

The True Nature of Islam

Shahbaz

04

God's Educational Plan for the Last Days • Part II

Education in the Time of the End

Judy Kjaer

18

The Manifestation of Christ

Part IV

Michael Fassbender

22

FATH **ON THE LINE**
DARE TO STAND

SPRING 2017

FAINT, YET PURSUING THE REST OF THE STORY

WE ALL KNOW THE EXHILARATING STORY OF GIDEON AND HIS 300 MEN. IT IS A THRILLING STORY WITH NON-STOP ACTION NOT TOO FAR OFF FROM THE ACTION-PACKED STORYLINES OF SOME MOVIES TODAY. IF MOVIES WERE APPROPRIATE, I COULD SEE A BLOCKBUSTER MOVIE ABOUT GIDEON AND HIS 300.

For those with imagination, the story of Gideon can come alive in our minds. We know how God asked him to destroy Midian by sending the angel of the Lord to visit him, and even do a sign – burning up the food he brought him to eat. We know how Gideon asked God for a sign and then changed his mind and asked for the reverse, how God whittled down his army twice until he had an unbelievably small number of men against thousands, how Gideon fretted the night before the attack, and how they encircled the camp with trumpets and pitchers of light, broke the pitchers, blew the trumpets, and caused the Midianites to turn on themselves in fright. The thrilling story is full of suspense and drama, and appeals to all ages.

God was with them as they pursued the fleeing host. At the end of that battle over 120,000 men of Midian died. The Midianites were destroyed.

But the chase did not end with the pitchers of light and the trumpets. The drama and action aren't over yet.

As Israel hears of Gideon's night victory, those that had fled at first from fear, join him in the chase after the Midianites.

In verse 24, Gideon sends a messenger to the tribe of Ephraim asking them to cut off two princes that are headed their way, to prevent them from crossing the river. The men of Ephraim do this and as a result, they are able to capture Oreb and Zeeb and slay them.

These men of Ephraim follow after Gideon and bring him the 2 bloody heads of Oreb and Zeeb, but instead of joining him in a team effort, they berate Gideon and chide him sharply:

Judges 8:1: And the men of Ephraim said unto him, Why hast thou served us thus, that thou calledst us not, when thou wentest to fight with the Midianites?

Now let's pause and ask ourselves – where were the men of Ephraim at the original call to attack Midian? Or when they heard that Gideon's 300 were successfully destroying the host of Midian, why did they not join themselves with the rest of Israel in the pursuit? Instead, they come to Gideon implying, "Why didn't you call us to join you in this attack?"

Gideon answers brilliantly, with diplomatic humility, Judges 8:2,3: "What have I done now in comparison of you?... [Look at what God did through you. You were able to kill Oreb and Zeeb] .. what was I able to do in comparison of you?"

This meek and gracious answer calms their anger and brings peace. How many of us would answer in that manner when we are tired from heavy exertion, the adrenaline pumping in our veins from stress, intensely focused on some critical task – would we have the presence of mind to respond in a humble gracious way, lifting up another's efforts?

Surely the devil wanted to throw Gideon off by causing him to respond in an ungodly, unkind way under pressure, as he tries to do to us all. But the story isn't finished yet.



continued on page 8

Our aim is to urge men and women to stand for truth and resist error. We pray that in times of serious compromise our ministry will equip you with solid information on current end-time issues and trends, and encourage you to live a life apart from worldly influences.

Faith on the Line is published quarterly by Amazing Discoveries

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Subscription

\$25/yr for US and Canada
\$30/yr for International

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FAITH ON THE LINE DARE TO STAND

S P R I N G
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In this issue :



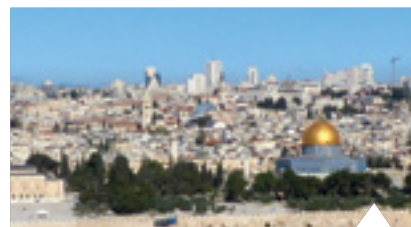
The True Nature
of Islam 04
Shahbaz



Winds of Doctrine
Part III 12
Joel Kratzke



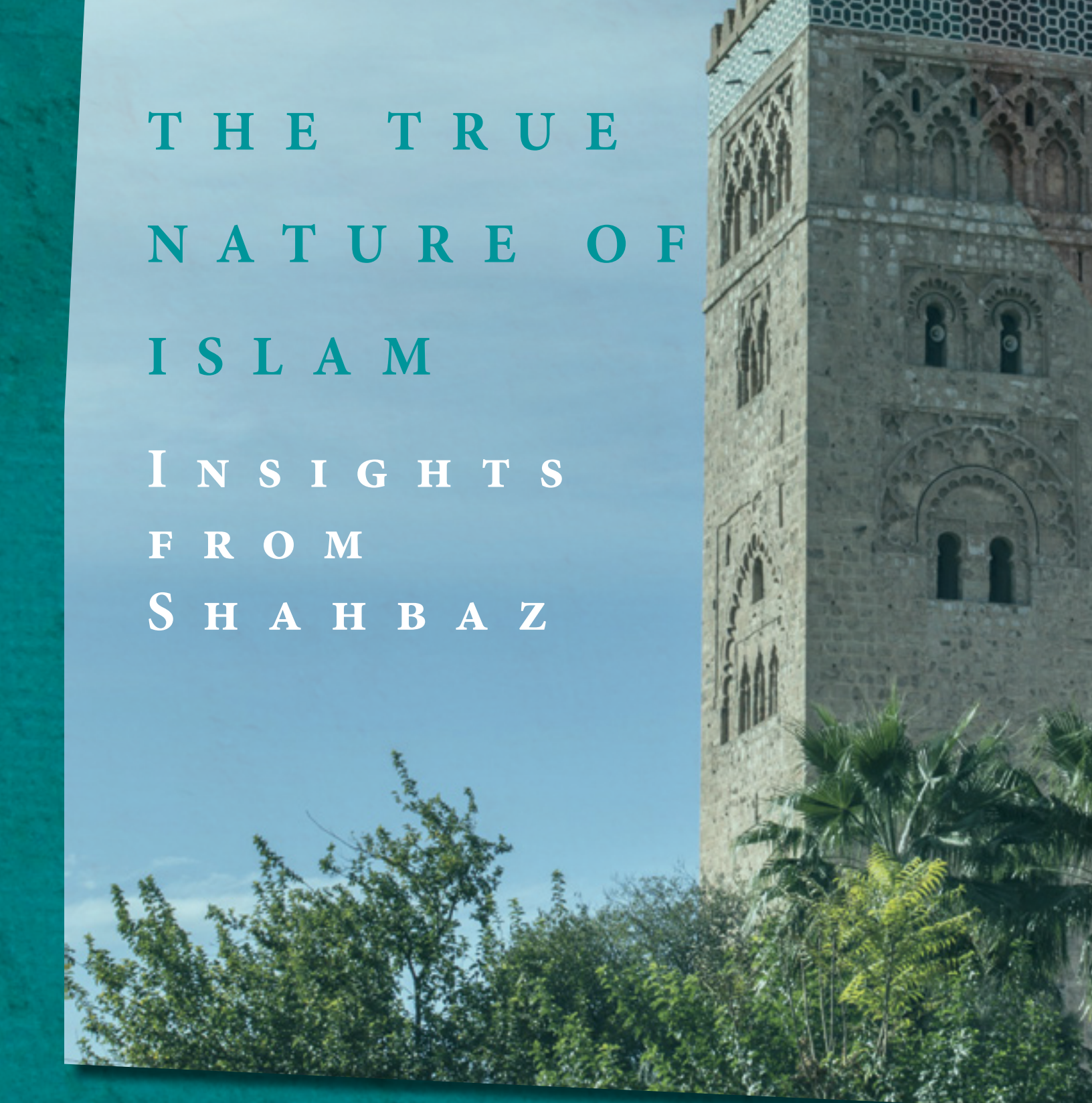
God's Educational Plan for
the Last Days • Part II 18
Judy Kjaer



The Manifestation of Jesus
Christ • Part IV 22
Michael Fassbender



The Emergent Church 34
Robert Llewellyn



THE TRUE NATURE OF ISLAM

INSIGHTS
FROM
SHAHBAZ

AS AN EX-MUSLIM I FIND MYSELF CHALLENGED BY CERTAIN TEACHINGS WITHIN IN THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH TO TAKE A STANCE. THESE TEACHINGS CHANGE OUR TRADITIONAL PERSPECTIVES ABOUT 1) THE NATURE OF GOD, 2) THE PERSON AND MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST, 3) THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE AND 4) THE METHOD OF EVANGELISM. THEY HAVE IN RECENT YEARS GAINED MOMENTUM AND THE SUPPORT OF VARIOUS LEADERS. BELOW I WILL DISCUSS THESE ASSERTIONS.



