

Psm. 11:3

# Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1*

## NEWS LETTER

Issue #16

January 2014

Monthly Verse: *“How forcible are right words! but what doth your arguing reprove?” ~Job 6:25*

### *“Confidence In God”*

by Bro. Todd Bryant

*“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble”– Matthew 6:25-34*

I can hardly talk to anybody the past few days without somebody mentioning the recent Supreme Court ruling about “Obamacare”. Some are excited that the plan they have been wanting finally seems to have gotten approval. Others are scared to death that this is the “straw that broke the camel’s back” for America. How should we as believers feel? What should our attitudes be?

First of all, a child of God should not put his trust in the government. The teaching of Jesus here is plain – it is God that takes care of us. God certainly wasn’t taken by surprise when the Supreme Court made their decision. Our God has declared the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10). This decision has neither relieved God nor concerned Him. His promises to us remain true whether the new law is effective or not.

The apostle Paul said, *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:19). This guarantee was not dependent on the government of the United States of America or any other government, for that matter. This promise is secured by the fact that our God is Sovereign over His creation. Nothing hinders His will (Daniel 4:35). No law can ever keep God from accomplishing all His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Are children of God then to ignore government and not care? Absolutely not! We are called to be good citizens. We should cast our vote according to the principles of the Word of God. However, whether things go our way or not, our trust must ultimately be in our God to supply our needs.

Child of God, make sure your trust is anchored in God – not man.

### Presupposition

How often do you hear someone on tv or the radio say a phrase and you automatically know how you feel on the topic, as if you thought something before you knew you were thinking it? That’s a presupposition. How often though are our presuppositions grounded in God’s word because of prayerful study verses our culture, over use of certain catch phrases in the media, or personal prejudice? Conceder Job’s three friends; Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. all had a measure of wisdom & truth base on observation, yet they were still wrong in their application toward Job and his situation. Human nature hasn’t changed. There are a lot of people in this world who are intelligent and seem wise, but when they speak are they really speaking with godly wisdom or that of the world? When we listen to them or read their work do we exercise discernment?

Is slavery promoted or condemned by scriptures? What’s the difference between making disciples and westernizing people in other countries? Are sciences & the scriptures opposed to each other? What does the Bible say about how to treat foreigners? These are just some of the topics covered in this issue. God bless.

### *In this Month’s issue:*

**Sermon: “Materialism: The Sin Of Stuff”**

by Bro. Nathaniel R. Hille, page 2

**“Does The Bible Condemn Slavery?”**

by Bro. Jason Shults, page 3

**News Reports, page 4**

**“Alien Citizens”**

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 5

**“Hindrances To Mission Work”**

by Bro. Curtis A. Pugh, page 5

**Point Of View: Sis. Nathalie Bannier, page 7**

**“Should A Woman Speak In The Church?”**

by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr., page 8

**“The Compassionate Believer”**

by Bro. Timothy Works, page 9

**“Devotion: II Chronicles 12:7-8”**

by Bro. Jeff Short, page 10

**“The Folly of Atheism”**

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 11

**Historical Marker: “Dinosaurs and The Bible”**

by Bro. David M. Green, page 11

**“The Good Shepherd”**

by Bro. Todd Bryant, page 14

## Sermon: "Materialism: The Sin Of Stuff"

By Bro. Nathaniel R. Hille



*"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they (the judgments of the LORD) than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."*  
Psa.19:9-11.

I can say with great assuredness that I have committed this sin. In fact, I might even say, that I have committed this sin above all men I know. It has plagued my life, the life of God's people, and has sacked many of the Lord's Churches. It is no surprise to me that the generation of which I am a part of, is the worst to come along, because we have more "stuff" than any other generation before us.

A new sin, materialism is not. It is as old as disobedience, which stems back to the garden of Eden, and is found written upon the pages of iniquity. Materialism is nothing more than *"The Religion of Covetousness"*. It is a religion that is no less dangerous and equally offensive to the LORD as Baal, Beelzebub, and Dagon. We see parents offering up their children at the altars of *Materialism* as the children of Israel offered their own children upon the fires of Molech (2Kgs.21:6;23:10; 2Chron.28:3; Psa.106:38; Jerm.7:31; 19:4-5); Ezek.16:21; 23:37,39). It is my personal opinion that *Materialism* is furthered by the Capitalistic Society of which we, Americans, have been brought up in. The ideology of greed, lusts, and monetary gain has but fueled this obsession with materialistic things that will one day be consumed in fires.

Mildred Norman wrote: *"Anything you cannot relinquish when it has outlived its usefulness possesses you. And in this materialistic age, a great many of us are possessed by our possessions."*

How true is this of us!? The only true possession worth having is Christ Jesus! Let this be our resolve—that all heirlooms, all keepsakes, all "hand-me-downs" though they be precious, may they not be more precious than the Gift of God! In Simon Peter's epistles we find that the word "precious" is used 7 times:

- 1) 1Pet.1:7—*"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."*
- 2) 1Pet.18,19—*"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"*
- 3) 1Pet.2:4—*"To whom [Jesus] coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,"*
- 4) 1Pet.2:6—*"Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded."*
- 5) 1Pet.2:7—*"Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner."*
- 6) 2Pet.1:1—*"Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."*
- 7) 2Pet.1:4—*"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious*

*promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

According to the Word of God, this is what is to be *PRECIOUS* unto us! In every instance it is recorded in *The epistles of Peter*, the word "Precious" finds its root in the meaning of "valuable, honour or honourable, to highly esteem". Notice, that there is not a single "precious" thing mentioned by Simon Peter, which can be touched with any of our five senses. All of them are of the God-given sixth sense, faith. All that which is truly *PRECIOUS*, is in the realm of that which is spiritual and not carnal; not of a *Materialistic Nature*.

**I) WHAT IS MATERIALISM?:** It is the religion of material things! Material(s): defined as 'of matter'; 'what something is made of' (e.g.—quilts & clothing are made of *material*. Different types of *material* (cotton, polyester, wool, corduroy, etc).

"ISM"—this 'suffix' makes the word into a 'doctrine, a theory, a system...

- A Devotion To Something—'nationalism—devotion to one's nation
- One's Action or Conduct—Patriotism—seeking to make others free
- Acts, practice, or results—Terrorism—one who terrorizes, or practices terror
- Political or economic beliefs—capitalism, socialism, communism
- System of faith—Catholicism, Lutheranism, Islamism, Judaism And there is also "*Materialism*" which is older than most of these which we have just mentioned. *Materialism* is a devotion, action, beliefs, practice, political and economic belief and a system of faith all wrapped up into one. It is a '*socially acceptable ism*'. I am not talking about the psychological condition of "*hoarding*", but the fact that you and I who are saved, are so concerned about our *stuff*, instead of the Kingdom of God and that which is eternal.

*Materialism* is the opposite of true religion & true worship.

Jms.1:27—*"Pure Religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."*

Jn.4:24—*"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

Acts.17:23-25—*"For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;"*

So it is quite clear that true religion, true worship of God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, is not done in anything that is of materials, but rather that which is spiritual.

### II) The Fruit of Materialism:

All religions have their fruit(s).

We know Christ's religion and His fruit: *Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal.5:22,23); virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity [love] (2Pet.1:5-7)*. These are the fruits of Christ's religion.

The *Fruits of Materialism* are wealth, fame, pleasures of sin for a season. How different are the fruits of Christ's religion from all the fruit of Materialism?

### III) Examples of Materialism from the Scriptures:

In the Bible we find many warnings of the dangers of materialism. No greater illustration can be given than that which Christ Jesus Himself used!

- Rich Man: Lk.12:16-34—note—there is nothing wrong with being rich, but we are not to seek it out. This rich man had no care for eternity, but only of his 'stuff'. Again, there is nothing wrong with 'stuff' except it all too often draws our affections from Christ to it.

Vv. 17—this man thought within himself—never looked yonder to glory to see what his Maker might have him do. I have heard lots of people say, “If I get lost of money, I am going to: Pay off debts, go on a vacation, build a new house, buy a new car, etc, etc. But I have never heard in all my life anyone say, “I’m going to give God the glory.” No! Focus is always on that which is material and not that which is everlasting or spiritual.

Vv.22—all of these things are materialistic. There is not a one of them that is spiritual.

Vv.28—“*O ye of little faith*”—therein lies the problem...little faith. Oh how little faith we have in God’s Word, that He would provide the daily sustenance that you and I stand in need of.

