florida



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON - BIBLE SURVEY #8 LEVITICUS

TEXT: Lev. 11: 44-45; Lev. 19:2

DEVOTIONAL READING: I Peter 1:16

SUGGESTED HYMN: *Take Time To Be Holy*

AIM: An Over-View of the Book of Leviticus.

INTRODUCTION— Leviticus deals with more direct words of God than any other book of the Bible. 20 out of 27 chapters begin with the phrase: **“The LORD said to Moses”** close to that variation.

I. AUTHOR: Moses is the human author of this book. It is clear that God spoke these words to Moses for the Levites, but also for God’s people to know the work and duties of the priests.

II. SUBJECT: The name of the Book: Leviticus—gives us the subject. Leviticus means: “Pertaining to the Levites.” There are two main subjects “pertaining to the Levites:”

1. Holiness—Occurring 87 times in this book. It is without question that God requires His people to be holy unto Him—**“Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”** (I Pet.1:16). The word “holy” means “devoted” or “dedicated” to a particular purpose.”<sup>1</sup> The Scriptures bear out that the believer can no longer live in sin and have fellowship with God (I John 1:6-7; 2:3-6).

A. God makes it clear that the whole of the nation of Israel was “holy” or separated unto Him (Lev. 20:2, 26—**“Again, thou shalt say to the children of Israel,...And ye shall be holy unto me: for I the LORD am holy, and have severed you from other people, that ye should be mine”**).

B. Yet, the tribe of Levi was separated again unto the Lord for service in the things pertaining to the tabernacle/temple (Num.1:49-50; Num. 3:5-7).

C. Yet God had taken from among the Levites Aaron and his sons to make them priests unto the Lord (Ex. 28:1-3). The other Levites were to be “assistants to the priests.”<sup>2</sup>

2. Laws—One writer called it “The book of laws” since the laws were given to govern the priests, chiefly in their administration of the Tabernacle service, and their care of the people both materially and spiritually. These were not suggestions, but laws to govern them. God’s people today, have laws that govern us and our service unto the Lord as well; for we are also dedicated, separated unto the Lord and unto service to Him in and through His Church.

III. DIVISIONS OF THE BOOK: The Book of Leviticus may be divided by the “laws” that it sets forth. In Lev. 6:9—**“This is the law of...”** The word law = statute or precept, a law. This was not up for debate. It was to be done as God said it was to be done. These laws governed Israel.

1. The Offerings: Lev.1-7:—In these first 7 chapters are the 5 main

offerings and the laws for offering them. They are all figures/types of the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has accomplished on behalf of His people at Calvary.

2. Consecration of the Priests: Lev. 8-10:—Cp. Ex. 29:44—The priests were consecrated (set apart/made holy) unto the service of the LORD. The priests are types of the Lord Jesus Christ in His eternal priesthood.

3. Laws of Separation and Cleansing: Lev. 11-20:—Herein contained are laws pertaining to Israel with respect to food, leprosy, personal purity, atonement, personal and national behavior. God had laws respecting every aspect of the lives of His people, just as He does you and me.

4. Holy Priesthood: Lev. 21-22—Herein are some specific laws pertaining to the priests of God.

5. Holy Appointments: Lev. 23-25—In these chapters the Lord describes unto Moses concerning the weekly sabbath, the feast of the Lord, the sabbatical year, the year of jubilee.

6. Obedience and blessings vs. disobedience and cursings: Lev. 26—In this chapter the Lord lays out conditions for blessings while living in the land, as well as, that which shall lead to correction and cursing for disobedience.

7. Vows: Lev. 27—In the final chapter, we find the Lord deals with vows or that which has been dedicated unto the Lord.

IV. TYPES IN LEVITICUS: There are many types of the Lord throughout this book. They are displayed in the main “characters” of this book.

1. Moses: The law giver—is a type of the Lord. He received the laws from God and gave them unto the people, just as the Lord Jesus has given us God’s Word today (John 17:14).

2. Aaron: a type of Jesus Christ in His High Priest office (Heb. 5:1-6).

3. Offerings: Every offering typifies Jesus Christ. Particularly the Atonement (Lev. 16 & 17). The blood, the goats, the high priest, the fit man—it all speaks of what Jesus did at Calvary when the sin debt was paid.

4. Priests: are typical of God’s people today, who are a kingdom of priests offering up unto God spiritual sacrifices (I Peter 2:9; Heb. 13:15-16; Phil. 4:18).

### NOTES

1. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words.*

2. *Halley’s Bible Handbook* (23<sup>rd</sup> edition pg. 134).

(Nathaniel Hille is pastor of the Bible Baptist Church of Plant City, Florida.)

## Creation and

(Continued from page 4) ♦

room in Genesis. God is the Creator and sustainer of the universe.

Genesis is the book of beginnings so we should expect to find several references to God’s creative power. However, the Bible is full of passages that affirm that God is the Creator and sustainer of the

universe.

Deuteronomy 4:32: **“For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?”**

♦ (Continued on page 6)

# Creation and

(Continued from page 5) ♦

Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.”

Psalm 33:6, 8-9: “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth... Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.”

Ecclesiastes 12:1: “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth...”

Isaiah 40:26: “Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.”

Isaiah 41:20: “That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.”

Isaiah 42:5: “Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and the spirit to them that walk therein.”

Isaiah 43:1, 7: “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine...Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”

Isaiah 45:8-9a, 12, 18: “Drop

down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it. Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker!...I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded...For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”

Mark 10:6: “But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female.”

Mark 13:19: “For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.”

Romans 1:20, 25: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.”

I Corinthians 11:9: “Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.”

Ephesians 3:9: “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 1:16: “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,

visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

I Timothy 4:3: “Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”

I Peter 4:19: “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.”

Revelation 3:14: “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God.”

Revelation 4:11: “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

Revelation 10:6: “And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer.”

The Scriptures cited above are only a sampling of verses that declare unapologetically and without reservation that God is the Creator. My question to you is a simple one. Do you believe the Scriptures or do you believe the writings of evolutionists?

I will close this section with an observation by Ken Ham in *The Lie: Evolution*:

“Unfortunately, too many people have started with the word of men and then judged what the Bible states. What an arrogant position this is! We cannot tell

God what He should say. We must be prepared to come totally under His authority and listen to what He says to us. Yes, Creation is religion, but is based on revelation from the all-knowing Creator. Evolution is religion, but it is not based on revelation from God. Instead it is based on the words of men who were not there— men who (by their own admission) do not know everything. And these men, the Bible informs us, are biased against God and His Word.

If the Bible is not the infallible Word of the One who knows everything, then we have exactly nothing. We can never be sure about anything. What then is truth: my word, your word, or someone else’s word? In fact, how do you determine what truth is or how to search for it? I recall a seminar where a young man stated, ‘I can’t believe in creation. I believe in the Big Bang. We are just products of chance and random processes. There is no God. What do you say to that?’ I replied, ‘Well if you are a product of chance, your brain is a product of chance. Therefore, the thought patterns that determine your logic are also products of chance. If your logic is the result of chance processes, you can’t be sure it evolved properly. You can’t be sure you’re even asking the right question because you can’t trust your own logic.’ He was dumbfounded. Afterwards he came up and asked for the best books on the subject and said he would have to seriously think this through. He had begun to realize that, without an absolute (God), he had nothing.” (pgs. 25-26)

## HOW DID GOD CREATE?

1. There are a myriad of evolutionary theories that have developed over the years since Darwin first came out with *Origin*

♦ (Continued on page 8)



# Small Drops

By Joseph M. Sidders of  
Temperance, Michigan

"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God" (Deuteronomy 32:2-3).



## IF YOU GIVE THE FLESH A COOKIE

**"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"** (Matt. 26:41).

This portion of God's Word was spoken by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as He was praying at Gethsemane, just before the betrayer Judas Iscariot came with his multitude to haul Him away. Scripture says of Jesus during this time of prayer that He was **"exceeding sorrowful, even unto death"** (Matt. 26:38, Mark 14:34). Jesus knew of the betrayer and He knew His time of fellowship with His church in the physical sense was coming to an end. I would like to think the same of the saints today. If we, the elect of God, trusting by faith in our place in the Kingdom, knew when our last day was, we surely would not regret where we were going, but we might be sorrowful over the temporary end to our beloved fellowship here with our church. One day, beloved, we will reunite with those who have gone on before us! We will once again know the embrace of the beloved teachers/pastors and friends of the ministry!

For the purpose of this writing I want to focus on Peter, James and John and the flesh that caused them to rest when they were called to watch, wait and pray. My children thoroughly enjoy a book series entitled *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. It is a simple concept utilizing a series of

"begats" as the story starts with a simple common mouse desiring to eat a cookie. Most know not to feed rodents as it could only lead to trouble, and this story is no different. If you feed a mouse a cookie, he will want a glass of milk. If you give him a glass of milk, he will want to take a nap. It goes on and on causing messes and trouble for the homeowners.

This picture of a seemingly harmless situation spiraling out of control is very similar to the disastrous results of sin, are they not? Recently my family and I were going through and thinning out a wooded area on our property. Much of the problem we had was with vines. Funny thing these vines. They start out as just green saplings, springing forth from the ground. Just ivy that seems to dress the brown of a tree trunk with a green curtain. Not only does it appear harmless, but one could defend it as being somewhat pretty and natural. Often how we might describe the bud of temptation in our lives. "It is just a little thing." "Who will ever know or even consider it a bad thing." "It is so small that it is trivial."

As the vines begin to grow their grip becomes stronger and stronger on the tree. It seemingly leaps from limb to limb, each time twisting itself firmly on each branch, draining the very fruitfulness from every limb it takes a hold of. Is it not the same with unrepented sin? What was once this very small, trivial thing

has begun to require life itself. At one time this temptation just wanted a cookie but once you gave it a cookie it required milk! This temptation has so firmly placed its hands around your neck that you could not hope to be fruitful for your every effort gives more life to the sin!

As we got into the deeper parts of the wooded area, we found vines that had been allowed to grow for almost a decade. These had trunks of their own now bigger than a common man's arm. They had not only killed off the limbs they once used to climb but now they have ascended to the very height of the tree itself. They drape over the top as a covering, stealing the very sunlight that was meant for the tree itself. Child of God, if you have allowed for sin to live in your life for an extended amount of time, it will do the same to you! Soon, if not already, you will stop reading your Bible. You may have already started leaving it behind at church as a seat warmer rather than clutching it to your breast as the very God-given wellspring of life it is. You will begin to take offense to the concerns of your brothers and sisters over your well-being. What follows this is often resentment and church abandonment. It is amazing how quickly everyone else can look like a hypocrite while looking through vine-covered glasses.