CLAIM 1 ISLAM STEMS FROM ABRAHAM

Some reason that since Arabs are the descendants of Abraham and Islam is the religion of the Arab world, Islam must be an extension of Abraham's faith. This leads many to conclude that Islam is fundamentally good. However, this position is not supported by the Bible or by historical facts. It is true that some Arab tribes in the Middle East are of the lineage of Abraham. But that Abraham had anything to do with the formation or practice of Islam is an impossibility since this religion did not even arise until 2000 years after the time of Abraham.



CLAIM 2 MOHAMMAD WAS A PROPHET

The idea that Mohammad was at one time a "chosen" vessel, a "reformer," or even a "true prophet" is Biblically unsupportable. The founder of Islam early set himself on the opposite side of the Gospel. If Mohammad had the spirit of prophecy, surely he would have supported the most basic fundamental doctrine of the Bible: He would have pointed to Jesus as the "Lamb of God which taketh away the Sin of the world". But he did not do that. While the Koran honors Jesus as a prophet he is not as significant as Mohammad.



CLAIM 3 ALLAH AND GOD ARE THE SAME

Is Allah the same God the Christian worships? My answer is simple. If Allah is the God of the Bible, then he would agree

with His own words which He spoke testifying about Jesus saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17), or "This is my beloved Son: hear him." (Luke 9:35). But there isn't anything of this kind in the Koran. To the contrary, the notion of a redeemer is foreign to Islam. Both the divinity of Jesus and his atoning sacrifice at the cross are denied.



CLAIM 4 ISLAM REPRESENTS A SPECIAL BLESSING

What about the teaching that makes Islam somehow a "forgotten blessing" because Islam was used as a scourge against the Papacy in the Dark Ages? I answer with another question: Are the Persian people under a special blessing of God because Cyrus, the Persian king, was used to restore Israel to freedom after the Babylonian captivity? I don't think so. It just proves God's sovereignty over all human affairs by using whomever He likes to achieve His purposes. The fact that it pleased God to use Islam as a scourge during the Dark Ages does not make this religion a blessing.



CLAIM 5 ADVENTISM HAS MUCH IN COMMON WITH ISLAM

Although at first glance there seem to be many commonalities between Adventist faith and Muslim faith these connections are largely on the surface only. Regarding the substantive doctrines of Scripture, we have little in common with the Muslims. Just one example: Muslims don't eat pork and abstain from alcoholic drinks, but apart from that they can smoke cigarettes and freely partake of the flesh of camels, crabs or any other form of scavenging sea creatures. In Islam, diet restrictions are of little consequence with the exception of eating swine's flesh which, incidentally, in times of dearth is permissible according to Shari'ah law.

ISLAM'S TRUE PURPOSE

The above claims on Islam are certainly being promoted by well-meaning individuals. Nevertheless, they miss the true and subtle purpose of Islam – to make of no effect the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This, I submit, is the real reason for the existence of Islam.



OUR TRADITIONAL POSITION IN REGARD TO ISLAM

As a Seventh-day Adventist I want to defend our traditional position in regards to Islam which teaches that Islam is a false religion and its error needs to be overthrown. Here is the only statement on the religion of Islam from the pen of inspiration:

Mohammedanism has its converts in many lands, and its advocates deny the divinity of Christ. Shall this faith be propagated, and the advocates of truth fail to manifest intense zeal to overthrow the error, and teach men of the pre-existence of the only Saviour of the world? O how we need men who will search and believe the word of God, who will present Jesus to the world in his divine and human nature, declaring with power and in demonstration of the Spirit, that "there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." O how we need believers who will now present Christ in life and character, who will hold him up before the world as the brightness of the Father's glory, proclaiming that God is love! (The Home Missionary, September 1, 1892)

This was our denomination's position during the time of Ellen G. White and our pioneers, and it ought to be our position today.

THE TEACHINGS OF THE KORAN AND THE BIBLE

Let's compare the Koran with the Bible focusing on those truths of Scripture that show why the above claims are not sustainable. In 1 John 4:1 we read, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

If we are going to take the apostle's counsel seriously, then we must look at what it is that Islam teaches and compare it with the Bible so we won't be deceived. Let's compare the spirit of Islam with the Spirit of God because John has admonished us to do so.

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world (1 John 4:2-3).

Does Islam in this sense "confess" Jesus Christ?



WHAT THE KORAN SAYS ABOUT JESUS

Advocates of Islam may say, "Islam is not an antichrist religion because it teaches Jesus was chosen by Allah and that Jesus came in the flesh according to the Koran." Now, it's true that Islam teaches that Christ was chosen, but only as a prophet and not the Son of God. Jesus is only mere flesh, according to the Koran. Look at the following statement taken from the Koran: "...the example of Jesus, as far as Allah is concerned, is the same as that of Adam; he created him from dust, then said to him, 'Be,' and he was" (Surah 3:59). According to this verse, Christ was created from dust just as Adam was. This is evidently a denial of the divinity of Jesus.

There are many more Surahs in the Koran that talk about Jesus. Some of them talk about His birth. Others talk about His character, His mission and teachings. But the big question is, do these verses in the Koran agree with the Bible?

John the apostle, in 1 John the fifth chapter, has much to offer that is important to us as Christians seeking how to relate to Muslims. In fact, I believe the first thirteen verses in 1 John 5 are buffers placed in the Word of God to protect His church from any false advances against the truth, and that includes the Koran.

EVERY
SPIRIT
THAT
CONFESSETH
THAT JESUS
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IN THE
FLESH
IS OF GOD



Let's look at these verses and do a comparison.

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (1 John 5:1-5)

Right at the start John expounds on eternal truths that are central to Christianity: Jesus is the Christ or the Messiah (verse 1), and the Son of God (verse 5). Islam too calls Jesus Messiah but strictly rejects His divinity. In the Koran Surah 19:88-92 we therefore read these startling words:

Those who say: 'The Lord of Mercy has begotten a son,' preach a monstrous falsehood, at which the very heavens might crack, the earth split asunder, and the mountains crumble to dust. That they should ascribe a son to the Merciful, when it does not become the Lord of Mercy to beget one!

Next John focuses on the most powerful expression of who God is, and that is love (verses 1-3). As we surrender to Him, He causes to grow in us love for God and love for the "children of God." This God-given love helps us keep God's commandments. If we are "born of God" (see verse 4), we overcome the world through faith. And what helps us to overcome the world? Unless we believe that Jesus is the Son of God we cannot overcome the world. But Islam denies the Sonship of Jesus and therefore cuts itself off from the Source of power and love. No wonder Islam generally teaches violence.



Judges 8:4: And Gideon came to Jordan, and passed over he, and the 300 men that were with him, faint, yet pursuing them.

Our spiritual warfare must be fought with what strength we have, though we have but little. It is many a time the true Christian's case – faint, yet pursuing. Much fatigued with what he'd done, yet eager to do more against the enemies of their country. Gideon is met with yet more lack of civility while doing God's work.

Judges 8:5,6: And he said unto the men of Succoth, Give, I pray you, loaves of bread unto the people that follow me; for they be faint, and I am pursuing after Zebah and Zalmunna, kings of Midian. And the princes of Succoth said, Are the hands of Zebah and Zalmunna now in thine hand, that we should give bread unto thine army?

In other words, have you conquered yet? We don't even know if you are going to succeed. Why should we feed you if you haven't gained the victory yet. Your job is impossible, you're wasting your time.