Vv.30—“*For all these things do the nations [heathens] of the world seek after: ...*”. How many of God’s children are seeking after the very same things that the lost, the ungodly are seeking after! We ought to be ashamed of ourselves.

Vv.33,34—Here is Christ’s solution: “*Sell that ye have, and give alms;*” get rid of all your material possessions and then you won’t have to worry about it! Then we are to set our treasure in heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt, for where our treasure is, there will our hearts be also. So many have put treasures here upon this earth and so their hearts never make past the material things of carnality.

Most recently a ‘*holiday*’ was observed by a great majority of people in this world and particularly in our country. People went out and bought materials after materials, after materials, and they have no way to pay for any of it. I heard an advertisement for a bank on the radio promoting folks to begin to set aside for *Christ-mass 2010* so they won’t be caught in the same predicament as 2009. I also received a communication from a finance company seeking to help folks pay off their ‘*holiday*’ expenses at a lower interest rate. All that was purchased were material things that folks just didn’t have the finances for anyway. And now for the next few months families will struggle because they went and worship at the altar of materialism once again.

b. Achan: Josh. 7:1-26—Every Bible student knows the story of Achan. We find in Josh.6:17,18—that God had forbidden the taking of any of the accursed items in the cities of conquest. But Achan did not believe God...he had a lack of faith and he did not fear the Lord God of Israel. Note what God’s Word calls that which Achan did take:

“...for they have even taken of the accursed thing...”—Vv.11

God calls the item a “*thing*”. This is what our hearts desire so much today, even as Achan’s did.

We note the results of Achan’s *materialism* is that the whole of Israel was accursed!

Josh.6:17,18; Josh.7:11—“*Israel hath sinned...*”. The sin of one man was accounted unto a whole nation! Now look around at our own nation and look at the great deal of people who today worship and sin and transgress God’s law by worshipping at the altar of materialism. No wonder our nation suffers at the hand of God Almighty as she does! She is accursed for the sin of materialism.

**IV) Warnings Against Materialism in the Bible:** Over and over again God warns against such subtle paganism as materialism. Yet for generations, the warnings have gone unheeded by the people of the Lord.

a. Ecclesiastes 5:10-15 (Vv.12): “*The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.*” Beloved, this is so true. I have received emails from people that I work for in the wee hours of the morning concerning their belongings. People today are so concerned about their ‘*stuff*’, which in reality, it all belongs to God and we are but stewards, and poor one’s at that.

b. 1Tim.6:6-11 (Vv.7): “*For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*” How foolish then is the massing of materials? For we did read in Eccl.5:11—“*When goods increase, they are increased that eat them: and what good is there to the owners thereof, saving the beholding of them with their eyes?*” This is a

question that we all ought to ponder, what good are materials to us, except that we do behold them with our eyes.

**CLOSING:** *Materialism* is a subtle sin! Many of us are so busy trying to “Keep Up With The Joneses” that we have lost sight of the “*prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*” (Phil.3:14). As I said in the off-set of the message, no one has as much “*stuff*” as I do. We have all committed this sin. And “*stuff*” has taken our eyes off of “*looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*” (Heb.12:1,2). May we all follow the example of the saints at Jerusalem (Acts.4:32-37) who *as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, and laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.*” Oh that God might lay this upon our hearts and minds in this age that we live in, the age of *Materialism!* AMEN!

## “Does the Bible Condemn Slavery?”

by Bro. Jason Shults



To my knowledge, there is no condemnation of the institution of slavery in the Scripture. The New Testament is clear that a person can be a slave, or a master, and yet be a good Christian.

Ephesians 6:5-9 “*Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free. And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.*”

A servant (that’s the Greek word *doulos* and means slave or bondman) is obedient to God when they are obedient to their master. A servant’s master is obedient to God by the same standard, remembering that God is not a respecter of persons and they, themselves, are His servants.

And so, the simplest answer to the questions, “does the Bible condemn slavery?” is “no, it does not.”

However, we must consider the issue with more depth. In truth, we may see the institution as an affront to Christian ideals mostly due to the natural abuses which occur in the system.

There are many different kinds of slavery and servitude in the Scriptures. On one end of the scale we see indentured servitude – a person willingly submitting to service as payment of a debt. Far to the other end we see what is technically termed chattel slavery – the ownership and forced work of an individual without any expectation of freedom.

These are important distinctions. We must understand how the institution is regulated or administered in order to determine if it is Biblical. For example, alcohol is not condemned, but it is regulated. Sex is not condemned, but regulated. If our use of either is operating outside of those regulations, we have erred greatly. Similarly, if slavery exists outside of the regulations of Scripture, it is unbiblical.

When we move from that generic sense of slavery as an institution to specific examples of slavery like that of the American South, the Bible cannot be used as a defense for the way the institution of slavery operated because there were clearly abuses of the institution which violated the regulations God established. We can't use the Bible to defend slavery in the American South any more than a drunk can use the Bible to defend his drunkenness.

Let me specify some ways in which slavery in the US violated the Scriptural regulations:

- It began with violent kidnapping. Some would argue the Leviticus 25 passage quoted above would suggest the Israelites took slaves as a part of capturing Canaan. That may be so, but we do not have the right to do what the Israelites did. We understand God has not called us to violence. Even in the Old Testament kidnapping called for the death penalty for both the ones doing the kidnapping AND the ones receiving the kidnapped person. Exodus 21:16, "And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death."

Paul specifically outlaws this practice in the New Testament by labeling "menstealers" in 1 Timothy 1:10 as (verse 9) lawless, disobedient, ungodly sinners. The word used there is the Greek *ανδραποδιστης* (*andrapodistes*) and is the typical word for enslaver or slave-dealer.

- The slavery in the South was based on racial prejudice. I would hope it unnecessary to detail here the many ways in which the Bible explains God is not a respecter of persons, we are made of one blood and there is no difference between the races. We are all made in the image of God. Acts 17:26 assures us that God has "made of one blood all nations of men." There is no Biblical foundation for racial prejudice in Scripture as it is clear there is but one race – humanity.

We are called to preach the Gospel to humanity. It is not as if the slave-traders were preaching the Gospel and enslaving those who rejected it. Even if they were, does it make sense to proclaim the Gospel and the great freedom found in Jesus Christ while at the same time you're putting the audience in chains?

- The physical mistreatment of slaves was prevalent. The Bible clearly regulates the treatment of slaves, so much so that if a slave's eye or tooth was knocked out, it resulted in their freedom. Exodus 21:26-27, "And if a man smite the eye of his servant, or the eye of his maid, that it perish; he shall let him go free for his eye's sake. And if he smite out his manservant's tooth, or his maidservant's tooth; he shall let him go free for his tooth's sake." Does anybody know of an instance of this being followed in our country?

- Sexual abuse was widely reported. The Bible allowed for marriage to slaves – but it was to be just that ... marriage. There was no room for illicit sexual relations. Additionally, there were protections for women built into the regulations. Exodus 21:8-11, "If she please not her master, who hath betrothed her to himself, then shall he let her be redeemed: to sell her unto a strange nation he shall have no power, seeing he hath dealt deceitfully with her. And if he have betrothed her unto his son, he shall deal with her after the manner of daughters. If he take him another wife; her food, her raiment, and her duty of marriage, shall he not diminish. And if he do not these three unto her, then shall she go out free without money."

- There was no hope of freedom in the American system. Slavery in the Old Testament was evidently closer to indentured servitude than slavery as the South (and some of the North too!) practiced it. The Year of Jubilee promised freedom from that service. (Leviticus 25:39-41) The black slaves in the South had no hope for similar freedom. Certainly there is anecdotal evidence that some slave owners in the South were kind. But we didn't see American slaves lining en masse to have an awl bore a hole in their ear so they could remain slaves. (Exodus 21:5-6)

Instead, we saw them risking everything to escape.

And so, does the Bible condemn slavery? No. But it clearly condemns many of the practices seen in the institution of slavery as it existed in the American South.

It is also important to remember this is not merely an historical debate. Slavery remains in existence today. Since slavery has been outlawed throughout the world, it is difficult to make a statistical analysis of its prevalence. However, the Walk Free Foundation created the first Global Slavery Index report in 2013, estimating 29.8 million people worldwide are in some form of modern slavery. The majority of those are women and children. The greatest population of slaves are in India (13.3 – 14.7 million) and China (2.8 – 3.1 million). For more information on these statistics see [www.globalslaveryindex.org](http://www.globalslaveryindex.org)

Modern slavery also exists in many forms. While some of it may include the indentured servitude allowed by Scripture, most does not. One form is forced labor includes using threats or violence to take a person's work product without consent. Another growing problem is human trafficking through which mostly women and children are either deceived or forced into captivity and then moved throughout the world to work – often as sex slaves.