This paints a grim picture for sure, but let us look below the vines to the actual tree. This tree appears to be embracing the vines to the point of its own death. Its leaves or needles have all turned brown or abandoned the body. It is no longer fruitful, yet the tree still desires to be fed. It desperately desires the warmth of the sunshine, the quenching of heavenly rain and even the delight of chirping birds again, but in its

present state the tree appears to be dead. Lord help us because this, too, is a picture of a believer who has given his flesh a cookie. He cannot lose his salvation, yet he is so wrapped in his own sin that to the world that needs to see his everlasting life, they only see death.

We finished the work of thinning out this wooded area two years ago. Of some of the trees we were able to free from clutches of their vines we are starting to once again see fruit. Even though they seemed dead on the outside they once again bear life. Beautiful blossoms are now on many of their limbs. There were parts that had to be pruned or cut off, but their trunk or foundation was firm, and life has begun to show once more. For we born-again believers there are times when sin had such a grasp on our lives that there were portions that needed to be amputated. Jesus said **"Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven"** (Matt. 18:7-10).

The trees whose trunks were weak, that we could rock back and forth in the ground, never had

◊ (Continued on page 8)

## Small Drops

(Continued from page 7) ♦

firm enough roots to begin with. Their foundation was not sure, and they have been lost from the Sidder's landscape. Cut down and burnt in our fire pit, these trees will not receive a second chance. They are dead. Take heed, beloved one. Without the sure foundation of Jesus Christ you will not see the kingdom of Heaven for **"ye must be born again"** (John 3)!

Dear reader, heed the words of our Savior: **"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak"** (Matt. 26:41). The born-again believer has a work that is both a privilege and at once very precious. We are still in this space of repentance in which we can have these vines ripped away and once again know the precious warmth of fellowship with our Lord, but what damage is done to the saplings who see us wallowing and suffocating from the weight of the sins we have embraced? If we give the flesh a cookie we begin the process of embracing these vines of temptation, but we also offer the same cookies as a witness to others. If we give their flesh a cookie, can they bear it? Do they have a sure foundation?

I am not implying that your work of avoiding sin and temptation will save others, for it is by grace that we are saved (Eph. 2:5-10). We have a responsibility, beloved, to not cast a shadow on the gospel. Our own reflection is that of filthy rags and it should in no way influence the gospel. Those toting the "once saved always saved" banners today, while living how they want to, are kicking sand in the faces of the martyrs who have suffered to preserve the Word and doctrines of God and also make a mockery of how

holy, sanctified living is defined for the non-believer. When we live how we want to rather than how God's Word has instructed us to, we serve very little use for the Kingdom, our church and are of very little threat to Satan.

I Peter 5:8-9 tells us to **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."** I ask you this question: Of what threat is a roaring lion to the waiting/watching/praying Christian? Proverbs 28:15 adds to the "roaring lion" description that of a ranging bear. Satan, your adversary, your enemy, is going about as a roaring hungry animal and that is to the advantage of the Christian who is waiting, watching and praying for we will hear him, we will see him coming for he will stand out against the backdrop of the King of kings and Lord of lords! For the Christian who is living how he desires to live, trusting his salvation will overcome any of his own poor choices, he walks about with a plate of cookies. Roaring lions love cookies! Ranging bears will quickly come for the cookies!

"Preacher they can't lose their salvation!" you scream at the paper...yes, that is true but did Jesus call us to feed the lions and bears? He called for us to feed the sheep. I bring your attention quickly to the idea of a Christian participating in Halloween. "Well preacher, I'm saved, and the candy and costumes are fun for the kids." While that might be a true experience for their flesh, what can be said of your embracing the heathenistic practices of the world? Your dressing up, passing out candy, or even just shooping

your kids out the door to go and do the same is feeding the flesh a cookie. Our willingness to do things for the purposes of a good time or to keep the peace hurts our testimony and damages the truth we have been called to teach. Jesus told the church in Matthew 28:18-20, **"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."** It is the very DNA of the Lord's Baptist churches to be living examples of the grace we have been shown. How can we do that while switching back and forth on what we feed off of and what we spread on the table before others? Jesus' response to Satan's temptation was that **"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God"** (Matt. 4:4).

I pray the Lord will be merciful to us in regard to our snacking habits. I pray God will grant us enough time in this life to set better examples; to shine light on the very grace that has removed the vines from our lives. To express more accurately the willing Spirit rather than the weak flesh.

One day, beloved, we will reunite with those who have gone on before us. We will once again know the embrace of the beloved teachers/pastors and friends of the ministry that cared enough to show us Jesus rather than giving our flesh just one more cookie.

May the Lord see fit to add the blessing to this writing.

(Joseph Sidders is pastor of the Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Temperance, Michigan.)



## Creation and

(Continued from page 6) ♦

of the Species. However, none of the theories can accurately or precisely answer the when, where, why, and how regarding the origin of the universe.

All theories of evolution are speculative in the sense that they all depend solely on the observations and conclusions of depraved, fallible, fallen men who have a decided bias against God and His Word.

2. Christianity asserts that there is a God and that He created the universe and all things in it in six literal days by the sheer power of His Word through the harmonious working of the Holy Trinity composed of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Henry Morris explains the difference between how evolutionists and creationists arrive at their conclusions regarding the origin of the universe:

"...We shall summarize the evidence against evolution by showing, first, that there is no evidence of evolution occurring at present and, second, that there is no evidence that evolution has occurred in the past. In doing this, it is necessary to start with the Biblical record. Particularly in the past, prior to human historical records, it is manifestly impossible to prove scientifically whether evolution took place or not. In the nature of the case, the history of the earth and its inhabitants cannot be subject to scientific experimentation, the events are non-reproducible and therefore, not legitimately subject to analysis by means of the so-called 'scientific method.'

One must, therefore, either  
♦ (Continued on page 10)





# Narrow Paths

By Doug Newell IV of  
Clendenin, West Virginia

"Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14).

## GIVEN TO CHANGE

**"My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change: For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both" (Prov. 24:21-22)?**

Progressives are reformers who labor to move organizations or nations "forward" and seek progress toward a vision of a better world. But, if I am standing on the edge of a cliff, moving forward is the last thing I want. Progressives presuppose change is always in the right direction, or if a change in any direction is needed at all. They also assume their vision of the future is not only the best way, but the righteous way, and opposition to "progress" and their agenda is a moral evil. It was said of President Calvin Coolidge, "Nobody has ever worked harder at inactivity... thwarting political activity wherever there are signs of life." As Coolidge knew, too often political movement is usually pushing boundaries, tearing down fences, and moving in the wrong direction. There are times and ways in which people, organizations, and countries must change, but those given to change are rebels against authority and the Bible warns against such revolutionaries and reformers.

Our proverb tells us to fear the Lord and the King, to respect and honor authority. Fearing the Lord is conforming our lives to His instructions, and our hearts to His law. Fearing the king is to honoring the laws and his

authority as long as they do not conflict with the laws of God. Our concern should not be to "get with the times" or to "be on the right side of history" but to be right with God. The revolutionary's vision of a future utopia trumps everything else, sometimes even reality, to obtain progress by any means necessary.

Sometimes, the best way is backwards. Sinners are called to repent, to turn away from sin and unto God. There are standards of truth and when you stray from what is right, the only sensible way to go is back. If you were swimming in the ocean, and look up and realize you have drifted too far from the shore, "Onward!" is not the wisest move. You may come from a long and noble line of people who have been wrong for generations. For you, "progress" would be to stop, turn around, and go back.

Sometimes, the best move is no move at all. God's people are told to stand fast in the faith, to hold fast to the doctrines we have received. Just because something is old does not mean it is outdated. God defined marriage, its purpose, and its participants, so any deviation from God's eternal truth will be the ruin for all involved.

If you get caught up in the fashions of the day, dismiss truth from previous generations, and follow the trends of the progressives, you will be able to get with the program and move the accepted direction. Progressives are in the business of tearing down the old to make way for the new.

But realize, there is a generation of toddlers right now, future reformers, waiting their turn to topple over today's progressives.

Fear the Lord. Follow the God who does not change. Stand for truth. Hold fast to sound doctrine. Do not be given to change.

## GODLY CONTENTMENT

Have you ever said, "I can't take it anymore" or, "I'm at the end of my rope?" If you are in the habit of thinking like that, you are missing out on tremendous blessings and sinning against God. Those kinds of statements are common, but lack godly contentment. Maybe you think life just is not the way you want it to go, and if you just had a different job, you would be happy. Or you just had one real good friend to confide in. Or if you just had a little more money, or if you just could have that health issue resolved. Maybe it is your marriage, your car, your home and if that changed you could be satisfied. Your problem is not that you do not have what you need, the problem is you do not have what you want and you think those missing parts will bring you satisfaction.

Jeremiah Burroughs has a good definition for what we mean by Godly contentment. "Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God's wise and Fatherly disposal in every condition." Or to shorten it "taking pleasure in God's disposal." Contentment is freely submitting to God's will. Not by force, or by dulling the trial, not by ignoring the situation, or denying the trial exists and not by our fleshly determination, but submission to God's providence (Philippians 4:10-

13). A criminal resisting arrest will finally submit when there are enough knees in his back and lumps on his head. That is not contentment, that is resignation and the realization that stun guns hurt. You absolutely will go through God's plan for your life, but godly contentment allows us to rejoice along the way. Not in the circumstances of providence, but in the God of providence, no matter the circumstances.

Economy, jobs, unemployment, retirement, health care issues are all on the forefront of the national conversation, many concerned Christians are upset and worried about their future, their family, and their livelihood. There is nothing wrong with planning and being prepared, and we ought to do all we can to be ready, but when God has put us in a situation, and we have done all we lawfully can do, the Christian's duty is to quietly submit to the Lord's dealings with us, in faith, trusting His kind and Fatherly plan for us.

When we have godly contentment, we spend our days thinking about what Jesus has done for us, is doing for us, and what He WILL do for us. You see life as planned by God for your good. That the stars in space, the clouds in the air, the ground beneath your feet, the flowers in the fields are there, in accordance to God's providence, for your good. Your poverty, your pain, your sickness was planned by God. Be content that your Heavenly Father is in control and that this world is not all there is and God is now preparing you for glory.