This response must have been a great discouragement to Gideon and his men. But though he met with discouragement from his own people, was jeered at for what he was doing, as going about what he could never accomplish, yet he continued on. If those who should be our helpers in the way of duty prove hindrances to us, let not this drive us off from our task.

It was still night, Gideon and his men had been pursuing the enemy all night, with no time for rest and no thought of food. Gideon had not inquired for food for himself, but for those following after him, those that had joined him after the Midianite escape, not even for his 300 faithful warriors, although they would surely have also eaten the food offered to them, but Gideon's thought was for the people that had come out of their hiding places and out of their homes to help him. The unkindness shown his men is too much for Gideon.

Judges 8:7: And Gideon said, Therefore when the Lord hath delivered Zebah and Zalmunna into mine hand, then I will tear your flesh with the thorns of the wilderness and with briers.

Gideon is confident the Lord will give him victory – he responds with “when....”, not “if...” “When the Lord has delivered..” Gideon rushes on after the Midianites, and when he comes to the next town of Penuel, he tries again to get food for his men, but the men of Penuel answer him the same way that the previous city had.

Judges 8:9: And he spake also unto the men of Penuel, saying, When I come again in peace, I will break down this tower.

Again Gideon talks faith and confidence: “When...” He does not turn on these wicked men of Israel in the heat of passion, or lose time punishing them. Gideon's zeal for his mission does not flag. He must not be side-tracked from the pursuit of his enemy.

The discouraging remarks and lack of assistance don't decrease his faith that God will deliver the last of the Midianites into his hand. He pursues on to capture Zebah and Zalmunna and discomfit the host of Midian.

Judges 8:11 And Gideon the son of Joash returned from battle before the sun was up. Victory, combat, discouragement, accusation, rebuff – all in one night. Enough to put anyone at their wit's end. Returning from the battle, Gideon locates the seventy-seven men of Succoth that denied his people refreshment, and fulfills his promise.

Judges 8:16,17: And he took the elders of the city, and thorns of the wilderness and briers, and with them he taught the men of Succoth. And he beat down the tower of Penuel, and slew the men of the city.

By refusing to assist Gideon and the men that were with him, the men of Succoth and Penuel proved that they were not on the side of God. But for strength from God for their task, Gideon's army could have failed in completing their task because of exhaustion and hunger. The consequences applied by Gideon, although extreme, were necessary for an example to those who think they can hurt the cause of God and get away with it.

The story of Gideon is an outstanding story of exciting action, courage, faith, and justice. Besides his faith-filled victory though, it gives us a glimpse into the many challenges that face anyone trying to do God's will in their life. **AD**

Wendy

Let's read two more verses from the Koran:

"Creator of the heavens and the earth. How should He have a son when He had no consort? He created all things, and He has knowledge of all things" (Surah 6:101).

"Allah forbid that He should have a son!" (Surah 4:171)

Let's continue with the rest of what John has to say:

This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth (1 John 5:6).

WHAT THE KORAN SAYS ABOUT THE CROSS

The Koran denies that Jesus ever died on the cross thus undoing the plan of salvation. Salvation in Islam is merited by good works and not by faith. Let's read from the Koran the account that denies Jesus' death on the cross:

And for claiming that they killed the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, the messenger of Allah. In fact, they never killed him, they never crucified him - they were made to think that they did. All factions who are disputing in this matter are full of doubt concerning this issue. They possess no knowledge; they only conjecture. For certain, they never killed him (Surah 4:157).

WHAT THE KORAN SAYS ABOUT THE GODHEAD

The Bible says the following about the Godhead:

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one (1 John 5:7-8).

Islam is opposed to this important truth about the nature of God which teaches of the unity between the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and whom the Bible refers to as the "Godhead."

Here is another verse from the Koran that teaches against the Godhead:

People of the Book (in the Koran, Christians and Jews are referred to as the "people of the Book"), do not transgress the bounds of your religion. Speak nothing but the truth about Allah. The Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, was no more than Allah's apostle and His Word which He cast to Mary: a spirit from Him. So believe in Allah and His apostles and do not say: "Three." Forbear, and it shall be better for you. Allah is but one God (Surah 4:171).

About the Sonship of Jesus to the Father, John warns us not to receive the witness of men over the witness of God.

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son (1 John 5:9-10).

Let's read more:

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:11-13).

AN HONEST CONCLUSION

Islam is undermining Christianity at its very core, and it does so by subtly attacking it on three fundamental and eternal truths of Christianity: The Sonship of Jesus Christ to His Father, Jesus' divine nature and Oneness with God, and Jesus' death upon the cross as a substitutionary offering on behalf of mankind.

This evidence allows but one honest conclusion: The Jesus of the Koran is not the true Jesus and the Allah of the Koran is not the Ancient of Days, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. With this in mind, can we really use the "Isa al Masih" (Jesus Christ) mentioned in the Koran as a bridge to Muslims? Can we use a false christ and convert people to the True Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world? Certainly not. Today God is calling His children to come all the way out of fallen and false religions. This applies as well to Muslims and we need to communicate it accordingly – at the right time, in a loving and sympathizing manner, led by the Holy Spirit.

And if a Muslim accepts present truth and the True Jesus of the Bible as his Savior, he will no longer remain a Muslim. He will be a born-again Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

LEARNING FROM THE GREATEST OF ALL MISSIONARIES

There are so many ideas about how best to reach Muslims with the Gospel that the choices can be baffling. Yet the answer is really simple: We have to follow the example of Jesus. Jesus clearly has shown us the correct method for evangelism both in His own life and that of His apostles. Ellen White wrote this:

Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow Me' (The Ministry of Healing, 143).

We do not necessarily learn about evangelism by only reading books or learning theories. The best way Jesus taught His disciples was through modeling. He was an ever present example to them. His disciples saw Him work in the lives of the people around them.

They saw Him minister to the needs of old and young alike; they saw Him deliver the people from their bondage to sin. His love and care for the masses was unmatched. This prepared the disciples to become the apostles of Christ's church on earth.

When considering evangelizing the Muslim world of today, it is expedient that we continue the Biblical tradition and do not deviate from the methods of Christ, our pattern.

BUT WHAT ABOUT PAUL IN ATHENS?

Some try to use Paul's experience on Mars Hill to say it is okay to contextualize the Gospel so it is palatable and easily understood by Muslims, or any other difficult to reach people groups. They believe Paul took great liberty in his evangelistic approach somewhat along the line, "As long as the evangelist has good intentions and purposes it is alright." But what was really Paul's method? What exactly took place on Mars Hill?

Let's pick up the story in Acts 17:16. Paul was in Athens waiting for Silas and Timotheus to join him. While he was waiting for them his "spirit" was "stirred in him," because "he saw the city wholly given to idolatry." Paul longed to work for these people in spiritual darkness. So he went out and disputed in the synagogues and in the open markets of Athens: "Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them

that met with him" (Acts 17:17). The Greek word "disputed" in verse 17 is *dialogomai* where we get the word "dialogue" which means conversation. The word *dialogomai* literally means "to reason with, reason, preach unto, preach, speak, to ponder, to converse, argue, discuss".

While Paul was busy disputing, "certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, met with him." (See verse 18.)

Those philosophers had a difficult time understanding Paul's message to them for he told them things they had never heard before.

"He preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection." Paul openly promoted Christianity to the idolatrous people of Athens – no indication of a gospel version especially "adapted" to Athenians!

In verse 19, when the Athenians made further inquiry of Paul, they did so with the intent of wanting to know "what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is....". Obviously, what Paul was telling the philosophers was radically different than



what they were used to hearing. Paul in no way changed the Gospel, or mixed it with Athenian doctrines.

This is why the people desired to learn more: "And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know. For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean" (Acts 17:19-20).

The people were starving for new ideas. (See verse 21.) But above all needed salvation. Paul saw his chance and seized the moment. Carefully, but fearlessly he described the religious condition of this superstitious people. (See verse 22.) Then in verse 23 Paul carefully pointed the Athenians to their own altar, which they had erected to the Unknown God.

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.

Notice Paul did not ascribe an Athenian name to God. He did not point to the great number of idols sitting close by, but instead he pointed the people to the Unknown God. Why the Unknown God? Wouldn't it have been easier to tell them about the common points between their idols and the God of heaven? After all, wasn't Paul trying to bridge the gap between himself and the Athenians?