The Global Slavery Index estimates 57,000 – 63,000 individuals in the United States qualify as slaves by their guidelines. In July 2013, the FBI conducted Operation Cross Country. It was a three-day operation including 76 cities throughout the country and resulted in the arrest of 150 people and the recovery of over 100 exploited children.

As is normal for humanity, we have strayed far from the standards God has given in Scripture. Do not mistake the regulated servitude in the Bible with the institution of slavery as depraved man has developed it over the centuries.

## News

**News Blitz January 2014:** Underlined texts are links to the stories. If reading this as a print out you can find the links to these stories on our home page.

From Ohio state's Tenth Amendment Center "[Ohio's 2013 Report Card: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly](#)"

Wednesday, Jan. 1st: Olympic games are often targets for terrorist actions, Russia is no exception as Joshua Cook covers in this article "[Volgograd Bombings: Who's Behind The Terrorist Attacks In Russia?](#)"

Thursday, Jan. 2nd: "[UN Unveils Plot to Reduce African Population](#)"

Friday Jan. 3rd: "[Wounded by Wounded Knee](#)" An opinion piece at Native News Online reflecting on social media's honoring the 123rd anniversary of the massacre at Wounded Knee this past December. From Realnews.com "[20 Years on, Mexico is NAFTA's Biggest Lie](#)" From Truth In Media, "[LOTFI: Is Rep. Justin Amash's Challenger Doomed?](#)" & "[Clemency For Snowden? Greenwald Calls Out DC Media In Fiery Debate](#)"

The Tom Woods Show - [The Economics of Obamacare](#)

Saturday Jan. 4th: from EricMargolis.com "[WORLD DANGER SPOTS 2014](#)"

Published at Times Of Israel "[Beirut IDs leader of al-Qaeda group that hit Iran embassy](#)"

And the New American published "[Allen West Wrong on Nullification and Supremacy Clause](#)"

An opinion piece by Uri Avnery at Gush-Shalom.org "[Neutral – in whose favor?](#)" explaining how failure to recognize bias destroys peace

talks.

Sunday, Jan. 5th: from RealNews.com: "[Zapatista's Warning Over NAFTA Rings True 2 Decades Later](#)"

The Malay Mail Online.com explains the recent Muslim protests there in "[Muslim group insists war only against Catholic priest, not Christians](#)"

Monday, Jan. 6th: From truth in media at BenSwann.com "[Civilians Flee As Iraq Vows Major Attack On Fallujah](#)" & "[Homeschoolers In Ohio Can Keep Their Freedom](#)" the latter being an update on 'Teddy's Law'

Tuesday, Jan. 7th: "[Government Seizes And Destroys 160-Year-Old Historical Documents: Genealogists And Historians Are Outraged](#)" and a video from RT America (Russian TV) discussing "[Federal judge overturns Chicago's gun ban](#)" RT's Ameera David talks to investigative journalist Ben Swann about what the ruling means for Second Amendment rights going forward.

Wednesday, Jan 8th: "[Can The EPA Be Nullified? Oklahoma Is Leading The Charge](#)"

Thursday, Jan 9th: Real News.com's program 'Reality Asserts Itself' presents an episode on Obama NSA guidelines, discussing the topic with Chris Hedges and William Binney [here](#)

## "Alien Citizens"

by Bro. Todd Bryant



*"You shall neither mistreat a stranger nor oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"* –Exodus 22:21

Clearly, the child of God has been freed from the Mosaic Law (Romans 6:14; Galatians 5:18). Still yet, the Old Testament is the inspired Word of God and good for God's children to study. Even in the Law, we find principles that are beneficial to us. We certainly get a glimpse into the character of God in the commands that He gave Israel through Moses. Our text verse is certainly one of those that needs to be considered from that perspective.

Christians today seem more driven to be involved in politics than they are the study of the Bible. Many speak of it being our "duty" as a follower of Christ. Interestingly, we never once see Jesus or the early churches involved in any way in the political process. And, for that matter, we continually see them stand before those in authority. That having been said, Christians are entrenched the political process today and are seemingly unwilling to give it up no matter the lack of Scriptural precedence. One of the biggest problems with this position is that politics nearly always brings out the worst in people. From everything we see on social media today, Christians are not exempt from this. Sadly, many of the Lord's own are constantly spewing political venom, as it were, towards their opponents.

The verse before us today focuses on a specific group that many today seem to be opposed to – foreigners. In the spirit of conservatism and law, many true believers would set aside the pattern we see here and oppose immigration of any kind into our country. We often hear slang terms and hateful words aimed at those that would come to America for a better lifestyle for their family. In all honesty, it matters not whether

these aliens are legal or illegal. It matters not whether they are honest and hardworking. All that matters is that they are from another place and they need to "go back where they came from".

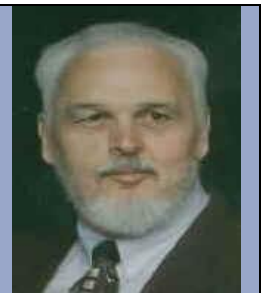
God reminded Israel that they too were once "*strangers in the land of Egypt*". Perhaps we would do well today to remember that America is a country of immigrants. Most of the people reading his article can trace their family tree across the ocean to another continent. Few even acknowledge that the Native American was driven off his land by our ancestors. Virtually all of us are immigrants if we are honest. Our forefathers were coming here for a better life for their family just as many are still doing today.

Perhaps a greater reason not to mistreat a stranger is that we realize "*our citizenship is in Heaven*" (Philippians 3:20). From the spiritual standpoint, Christians are not citizens anywhere on this earth. We are hated outcasts. Opponents have tried to eradicate us many times. Even today, many would "send us packing" if they had a way to do it. How is it that we do not see the correlation when we mistreat those that would come here seeking a better opportunity for their families?

Child of God, let us not mistreat those from other lands. Let us apply the principles that God gave Israel in the Law. Let us remember that we are strangers here on Earth. If nothing else, let us take the opportunity to share the message of Christ dying for sinners with them. This may be our biggest failure.

## "Hindrances To Mission Work"

by Bro. Curtis A. Pugh



Biblical mission work is always of great interest to me whether or not "foreign" or "home." I put those two words in quotation marks because I do not believe that either ought to be emphasized over the other. I realize that there are differences – for instance, often a "home" missionary must be what the Southern Baptists call "bi-vocational" – that is, he must work at a secular job as well as preach. In most cases, unless the missionary has special training recognized as needed in a foreign country, he is not allowed to work there at a secular job. Sadly, in some people's minds, "foreign" missionaries are regarded somehow as more glamorous than those who labor in "home" fields.

There are some things that must be avoided in doing "foreign" work. Some of these things I have observed and avoided. For instance I know of a missionary (independent Arminian Baptist) laboring overseas. He instructed his national co-workers to address him by his last name – Bro. Jones or Smith or whatever. However, he addressed them by their given names – Bro. Sam or Joe or whatever. By making this distinction he – wittingly or not – set up a hierarchy of sorts in the minds of the people. It is bad enough that American missionaries are regarded by the people as superior to them because of the wealth and prestige they have simply by being from the U. S. But when the missionary himself promotes this idea of lordship or superiority over the people he preaches to, it certainly clouds their understanding that he is to be their servant in spiritual things. Paul wrote to one of his missions that had been organized into a church with these words: "*For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake*" (2 Corinthians 4:5). Missionaries ought to always view themselves as servants of those to whom they preach. And how can a servant live high and mighty above the level of those to whom he serves?

I would recommend that preachers called to do mission works –

especially in foreign places – never call themselves missionaries or tell people that they are missionaries: at least in countries where Christ has been named. My experience at foreign work has been limited to Canada and Romania where I spent a combined total of 26 ½ years. Both those countries regard themselves as “Christian nations.” In fact, a hundred or two hundred years ago there were sound churches – Baptist churches – in both those countries. Immediately when a man says he is a missionary the people may come back with a statement as to their country being Christian or that they are Christians already. So they may get their hackles up – and for what – a mere title? Does not the Bible say that God’s men are not to be given to titles of honor, etc.? It seems better for the preacher to just say that he is a Baptist preacher. That’s what Paul said about himself even though he was also an apostle also. I found in Romania with the majority (more than 90%) of people regarding themselves as Romanian Orthodox and most of the others Roman Catholics, to just say, “Eu sunt un predicator baptist” - I am a Baptist preacher. Surprisingly many people to whom I said that did not know what a Baptist preacher is. How much more confusion would there have been if I had told them I was a Baptist missionary?