**"But godliness with contentment is great gain" (I Tim. 6:6).**

(Doug Newell IV is pastor of the Buffalo Valley Baptist Church of Clay, West Virginia.)



# Creation and

(Continued from page 8) ♦

start with the assumption that God is the Creator and the Author of history, or else with the assumption that there is no God and that the history of the earth and the universe is to be explained without Him. The way one approaches the study of this history must necessarily depend upon the assumption with which he starts. If one more or less arbitrarily ignores God in developing such a history, even though he may not deliberately intend to exclude the possibility of God, in effect he is making the second assumption and is taking the approach of atheism. For it should be plainly emphasized that, if God does exist and if He is the Creator and Sustainer of history, then it is foolhardy to attempt to understand history apart from His revealed Word. In other words, the only way we can know with certainty the time of creation, the order of creation, the meaning of creation, the methods of creation, and anything else concerned with pre-historical events, is for God to tell us these things. He was there, and we were not. Therefore, in every case, we believe that the only legitimate method of reasoning in this sphere is the deductive method. One starts with either one assumption or the other and then develops his system and his conclusions. He cannot use the inductive method, attempting to build up a historical record on the basis of bits of evidence he may be able to find in the present world. In doing this, he is in reality using the deductive method but starting with the atheistic assumption that God has not already spoken concerning these things." (*The Twilight of Evolution*, pages 29-30)

3. The Scriptures declare that God created by fiat, meaning He spoke the world into existence as set forth in Genesis (1:1-3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26-27). God literally created something out of nothing by speaking it into existence. Hebrews 11:3 affirms this truth: **"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."**

4. God's infinite and eternal power was on display in the creation of the universe. Jeremiah 10:12 states: **"He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."** Jeremiah 27:5 declares: **"I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me."**

I love what A.W. Pink wrote regarding the power of God in Creation:

"Let us now consider God's power in creation. **'The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine, as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them. The north and the south thou hast created them'** (Psalm 89:11-12). Before man can work he must have both tools and materials. But God began with nothing, and by His Word alone out of nothing he made all things. The intellect cannot grasp it. God **'spake and it was done, He commanded and it stood fast'** (Psalm 33:9)."

Pink quotes James Hervey who wrote in 1789: "Who, that looks upward to the midnight sky; and, with an eye of reason, beholds its rolling wonders; who can forbear enquiring, Of what were their

mighty orbs formed? Amazing to relate, they were produced without materials. They sprung from emptiness itself. The stately fabric of universal nature emerged out of nothing. What instruments were used by the Supreme Architect to fashion the parts with such exquisite niceness, and give so beautiful a polish to the whole? How was it all connected into one finely-proportioned and nobly finished structure? A bare fiat accomplished all. Let them be, said God. He added no more; and at once the marvelous edifice arose, adorned with every beauty, displaying innumerable perfections, and declaring amidst enraptured seraphs its great Creator's praise. **'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth'** (Psalm 150:1). (*Gleanings in the Godhead*, p. 44)

5. God created the world in six literal days just as Genesis chapter one clearly states. This means that there was no gap of millions or billions of years between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. Each day is not a symbolic period of time as expressed by the Day Age theory. There was no progressive or evolutionary process set in motion. There was no Big Bang that started it all. No, a thousand times no! God created in six literal days with no one's help or assistance. We believe exactly what the Scriptures clearly state without the use of metaphor, allegory, or simile when it comes to the account of creation.

Every attempt to subvert the simple, literal, ordinary meaning of the word "day" is a compromise with some form of evolutionary theory in an attempt to conform to their hypothesis of Geologic Ages, which do not take into account the catastrophe of the

world wide flood. The Hebrew word for **"day"** is yom, and when used in its normal sense means a literal, ordinary 24 hour period of times. It is translated 1200 times as the word **"day"**, conveying the idea of a literal day. Yammim is the plural form translated as **"days"** and is translated 700 times. Only 65 times is the word **"day"** translated as an indefinite period of time as in **"Day of the Lord."** That means that 95% of the time a 24 hour cycle is intended when the word **"day"** is used.

God clearly defines what **"day"** means in Genesis one by the law of first usage. It cannot be symbolic in its first usage, it must be a literal day and night as stated in Genesis 1:5. A word can never be used symbolically the first time it is used. In fact, a word can only be used symbolically when it first has an established, literal meaning.

I agree with the reasoning of Ken Ham who wrote:

"Any attempt to harmonize long geological ages with Genesis (gap theory, day-age theory, progressive creation, etc.) inevitably means accepting death before man, rather than the New Testament insistence that the struggle, suffering, and bloodshed of the present world came about AFTER Adam sinned. That these attempts to compromise are artificial, and not true to the text, can be seen by the following quotation from

Dr. James Barr, Regis Professor of Hebrew, at Oxford University:

'So far as I know, there is no professor of Hebrew or Old Testament at any world-class university who does not believe that the writer(s) of Genesis 1-11 intended to convey to their readers of the ideas that a) creation took place in a series of six days which were the same as the days of 24

♦ (Continued on page 11)



# Brief Truths

By Randy Johnson of  
Texarkana, Texas

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation" (Ephesians 1:13).



## BE A GOOD SOLDIER FOR JESUS CHRIST

**"Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"** (II Tim. 2:3).

A pastor is a warrior for Jesus Christ. Pastors are examples just like Jesus was when He had His earthly ministry. The local New Testament church is the only institution on earth that is set to bring glory to God because Jesus is her founder. As pastors, Jesus called us names like "under-shepherds, and overseers" and it is our responsibility to fill those shoes. We all need to be as Christ-like as much as we can no matter what happens in the world or the churches. Any Pastor who does not love his flock above everything else on earth is not a good pastor. There is no question that we were chosen above all other men to pastor the church where we are, and we need to honor our calling as though it is an honor to have been called.

We must understand as "under-shepherds, and overseers" we are likened to a manager of a business, caring for the owner's commodities, which happen to be the children of God. We cannot allow ourselves to be sidetracked by worldly affairs, Christ Jesus has appointed us to oversee His beloved flock. It is true that hard times will come. God promised that they would. And hard times will come the more, as a pastor is more a stronger soldier for the Lord and His church. Pastors, God has promised hard times in

the last days, churches will shrink, money will shrink, and many more things will cause hardships for pastors. The world will hate you, people in the world will despise you because of who you are, and you will be refused and rejected many times over, even by others that call themselves Christians.

The Lord reminded us in verse 4, **"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."** In this world pastors and all Christians must not engage themselves so much in worldly affairs that it affects their churches. As a pastor, we are only good as we are, as under-shepherds, and overseers, for it is the Lord's work that was entrusted into our care. A good pastor never lets worldly things come between him and his church, ever! Not even the hardness we endure.

As a pastor I must work a secular job and I must fight the world every day, keeping in sight my true responsibility to Jesus and His church. Trusting that vengeance belongs to the Lord and not to me, because what I do in the world reflects on the Lord's church. We must all endure hardships for the Lord, being a good example to those who serve with us in the churches.

Our reward is not here, it is not on this earth, it is laid-up for us in heaven, awaiting us if we continue as the Lord has commanded. Paul gave us the very reason to

work and strive so hard in verse 4 **"...that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."** Pleasing Him who elected us to be under-shepherds, and overseers, where in the end He will say, "job well done." **"His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord"** (Matt. 25:23).

As pastors and churches let us pray for one another, we are all in this fight for the Lord's work together.

(Randy Johnson is pastor of the Sovereign Grace Missionary Baptist Church of Texarkana, Texas.)



## Creation and

(Continued from page 10) ♦

hours we now experience, b) the figures contained in the Genesis genealogies provided by simple addition a chronology from the beginning of the world up to later stages in the biblical story, c) Noah's flood was understood to be world-wide and extinguished all human and animal life except for those in the ark." (*The Answers Book*, pg. 90)

The truth of a literal six day Creation is supported by its inclusion in the Moral Law as revealed in the Ten Commandments written by the finger of God in tables of stone (Ex. 20:9-11; 31:18) God emphatically states that He created in six literal days and rested the seventh to provide a pattern and principle for man. Six days of work and one day of rest. There is no symbolism or allegory in the Moral Law!

6. God created plants, animals, fish, trees, and human beings as definite "kinds" meaning that amoeba or horses, or apes did

not eventually evolve into a fully functional man. The phrase **"after his kind"** occurs 10 times in Genesis One. Plant kingdom **"after his kind"** in the form of grass, herbs, and fruit trees (1:11-13). Animal kingdom **"after his kind"** in the form of whales, marine animals birds, beasts of the earth, cattle, and crawling animals (1:20-25). Finally, the crowning glory of Creation was man made in the image and likeness of God to replenish the earth **"after his kind"** (1:26-28). There is room for variations within the kinds, but not the transmutation from one kind to another. There is never an indication that there would be a transmutation of species from one kind to another.

7. God created with a purposeful design. Each stage was an appropriate preparation for the next stage culminating in the creation of man on the sixth day. Creation was in no way a random process. It was not a process of trial and error. God was at work to design a Universe with the sole purpose of glorifying His holy name.

8. When God created, the elements of creation were mature at their inception. Meaning that they were full grown in every respect. For example, Adam and Eve were mature adults when first formed. Mankind in no way, shape, or form has ever evolved from lower life forms. Man was created as a whole being; a living, breathing entity fully capable of reason, powers of deduction, and the ability to communicate from day one! Adam and Eve were fully functioning human beings the very day they were created.

9. The six days of Creation demonstrate a finished product (Gen. 2:1-3; Neh. 9:6). God is preserving and sustaining the

♦ (Continued on page 17)



## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

*Submit your questions on any Bible topic.*

1. What is meant by **“and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes”** found in both Revelation 7:17 and 21:4?

Roger Reed  
20 Ledgewood Dr.  
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

Missionary of  
West Jefferson  
Missionary Baptist  
Mission  
90 E. Main St.  
West Jefferson, Ohio  
43162



**“He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it”** (Isa. 25:8).

I have spent considerable time and have read many commentators on these two verses, and it is not that I do not agree with any of them, it is just I am not satisfied with their results. And I know that they are way smarter than me, but for some reason I just can not accept all of their findings on these two verses. Some of them are pretty much right on with Revelation 21:4, but many vary in their meaning of Revelation 7:17, in fact some do not even comment on that verse at all. That usually is a sign they do not know for sure, which is fine, but I would like to give the questioner some kind of answer that goes with how I believe it. I would not be dogmatic on either, giving me room to learn concerning (7:17). In the words of John Gill concerning this verse, “without greatly lowering the sense of the expressions used; however, if anyone prefers this exposition to what is given, I am not much averse unto it.” In other words, if any see it different, I would not be opposed to it!