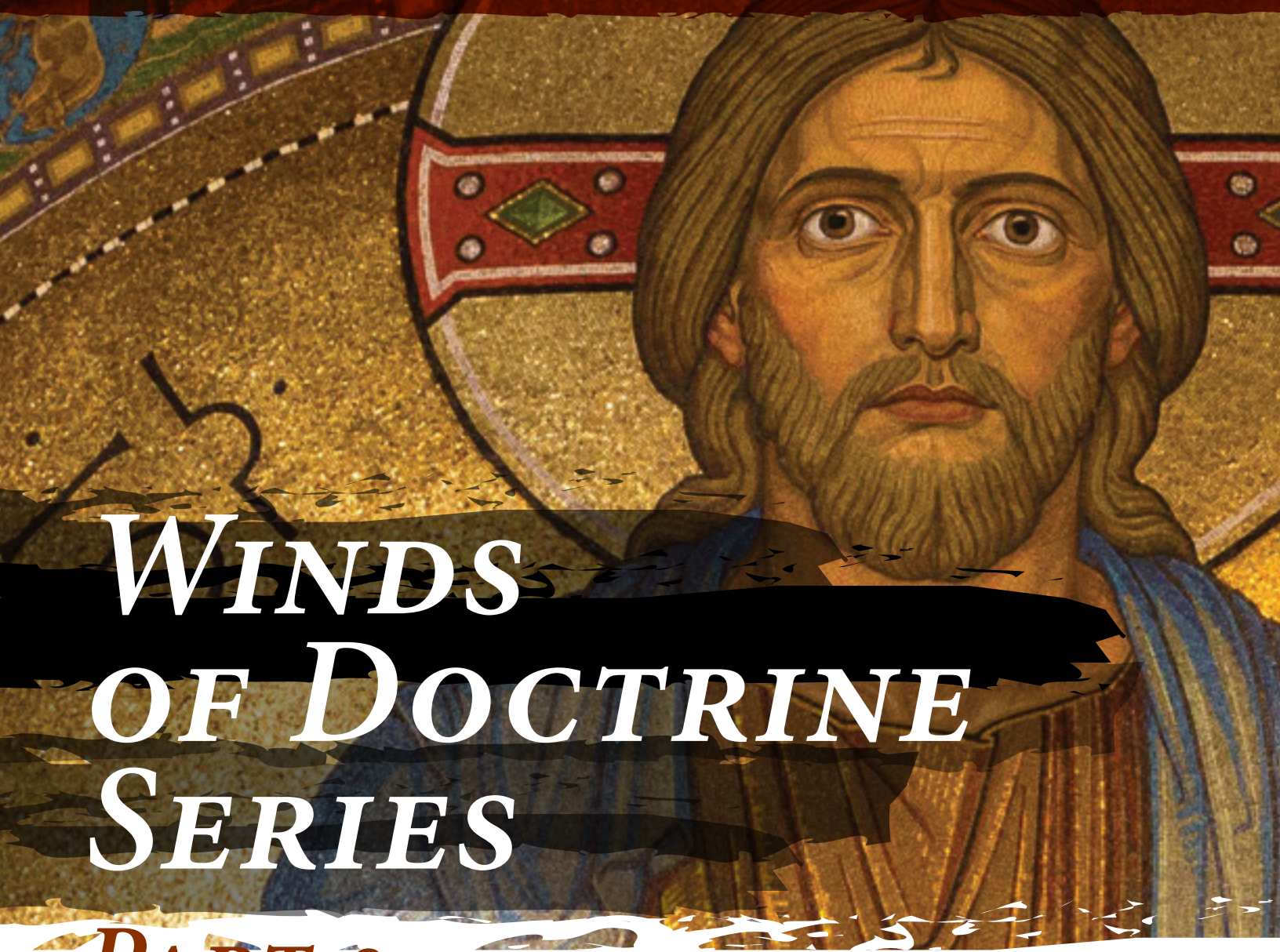
Paul chose this wise way because the title "Unknown God" was neutral. It was not ascribed to any other deity. There was no room for misunderstandings and misapplications. Paul did not have to fear to prompt inappropriate associations in his hearers about the character, honor and glory of the true God. Instead a desire was awakened in them to get to know the unknown Deity. This was a redemptive act on the part of Paul which did not compromise principle.

In the verses that follow, Paul further expounded on who this Unknown God is, being ever careful not to ascribe to God any of the characteristics that, in the minds of the people, belonged solely to the idol deities they worshiped. There is an important lesson for us: We too should not ascribe to the

God of universe the attributes of some false god whether from Islam or some other heathen religion. **A.D**

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WINDS OF DOCTRINE SERIES

PART 3

DEFINING GOD

BY JOEL KRATZKE

We have been exploring the Scriptures that indicate that Jesus is indeed God and has been for eternity. Let us now examine texts that deserve closer attention as they are texts that are used to diminish Jesus and lower Him from His place as Jehovah. Turn with me in your Bible to the gospel of John, chapter 5. Here we are going to look at a fairly lengthy passage, verses 17-30. We are going to take it a piece at a time and then as the whole. Let us look first at verses 17-18

“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath,

but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

Here Jesus makes Himself equal with God, and the Jewish leaders knew it! They were incensed by the claim and sought to kill Him for it. But Jesus in response does not tell them that they were mistaken; but rather expands and reinforces what He has just stated! He had stated that He was the ‘Son of God’ and that the work He was doing was equivalent to the work that the Father does, therefore they are equal! At no time in Scripture does Jesus ever back down from the accusation that He is God or that He is equal to God.

But, some will say, why then does Jesus claim that He can't do what He does without the Father? If He is God then why not do it Himself? This is an honest question. So again, let us go to Scripture for our understanding:

John 5:19-21

"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth [them]; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will."

What does this mean? That Jesus can do nothing of Himself? It certainly does not mean that Jesus is without a mind or power of His own! This is evident by the exclamation in verse 21 that the Son 'quickeneth whom He will'. Here Jesus states that He can 'give life' or 'make alive' anyone He wishes in the same manner as the Father. [Indicated by the phrase 'for as the Father . . . even so the Son']

It would be beneficial here to direct out attention upon this power, this power to 'quicken' or give life. The word here used in the Greek is 'zōopoiéō' which is used only 11 times the New Testament. A short overview of those texts is needed here to understand what Jesus is speaking about in our passage in John chapter 5. To begin let us look at the texts that speak to the resurrection, for this is the power that we are speaking of here, that power that will give life to the faithful at the second coming.

Romans 4:17

"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, [even] God, who quickeneth [zōopoiéō] the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

Romans 8:11

"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken[zōopoiéō] your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

1 Corinthians 15:20-23

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man [came] death, by man [came] also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive [zōopoiéō]. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's; at his coming."

Galatians 3:21

"[Is] the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life [zōopoiéō], verily righteousness should have been by the law."

1 Peter 3:18

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened [zōopoiéō] by the Spirit:"

So here we have the texts that directly speak to the resurrection. We must notice that in Romans 4:17 it is clear that it is God who raises from the dead. It is He who is the author and sustainer of life who also is the giver of life at the resurrection. Notice also that in Romans 8:11 and 1 Peter 3:18 the Bible clearly states that it is the Holy Spirit that quickeneth. Our question then must be is it God, or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit that has the power to give life? According to Scripture that power is within all three! As for Jesus' power to raise us from the dead in the resurrection there should be no question, for He affirms this Himself in John 6:40, 44, 54; emphatically stating, "I will raise him up at the last day."