Someone once raised this question: does a Baptist preacher have to wear a suit, tie and shoes? By that this issue is raised: are God’s men to convert people to Christ or to the American culture? And how can a man with any Christian conscience at all wear fancy suits, boots and shoes and the like when the people to whom he ministers do not have those things and cannot afford them. Are preachers to set themselves apart from the people by their fancy clothes? After the Lord gave fruit in Filiasi, Romania, one of the Brothers there said something to this effect to Bro. Raul: if you and Bro. Curtis had come down here all dressed up in suits and ties, we would not have listened to you. Humility and identifying with the people to whom you minister means respecting their way of doing things and their culture and ideas as long as idolatry, paganism and immorality is not involved. Preaching in Siberia, Russia was a learning experience for me and I think Raul too. After I preached in one place there a Sister came up to me and through an interpreter thanked me for my message. She said “When I heard that an American was coming, I thought, ‘What can I learn from an American?’” This indicated that she had not expected to receive anything from God through the preaching of an American. In her case, she had heard free-will extolled by the average independent American/Arminian Baptist missionaries that proliferate in many countries. She knew also of the immorality in America and had also been influenced, no doubt, by the anti-American propaganda diffused by the Russian government over the years. It is a fact, Americans are not always loved in other countries. Many Canadians were openly critical of the U. S. government and opposed her actions when my wife and I lived there. Most all Romanians love the U. S., but this is not the case in other European countries.

Another and related thing we must respect if we would minister to people is this: God’s men are not sent to crusade in the political realm and need to be sensitive to the thinking of the people. If an American goes into a country taking sides on political issues and personalities he may find himself making enemies and identified with people and causes with which he does not want to be identified. And going there flaunting our “Americanness” is a foolish detriment to the cause of Christ. When my wife and I first flew to Romania, on the same plane with us was an independent Arminian Baptist missionary and his family. I sat by a teenage son and talked with him about their plans and future work. The men were dressed in what used to be called casual attire – not in suits, but in nice trousers and shirts. Nothing wrong with that. But the mother and a daughter or two – teenaged girls – were wearing long denim skirts. They looked like independent Baptists. I do not mean that in a derogatory way: they were modest and to be commended for that. Only after spending some time in Romania did I learn that some Repenters are offended by professing Christians wearing denim. (“Repenters” include Baptists and others such as Pentecostals, Seventh Day, etc.) This missionary family had shipped their furniture and belongings, including a big American pickup truck ahead. They were going to be operating a

farm at an orphanage sponsored by independent Baptists in the U. S. The facts are these: more often than not furniture can be purchased in foreign countries probably at a cheaper price than having it shipped overseas. A big 4-door American pickup is a curiosity in Romania and represents great wealth. It is useless in the old parts of Romanian cities where streets are narrow and cars are forced to park half on sidewalks and half in the narrow passageways making it impossible for such large vehicles to turn corners and generally get around. Besides that, parts for such American vehicles were then and probably still are unavailable in Romania. Such small things as coils, generators, starting motors, and a myriad of other parts necessary to the operation of such a pickup must be ordered from the U. S. So a simple breakdown means days or weeks awaiting arrival of parts and perhaps the payment of additional customs duty as well. The point is these folk, well intended I am sure, were going to stand out like a sore thumb among the Romanians to whom they were supposed to minister. The Lord Jesus and the apostles and other New Testament preachers humbled themselves, often doing without even necessary things for the cause of Christ. God’s men ought to be willing to do the same today if necessary and for the cause of Christ. Certainly they ought to be identified with the people.

I do not mean to suggest that God’s men and their families are always able to live on the exact level of the people. Probably half the people in Romania when we moved there were really just scratching out a living. Things are very little better now for many people there. Had we lived like they did, we would have been constantly busy with gardening, raising animals, etc., and had little time for the work to which I had been called. That is one extreme. The other extreme I observed when visiting the homes of some Southern Baptist missionaries that I met in Romania. They lived in “little Americas” of their own manufacture, only occasionally going to services to preach, etc. Romanians were seldom if ever guests in their home and most would have been overawed and uncomfortable at the display of wealth seen there. Their food was different, their clothes were fine, and their home was an American one: they made no real effort to be like the Romanians. One even had a grand piano in their home – and a very grand one it was, having been undoubtedly imported from somewhere. My answer is this: a person can be tie-less, shoe-less, suit-less and able to get about only by walking and still be a true child of God and serve Him. I can cite some dear Brethren in Romania who prove this every day. This is true also in many other countries of the world. Living in small mud-brick houses in crowded living conditions, with only wood stoves for cooking and heat and wells without electric pumps, making and tending a garden for necessary food, raising a hog or two for meat or some goats for both milk and meat – and perhaps spending most of their days taking their few animals out to pasture on open fields, returning home at night, using outdoor toilets, without cars, walking or if they can afford one, riding a bicycle – many true Christians serve God in these conditions around the world.

If God’s men go to these places parading their wealth – and even “poor” Americans generally have much more than most of the people in the world – they will often find themselves regarded with envy by some, suspicion by others, jealousy and hatred by others, etc., and then there are those hangers-on who are after what they can get from the rich Americans – leeches found in every country of the world just out for what they can get. It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that must be foremost and featured – not the things the Americans have.

I think it must be remembered and stated by the “missionary” to his hearers that not everything from America is good. Many people dream of coming to America – the U. S. or Canada. It is natural for them to dream of an easier life and a better one for their children. And when Americans come and try to make these people over into little Americans or even inadvertently present themselves as superior to the people to whom they preach, they hurt the cause of Christ. The man of God must follow the example of God: God comes to people where they are. He does not wait until they are cultured, educated, westernized, etc. and it should be our aim to take the Gospel of Christ to people where they are,

as they are. We should always remember to preach the Word of God as it is to men as they are. I think anything that hinders that is sin.

### *Point Of View: Sis. Nathalie Banneir*



Sis. Nathalie Banneir lives in Winders, Ontario Canada and travels to Burton Michigan with her two children, Tamara & Joshua Restituto, (photographed above) to attending services at Liberty Missionary Baptists Church where all three are faithful church members.

“I was born in France and came to Canada as a university exchange student in 1993. I had to do a placement and worked in a community for disabled people. I met my husband there and ended up staying in Canada.

The Lord saved me after I separated from my husband. I was fighting depression and the burden of my sins and raising my two children alone. I had no one around to help and it seemed all hope was gone for me spiritually. I decided to go to France with my children for one year to try and get a break from it all and get a new start. I somehow got reconnected with a pastor I had worked with in that community at that time and started to study the Bible studies he was sending. He was a Landmark Sovereign Grace Baptist. This is what the Lord used to open my eyes and show me that it is not what I do that saves, but what Jesus did at Calvary to redeem me and pay for my sins. I tried so hard to be a good wife....., but failed on many accounts. I trusted the Lord and He saved me. I witnessed to my family and my ex-husband family, but they are not saved. I am still praying for them.

I started to learn church truth in France. We came back to Canada the next year and I was baptized and joined the church. I also what taking courses on line that they offered and taught a lot about church truth and other doctrines.”

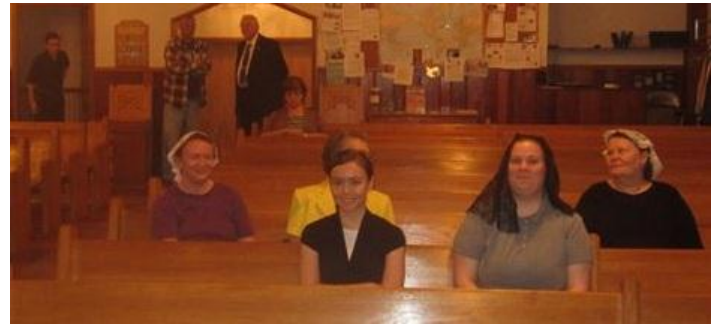
*What is the religious atmosphere like where you live, how does it compare to France?*

“When I was living in France, I never heard of Baptists. I didn’t know anything about the Baptists until I started working in that community in Canada. When the Lord saved me, I thought there were no Baptist churches in France. I learned since that there are some but I am not sure how doctrinally sound they are. In general, I would say that French are not very spiritually minded (sadly). I pray for the Lord’s mercy on them. In Canada, people are much more religious. Unfortunately, many are not remotely interested in more than religion it seems. My kids and I have been distributing many, many tracts in mailboxes, nobody has ever turned up to church. We keep on doing it and asking the Lord for mercy and to open a door especially where we live. There are many churches where we live, but not doctrinally sound, no true church. None that we could attend or be members of. We pray for the Lord to open a way there too if it is His will.”