**“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes”** (Rev. 7:9-17).

We could spend a lot of time on these verses, but what I have come to see in these verses listed above are all the saints that have died during the seven years of tribulation, the ones that did not take the Mark of the Beast, those saints that died a martyr's death under the rule of the antichrist. Without the Mark of the Beast, they could not buy or sell. They would have gone without food and water, and they would have suffered greatly for the cause of Christ. Now they are fed and no longer thirsty and all their suffering is over and they are now **“before the throne of God.”** And God wiping away all tears from their eyes...oh how wonderful for them.

**“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire”** (Rev. 20:10-15).

I believe all the elect saints of God will be at this event to witness.

What an awful scene to see all these folks that are not written in the **“Book of Life”** cast into the lake of fire. We might think now that we will enjoy that day (because of what they had done to us in life), but I believe it will be a great day of sorrow for the saints to see such a horrific event. Think about it, will one of them be your wife, your husband, your child, some other loved one? Have you told that lost person in your life about **“so great salvation”** in the Lord Jesus Christ?

After this event in Revelation 20:10, John **“saw a new heaven and a new earth”** (Rev. 21:1-3). Next he saw **“the holy city, new Jerusalem”**, and then he **“heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”** At this point it is all over, and only the good stuff is yet to come. Death and hell, every wicked person, the devil and all his followers are cast into **“the lake of fire.”** **“...no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain...”** (Rev. 21:4). No cancers, no dementia, no muscular dystrophy that is crippling so many children and adults today, there will only be Utopia! **“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away”** (Rev. 21:4). Everything that we just witnessed and the relief knowing that we will never endure them again will cause us to weep, I believe like never before, **“and God”** (oh how wonderful)! God will wipe away all our tears from off our faces.

◇ (Continued on page 14)

## The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

*Submit your questions on any Bible topic.*

2. Will the trumpets spoken of in Revelation during the tribulation be audibly heard by the people on Earth?

Matthew Stepp  
286 Big Creek Road  
Wayne, WV 25570

Pastor  
Big Creek  
Baptist Church  
286 Big Creek Road  
Wayne, WV 25570



**"And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled...And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice...And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off" (Ex. 19:16, 19, 20:18).**

Certainly this is precedent for Earth's citizens to hear loud trumpets and to know fear as the Lord reveals His purposes and carries out His decrees. **"Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes" (John 12:28-30).** Specifically **"for your sakes"** they heard the voice of God, in this case, but notice there were specific targets. Some, like at

the Apostle Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus may have thought it thundered, or heard a voice without words, but God is able to allow the Earth to hear trumpets from Heaven. Selah! Think about it!

So, then, the only question is whether the Lord "wants" the Earth and her peoples to "hear" the trumpets of Revelation. The "first" trump of Revelation is the "last" trump of this church age of the Gentiles. **"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor. 15:52).** **"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (I Thess. 4:16).** This trump of Revelation shall be loud enough to be heard audibly by every single elect of God, but not a single lost person will hear it, or at least understand it. Perhaps they might actually hear the trumpet, but it will only be to their confusion, as the Anti-Christ will weave a lie about the Rapture that the damned will believe, whether it is an alien abduction, deep state plot, or conspiracy galore. **"And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved (raptured). And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in**

**unrighteousness" (II Thess. 2:10-12).**

In the Great Tribulation, especially during the last half, it almost seems as if God is holding nothing back, but clearly and demonstrably lets the Earth know that the Jehovah El Shaddai Elohim God of the Heavens is the Creator that is requiring justice upon His creatures and creation. Watch Him open the windows of Heaven for the earthlings to see and know and cringe with the terror of our original Exodus texts. **"And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail...And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great... And the heaven departed as a scroll (opened window!) when it is rolled together...And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand" (Rev. 11:19, 16:21, 6:14-17)? Selah! Think about it!**

That world-wide trumpets are going to take place in the time of the revelation is clear from many Old Testament prophecies: **"All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when**

**he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye" (Isa. 18:3).** **"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand" (Joel 2:1).** (See also Jer. 51:27, Zep. 1:16, Ezek. 33:5)

**"And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them (Daniel & John), and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them" (Rev. 11:11-12).** With all this open revelation, I do not think there would be any reason for the seven trumpets to not also be audible to those poor souls enduring the wrath of God. The last trump of the Great Tribulation certainly is. **"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt. 24:30-31).** Selah! Listen for it!

MATTHEW STEPP

Tom Ross  
6339 County Rd. 15  
South Point, OH  
45680

Pastor  
Mt. Pleasant  
Baptist Church  
6939 County Rd. 15  
Chesapeake, OH  
45619



Before addressing the question I think it may be profitable to show the difference between the last  
 ◇ (Continued on page 16)

# Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 12) ♦

Praise the Lord, for His love, mercy, and kindness! **"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus"** (Rev. 22:20). **"Amen"**...God Bless!

ROGER REED

Tom Ross  
6339 County Rd. 15  
South Point, OH  
45680

Pastor  
Mt. Pleasant  
Baptist Church  
6939 County Rd. 15  
Chesapeake, OH  
45619



Tears have been a part of the human condition ever since the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. Men, women, boys, and girls all shed tears for a variety of reasons. Tears are shed by those who are saved as well as by those who are lost. Tears generally flow as a result of sorrow, pain, sickness, heartache, disappointment, loneliness, indwelling sin, and grief over loss of loved ones whose earthly life has come to an end. There are also tears of joy and thanksgiving to God for His manifold blessings. The young couple who yearn for a child of their own, after years of prayer and supplication, find out that they are with child, weep with joy as they anticipate the birth of their little miracle of life. When a soldier returns from battle to his family, having survived the horrors of war, tears flow freely as hugs and kisses are exchanged. Godly parents often weep over the souls of their children and grandchildren as they earnestly pray for their conversion. When God is pleased to save sinners by sovereign grace tears of joy often stream down the cheeks of those who have fervently prayed and

earnestly sowed the seeds of the Gospel. Psalm 126:5-6 declares: **"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."** Tears are something that we all have in common as we walk this uneven journey of life.

In Revelation 7:17 we are informed that **"...God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."** This appears to be a scene in heaven in light of Revelation 7:9-12 where we find a multitude which no man can number standing before the throne of God, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands. They are engaging in acts of humble worship and adoration with the angels, elders, and the four beasts. They are found praising God for His sovereign grace in the salvation of sinners. The question is asked in verse 13 by one of the elders as to who these white robed worshippers were. John identifies them as those who came out of great tribulation who have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. Some may infer by way of application that this blood washed throng includes all those who have been martyred on account of their witness for Jesus. That would account for the great multitude of martyrs killed through the ages. However, due to the context, it appears to me that included in this heavenly throng are a specific group of believers who are saved during the unique eschatological time frame known as the great tribulation, a time that Jesus referred to in Matthew 24:21: **"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be."** This implies that there are some of God's elect who will be saved during the great tribulation

and who will be martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ and their failure to take the mark of the beast. After experiencing persecution, privation, and the horrors of martyrdom, God will graciously wipe away all their tears as they bow in the presence of the One who loved them and washed them in His own precious blood. Regardless of your eschatological position, certainly we can all rejoice in the glories of this heavenly scene where all the remnants of sorrow and pain are wiped away.

Whereas the context of Revelation 7 refers to those who came out of great tribulation, the tears that are wiped away in Revelation 22:4 come after the Second Advent (Rev. 19); after the 1000 year reign of Christ with His saints on earth (Rev. 20:1-8); after the final defeat of Satan (Rev. 21:7-10); after the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15); and after the Purgation of the Universe wherein everything that defiles is removed, leaving a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1). I find it interesting that these dear saints were capable of feeling sorrow and grief that brought them to tears while in their glorified bodies. They obviously were weeping over something they saw or felt. The wiping away of these tears takes place sometime in the eternal ages when God makes all things new. How I long for the day when all of God's elect will have all their tears wiped away from their eyes to dwell forever in perfect harmony and joy. Where sorrow, pain, crying, and death will be forever banished and where the ravages of sin will never again be experienced. As I ponder this, it is almost incomprehensible that I will one day be in the presence of God and His redeemed people throughout the eternal ages where

a tear will never again be shed. How unworthy I am of such a glorious, eternal state of unending joy. I acknowledge that only God's sovereign grace has secured this blissful eternity for a poor and wretched sinner like me. My heart is humbled as I think of what my blessed Lord had to endure as my substitute so that I would be deemed **"accepted in the beloved"** (Eph. 1:6) and **"complete in Him"** (Col. 2:10). In the Garden of Gethsemane, as the weight of the elect's sins were being placed upon Jesus and He was anticipating the awful wrath that would soon be poured out upon Him we read: **"Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec"** (Heb. 5:7-10). Our glorious Lord wept and suffered in our stead in order to redeem us and bring us to God. He wept so that one glorious day we would weep no more! What a great Saviour we have! He is able not only to put away all of our sins, but also all of our sorrows through the sacrifice of Himself. One day I will take my place before the Lord **"Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"** (Rev. 5:12).

As I pondered the question posed, I could not help but think of those who never repent of their sins, who never believe the Gospel

♦ (Continued on page 15)



# Forum Question #1

(Continued from page 14) ♦

of Christ, and who die in and with their sins for all eternity. They will have never experienced the joys of salvation in Christ, communion with God, and an abundant entrance into Heaven. Instead they will carry their sins and sorrows with them into a Christless eternity, forever damned in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone. What a terrible day it will be when unsaved, unbelieving, Christ rejectors will hear the King say: **"Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth"** (Matt. 22:13; cf. 24:51; 25:30).

TOM ROSS



Tears are for weeping! Why is it when our hearts are breaking, our eyes fill with tears? Tears are the physical mechanism to release sorrow and grief, that threaten to detonate within us... Our tears flow, and the sobbing; the wracking of our bodies as we seek comfort from others in groans of wordless agony and enveloping them in our arms...then when our grief is abated somewhat, some loved one may wipe away the tears. Selah! Think about it!