That being the truth, we then must understand why Jesus continues in this manner:

**"FOR CHRIST
ALSO HATH
ONCE
SUFFERED FOR
SINS, THE JUST
FOR THE UN-
JUST, THAT HE
MIGHT BRING
US TO GOD.."**



**"FOR AS
IN ADAM
ALL DIE,
EVEN SO
IN CHRIST
SHALL ALL
BE MADE
ALIVE."**

John 5:22-29 *"For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all [men] should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."*

If Jesus is God, then why does He need the Father to commit or give anything to Him? The answer is partially revealed in this text in that Jesus is referring to Himself as the Son. Which 'Son' is He referring to? The Son of God, or the Son of Man? Both actually, and therein is the answer for so much of this discourse. Jesus came as the 'Son of God', the second son of God to this world actually; for in Luke 3:38 we see that Adam was called the 'son of God' as well. The difference between the two is important for our understanding. Adam was a created son of God, whereas Jesus is the 'begotten' Son of God. As we have seen before in the texts listed previously, in 1 Corinthians 15:22 it states:

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

Jesus, the Christ, brings life through His life, where Adam

through his life brought death. Jesus is the 'second Adam' and we see in 1 Corinthians 15:45-47

"And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam [was made] a quickening spirit. Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man [is] of the earth, earthy: the second man [is] the Lord from heaven."

Jesus, the Lord from heaven, come to redeem a fallen race. This He could not do unless He came as one of us, in our state. We read of this in Romans 8:3

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:"

And again in Galatians 4:4-5

"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

Jesus came not as a created being, a created son of God, but as the only 'begotten' son of God. He had to come as one of His creation to save His creation. Remember the great accusation of Satan against God is that He is not who He says He is in character, there is no doubt that Satan knows that God is God for he





desires to sit on God's throne to be worshipped as God [see 2 Thess. 2:4 and Isaiah 14:12-14].

Jesus must be God in order to vindicate God's character, no one else could do that. I cannot vindicate your character, only you by your actions and words can do that. So

it is with God, no one but God can vindicate God and in order to do that, God became a man! But Jesus was also a man, one of us, who came to live out a life free from sin, in harmony with the law of God and give His innocent life for the lives of the guilty. This is a key point, that while here on this earth, Jesus was like you and me, His divinity laid aside for a very important mission: to redeem mankind. Having come as one of us Jesus then lived His life as we are able to, and exhibited the relationship with God that we must have, and can have as well. He was one of us, no special advantage could have been given Him if He were to redeem us.

Many are caught up with the word 'begotten', claiming that at some point in eternity past Jesus was formed, or birthed, having come out of God's substance somehow but that He was not always there.

The claim is that this is not being created, but 'begotten'. I heartily disagree. If at any time Jesus was not, and then came to be by an act of the Father then Jesus was created. The word create itself means to fashion, to form, to shape, to make. It implies that there was someone greater that worked to make the thing or person formed, and this we have already seen does not and cannot apply to Jesus; as He is referred to as 'Jehovah', the self-existent one. Looking more deeply at the words that are translated 'begotten' we find no evidence to show that Jesus was at some point in eternity past 'birthed' by the Father. On the contrary we see that it validates the rest of Scripture as it relates to Jesus being the only one capable of saving the human race. In John 1:14, 18 and John 3:16, 18 the word translated begotten is

'monogenēs, which means – single of its kind, only, unique. Jesus, was born, He was unique, He was the only of His kind, and He was the 'begotten' or born Son of God, not a created being.

Matthew 1:18 "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost."

Mary was found with child of the Holy Ghost, a truly begotten Son of God. Indeed the Bible tells us why Jesus is called the Son of God in Luke 1:35

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."[Emphasis is mine]

Did you get that! The angel says, 'therefore' as in 'this is the reason why' Jesus is called the Son of God, because the Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary and she conceived. Notice what the angel did not say, that Jesus is called the Son of God because He was 'begotten' in eternity passed buy some divine birthing process that the Father conducted by Himself! My friends, please do not get swayed by cleverly devised arguments that lead you away from the plain clear texts of Scripture!

Another word translated as begotten is the word 'gennáo' which means- to father, used in the context of bearing children. We find it in this passage from the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 1:1-6 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person,

"THE HOLY GHOST SHALL COME UPON THEE, AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST SHALL OVERSHADOW THEE."



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and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, and let all the angels of God worship him."

Is this not what the text in Luke and Matthew are clearly stating as well? That by the Divine power of the Holy Spirit, God became the Father of a Son of Man! Thereby making Jesus both the Son of Man and the Son of God. Scripture is too clear on this matter, every other passage, every other doctrine must, I repeat, it must remain within this parameter of Truth.

So why did Jesus need to receive anything from the Father? Because Jesus humbled Himself, He laid aside His Divinity, Jesus was here as one of us. He came to struggle and gain victory against the trials and temptations in the same manner in which we have at our disposal. That being a faithful, obedient relationship with God. He is our example in all things. How else could He show us that with God all things are possible? In His humanity He needed to same help we do, He partook of grace even as we are to partake of grace [see Luke 2:40, John 1:14]. Judgment was committed to Jesus because He is the only Being who can rightly judge those who have been born into this sinful world, as He was and was victorious! And He did it for our sakes. For that we can be eternally grateful.

So yes, Jesus was begotten. He was the Son of Man and the Son of God, here in this world, as a human child, fathered by the Holy Ghost. And Yes, Jesus is God from all eternity, and remains so. **AD**

Joel Kratzke, delivered from the life of a bartender and an alcoholic, brought through the confusion of modern day Pentecostalism, convicted to make a stand for the Truth of the Word of God, called into the ministry with a burden to reach others that need to hear the Truth, a graduate of AFCE, Pastor Joel Kratzke brings a unique perspective as he presents the Three Angels Messages to people across the United States and Canada. Joel lives in MN with his wife Valerie and their two children Victoria and Jeremiah.



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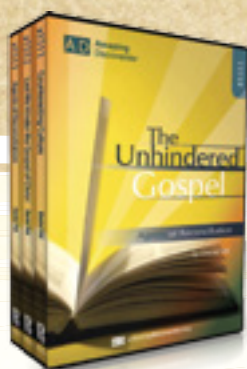


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E D U C A T I O N I N T H E T I M E O F T H E E N D

B Y J U D Y K J A E R



In part 1 of this study, we read that “The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime,”¹ that “a model school was established in Eden,”² and that “true education is still conformed to the Creator’s plan, the plan of the Eden school.”³

In 1897, an urgent and shocking imperative came to the church: “Now, as never before, we need to understand the true science of education. If we fail to understand this, we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God.”⁴

The same year we were advised, “A teacher should be employed who will educate the children in the truths of the Word of God, which are so essential for these last days, and which it is so important for them to understand. A great test is coming: it will be upon obedience or disobedience to the commandments of God.”⁵



James and Ellen White employed such a teacher for their boys. While doing outdoor therapy at Battle Creek Health Institute, Goodloe Harper Bell helped neighborhood boys with their lessons. Edson and Willie White asked their father if Bell could be their teacher, and soon a few families hired him.

"He was open to new ideas; and, very largely under the influence of Mrs. White's suggestions, he instituted new methods of teaching, lessening the burden of memory work, prescribing persistent investigation and research, and inviting original thinking and expression."⁶ God had brought His church a teacher who was willing to follow His plan of education, while the world was going in a very different direction.

"In the final years of the last century [1800s], a great transformation began in American education."⁷ At the German University of Leipzig, Dr. Wilhelm Wundt had made psychology a new science through laboratory experimentation. Americans earned prestigious doctorates under him and started psychology labs in the U.S.

Wundt's former assistant James Cattell became head of Columbia University's psychology department in 1891 and "directly influenced the fusion of experimental psychology and American education."⁸ James Earl Russell came to Columbia with his Leipzig doctorate in 1897, ran their Teachers College for 30 years, and made it the largest institution in the world for training teachers.

"Thus, in 1897, the stage was about to be set for the propagation of Wundt's laboratory psychology throughout American education."⁹ Psychology defined teaching as "the art of giving and withholding stimuli with the result of producing or preventing certain responses,"¹⁰ just as Pavlov did with dogs.

"The most widely-read and quoted textbook used in schools of education in this country"¹¹ was John Dewey's *Psychology*, published in 1896, and "To Dewey, as to Wundt, man was an animal."¹² God says, "The education of children, at home or at school, should not be like the training of dumb animals;

for children have an intelligent will, which should be directed to control all their powers."¹³

Parents choose the kind of education their children will have. If we were to ask educators about God's Eden School plan, they may answer as the farmer did when asked for directions, "You can't get there from here." The sobering truth is we must get there from here, or "we shall never have a place in the kingdom of God."¹⁴

Two years before her death, Ellen White said, "Oh, how I wish ... that I could go out as I used to and stand before the people. I would teach them of the great importance of training their children for God."