*Are there any danger to being a genuine Christian in Canada?*

“We had a hate speech law in Canada. A few years back, I heard of a pastor (not Baptist) facing a lawsuit because of standing up for Christian values. When I returned to Canada and joined the Lord’s church close to where I was living, I used to send the Bible studies notes I received to

all on my contact list (including my customers) because I wanted them to be saved (all my English-speaking contacts). It got some people really mad and I was threatened at one point. I wasn’t motivated by hate but wanted them to be saved! I was just checking quick on line and it seems this law no longer is. (<http://news.nationalpost.com/2013/06/27/hate-speech-no-longer-part-of-canadas-human-rights-act/>)”



*(Pictures of Nathalie and her daughter taken at Liberty Missionary Baptist Church along with some of the congregation between services)*

*What kind of political system does Canada have? What are some of the differences with the USA?*

“Canada is a federation like the USA (10 provinces and 3 territories). It is a federal parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy. It is a bilingual country. Queen Elizabeth II is the head of state. She is represented by the Governor General of Canada (head of state) and he is responsible to make sure we have a prime minister and a government supported by the Parliament. Stephen Harper, the head of government, is the Prime Minister and is responsible for the executive. We have more than two parties: Liberal, Conservative, NDP.... We don’t vote for the judicial system.”

*How are relations between Canada and other nations such as Mexico, England and France?*

“Mexico is an important trade partner of Canada and tourists destination. (<http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/mexico-mexique/canmex.aspx?lang=eng>).

Elisabeth II is the Queen of Canada too. So our relations with England are still really close.

Part of Canada used to be a French colony. We still have French-speaking provinces like Quebec. We also have other relations like students’ exchanges and trade.

([http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/france/bilateral\\_relations\\_bilaterales/canada\\_france.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.canadainternational.gc.ca/france/bilateral_relations_bilaterales/canada_france.aspx?lang=eng))”

*What are the general feelings toward immigrants & immigration policy in Canada? As an immigrant yourself, what are your thoughts and feelings about the immigration process? Would you ever want to immigrate to the USA?*

“Immigration policy was different when I immigrated as from now. It was easier from me to immigrate as I was married to a Canadian. If you were not married, there was a system of points according to your education and country of birth... It was hard to meet their criteria. Even with a university diploma, I don’t think I qualified. It was also easy to come as a nanny and become a permanent resident a few years after and then a citizen after a few other years.

Now, they are requiring that immigrants prove they can sustain themselves financially and have a certain amount of savings. I think they are stricter than 20 years ago.

I think it is good that they are strict and try and make sure that immigrants will be able to work and be financially independent. The savings requirement seems high to me. I was employed and have always been working since I applied for permanent residency and citizenship. I think it should be based on the ability of the individual to work and fit in and benefit Canada.

As for immigrating to the USA, I have considered it as the Lord's churches are mostly located in the USA. I don't believe it is the Lord's will for me and my children at this time. When I came to Canada, I wasn't Baptist, but I was convinced that it was the Lord's will for me and I always believed it is more important to live where the Lord wants me too than the country I live in. If the Lord would want me to live even in the other side of the world, I know He would make it known to me and open the way. May His will be done in my life and where I live!"

*How does Canadian patriotism differ from that in the USA?*

"I think it is quite similar. With the exception that Canadians tend to be more tolerant."

*Thoughts on NATO, EU, African Union, or other such organizations?*

"They are a sign Jesus is coming back soon. The efforts of anti-Christ to establish a one world government and establish an utopia. The Satanic Trinity at work to control the world."

## "Should A Woman Speak In The Church?"

by Bro. Stephen McCool Sr.



Acts 2:16-21 *"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAITH GOD, I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH: AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS: AND ON MY SERVANTS AND ON MY HANDMAIDENS I WILL POUR OUT IN THOSE DAYS OF MY SPIRIT; AND SHALL PROPHECY: AND I WILL SHEW WONDERS IN HEAVEN ABOVE, AND SIGNS IN THE EARTH BENEATH; BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOUR OF SMOKE: THE SUN SHALL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS, AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THAT GREAT AND NOTABLE DAY OF THE LORD COME: AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."*

Wow! What a time of great sorrow that will be for those unsaved in the world and a glorious time for the nation of Israel. What Peter is describing here is the days leading up to the salvation of the nation of Israel and the final destruction of the armies of the world. Notice in verse 22, *"Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:"* Notice who Peter is talking to here. Peter is talking to the men of Israel. The Jews.

Turn to Joel 2:28-32. This is the scripture Peter is quoting. In both places the scripture is referring to the end times. It is referring to the time just before the Lord saves the nation of Israel towards the end of the Great Tribulation Period. Notice Peter and Joel both say: *"Before that great and notable day of the Lord come."* This is referring to the day when our Lord along with us will descend from Heaven and our Lord will destroy the armies of the world at the battle of Armageddon. Notice in verse 32: *"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in the mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."* Notice Joel says, *"in the mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance."* It is not all the earth, but in Zion and Jerusalem. This prophecy is for the nation of Israel. Not the Gentiles or the nations as a whole, but for Israel. And not just Israel but notice Joel also says: *"And in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."*

So not only is this prophecy for the nation of Israel, but it is for those that the Lord will call out of the nation of Israel; God's elect nation. Paul said that not all that say they are Jews are true Jews. So not all that claim to be Israel are of the true Israel. There are many in the land of Israel and many around the world who claim to be of Israel who are not truly from Israel. It is only those whom the Lord has and will call. It is only those chosen few, elect of God that are the true Israel.

Now all that being said, there is another misconception about these verses. There are those today who take verse 17 in Acts 2 and try to say it is for today. But as I have pointed out these verses have nothing to do with our day and time and are not for the Lord's Churches or the Gentiles. These passages in Acts and Joel are strictly for the true Jews that the Lord will call out in the last days of the Great Tribulation Period.

Many have taken verse 17 and claim that this means the gift of prophecy is alive and well today. Yet in I Corinthians 13:8-10 Paul said: *"Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."*

*"When that which is perfect is come,"* refers to the complete Word of God, which we have today. It was complete when the Apostle John finished writing the book of Revelation. What we have as Genesis-Revelation, the Old and New Testaments combined are the Perfect, Complete Word of God. Now with that complete Word we have all the Prophecies that were told that God intended for us to know and in His time, He will reveal those prophecies to us. It may be before the thing happens or it may be after. That is up to God.

Many today have taken this verse 17 and claimed it as the reason for women to preach or to teach in the church. But to take this view is to take the verse out of context and out of its original intent. Remember I have already taken the scripture and proven this verse is not for the church or for Christians today. To say that it is for today is to totally deny the Word of God. The Holy Scripture is plain on this.

Also to say that this verse gives the okay for women to speak in the church is to cause a contradiction in the scriptures themselves. Paul said in I Corinthians 14:34 and 35 *"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."* Now how much plainer can you get than that? I will say here that there are some who carry this too far in my opinion. There are those who claim this also means that the women are not to sing in the church service. I do not believe this is what these verses say at all. These verses plainly say "speak". There is a big difference in speaking and singing. On the other hand there are those who will say these verses came about because some of the women in the church in Corinth were speaking out and/or asking questions during the service while the preacher was trying to preach and thus interrupting the service. Verse 35 does seem to look like that might have been the case. And I can see where that would be a problem that would need to be handled in this manner.

I Timothy 2:11-14 *"Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression."* Now if you go back to the first part of chapter 2 you will see Paul is teaching Timothy on public worship. So Paul is teaching how women are to conduct themselves in the public worship service. But also notice here in verse 14: *"For Adam was not deceived,"* We cannot put all the blame on the woman. We cannot degrade the woman in any way.



For Adam, the first man, though he was not deceived by the serpent, he still knowingly sinned. So Adam, or man has only himself to blame for our sins not the woman.

Now after all this, does this mean that men are not to learn from women? I think not. Remember Paul commended Timothy's mother and grandmother for teaching Timothy when he was younger. Also in many places in the scripture the Lord used women to teach men a lesson. Look at Ruth and Naomi. Look at the women of the first church. They were the last to leave the Lord at His death on the cross, the first to go to His tomb the third day to finish the embalming process, the first that the angel spoke to announcing the Lord's resurrection, and the first to go tell the men of the church of the good news of His resurrection. So yes, the Lord has used women in great ways in the past and in the present and will in the future. But when it comes to the public worship service the Word of God is very plain and very strict on the difference in the roles of the man and of the woman.