**"Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not. Thus saith the LORD; Refrain**

**thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy. And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border"** (Jer. 31:15-17). As Jeremiah (the weeping prophet) recounts the Babylonians departing Ramah with the first captivity caravan, the daughters of Rachel in Benjamin's tribe are bereft of their children and begin bitter weeping and lamentations. As Matthew's gospel reveals, it is also a prophecy of Herod's slaughter of the innocent in Matthew 2:16-18: **"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."**

It is a natural condition for fathers and mothers in this world of forsaken depravity to spend time praying and then weeping for our wayward children in every generation. That God answers many of those tearful prayers with grace is the hope of Rachel and the mothers of Benjamite Bethlehem so many years later (and now so many years ago). **"...And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again..."** "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people" (Jer. 9:1). Selah! Think

about it!

As we come to the book of Revelation, many of God's precious promises will be coming into full fruition. One of those such is the promise of **"no more...sorrow, nor crying, neither...pain"** (Rev. 21:4). Rev.7:15-17- **"Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes"** (Rev. 7:15-17).

**"Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow. If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not. Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul lothed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and behold trouble! We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee. Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us. Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon**

**thee: for thou hast made all these things"** (Jer. 14:17-22). I think it is most appropriate that the Lord has specifically answered Jeremiah's wonderful prayer with these nuggets of peace, joy, and contentment in His Holy Word. **"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new..."** (Rev. 21:3-5).

Actually, there will probably be tears of joy in Heaven, still yet, as we in misty love give our beloved Saviour our heart-felt hugs that may contain also the groans of unexpressed joy and contented love. Surely our tear ducts existed before the fall, and there will yet be those heart-stopping moments of passionate love that perhaps only tears of joy will ever be able to express...and He will wipe away those tears, too! But the sheer poetry of God's promises to **"wipe away all tears from their eyes"** is a promise that all the pain of the terrible past will be forgotten, and all the heart-broken prayers for mercy and grace will certainly be answered in the marvelous future of God's perfect wisdom. **"For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living"** (Ps. 116:8-9). Selah! Think about it!

MATTHEW STEPP



## Forum #2

(Continued from page 13) ♦

trump of deliverance from wrath to come sounded in the Rapture and resurrection of the saints, as opposed to the seven trumpets of wrath that are sounded in Revelation chapters 8, 9, and 11. The trump of I Corinthians 15:51-52 and I Thessalonians 4:16 is a trump signaling deliverance and victory. The same may be said about the trumpet in Revelation 4:1-2 where John is caught up into Heaven, which I believe is a picture of the Rapture that will occur prior to the judgments of the Tribulation Period as outlined in Revelation chapters 6-19. The trumpet sounded in the Rapture is always referred to in the singular tense as **"the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound"** (I Cor. 15:52), **"the trump of God"** (I Thess. 4:16), **"and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me"** (Rev. 4:1). I believe the Holy Spirit used the singular tense when referring to the Rapture trumpet to signify a unique and one of a kind trump to distinguish it from the trumpets (plural) sounded in the Tribulation Period. This trumpet signals the end of the believer's struggle with sin, Satan, and the world. It is a trumpet that signals the glorification of the believer's body. This trump will be used to assemble all the saints of God into the presence of Christ in their glorified bodies for the first time. While this trump speaks deliverance and victory for the believer, it signals the beginning of the Tribulation period for the inhabitants of the earth.

The seven trumpets (plural) that are sounded during the Tribulation Period are completely different from the trumpet of deliverance and victory that

is sounded in the Rapture and resurrection of believers. Each of the seven trumpets recorded in Revelation chapters 8, 9, and 11 signal the judgments and wrath of God that are to take place on the earth during the Tribulation Period. The seven trumpets are preceded by seven seals and followed by seven vials of wrath, which all describe the judgment and wrath of God that will be poured out upon the unconverted inhabitants of the earth during the Tribulation Period.

As to whether or not the seven trumpets may be audibly heard, each time one is announced it is said to have **"sounded"** (Rev. 8:6, 7, 8, 10, 12; 9:1, 13; 11:15). Interestingly enough, the Greek word *salpizo* is used in each case, which simply means to trumpet, i.e., to sound a blast. With that in mind I see no reason to believe that these trumpets will not be heard by the inhabitants of the earth. So my answer is simply yes I believe these trumpets of wrath will be heard by the inhabitants of the earth.

TOM ROSS

Roger Reed  
20 Ledgewood Dr.  
Mansfield, Ohio 44905

*Missionary of*  
West Jefferson  
Missionary Baptist  
Mission  
90 E. Main St.  
West Jefferson, Ohio  
43162



**"And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets"** (Rev. 8:2).

**"And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound"** (Rev. 8:6).

I take it that these Scriptures listed above are the trumpets that the questioner is referring to in Revelation? There are seven in number and after the sounding of

each one follows an event that was dreadful to the earth that affected mankind who are left after the rapture. Let us see briefly what takes place at the sound of each trumpet found in Revelation:

1. **"Hail and fire mingled with blood"** (8:7).

2. **"A great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea"** (8:8).

3. **"There fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp"** (8:10).

4. **"The third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars"** (8:12).

5. **"A star fell from heaven unto the earth"** (9:1).

6. **"Four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men"** (9:15).

7. **"Brings more of God's wrath"** (11:15-18).

The seven things listed above is just in brief like I mentioned earlier, the reader should read on to get the full scope of what is going to happen. This reminds me of the seven priests with their seven trumpets and on the seventh day, compassed the city of Jericho seven times and blew their trumpets. The people of Jericho, saw the Israelites, heard the trumpets, but did not consider the warnings in which the Lord gave them ample time (Joshua 6).

I would have to say that the people of the earth will hear the trumpets during the tribulation and will not heed their warnings. But I would have to believe also that after every blast of the trumpets that the people would become squeamish at what follows each time. One would think that some would have a concern at what follows each time the trumpet is blown. The

people from Jericho did not! So I have to believe mankind on earth will not either during this time. Of course we have to consider that the antichrist will have an explanation for these things, as Pharaoh did with Moses and Aaron concerning the plagues of Egypt.

Look at all the earthquakes we have today and other catastrophes that hit the earth. Lost mankind does not heed these warnings and I do not believe they will heed the warnings of the trumpets in Revelation during the tribulation either.

**"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts"** (Rev. 9:20-21).

The depravity of man has no boundaries and it has no limits. You must be brought to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ to escape eternal damnation. Do you know Jesus Christ as you Lord and Saviour? If not, you are doomed for eternity! God Bless!

ROGER REED





# Light Contemplations

By Luke Austin  
of Cadillac, Michigan

"Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD" (Psalm 107:43).

## MAN'S WISDOM

How many today have been slain by man's wisdom? How many by honeyed words and fair speeches have been fatally "run through?"

There is a killer on the loose today. It has turned aside its tens of thousands. His name is "man's wisdom." Eloquence is his preferred weapon of choice. Through eloquence, man's wisdom has made shipwreck the faith of millions throughout the ages. Paul separates himself from this error in I Corinthians 2:1-2: **"And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."**

There is a vice that captivates men and women today and leads them captive from simple truth into the wisdom of men. Eloquence, fair speech, flowered words. Many people today are prone to follow after a man because he can make it sound so pretty. Others, I believe, get tired of the simple truths of the Bible and go looking for more. But all that is beyond the Bible is the folly of sinful men.

Charles Spurgeon is to this day one of the most beloved preachers. He could say it like no one else can. He had such a way of taking the truth, wrapping it up in such a beautiful package. He trimmed the wrappings and put a pretty bow on top. But what made

him so unique is in all his wisdom he never changed the content of the package. When you opened the box of his preaching the gift on the inside was still the same, Christ and Him crucified.

See, I could gussy it up. I could endeavor to ascend to the top of the mount of wisdom. And at its zenith we could, through higher discourse, search the depth of the riches of man's wisdom. But what is the motivation for such a pursuit? It can not be good or God honoring. The way I see it only two explanations exist. 1. To stroke the pride of the preacher. That is to be seen and heard of men and held in high esteem in the eyes of men. 2. The preacher thinks that the wisdom of God is too high for the simple and therefore must be set on a high shelf, out of the reach of the grubby hands of the simple.

Truth be told the average man or woman today does not speak fluent Spurgeonese. The language of the most simple minded must dictate that I speak in a way the gospel can be communicated to him or her. You can not have a pure motivation to speak in them there "big words."

The gospel of God, whose wisdom is infinitely higher than men, is stated in the most plain of ways. **"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in**

**vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how 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"** (I Cor. 15:1-4).

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried and He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. A preacher's worth is not found in his eloquence or wisdom, but in his adherence to this truth.

(Luke Austin is a member of the Cadillac Baptist Church of Cadillac, Michigan.)



## Creation and

(Continued from page 11) ♦

creation, but He was completely finished with Creation on the sixth day.

### WHY IS GENESIS IMPORTANT?

It is the book of beginnings, of origins, the first of sixty six books that comprise the Holy Scriptures. Evolutionists and atheists know that if they can get people to doubt and discard the authenticity, authority, and veracity of the first book of the Bible they can destroy the foundational truths of Scripture. If evolutionists can convince people that the first verse of Scripture is fallacious, they can begin to dismantle and annul the rest of the Bible.

The Genesis account of creation is divided into sections referred to as generations. Genesis 1:1-2:4a is God's narrative of the creation process. This passage details the chronological order of the days of creation. God is the only subject where the verb "create" is used in the Bible. Only God can bring something out of nothing. This supernatural phenomena is

revealed in the Holy Scripture by the Creator Himself.

Three things were specifically created by God: The creation of the basic elements of the cosmos-space, mass, time, the heavens are all said to have been created in the beginning. This means this is when all of these basic elements originated. They were spoken into existence by the power of the Word of God. (Gen. 1:1 cf. Heb. 11:3)

The creation of man's consciousness and his soul (Hebrew-nephesh) which separated him from the rest of creation.

The creation of the image of God in man (Gen. 1:27). Man is a trichotomous being composed of body, soul, and spirit. The spirit died in man when Adam fell which is why man must be born again by the Holy Spirit in order to commune with God.

From Genesis 2:5 to 5:1 we have a detailed account of the creation and fall of man. Genesis chapter one and chapter two are complimentary, not contradictory. In Genesis chapter one we have an overview of what specifically happened in the six days of Creation. In Genesis chapter two we have the specifics of man's creation and the responsibilities given to him by God.