¹ White, Ellen G., *Education*, p.20

² *Education*, p.20

³ *Education*, p.30

⁴ White, *Mind, Character, and Personality*, Vol. 1, p. 53

⁵ White, Pamphlet 140, p.24.

⁶ Spalding, A.W., *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, vol.2, p.117

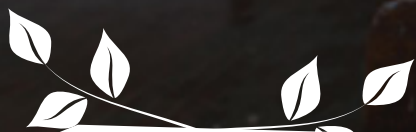
⁷ Lionni, Paolo, *THE LEIPZIG CONNECTION The Systematic Destruction of American Education*, Preface

⁸ *THE LEIPZIG CONNECTION*, p.25

⁹ *THE LEIPZIG CONNECTION*, p.25

¹⁰ Thorndike, *The Principles of Teaching based on Psychology* (1906)

¹¹ Iserbyt, Charlotte, *The Deliberate Dumbing Down of America*, p.5



“‘But, Sister White,’ Arthur Spaulding spoke up, ‘you have taught them. You have counseled them and they can read it in your books.’

“‘Yes, I know,’ she answered, ‘it is written there. But what good will it do if our people don’t read it or understand it or, most important, don’t follow the counsel?’”¹⁵

In that earnest question, Sister White gave us three steps to success in implementing God's plan of education.

- 1) “Read it” in her books.
- 2) “Understand it” with God’s help.
- 3) “Follow the counsel.”

If we will prayerfully take these steps, we can get there from here.

What shall we teach, in addition to the Bible? “Teach fundamentals. Teach that which is practical.”¹⁶ “If you are faithful in teaching the common branches, many of your students could go directly into the work as canvassers, colporteurs, and evangelists. We need not feel that all workers must have an advanced education.”¹⁷

Our denominational schools will be shut down, according to this startling statement: “All schools among us will soon be

closed up.”¹⁸ A bill introduced in the California Senate¹⁹ in February, 2016 proposed withholding state funds from postsecondary schools that do not conform on gender-related issues. Language that would seriously affect our schools was removed, but attorney Jon Daggett, who has represented the church in California, said: “Some of our schools, depending on where they are located, will be in a fight for their life in the next year or two.”²⁰

Especially at such a time as this, “Let us determine that we will not be tied by so much as a thread to the educational policies of those who do not discern the voice of God.”²¹ “We are not at liberty to teach that which shall meet the world’s standard or the standard of the church, simply because it is the custom to do so.”²²

Whether we have schools for our children or not, parents should study the Bible with them. “Christian parents, you must make provision for your children to be educated in Bible principles. And do not rest satisfied merely with having them study the Word in the church school. Teach the Scriptures to your children yourselves when you sit down, when you go out, when you come in, and when you walk by the way.”²³

We can simply pray and read God’s word with our children, knowing:

- 1) “The Bible was written for the common people as well as for scholars, and is within the comprehension of all.”²⁴
- 2) “The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed.”²⁵
- 3) “Christ has given the promise: ‘If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.’ John 7:17.”²⁶
- 1) “Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself.”²⁷

A final test is coming for God's people. We “shall be brought before councils and before thousands for His name’s sake, and each one will have to give the reason of his faith.... Those who have only a superficial understanding



of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures and give definite reasons for their faith."²⁸

As this testing time draws near, God's faithful people will be giving a clear, biblical, warning message to the world. "The truth for this time, the third angel's message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice as we approach the great final test."²⁹

Children will have an important role in giving the third angel's message, but only those children who have been rightly educated. "As Jesus in the temple solved the mysteries which priests and rulers had not discerned, so in the closing work of this earth children who have been rightly educated will in their simplicity speak words which will be an astonishment to men who now talk of "higher education." ... in these last days children's voices will be raised to give the last message of warning to a perishing world."³⁰

This third angel's message³¹ contains several major Bible teachings.

- The Everlasting Gospel
- The Hour of God's Judgment in Heaven's Sanctuary
- Worship of the Creator, Keeping the Bible Sabbath
- Fallen Babylon Making all Nations Drink her Wine
- Warning not to Worship the Beast or his Image, or Take his Mark
- Keeping the Commandments of God and the Faith of Jesus

Children can learn these teachings simply at first, then in more detail. Consider for example the second one on our list, "the hour of God's judgment." Three Bible verses, one historical date, and some easy math establish that the judgment began in 1844. The three verses are Daniel 8:14, Numbers 14:34 and Daniel 9:25. The historical date is 457 BC, and the math is adding 2,300 years to 457 BC.

Serious Bible study by young and old is an essential part of God's educational plan for the last days. Using as primary source materials the Bible, nature, useful work and the experiences of life, we can teach practical skills and academic fundamentals. Secondary source materials such as books

and teaching aids can be selectively used. As we follow God's plan, He will help us prepare our children and ourselves for this life and the next. **AD**

Judy Kjaer, is the wife of Kim Kjaer.

¹² THE LEIPZIG CONNECTION, p.19

¹³ White, Testimonies to the Church, vol. 3, p.132

¹⁴ Mind, Character, and Personality, Vol. 1, p. 53

¹⁵ McFadden, Elisabeth, and Spalding, R.W., M.D., A Fire in My Bones, A Biography of Arthur Whitefield Spalding, pp. 11-13

¹⁶ White, Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p.205

¹⁷ Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, p.213

¹⁸ White, Testimonies, vol.5, p.156

¹⁹ California Senate Bill No. 1146, http://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1146

²⁰ www.adventistreview.org/church-news/story4442-adventist-schools-told-to-be-distinctively-adventist-to-minimize-legal-trouble

²¹ Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p.255

²² White, Testimonies for the Church, vol.6, p.142

²³ White, Spalding Magan Collection, p.244

²⁴ White, Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p.23

²⁵ White, Great Controversy, p.599

²⁶ Great Controversy, p.599

²⁷ Review and Herald, November 25, 1884, quoting William Miller

²⁸ White, Last Day Events, p.209

²⁹ White, Counsels on Health, p.506

³⁰ Testimonies to the Church, vol. 6, p.202

³¹ Revelation 14:6-12

The Manifestation of Jesus Christ

Part 4



The Lord Jesus, after having driven the greedy merchants out of the temple for the second time, subsequent to having exposed the leaven of the Pharisees, lamented over the city that had continuously killed those who told the truth. This second Jewish temple was to be left unto Jerusalem desolate and would eventually be destroyed. In His famous prophetic speech to His disciples, who still seemed to nourish some national pride over this earthly house of stone, Jesus left lifesaving guidance –not just to them but to all of His followers down the ages. He sternly pointed out what one were to look for as explicit signs

of *“His coming and of the end of the world”*. The first advice the Savior gave was: *“Take heed that no man deceive you.” (Matthew 24:4b).*

Deception, massive geopolitical deception, will be the sign of His coming. The best way to prepare for Satan’s final deception is to keep ourselves constantly occupied with God’s truth; to read His truth, read it again and again and... beyond reading; do we have to do more with it?

It’s interesting. How can a book full of lamentations, mourning and woe be as honey for sweetness? And yet, a man with the name *God Strengthens* made exactly this experience.

TRUST-
WORTHINESS,
FAITHFULNESS,
AND JUSTICE
.... AND
TRUTH

by Michael E Fassbender

Once this book had been digested though, it caused some bitterness in him. The man's age was about 30 years, and he had the difficult task of carrying God's truth to his own people who were captives in a foreign country. To add to the perplexity of things, God told this man that his own people would not understand. But if he brought this truth to people of other nations, those strangers would easily understand. God's servant with this difficult mission was an appointed watchman of the house of Israel. As a priest and prophet, he received accurate information about the measures of a magnificent future temple, a temple that would never be built on the old earth, but rather on the new one.

As it unfolds to us in increasing clarity, the chiastic structure of the Book of Revelation holds a superordinate message from our Lord Jesus Christ, the true author of the book. We already found that in the ring-shaped arrangement of related narratives, each narrative bears a separate theme: **trustworthiness**, **faithfulness**, and **justice** we found so far.