In I Corinthians 11:8-12 "For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man. Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man. For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels. Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord. For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things are of God." So we must remember that as far as the Lord is concerned woman was created as a help-meet for the man and they are to be inseparable in this life. Notice that no where does the Lord say the woman is to be the footstool of the man, or his slave. But his help-meet and partner in life. The Lord also told us they are to be one flesh and the man is to love his wife as the Lord loves the church (the Lord's future wife).

As husbands we are to love, cherish, care for, provide for, and honor our wife. However, just like in the church, men and women have different roles in the marriage. The husband is to be the primary caregiver. Does this mean the wife cannot work outside the home? No, read Proverbs 31. But it is the husband's job as the head of the household to support his family. Does this mean the wife is to not have a say in important decisions involving the home and the family? No, both husband and wife must be a part of any such decisions. Although the husband is to take the lead he should be seeking godly counsel from his wife on matters that affect the family. This goes back to God saying in Genesis 2:24 "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

I realize this is a very touchy subject with some on this list and with most of those out there we know who would consider themselves Christian today. That is why I challenge each of you before you pass judgment on anything I have written here that you take a King James Version of the Bible and study what has been written. There is much more to this topic and this discussion than I could have written in this short devotion. If you desire to learn more and want to discuss this please contact me. I am willing to peaceably discuss this with anyone. I pray you all take this with all seriousness and study to show thy-selves approved unto God. Praise ye the Lord!



## "The Compassionate Believer"

by Bro. Timothy Works



John 4:1-29 Notice verses 16-18 "Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly."

How would you describe this woman? If you knew a woman near by who had been divorced five times (or five live in boyfriends) and was currently living with a man she was not married to; what would YOU call her?

In polite words we could call her "not fit for polite society." Not a role model.

Yet Jesus came to where she was and talked TO HER not 'down to her' and shared the gospel with her vs 22, and she was saved and instrumental in sharing the gospel with many in her town. vs 28-29, 39-42. Who would this woman be today? Religious, mixed religions, truth & error.

Jesus sets forth an example for us here that shows us that even though we are to be holy people, a separate people, we are also to be a compassionate people. (evangelistic to every creature)

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8

If we shut ourselves off from people we become legalistic, self-righteous, "holier than thou" in our attitude even though we profess that salvation is of grace not of works. Do you see what I mean?

We believe rightly that salvation is totally of grace, not by works of righteousness that we have done. Ephesians 2:8-9 & Romans 3:20, 28.

What had happened to Israel? They were to be witnesses to the world of the true God; but they became worldly and God punished them- then in reaction they became isolated from the world- they were God's chosen people and they looked down on others. "And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others:" Luke 18:9, "I thank thee that I am not as others are..." they despised others, had a holier than thou attitude.

On one hand we are to be a separate people:

II Corinthians 6:14-18 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will

receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

John 17:11, 16 “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.” & “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”

But, I Corinthians 5:9-10 “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.”

At the same time we must come along side sinners, in such a way not to partake of their sin, but to show compassion and to share the gospel. Lest like the Pharisees we develop an “attitude” that we are “holier than” others or “too good” to have any dealings with “certain people” who are so far beneath our social/moral level in society. This will lead to coldness, deadness in the church, a legalistic attitude. None of which edifies us as God’s people. Nor sends the proper message about the “grace, love & mercy” of God to lost people.

Notice what Paul said: I Corinthians 9:19-22 “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.” (Spoke their language, observed their customs, dressed as they did, ate what they ate.) This he did while remaining faithful to the holiness of God (not without law to God, but under the law to Christ)

Oh that Christ would kindle in our hearts a love and compassion for lost souls that would compel us to go seeking them out and sharing the gospel with them, that we would pray for them (not some short prayer) but pray for specific people by name (get to know them) That we would desire above all things their salvation! Paul, “Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” Romans 10:1

We have not be given a ministry of condemnation. John 3:17-18 “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” But Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost; and he has given to us the ministry of reconciliation.

II Corinthians 5:17-21 “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

He, Christ, was made to be sin for us (who knew no sin) God laid upon his son Jesus all our sins and iniquities. Jesus became sin, our sin bearer for us, in our stead. As such he received the wrath and punishment of God for our sins and died upon the cross.

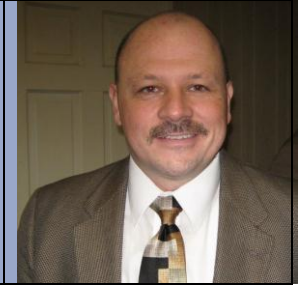
This is “good news” to every sinner! This is the good news or “gospel” Christ died for our sins according to the scripture (in accordance to the law, satisfying it’s requirements) was buried (carried my sins away)

And rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the scripture (fulfilling all the prophecies and types of the Levitical system)

The work is finished, complete, nothing for us to do or add to it. All you need do is believe it, receive it! The Samaritan woman did! And thou shalt be saved. Your sins are forgiven. You have eternal life. And shall never perish, come into judgment or condemnation. We beseech you, in Christ stead, be ye reconciled to God!

## “Devotion: II Chronicles 12:7-8”

by Bro. Jeff Short



“And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak. Nevertheless they shall be his servants; that they may know my service, and the service of the kingdoms of the countries.” ~ 2 Chronicles 12:7-8

Rehoboam had thought to lead Judah and Benjamin to war against Jeroboam and Israel. He had gathered an army for that purpose and was prepared to strike. Then God sent Shemaiah, His prophet, to tell Rehoboam not to go up against their brothers. Rehoboam obeyed the Word of God and a three year revival began. The kingdom of Judah was strengthened, Rehoboam was strengthened, and they walked in God’s way.

Chapter twelve begins with the sad report: “And it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom, and had strengthened himself, he forsook the law of the LORD, and all Israel with him” (verse 1). After the Lord blessed them remarkably, they left off from God’s Word to go their own way. In God’s purpose, He sent the king of Egypt up against Judah, “because they had transgressed against the LORD” (verse 2). Shishak captured the fenced cities of Judah on his march to Jerusalem.

With an innumerable host arrayed against them, Rehoboam was holed up in Jerusalem with the princes of Judah in council together. Shemaiah came once again to them with the Word of the Lord: “Thus saith the LORD, Ye have forsaken me, and therefore have I also left you in the hand of Shishak” (verse 5). At this word, Rehoboam and the princes humbled themselves in repentance and made the only right confession: “The LORD is righteous” (verse 6). The Lord would not allow Shishak to destroy them because they had humbled themselves before Him.

We could draw a number of lessons from chapters eleven and twelve, but we will confine ourselves to one in particular for this devotion. The thoughts are provoked from part of God’s response in our text: “Therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance” (verse 7). God said He would prevent their destruction, but He would only grant them some deliverance. God did not sweep away the Egyptians but rather allowed them to bring Judah under tribute and into service to the king of Egypt. Though He received their repentance, He still chastened them.

This brings us to what we want to consider in this event—the sovereignty of God and the consequences of wrong choices. Let’s consider a brief summary of this account:

- Rehoboam and company made a wrong choice—to fight against Israel.
- The Lord warned them about it—He sent Shemaiah with His Word.
- They obeyed—chose the right course.
- The Lord blessed them—three years of prosperity.
- Rehoboam and company made a wrong choice—forsook God’s Word.
- The Lord chastened them—sent Shishak against them and he took their cities.
- The Lord rebuked them—He sent Shemaiah with His Word.
- They were convicted and humbled themselves—confessed the Lord’s judgment against them was right.
- The Lord delivered them from destruction—restrained Shishak.
- The Lord yet chastened them to teach them—brought under tribute to Egypt.
- Things worked out in the end—in Judah things went well.

There is a way of reading these events and jumping to the end with an erroneous conclusion:

“Well, everything worked out well in the end and it really doesn’t matter what happened before that.”

“God is sovereign. He will work everything out to His glory. No matter what, what is done is what God intended to be done.”

Though many would not put it in those exact terms, the practical application of this misunderstanding of God’s sovereignty is not uncommon among those who most profess to believe it. Though there may be some grains of truth in those statements, they exude flippancy and fall far short of our responsibility before God. Quite often, they merely mask our desire to do what we want or they cover up our refusal to do the hard work of finding direction in God’s Word.

It is tempting to expand on this subject, but I want to stick to the main point. We need to learn the lesson of Rehoboam: We are responsible for what we do and there are consequences for doing the wrong things.