It is important to note some of the foundational truths and doctrines that are found in the first 11 chapters of Genesis:

The origin of the Universe.

The origin of man.

The origin of marriage and the home. God specifically designed marriage to be heterosexual, between a man and a woman. This is stated clearly in Genesis 2:23-25 and confirmed by Jesus Christ when He referred to this

♦ (Continued on page 18)



# Creation and

(Continued from page 17) ♦

passage in Matthew 19:6-9.

The origin and purpose of clothing. Clothing was not intended as a fashion statement, but rather for a covering for the purpose of modesty. This means that God was establishing a moral basis for clothing.

The origin of laws and their consequences, right and wrong, good or bad, the establishment of absolute standard.

The origin of sin in mankind and its consequences.

The origin of judgment for sin as revealed in the spiritual death of Adam and the world wide flood. The flood is the global catastrophe that unlocks the key to the fossil record.

The origin of death as a result of sin that brought on decay. As soon as Adam died spiritually the second law of thermodynamics was set in motion and the entire creation began to run down and decay.

The origin of the promised Redeemer as the only way to approach God through a perfect vicarious sacrifice.

The origin of the nations of the world as revealed in the dispersion of people at the Tower of Babel and the multiplicity of languages and cultures that subsequently developed. Interestingly enough, the Creation account, the fall of man, the account of the flood, and the way of redemption through a vicarious sacrifice are all teachings and principles that permeated primitive cultures around the world.

When you reject the historic and literal interpretation of Genesis, and instead accept the idea that Genesis is only symbolic or allegorical, you are contributing to the advance of

evolutionary thought. If Genesis is not factual and accurate a whole host of foundational truths are eliminated. If man is merely an animal who is evolving from lower life forms he is not bound by a moral standard and is not accountable to a Creator. No moral law and no accountability. No traditional marriage. No regard for the sanctity of life. No respect for fellow human beings, their families, or their property. Atheism breeds rebellion, lawlessness, and racism.

There are at least 165 direct or implied quotations of Genesis in the New Testament. Over 100 of the references are from Genesis chapters 1 through 11, chapters that evolutionists attack the most. Every New Testament author quotes something from Genesis 1-11. This means that every inspired writer of the New Testament believed in the inspiration, authority and validity of Genesis.

To reject the literal account of Genesis means you would also have to reject every New Testament passage that relates to it. You would have to adopt the idea that the Lord Jesus Christ was either wrong or lying. Moses was the inspired writer of Genesis. Jesus rebuked the Jews for not believing what Moses wrote: **"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words"** (John 5:46-47)? Jesus regarded the account of the flood of Noah (Gen. 7:17-24) as a historic fact in Matthew 24:37-39: **"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that**

**Noe entered into the ark. And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."** Jesus believed that the account of God's judgment upon Sodom (Gen. 19:23-25) was a literal and historic event in Matthew 11:23-24: **"And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee."** I will take my stand upon the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ!

## EVILS AND ERRORS OF EVOLUTION

Isaiah 8:20 states: **"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."**

Romans 1:19-23 declares: **"Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things."**

Romans 16:17-18 states: **"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark**

**them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple."**

1. Evolutionists manipulate the message. Anyone who believes in the Biblical, literal creation account is immediately labeled as ignorant, a member of the flat earth society, etc. Progressives and secular humanists always demonize their opponents by slander and deceit. Evolutionists say that their theory of the origin of the universe is settled fact and not even up for debate. They claim that evolution is universally believed by the scientific community. They claim that all the credible scientific experts agree that evolution is the only factual and acceptable system of belief. If this language sounds familiar it is the very same tact employed by the radical environmentalists and climate change advocates. In fact the evolutionists claim that creationists are not at all scientific.

To dispute the claim of evolutionists that there are no real scientists who believe in the literal Creation account I offer the following excerpts from the book by Dr. Henry Morris, *Men of Science: Men of God*:

"Johan Kepler (1571-1630) is considered to be the founder of physical astronomy...it was he who discovered the laws of planetary motion and who established the discipline of celestial mechanics...Kepler was an earnest Christian and studied for two years in a seminary, leaving only with reluctance to enter the study and teaching of astronomy when the Lord opened that door. He was apparently the

♦ (Continued on page 19)

# Creation and

(Continued from page 18) ♦

first scientist to state that, in his astronomical researches, he was merely 'thinking God's thoughts after Him,' a motto adopted by many believing scientists since his time. His astronomical studies also led him in studies of Biblical chronology, and he believed that the world was created about 7,000 years ago. Kepler wrote: 'Since we astronomers are the priest of the highest God in regard to the book of nature, it befits us to be thoughtful, not of the glory of our minds, but rather, above all else, of the glory of God.'" (pages. 33-35)

"Francis Bacon (1561-1626), Lord Chancellor of England, is usually considered to be the man primarily responsible for the formulation and establishment of the so-called 'scientific method' in science, stressing experimentation and induction from data rather than philosophical deduction the tradition of Aristotle...Sir Francis wrote: "There are two books laid before us to study, they prevent our falling into error; first, the volume of the Scriptures, which reveal the will of God; then the volume of the Creation, which express His power." (pg. 35)

"Robert Boyle (1627-1691), one of the founders of the Royal Society of London, is generally credited with being the father of modern chemistry, as distinct from the alchemy of the middle ages...His contributions in both physics and chemistry are very great in number, and he was considered in his time to be probably the greatest physical scientist of his generation...Yet he was also a humble, witnessing Christian and a diligent student of the Bible. He was profoundly interested in missions and devoted much of his own money

to Bible translation work and the propagation of the Gospel. He was strong in apologetics, founding via his will the 'Boyle Lectures' for proving the Christian religion." (pg. 39)

"Isaac Newton (1642-1727) is famous for, among other things, his discovery of the law of universal gravitation, the formulation of the three laws of motion which make possible the discipline of dynamics and all its sub-divisions, and his development of the calculus into a compressive branch of mathematics, now a basic tool in every science. He anticipated the great law of energy conservation, developed the particle theory of light propagation, and as an astronomer constructed the first reflecting telescope.

This man of gigantic intellect was also a genuine believer in Christ as his Savior and in the Bible as God's Word. He wrote many books on Biblical subjects, especially prophecy. This was not a senile aberration as some have alleged, as he was a committed believer from his youth. He even wrote a book defending the Ussher chronology against those who would try to push back the date of creation. He wrote strong papers refuting atheism and defending creation and the Bible. He believed that the worldwide Flood of the Bible accounted for most of the geological phenomena, and he believed in the literal six-day creation record. Finally, he said 'We account the Scriptures of God to be the most sublime philosophy. I find more sure marks of authenticity in the Bible than in any profane history whatsoever.'" (pgs. 45-47)

"James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) lived a short, but uniquely productive, life. One of the greatest scientists of all time, he was also a sincere Bible-believing

Christian. Building on the concepts and experimental work of his friend Faraday, he developed a comprehensive theoretical and mathematical framework of electromagnetic field of theory, embracing all types of energy systems (excepting gravity and nuclear forces) within the famous 'electromagnetic wave spectrum.' Albert Einstein called Maxwell's achievement 'the most profound and most fruitful that physics has experienced since the time of Newton.'

His Christian beliefs were essentially 'fundamentalist' in nature. He was strongly opposed to evolution and was able to develop a rigorous mathematical refutation of the famous 'nebular hypothesis' of the French atheist LaPlace. He also wrote an incisive refutation of the evolutionary philosophies of Herbert Spencer, the great advocate of Darwinism... He was a diligent student of the Scriptures and godly in his Christian walk." (pgs. 89-91)

Sir Julian Huxley, Atheist and renowned evolutionist stated:

"Evolution is a one-way process, irreversible in time, producing apparent novelties and greater variety, and leading to higher degrees of organization, more differentiated, more complex, but at the same time more integrated." (pg. 30, *Twilight of Evolution*)

2. Evolutionists are like those Jesus was speaking to in John 8:44: **"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."** Satan is the father of lies and evolutionists get their inspiration from him.

They expect people to believe their erroneous message simply because they say it is so. They will intimidate and slander anyone bold enough to expose them as frauds. This is why Ken Ham and Answers in Genesis faces so much slander, opposition, and hatred. The Creation Museum and The Ark Exhibit are constantly disparaged and discredited. Much to the dismay of atheists, people from all around the world go to these monumental testimonies of Creation science!

3. Evolutionists contend that the universe has progressively evolved and is still evolving to higher levels of organization and complexity. Yet God's Word says the creative process only took six literal days and is finished. There is no evidence whatsoever that anything is still evolving and that the creation process is ongoing. Instead God is preserving or conserving the universe that He created. Nehemiah 9:5b-6 declares: **"...Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise. Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their hosts, the earth, and all things that are therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee."** Hebrews 1:2-3 states: **"Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."** Both of these

♦ (Continued on page 20)

# Creation and

(Continued from page 19) ♦

passages support one of the most basic universal laws of nature. The First Law of Thermodynamics is merely another name for the law of the conservation of mass-energy. God is upholding and preserving the mass and energy of His creation throughout the universe and has been doing so ever since He spoke it into existence.

4. Due to the fall of man and the curse that followed, all of creation, though conserved by God, is decaying and running down. Romans 8:20-22 reveals: **“For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”** The Second Law of Thermodynamics is clearly supported by Scripture and refutes the general theory of evolution. The principle of entropy means that everything is running down, decaying, growing old, and wearing out. The truth of Scripture bears witness with the law of entropy (Psalm 102:25-26; Isaiah 51:6; I Pet. 1:24). The entrance of sin into the creation is what brought about death and decay as Romans 5:12 declares: **“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”** There is a universal tendency toward decay and disorder in the universe, not one of progressive growth, development, and order as the evolutionists contend.