The "scroll of indictment", the book with seven seals, (see Part 3 of this series) contains all charges of the Heavenly Court against sinners of all ages, who, at some point during their lifetimes, had called upon the Lamb for forgiveness. But what we haven't considered as yet: these charges are justified because man's actions stand against God's law, and sin is transgression of the law. In a typological sense, the **scroll of lamentations** told the truth about the suffering, pain and agony that sin has been causing to the Hebrew nation of old. But it also revealed the holiness of God and His eternal law. When God's word is eaten, it is joy (Jeremiah 15:16) and sweet as honey (Psalm 119:103). The prophet Ezekiel ate this **scroll of lamentations**. This means that he incorporated the truth written therein. When John the Revelator ate the fully opened book that had previously been locked with seven seals, it was sweet to his mouth (Revelation 10:9), because it disclosed the truth about God's character. But it was bitter in his stomach, because it revealed the truth about man's rebellion and sin.

Our study of the Bible's last book and the fourth chiastic ring continues with Revelation 10. If we take a careful look at the four chapters Revelation 10; 11; 13 and 14, it becomes apparent that these chapters have one thing in common; they

all introduce entities that propagate ("prophecy", "prophecy", "spake", "preach") information to the inhabitants of the earth. And we know, information may constitute either truth or disinformation. As we will discover, those four chapters tell us about God's truth: how God's truth is proclaimed in the last phase of history, how His truth is attested through the lives of those living it and through a final test of obedience, and how truth is opposed to by Satan and the engines he deploys to intimidate and deceive.

In his vision in Revelation 10, John sees Jesus (EGW: 7BC 971.3) standing with one foot on the sea and one on the land. Note that both the **sea** and the **earth** are under His feet, and

The Outer Chiastic Ring of Revelation

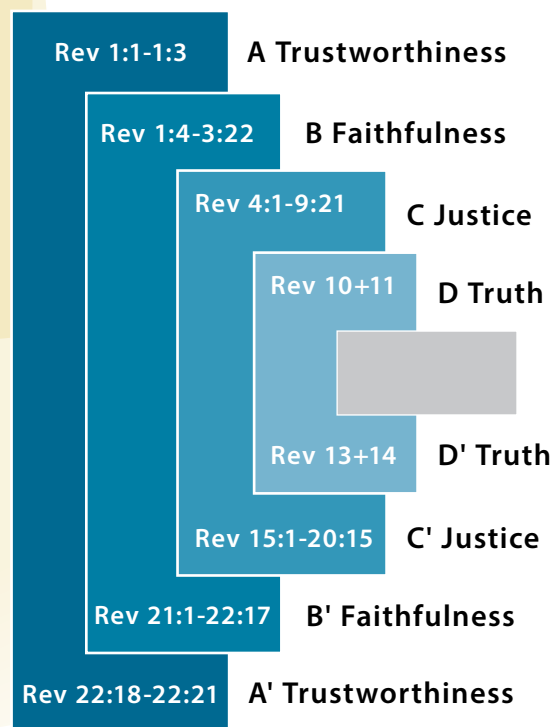


FIGURE: In order to understand the message of the Book of Revelation better, we need to recognize that this book is arranged in a chiasm of five segments.

that He has thus ultimate power over all the earth (compare Isaiah 66:1). Jesus says something with a loud voice, and then seven thunders utter their voices. John could not understand what Jesus said, but he could understand the message of the seven thunders. He was about to write, but he was prevented from doing so. What was the message of the seven thunders?

“The special light given to John which was expressed in the seven thunders was a delineation of events which would transpire under the first and second angels’ messages. It was not best for the people to know these things, for their faith must necessarily be tested. In the order of God, most wonderful and advanced truths would be proclaimed. The first and second angels’ messages were to be proclaimed, but no further light was to be revealed before these messages had done their specific work. This is represented by the angel standing with one foot on the sea, proclaiming with a most solemn oath that time should be no longer.” 1MR 99.2 (emphasis supplied)

Ellen White clearly links the seven thunders’ message to events accompanying the proclamation of truth by the first and second angel which connects Revelation chapters 10 and 14 (Revelation 14: 6-8). After the seven thunders had ceased their uttering, Jesus announces the end of prophetic time, which pointed to 1844 (compare Dan 8:13-14). In 1844, the work for man’s redemption, the “mystery of God” (Rom 16:25; Mark 4:11), entered its last phase: the investigative judgment. During the investigative judgment, the sanctuary is being cleansed.

Revelation 10, verses 10 and 11 tell us that the eating of the book was enjoyable and satisfying (sweet); however, it’s digestion and nutritional incorporation was a rather uncomfortable (bitter) process. The commission was given to John as a representative of God’s people to **“prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings.”** At the end of Revelation 10, we are left with two vital questions:

01. What effect does God’s truth have on the one who incorporates it, and
02. What is the subject and content of the prophecy that must go forth again?



THE MYSTERY OF GOD

GOD’S

TRANSFORMING TRUTH

If we now keep reading and simply continue with Revelation 11, we might get confused, since moving from Revelation 10 to Revelation 11 will take the chronology and subject slightly out of context. Considering the chiasmic build of the book, we now take a different approach and move from Revelation 10:10 directly to Revelation 14:1. If we do this, we will find that this makes good sense: we are given the answer to the first question in the first paragraph of Revelation 14:

“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father’s name written in their foreheads. [...] These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.”

Ellen White places Revelation 14, 1-5 into perspective:

"Christ Formed Within—Why were they so specially singled out? Because they had to stand with a wonderful truth right before the whole world, and receive their opposition, and while receiving this opposition they were to remember that they were sons and daughters of God, that they must have Christ formed within them the hope of glory" (Manuscript 13, 1888, emphases supplied).

The key to the understanding here is that the eating of God's truth, the *incorporation* of His word has a transforming, character changing effect, because Christ is thereby formed within, which answers question number one: no guile is found in the mouth of those who have eaten God's truth. The "wonderful truth" Ellen White refers to is set forth in verses 6-11, and these verses provide the answer to the second question above: the subject and content of the prophecy from Revelation 10:11 are the messages of the three angels. Furthermore, Revelation 14:12 explains how "Christ formed within" is visible in God's people from the outside: patient endurance of opposition, keeping of the commandments and the faith in Jesus. Then another effect of God's truth, proclaimed by the "labourers" (verse 13) is lined out in verses 14-20: the proclamation of the three angel's messages prepares the world for the harvest of the wicked: while God's truth transforms the believers into the image of Christ, it condemns the wicked and sets them apart for the final judgment. What now exactly is God's truth and through what mechanism is it proclaimed or testified of? Moreover, how is the "opposition" manifested that Ellen White indicates?

The messages of the three angels, God's truth, the Father's truth for the last age, is the truth about the Lamb, because the messengers "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth". There are three distinct elements of truth about the Lamb:

"AND I
LOOKED, AND,
LO, A LAMB
STOOD ON THE
MOUNT ZION,
AND WITH HIM
AN HUNDRED
FORTY AND
FOUR
THOUSAND,
HAVING HIS
FATHER'S NAME
WRITTEN IN
THEIR
FOREHEADS."

1. the Lamb is the Redeemer (Revelation 14: 3), which is the subject of the everlasting gospel (verse 6),

2. the Lamb is also the Judge, and judgment has commenced (verse 7),

3. the Lamb is the Creator (verse 7).

There is also the truth about the enemy of souls:

4. There are in essence only two religions: the worship of the true God and "Babylon", which is in opposition of God's truth,

5. Like Adam and Eve of old, God will again allow man to be tested; Satan will set up a worship system that will oppose true worship, and whoever receives the "mark of the beast" will be lost for eternity. (verse 9)

So, now it get serious, since eternal life is at stake! Critical questions: Who is the "beast", his "image" and what is the "mark" of the beast? In order to get answers to these questions, we need to shift our attention from Revelation 14 back to Revelation 11 and Revelation 13, for both chapters introduce the forces that oppose God's truth: Satan's engines of deception and intimidation.