Their impending destruction was abated but God yet chastened them with service to Egypt. God had warned of this chastisement before: *“Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.”* (Deuteronomy 28:47-48)

All decisions do not have the same significance in our lives, the lives of others, or the life of the church. Some are small, near trivial, and some are profoundly important. Of course, wisdom is required to discern the difference. But all decisions should be submitted to the lordship of Christ. The desire of the regenerate heart is to *“do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31).

In His Word and in His Spirit, God has given us everything we need to live godly in this present world (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Psalm 119:105; Proverbs 6:23; Psalm 1:1-6; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:14). Let us ever seek His face and never abuse His sovereignty to justify our laziness, selfishness, ignorance, pride, or rebellion. If we seek our own way, God may well deliver us into the hands of our enemies to learn better to see, love, and seek His service.

## *“The Folly of Atheism”*

*by Bro. Todd Bryant*

*“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God’” – Psalms 14:1*

Atheism is a form of religion by every definition of the word. It is based on evolution that is simply a foolish supposition. Science can be defined as “the investigation of facts”. That having been said, no part of evolution has ever been (or ever will be) proven. Charles Darwin believed that the fossil record would “prove” his theory within 100 years of his research. However, this has not happened. In fact, the more humans have dug, the wider the gap has grown between man and beast.

Atheistic scientists hoped scientific advancements would support their ideas of macro-evolution (the belief that one type of animal produces another). However, with scientific advancements such as the discovery of DNA, just the opposite has occurred. Logic would lead you to believe scientists would have abandoned a theory that has been proven more and more impossible. But, they have not. They have continued to accept the evolutionary theories even though true science has actually proven those theories to be impossible. Therefore, they accept evolution by faith – it is a religion.

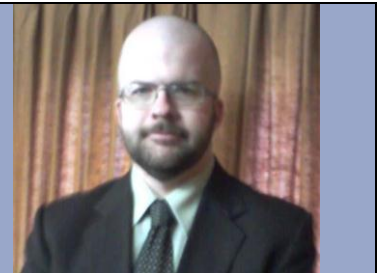
Sadly, we live in an age when many Christians feel threatened by the scientific community. Unlearned believers often trust scientists over the Word of God. Some believers accept theories such as the “day age” theory that proposes that the 7 days of Creation are more like long ages of time. Yet, God’s Word says, “. . . the evening and the morning were the first day”. The same is said for each successive day. This is clear proof that the days were literal 24-hour days. Some believers’ today claim to be theistic evolutionists. This is an oxymoron. There is no such thing. This is nothing more than compromise. Worse yet, the denial of Genesis 1 and 2 equates to the denial of the rest of the Bible. Simply, if there was no Creation, then there was no Garden of Eden. There was no Adam and Eve. There was no serpent. There was no forbidden fruit. And, there was no Fall. Understand, we need Jesus because of the Fall of man in the Garden of Eden when Adam ate the forbidden fruit and was sentenced to death, and we in him.

A denial of Creation is a denial of the Gospel. There is no middle ground here. Christians should reject any idea that would extend the age of the Earth more than the Bible allows for. The evolutionists have continued to add age to the Earth as more scientific advancements are made which have proven evolution to be more and more impossible. To accept their dating is to accept a foolish fallacy. We need to teach our children a simple truth – when the teacher says, “Millions of years ago. . .”, just mentally insert “Once upon a time. . .” because whatever follows “Millions of years. . .” is nothing more than a fairy tale.

### *Historical Marker:*

### *“Dinosaurs and The Bible”*

*by Bro. David Green*



#### INTRODUCTION.

*“Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded,*

and they were created. He hath also stablished them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps: Fire, and hail; snow, and vapour; stormy wind fulfilling his word: Mountains, and all hills; fruitful trees, and all cedars: Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl: Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. He also exalteth the horn of his people, the praise of all his saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto him. Praise ye the LORD." (Psalm 148).

Dinosaurs are creatures we learn about from the time we are very small until we are very old. Some even question their existence. However, the fact is, dinosaur bones have been found on every continent, including Antarctica. So we know they existed at some point. Some scientists and all public school textbooks tell us that the dinosaurs died millions of years before man came on the scene, yet what does the Bible say? This may come as a surprise to some, but the Bible has a lot to say about dinosaurs! No, the word is not found in our KJV Bible, but that is because the word dinosaur was not coined until 1842, by a creationist named Richard Owen. Our Bible was first translated in 1611.

"Interestingly, the word 'dragon' is used a number of times in the Old Testament. In most instances, the word dinosaur could substitute for dragon and it would fit very nicely. Creation scientists believe that dinosaurs were called dragons before the word dinosaur was invented in the 1800s. We would not expect to find the word dinosaur in Bibles like the Authorized Version (1611), as it was translated well before the word dinosaur was ever used." - Ken Ham, [Dinosaurs and the Bible](#)

In a generic sense, the word *Dinosaur* has come to mean "any of various large extinct reptiles." (Merriam Webster's Online Dictionary). Thus, in this sermon we may speak of dinosaurs as being in the land, in the water or in the air.

In order to "unlock" the mystery of the dinosaurs in our KJV, we will also take a look at the original Hebrew word *tan-neen'* or *tan-neem'*, which is usually translated dragon, but not always. Strong's concordance gives us this definition of that Greek word:

A marine or land monster, that is, sea serpent or jackal: - dragon, sea-monster, serpent, whale.

Notice in our text, and let us re-read verse 7: "*Praise the LORD from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps*"

These dinosaurs, which seem fierce to us were created to give praise to Almighty God, their creator!

#### THEIR CREATION.

"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. 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. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth." (Genesis 1:20-22).

The first types of dinosaurs were created on Day Five of Creation. Remember, the days of creation were literal days, just like we know them today... I am amazed at how many people try to explain away the word day here. If I say that I will see you in six days, you would probably not have any doubts what I meant. I really doubt anyone would think I meant six billion years! Why is it people have problems with the word day here? I do not know!

Anyway, some of you probably wonder how I know that any dinosaurs were created on day five. Well, remember that Hebrew word *tan-neen'*

It is here, translated as whales. In the original, God meant all the great sea monsters including those marine dinosaurs that exist today and are found as fossils all around the world, and may even exist in the waters today (ever read about the Loch Ness Monster?). The King James translators translated it whales because that was the biggest marine animal they knew about. And certainly, whales were created that day, but they could have also translated it as sea dragons or marine dinosaurs!

#### LEVIATHAN: A SEA DINOSAUR

"Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou testest down? Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn? Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft words unto thee? Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever? Wilt thou play with him as with a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens? Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants? Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears? Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more. Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him? None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me? Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine. I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion. Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to him with his double bridle? Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about. His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal. One is so near to another, that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered." (Job 41:1-17).

Now, up to this point in our reading, you might think of an alligator or a crocodile. And you would not be alone in your assumption. In fact, many old commentators have thought this to be the case. (Some have even thought it was a whale! This totally blows my mind, since leviathan obviously had scales...something that whales do not have!) The word *leviathan* is actually the Hebrew word. When the King James translators got to this word, they could not agree on what it was, so they simply transliterated it. What is it, though? Well, let us keep reading:

"By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning. Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out. Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron. His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth. In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him. The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved. His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone. When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves. The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble. Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear. Sharp stones are under him: he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire. He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment. He maketh a path to shine after him; one would think the deep to be hoary. Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear. He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride." (Job 41:18-34).

Let's do a recap of leviathan. He was a fire-breather (v 18-21, 31-32), could raise himself up (v 25), not very easy to kill (v 26-30), unlike anything else created (v 33), and apparently very large (v. 34). What kind of crocodile or whale fits that description! Ever hear those legends of fire breathing dragons that came out of England? Guess what, it looks like they were based on some facts! Our ancestors would have had no trouble telling us what the Bible describes here! And those legends are not just in England, but also in other parts of the world as well.

Now, I know, there are skeptics who say the Bible must have been influenced by legends. As Baptists we must either believe God really did create fire-breathing dragons or believe the Bible is false. I choose the Bible! Is it really far-fetched to believe that God created dinosaurs that could do this? Not really, when there is a "fire-breathing bug" that is alive today. Notice:

**Bombardier Beetle:** "From twin 'exhaust tubes' at his tail, this beetle fires into the face of his enemies boiling-hot noxious gases with a loud pop...the beetle's spray is astonishingly hot (some are unleashed at 100°C), a feature that seems to be dependent on the biochemistry of the reaction between the hydroquinones, hydrogen peroxides and the catalases and peroxidases that the beetle synthesizes and stores in separate reservoirs."