Dr. Henry Morris wrote the

following comment on this phenomena in his book titled *Scientific Creationism*:

“This universal bondage of decay can be nothing less than the universal principle which scientists have finally formalized as their Second Law of Thermodynamics. By the same token, God’s rest at the end of His work of creating and making all things (Genesis 2:1-3), together with the providential sustenance of His creation ever since (Neh. 9:6) must constitute the universal principle now known as the First Law of Thermodynamics, the Law of Conservation of Mass-Energy. Scientists have demonstrated the universality of the two Laws, but they are unable to discover why they work. The answer to the question--Why should energy always be conserved and entropy always increase? --can only be found in the Biblical records. There are numerous other Biblical allusions to the First Law (Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:2-3; II Peter 3:5, 7; Psalm 148:5-6; Isaiah 40:26; Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10; 2:14, 15, etc.) and to the Second Law (Psalm 102:25-27; Isaiah 51:6; I Peter 1:24-25; Hebrews 12:27; Romans 7:21-25; Revelation 21:4; 22:3, etc.). It is significant that these two universal (and all important) principles, discovered and formally recognized little more than a century ago, have been implicit in the Biblical revelation for thousands of years.” (pages 212-213)

5. Evolutionists operate on the false assumption of uniformitarianism to explain the geologic column and the record of fossils. They started out saying that the universe was millions of years old but they are always revising that figure upwards and are now up to over 4 billion

years. They claim that the oldest fossils are buried in the oldest layers of sediment. This is how they measure geologic time and the history of the earth. If the principle of uniformitarianism were true you would expect to find an intact geologic column somewhere showing the oldest fossils at the bottom and newer life forms in the evolutionary cycle stacked one upon another. However, the fossil record tells a very different story. Fossils are found everywhere, in every strata, and from every supposed “age.” Evolutionists have also relied heavily on the Carbon-14 dating system to estimate the age of fossils, but this method has proven to be inconsistent and erroneous in many instances.

6. Evolutionists deny and denigrate the Biblical account of the world wide Flood of Noah. Yet it is the catastrophe of the flood that explains the fossil record! The earth’s crust and the layers beneath it were violently disrupted, shifted, moved, and displaced by a massive catastrophe. Plants, animals, and insects were trapped in the sediment and as a result fossils were quickly formed. Every fossil tells us of God’s curse and the judgment for sin. Every time you dig up a fossil it contains the message that God judges sin! Perhaps this is the reason why evolutionists hate the truth of the Scriptures regarding Creation and the Flood.

I love the observation made by Dr. Henry Morris regarding the significance of the Curse and the flood in his book *Scientific Creationism*:

“There were thus two great worldwide changes imposed by God on His original creation. The first was when He cursed the ground for man’s sake (Genesis 3:17). The second was when He

was forced to say, **“...behold, I will destroy them with the earth”** (Genesis 6:13). The first changed the basic nature of all processes by imposing a universal internal principle of decay on them; the second changed the structure of the earth’s atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere, and biosphere, as formed in creation week, by a cataclysmic change in the rates and external behavior of those processes. The Curse introduced the universal tendency toward death; the Flood was the greatest visitation of actual death the world has experienced since time began. These two world wide judgments on sin constitute God’s final efforts to speak to man through natural phenomena on a universal scale. At the termination of the Flood, He said: **“...I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake; for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done”** (Gen. 8:21). The Curse and the Flood should constitute a permanent witness to man concerning God’s hatred of sin and His desire to call men to repentance. Every process that man experiences in his daily life should continually remind him of the judgment of the Curse, and every feature that man sees as he looks at the world around him should remind him of the judgment of the Flood. All that he sees and all that he experiences should constantly be telling him that he is out of fellowship with his Creator and urgently needs the Saviour.” (pages 213-214)

## CONCLUSION

1. The Scriptures clearly teach that God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and all things that dwell therein. From

♦ (Continued on page 21)



# Creation and

(Continued from page 20) ♦

Genesis to Revelation in the inspired record we find this truth forcefully stated and affirmed. As Christians we must submit ourselves entirely to the teaching of the Word of God. We are required to believe God's Word instead of the fallacious philosophies and ideologies of wicked and ungodly men. If we are truly saved by the grace of God and trusting completely in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ we must acknowledge Him as The Truth. As such we must accept what He said and what the inspired Word says about Him. Jesus Christ as the Second Person of the Holy Trinity had an active role in Creation. In Christ's own words He affirmed the authenticity, inspiration, and authority of the Scriptures regarding the teaching of Creation.

2. From a cursory view of recent history, since evolutionary thought came into vogue with the publication of Darwin's Origin of the Species, it is not difficult to trace man's devolution into more and more ungodliness. Evolutionary philosophy has spawned a host of evils that continue to plague the world at large. Denial of the inspiration and authority of Holy Scripture, secular humanism, atheism, socialism, communism, eugenics, abortion on demand, the dismantling of the family unit, the LGBTQP agenda (I added P because pedophilia is the next perversion to be promoted) all are closely connected to the teachings of evolution.

3. I John 5:19-21 declares: **"And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that**

**we may know him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen."** Mankind is dwelling in the darkness and depravity of his own wickedness. He is led and controlled by Satan (Eph. 2:1-3), is blinded by Satan, and is in bondage to sin and Satan (II Tim. 2:26). As believers we are called to be lights in this sin darkened world. The only hope for those who dwell in darkness and wickedness is the Lord Jesus Christ! May God stir us to be faithful to preach the Gospel to those who are lost in sin, praying that God will intervene in sovereign grace and change them by His Almighty power. II Corinthians 4:3-6 states: **"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."**



## Christ's Ascension

(Continued from page 1) ♦

much in His departure from earth as it does in His arrival in Heaven.

While the Scripture sometimes views the ascension as one historical fact, it at other times indicates a two-phase ascension. There was one immediately following His resurrection which involved the formal

presentation and the fulfilling of typical expectations. There was a second which was His visible, final departure from this world to Heaven and to His seat on His Father's throne.

### ASCENSION OF RESURRECTION MORN

The suggestion of an ascension of Christ on the resurrection morn comes to some as a shock and surprise. The doctrine of an immediate ascension is seen by comparing two passages of Scripture. In John's Gospel, chapter 20, it is recorded that when Christ came out of the tomb He was met by Mary, who sought to have embraced her Lord. But Christ told her: **"Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God"** (John 20:17).

Yet, on the evening of the same day Christ told the disciples **"Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have"** (Luke 24:38-39).

He could not be touched in the morning by Mary until He ascended, but He could be handled at evening of the same day. Then He must have ascended sometime during that day. This ascension must have occurred shortly after He spoke to Mary. He said to her: **"Go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father."** Christ did not refer to His final departure here, for Christ Himself had forty days in which to deliver the news of His resurrection to the disciples.

It was doubtless the ascension on the resurrection morn to which He referred when He said:

**"And now come I to thee"** (John 17:13). When He departed out of this world unto the Father (John 13:1), He did not penetrate into unexplored regions. He went home in a triumph of which human language cannot tell. What a reunion when the only begotten Son came home at the end of so great an achievement! All Heaven must have shouted for joy!

### CHRIST ENTERS

#### HEAVENLY TABERNACLE

At this ascension Christ fulfilled the type of the High Priest on the day of atonement (Heb. 9:7). Hebrews 9:11-12 informs us: **"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."**

The writer of Hebrews adds to this in verse 24: **"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."**

The symbolical atonement of the Levitical services was not complete until the blood of the victim was carried into the sanctuary by the high priest. The expiatory work of Christ was not complete until He Himself had risen and entered into the heavenly tabernacle, carrying the blood of His sacrifice unto the Father. Our Saviour bore the efficacy of His atoning death into the Father's holy presence once for all. From that time forth, the legalism of the Old Covenant was replaced by the grace of the New

♦ (Continued on page 22)

# Christ's Ascension

(Continued from page 21) ♦

Covenant.

In Leviticus 14:1-7 there were two birds, the second of which was dipped in the blood of the first and released into the sky. The second bird foreshadows Christ ascending into Heaven and taking His blood with Him.

## THE FINAL ASCENSION

The historical account of the final ascension is given by Luke in these words: **"And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven"** (Luke 24:51). He adds in Acts 1:9: **"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."**

Elijah ascended to Heaven in a chariot and horses of fire, while Christ ascended to Heaven by His own power. It was as easy for Him to ascend as it was to descend. He ascended of His own volition, passing through the upper air as easily as He had walked on the water. He ascended to begin His session at the Father's right hand.

The place where He ascended was Heaven. Mark tells us: **"So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God"** (Mark 16:19). The disciples watched as He went toward Heaven.

While on earth Christ often looked forward to His ascension. In John 16:16 He said: **"A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father."** In verse 28 of this same chapter He stated: **"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."**

RESTORED TO PRIMEVAL

## GLORY

Jesus Christ asked the question while on earth: **"What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?"** (John 6:62). Those early Christians had the privilege of witnessing His ascension into Heaven by which He proclaimed Himself to the universe as the reinstated God. He went home to Heaven to receive the restoration of the glory which He had had with the Father before the earth was created (John 17:5). The Son was from eternity "the brightness of His Father's glory" (Heb. 1:3).

## SIGNIFIED CONQUEST OVER ENEMIES

The ascension of Christ followed His descension into Hades (Matt. 12:40; Acts 2:31). It is written in Ephesians 4:8-10: **"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things).**

Here Paul quotes Psalm 68:18 and applies it to Christ's ascension.

The expression, **"led captivity captive,"** is a phrase used in the Old Testament to signify a conquest over enemies, especially over such as formerly had led others captive (Judg. 5:12; Isa. 14:2).

Christ overcame all our spiritual enemies --- Satan and his host of wicked spirits. He triumphed over them by His cross (Col. 2:14-15; Heb. 2:14-15), but that triumph was completed at His ascension, when He became Lord over all and the Possessor of the keys of Hades and death (Rev. 1:18).

SITTING AT THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND

The sitting of Christ at the Father's right hand was prophesied in the Old Testament: **"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool"** (Ps. 110:1). The writer of Hebrews applies this Psalm to Christ (Heb. 1:13). The ancient Jews and even the Jews of Christ's time believed this was a reference to the Messiah (Matt. 22:42-45).

Psalm 110:1 is the record of words spoken by the Father to the Son in the Everlasting Counsel and Covenant of Grace. The Father called the Son Lord because He was the Lord that was to descend from Him. The Father was addressing One **"in the form of God"** and **"equal with God"** (Phil. 2:6).

When Christ ascended to Heaven in His glorified human nature, He sat down at the Father's right hand. Acts 5:30-31 reads: **"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour."** When this happened, Christ became the Man of God's right hand (Ps. 80:17).

Stephen saw Christ at the Father's right hand when he was stoned by the Jews (Acts 7:55-56). In all other places Christ is said to be sitting, except in Acts 7:55. Here He is seen standing to show His resentment of the suffering of Stephen.

## THE MEANING OF IT

What is meant by Christ sitting at the Father's right hand? It means Christ **"is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"** (Heb. 12:2; 8:1; 1:3). It means our Saviour has sat down with the Father on His throne (Rev. 3:21). It means that Christ is upon the seat of the Sovereign of the universe, for the psalmist

said: **"The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all"** (Ps. 103:19).

What does it mean for one to sit on the right hand of another? In olden times a king would invite those he wanted to especially honor to come and sit at his right hand (I Kings 2:19; Matt. 20:21). This meant the person was next in honor and dignity to the king.

Jesus Christ, as Mediator, is exalted to a station of the highest honor and the greatest power and influence. In His office capacity, He is next in honor and dignity to the Father. I say next to the Father, because the Son willingly took an inferior position to His Father in the Covenant of Redemption (John 14:28).

Sitting at the Father's right hand supposes God's infinite satisfaction with Christ's work of redemption. Hebrews 1:3 declares: **"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high"** (Heb. 1:3).

Christ put away forever the sins of believers. He could not be now in the presence of God if one sin remained upon Him. But all having been put away, never to come up again, Christ has gone into Heaven in positive proof that our sins are gone.

Sitting at God's right hand implies Christ's ease and rest from His work of redemption. Hebrews 4:10 declares: **"For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."** Having borne the wrath of God and endured the curse of the law in His sufferings and death, now

♦ (Continued on page 23)

# Christ's Ascension

(Continued from page 22) ♦

He sits down to look with pleasure upon a job well done.

## THE LENGTH OF HIS SITTING

Christ will continue His seat at the right hand of God until all enemies are put under His feet and made His footstool. Acts 2:34-35 tells us: **"For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool."**

Some of Christ's enemies are already conquered. He has already made an end of sin (Dan. 9:24), destroyed the Devil (I John 3:8), and overcome the world (John 16:33). Other enemies await a future subjugation. The Antichrist, the False Prophet, the ten kings of the revived Roman Empire, and other ungodly nations are yet to be vanquished (II Thess. 2:18; Rev. 19:11-21; 20:9-10).

Finally, the last enemy, death itself, will be conquered. I read in I Corinthians 15:24-26: **"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."**

Christ will never leave the Father's throne in Heaven until His second advent. Acts 3:20-21 discloses: **"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."**

When Christ comes in His

glory, He will sit upon the throne of His glory. **"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory"** (Matt. 25:31). Then He will have left His position at the Father's right hand to come to take the Davidic throne in Jerusalem. He will leave His Father's throne to take His throne (Rev. 3:21).

We must not expect Christ's personal presence with us until the second coming. To dream of His presence in the Eucharist is to dishonor Him and to despise His Word. The seat of His presence is confined to the throne of God in Heaven until the restitution of all things.

## LOOK SINNER

The trembling, anxious sinner is pointed, not to sacraments and ordinances, not to fears and feelings, but to a risen ascended Christ, seated in the highest glory. I point you, not to a dead man in Joseph's tomb, but to an everlasting Christ Who saves all who come to God on His merits.

**"But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above): Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation"** (Rom. 10:6-10).



## GLEANNINGS



## My Heart's Desire

By Mark C. Minney  
of Perkins, West Virginia

**"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer for Israel is, that they might be saved"** (Rom. 10:1).

I must say that I too often have seen a contrast between myself and Paul the apostle. His thirst for souls, to see them saved, was unsurpassed by none in the New Testament, but the Lord Himself.

He said, **"For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law; To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some"** (I Cor. 9:19-22).

Paul never compromised the truth, but met each man on his own level. None of his/her state in life was too low, nor any too high; none was too unlearned, nor any too educated to hear the gospel from his lips. He preached to the wise and the unwise, to the bond and the free, to kings and

♦ (Continued on page 24)

## BEREA BAPTIST BANNER

### Financial Report

10-1-2019 to 10-31-2019

Beginning Balance ..... \$6,322.93

#### RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	300.00
Berea B. C., Stonington, IL .....	60.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX .....	50.00
Big Creek B. C., Wayne, WV .....	200.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	150.00
Carol Willett, Cottonwood Shores, TX .....	50.00
Citrus M. B. C. Inverness, FL .....	25.00
Faith B. C., Lynn, AR .....	12.50
Gail Knowles, Scarborough, ME .....	20.00
Grace B. C., Gladwin, MI .....	50.00
Grace B. C., Rural Hall, NC .....	50.00
Grace Missionary B. C. Tulsa, OK .....	50.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV .....	100.00
The Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC .....	50.00
Michael Sherman, Ashland, KY .....	35.00
Mt. Pleasant B. C., Chesapeake, OH .....	100.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN .....	100.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL .....	100.00
Portland B. C., Plumerville, AR .....	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX .....	30.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA .....	25.00
Subscriptions .....	6.00
Anonymous .....	220.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Sub Total .....	\$1,983.50
TOTAL .....	\$8,306.43

#### EXPENDITURES:

Printing .....	490.00
Postage .....	538.09
Wages .....	2,300.00
FICA .....	175.90
Supplies .....	0.00
Dividing checks .....	150.00
Total Expenditures .....	\$3,653.99
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$4,652.44



## BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST

### Financial Report

10-1-2019 to 10-31-2019

Beginning Balance ..... \$2,555.67

#### RECEIPTS:

Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS .....	225.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Sumas, WA .....	100.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY .....	100.00
.....	425.00
TOTAL .....	2,980.67

#### EXPENDITURES:

Radio Time .....	403.98
Program production .....	195.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	598.98
.....	2,381.69
Interest .....	0.02
ENDING BALANCE .....	\$2,381.71



# Gleanings

(Continued from page 23) ♦

paupers. Every soul was precious to him. Precious enough to lay his life on the line to testify to them the gospel of Christ. Hardships never weakened his resolve to peach the gospel.

Persecutions suffered often and harshly administered by his enemies never caused him to waiver from his desire to see souls saved through the preaching of the gospel of Christ. He told the Corinthians, **“And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved”** (II Cor. 12:15).

He said on one occasion, something that I have wondered at, and yet it is so plain that it manifests the heartfelt desire Paul had for souls. He said, **“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, That I have great heaviness and continued sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsman according to the flesh”** (Rom. 9:1-3).

Brethren, those of you that believe in the doctrine of unconditional election, this is the first three verses of just one (for there are many) of the places in the Bible that teach the Sovereignty of God in salvation. Paul was one of the great teachers of salvation by Sovereign grace, yet he went everywhere preaching the gospel of Christ to any that would listen, reasoning with the truth, persuading with the truth, having such a desire to see his kinsman according to the flesh saved, that he could wish himself accursed (separated)

from Christ. He is saying that if it were possible for them to be saved through himself being condemned, he would be willing to suffer it. What zeal for lost souls! What love for lost souls! And yet, was he not being like Christ? Christ was willing to suffer my sins, my condemnation, take my place, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. The only difference was, it was possible for Christ to do it, but it was not possible for Paul to do it. Paul could spend himself, suffering for the cause of Christ, to spread the gospel to the lost. He could, **“...endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory”** (II Tim. 2:10). But he could not pay their sin debt. Christ is the only one who was able to do that.

The point that I make is Paul had that deep desire for souls. He did not know who the elect were, so he preached to all, praying that God would use him as an instrument in the salvation of precious souls. Yet he never compromised the truth as many do today who appear to have a zeal, but not according to knowledge. He never used tricks, or gimmicks, or denied the Sovereignty of God in salvation just to get professions. He knew

the truth was the only thing that was able to make men free.

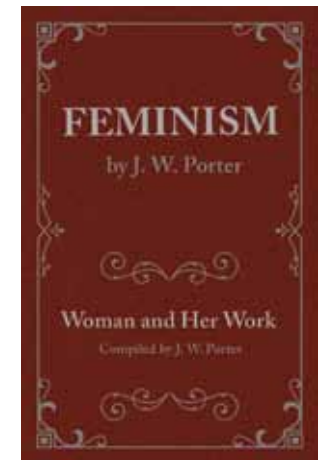
I began by saying I too often see a contrast between myself and Paul. I say this with shame. Yet, I see myself at times, getting caught up not only in the things of the world, but getting caught up in doctrine, in mission efforts, whether it be the printed page, foreign missions, home missions, church problems, that I forget where my heart is, the preaching of the gospel of Christ to the lost. I know I have a responsibility to the churches I pastor, to preach to them the whole counsel of God. Paul also felt his responsibility to the churches he was instrumental in organizing (that is evident by the letters), but he never forgot where his heart was, intent on preaching Christ to the lost. Bringing the message of salvation in Christ to the lost. Is it not just possible for us to get so wrapped up in missions, that we forget why we support missions? Is it not possible for us to get so caught up in a particular doctrine, that we forget our marching orders, to teach all nations, to preach the gospel to every creature? I never want to lose sight of this. I strongly support mission work, both at home and abroad, but I ask the Lord to help me not to get so involved in any aspect of His work, or in any particular

truth or doctrine, that I take the souls of men for granted and lose my desire to see men saved. Lord help me not to lose sight of the fact that, **“I am a debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and the unwise”** (Rom. 1:14), so as much as is in me, I will preach the gospel to them.

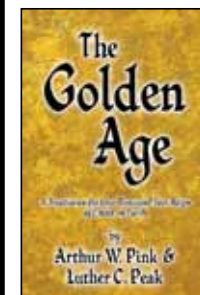
(The Voice Of One Crying In The Wilderness, October 10, 2019)



## Now Available!



We are pleased to announce that *Feminism* by J. W. Porter is available. Retail price is \$14.00. This is a limited paperback edition with reset type. The book contains 251 pages.



*The Golden Age* by Arthur Pink and Luther Peak. This book will be sent free to any prisoner that requests it. Retail price \$8.00. Paperback, 87 pages. 50% discount given on

orders of five or more.

(\$5 Flat rate shipping on all bookstore orders).

ORDER FROM:

**Berea Baptist Church Bookstore**

PO Box 39

Mantachie, MS 38855

or visit

[www.bereabookstore.com](http://www.bereabookstore.com)

## ARTICLE INDEX

Brief Truths by Randy Johnson .....	p. 11
Creation and Christianity by Tom Ross .....	p. 1
Forum .....	pp. 12-13
Gleanings .....	p. 23
The Importance of Christ’s Ascension by Milburn Cockrell .	p. 1
Light Contemplations by Luke Austin .....	p. 17
Little Hills by Nathaniel Hille .....	p. 5
Small Drops by Joseph Sidders .....	p. 7
Narrow Paths by Doug Newell IV .....	p. 9