[\(Answers in Genesis:Preliminary observations of the pygidial gland of the Bombardier Beetle\)](#)

*"O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein."* (Psalm 104:24-26).

God made this creation in His wisdom, and so it is also with leviathan, who was one of those great innumerable sea creatures made to play in the waters.

*"For God is my King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness."* (Psalm 74:12-14).

Here we find God's greatness expressed through the killing of leviathan. (On a side note, we find it was good for food!) When we find the fossils of these sea dragons we ought to remember God's power and greatness!

#### FLYING DINOSAURS.

*"Rejoice not thou, whole Palestina, because the rod of him that smote thee is broken: for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a fiery flying serpent."* (Isaiah 14:29). Serpent is another older word used for dragons and dinosaurs. To see the connection, let us look up the word for dragon in Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

A kind of winged serpent, much celebrated in the romances of the middle ages.

Now the passage we just read is not the only passage like it. Notice:

"The burden of the beasts of the south: into the land of trouble and anguish, from whence come the young and old lion, the viper and fiery flying serpent, they will carry their riches upon the shoulders of young asses, and their treasures upon the bunches of camels, to a people that shall not profit them." (Isaiah 30:6).

Although the Hebrew word is unlike the word we have looked at before, the translation is precise. It says a *flying serpent*, even in the original. God created flying dinosaurs (We know them today as pterodactyls) on the fifth day of creation, and the evidence is very clear they existed in the world as we study the fossil record!

#### LAND DINOSAURS

*"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. 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."* (Genesis 1:24-25).

On day six of creation, God created all the land animals and mankind. How can I know for sure that God created the land dinosaurs on that day? Well, because God's Word says so! Notice:

*"Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox."* (Job 40:15).

Behemoth is another one of those transliterated words that come to us from the Hebrew. Again, the translators were unsure how to translate this one so they left it alone. If you have any notes at all in the center column or at the bottom of the page here, it probably tells you that behemoth was either an ox, elephant or a hippo. Whichever it says, it's wrong!

Let us look at the description of it:

*"Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him. Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play. He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens. The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about. Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth. He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares."* (Job 40:15-24).

Here is the complete description of Behemoth. Notice some of these: He was made on the same day as man (v 15), he ate grass like an ox (v 15), he was very strong (v 16), he moves his tail like a cedar tree (v 17), his bones are like bars of iron and pieces of brass (v 18), he does not hesitate to drink up a river (v 23), etc.

I believe this was the biggest land creature (or at least one of the biggest) God made. Notice the words: "chief of the ways of God" there in verse 19. Then in verse 23, we are told he can even drink up the Jordan River... Now that may not mean much to us, but this was the biggest river in Palestine...traveling 200 miles long and 90-100 feet wide and three to ten feet deep! What a mighty creature Job must have known! The description sounds much like what scientists know today as a Sauropod such as the famous Brachiosaurus. Notice this description of the Sauropods:

Brachiosaurid was one of the biggest dinosaurs. They considered the longest dinosaurs. The weight was about 80t and the length was 25m. In addition, using their long necks, they could eat leaves of treetops. However, unlike other herbivorous dinosaurs, Brachiosaurus bit leaves from trees and then chewed. Sometimes, they could stand up by their strong hind legs to reach to the leaves of treetops.

*"And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness."* (Malachi 1:3).

There were dinosaurs that roamed the earth. Here the Bible tells us that dragons were in the forests!

#### WHAT THEY ATE.

*"And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so."* (Genesis 1:30).

Originally, all dinosaurs were vegetarians. None of them ate meat. Way back there in the Garden of Eden, there was nothing fierce, not even the dinosaurs! Obviously, later many of God's creation began eating meat (including mankind).

#### THEIR DESTRUCTION.

*"And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die. But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee. And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female. Of fowls after their kind, and of*

cattle after their kind, of every creeping thing of the earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive. And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them. Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." (Genesis 6:17-22).

God sent a great flood to the earth that destroyed the majority of the dinosaurs. The evidence of that is seen today in the sedimentary deposits of the world. Fossilized dinosaur bones are found in all continents of the world, including places like Antarctica. Two of each of the kinds of dinosaurs were saved on the ark, so the population was not totally destroyed in the flood, but greatly reduced.

*"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 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." (Genesis 1:6-7).  
"In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened."  
(Genesis 7:11).*

In the beginning, when God created this world, He gave it a water vapor canopy. There was no rain back in those days... However, when He sent the flood, the waters that were above the earth poured down on the earth...In other words, we lost our canopy. He also broke up the fountains of the deep...probably water underground.

Now, that canopy would have been like being in a "global greenhouse," giving us a pleasant warm temperature all over the earth. This is why fossils of tropical plants and animals have been found in Antarctica. However, in the flood the "windows of heaven were opened." I believe that firmament was done away with at that point. Also, the Bible tells us that the "fountains of the great deep" were "broken up." This may be reference to volcanic activity. Looking at the evidence left behind, we know that volcanic activity was greater in the past than it is now. Evolutionists say this all happened in millions of years. I say it happened within a few thousand years, and probably in the events during and shortly after the flood.

I say all this to point out that the world was vastly different after the flood. It would have been harsher on all living things. We know that even in our own lives. You won't live to be over 900 years old today! Fact is, we will probably not see 100 in our current environment.

*"And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." (Genesis 9:1-3).*

The flood brought about other changes too: the behavior of animals was vastly different...God put a fear of man into them...and for good reason too...He gave Noah's family permission to eat meat. Probably at this point too, animals began to eat meat as well, so it was good for man that there be this dread or fear.

So, I believe that because of the harshness of the new environment and because of Noah's descendants hunting and eating them, dinosaurs are either extinct today or very, very rare. There have been sightings of dinosaurs even in our own day. And it is possible that a few still exist in some of the remote parts of the world.

## **"The Good Shepherd"**

by Bro. Todd Bryant

*"I am the good shepherd..." – John 10:11*

Admittedly, this is one of this author's favorite passages of Scripture. This beautiful illustration given to us by the most eloquent, able minister that has ever walked this Earth is full of deep truths. Yet, the presentation couldn't be much simpler. A child can understand the relationship between a shepherd and his sheep. Jesus takes this wonderful relationship and shares some deep theology with the hearers (and readers). Then again, these deep truths are very practical to us, as believers, when applied...as all good theology should be.

No greater truth is given in this passage than in our text verse – *"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep"* (John 10:11). Because of this, the sheep enter into the fold of God. Jesus goes so far as to pronounce that He alone is the *"door of the sheep"* (John 10:7). He is the narrow way which leads to eternal life (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus is *"the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through [Him]"* (John 14:6). During this time, shepherds had round fences set up in various fields. They would keep their own fold in these fences at night. Interestingly, there was no door, only an opening. The shepherd himself would sleep in the door. The sheep were allowed in through him and kept in by him. So, the hearers this day fully understood that Jesus was declaring Himself to be the only Way to God. And, He is! Any religion which expands salvation beyond Christ's meritorious work is a false religion.

Jesus *"calls his own sheep by name and leads them out"* of this world (John 10:3). If you have been delivered from this world by grace through faith, it is a gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). We must always understand and acknowledge that Jesus is *"the author and finisher of our faith"* (Hebrews 12:2). Interestingly, sheep can be gathered together among many other animals. Yet, when their shepherd calls, they will recognize his voice and leave the rest behind. To further explain this, Jesus said, *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me"* (John 10:27).

Certainly, Jesus could not be said to be the good shepherd if He didn't protect His sheep. Earthly shepherds certainly sometimes lose sheep. And *"a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them"* (John 10:12). But, Jesus is neither a hired hand nor an earthly shepherd. Jesus is the eternal Son of God. He is the Good Shepherd. He gives His sheep *"eternal life, and they shall never perish"* (John 10:28). The sheep in God's fold are fully protected by the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd does not lose sheep.

Child of God, take a moment and thank Jesus today for being the Good Shepherd. Thank Him for purchasing your salvation, for calling you, for guiding you and even for keeping you despite your tendency to wander (like a sheep). His work as the Good Shepherd is certainly one which gives a true believer much comfort.

Baptist For Liberty can be found online at

<http://baptistsforliberty.weebly.com>

You can also look us up on Facebook

Send letters to the Editor at [worksjoanna@yahoo.com](mailto:worksjoanna@yahoo.com)

We encourage any printing of this or other issues for distribution, so long it is copied in its entirety without editing. Thank you.