THE CHARADE OF THE SELF- INFLICTED WOUND

In Revelation 11, verses 1 and 2, John is asked by Jesus to conduct a peculiar task; measure *"the temple of God, the altar, and them that worship therein"*. But John was also given instructions to leave out the outer court, because it is given to the Gentiles. For 42 months, the holy city is to be trodden underfoot. Let's now take a look at Revelation 13. It appears that Revelation 13 gives more information on this important 42-month period of Satanic oppression: a beast (a kingdom or temporal power) would rise out of the sea (i.e.,

would originate from a densely populated region), receive power, speak in blasphemy and would make war with the saints for 42 months (verse 5).

came to temporal power on May 7th, 538 AD, when the ecclesiastical Sunday law was enacted¹ at the third synod of Orleans, France. The Papacy's

"sea beast" (Rev 13), the papacy. By the end of the testimony in sackcloth, which coincides with the (preliminary) end of the temporal papal rule, around 1798, a mysterious beast would ascent out of the bottomless pit (the "abyss"), to rage war against God's word, God's truth (Revelation 11:7). Hence, the appearance of the "abyss"-beast roughly coincides with the papacy's receiving a wound that appeared to be mortal (Revelation 13:3).

Now we have to do some work of reasoning. A powerful beast gets wounded in the late 1700's. But who was able to hurt the beast at that point in history? Revelation 13 mentions only two beasts, the "sea" beast (papacy) and the earth beast (United States, 4SP 277.1), which, however, was not strong enough at that time to content with the "sea" beast. After all, the "earth beast" would eventually collaborate with the "sea beast" to set up its "image" (Revelation 13:14), where apostate Protestantism would use the state to enforce religious doctrine (GC 445.1). Moreover, Daniel 7:21.22 states that papal Rome would have world dominion until the return of the Lord. We are apparently unable a spot a contender strong enough to inflict a blow on the sea beast's head. If there was no contender around at 1798, the only possibility remains that the "deadly wound" was self-inflicted, that it was nothing else than a ridiculous charade; a circus of deception, pretense-play that was designed to regain the temporal papal power that had continuously dwindled away after the Protestant Reformation. Who was (or is) the "beast from the bottomless pit"? Ellen White identifies it with the French revolution and atheism:



John's task to divide off the outer temple court in Revelation 11 could be interpreted such that this "beast" appears -at least on the surface- to be part of God's church (the temple), but in reality is a Gentile institution opposing God's true church. Revelation 13, on the other hand, indicates that the "beast" also has temporal power (verse 2). The reformers identified the "sea beast", which is the same entity as the "ten horned" beast in Daniel 7, with papal Rome. Papal Rome ruled exactly 42 prophetic months or 1260 prophetic days equalling 1260 actual years: it

power ended 1260 years later², on February 15th, 1798, when French General Berthier, the head of the French army, ordered his troops to take Pope Pius VI captive. He died in captivity 18 months later.

Back to Revelation 11. The two witnesses (verse 3) -Ellen White (4SP 188.2) identifies them with the Old and the New Testament of the Holy Scriptures- would prophecy "in sackcloth" for 1260 prophetic "days", meaning 1260 actual years. This is exactly the time span of the temporal dominion of the

“But another power—the beast from the bottomless pit—was to arise to make open, avowed war upon the word of God. [...] According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God’s two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the Pharaoh and the licentiousness of Sodom.” GC 269.3 (emphasis supplied)

“The world still recalls with shuddering horror the scenes of that most cowardly and cruel onslaught, the Massacre of St. Bartholomew. The king of France, urged on by Romish priests and prelates, lent his sanction to the dreadful work. [...] The same master-spirit that urged in the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, led also in the scenes of the French Revolution. Satan seemed to triumph. Notwithstanding the labors of the Reformers, he had succeeded in holding vast multitudes in ignorance concerning God and his word. Now he appeared in a new guise [...] The work which the papacy had begun, atheism completed. The one withheld from the people the truths of the Bible; the other taught them to reject both the Bible and its Author. The seed sown by priests and prelates was yielding its evil fruit.” SP 4.191-192.


It appears from the Spirit of Prophecy’s testimony that the Romish priests and atheism worked hand in hand to attack God’s truth. Does the reader now get the hidden truth about the “abyss” beast? Are there historical clues that the forces driving the French -and later Russian and Chinese- revolutions were just “hidden” manifestations of Romanism?




The seemingly “mortal wound” that the Papacy received in 1798 was historically inflicted by Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon Bonaparte himself rose to prominence during the French Revolution, a “movement that shook France between 1787-1799”³. So, Napoleon took out the pope. But who pulled Napoleon’s strings? This question is most difficult to answer, since none of the established history books tell us something about the “hidden” agendas of world politics. But there is circumstantial evidence, and we can get an answer from puzzle pieces of historical side notes. All sources are freely available on the Internet for everyone to study. Who benefitted politically from the removal of Pope Pius VI? Pius VI was the very pope that was captured by General Bertier in 1798 and died in exile in 1799. In 1773, about one and a half decades prior to the French Revolution, something interesting happened, and we get this amazing detail directly from the source:

“Jesuits [The Society of Jesus, a Roman Catholic order of priests] were first expelled from Portugal (1759), then France (1764), Spain (1767) and Austria (1770). Thousands of destitute priests and brothers sought refuge in Rome during these years. Finally in 1773 anti-Jesuit forces succeeded in persuading Pope Clement XIV to issue Dominus ac Redemptor, the papal brief suppressing the Society of Jesus, in order to secure peace in the Church.”⁴

So, the Society of Jesus was generally suppressed in 1773. Let’s collect some more puzzle pieces:

 In 1776, only three years later, something else happened: a Jesuit theologian (teacher of canon law) named Adam Weishaupt formed the order of the Illuminati (**the enlightened ones**).⁵

 The “Illuminati” incited the French Revolution⁶



There is strong suspicion that Napoleon was a high-level Freemason⁷



The Jesuits invented advanced degrees in Freemasonry⁸



Pius VII, the successor of dethroned Pope Pius VI, became pope in 1800.



One of Pope Pius VII's first acts following Napoleon's abdication in 1814, was to reinstate the Society of Jesus worldwide with the Bull *Sollicitudo omnium ecclesiarum*.⁴

So, what does this look like to us? The Society of Jesus, aka the Jesuits, was banned, so it went “underground”; meaning it created front organizations to be able to operate in the background. These front organizations would influence governments to execute their bidding. Napoleon was one of their puppets who took the pope captive and exiled him. The next pope would then immediately reinstate the Jesuit Order, which is known as being “more papal than the pope and more Catholic than the College of Cardinals”.⁹

Is it not likely that the Romanists themselves inflicted the deadly wound on the papacy to set a starting point for a long-ranged action plan to regain absolute papal power? In this context, it is important to recognize that the “sea beast” (Romanism) does indeed have seven heads (Revelation 13:1), with the papacy being one of them. This implies that there may be six other “departments” of Romanism, which we could imagine collaborating most of the time, but sometimes working against each other. But let alone the



political power struggle, on a higher spiritual level, what was Satan's plan in this “black op”¹⁰, “false flag operation” - a strategy often used in order to attain a hidden military or political goal - of having the papacy inflicting a mortal wound to the papacy?

Owing to the success of the Protestant Reformation, the papacy was no longer able to withhold God's word from the people and the monarchs of Europe. Rome's power was weakening. So Rome had to change its strategy: it would “die”; but not really die, just going underground and then attack God's truth through the creation of atheism and communism¹¹. Atheistic theories have been an efficient weapon in Satan's hand to destroy faith in the living God and the Bible. The diligent student of historic “side notes” might become aware that the “abyss” beast is behind atheistic theories. Just two examples: atheism rests on two strong legs: (1) biological evolution and (2) cosmology. Here is food for thought:

[first]

famous biologist Thomas H. Huxley, “Darwin's Bulldog”, was a Freemason and,

“with no apparent achievements to claim as his own, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 26. T.H. Huxley tutored Freemason H.G. Wells, who would later teach Huxley's two grandsons, Julian and Aldous. Both Julian and Aldous were Freemasons.”¹²

Aldous Huxley is the author of the novel *Brave New World*. The novel tells the story about a “World State”, a benevolent totalitarian government headed by ten “World Controllers”. Thomas Huxley, Aldous' grandfather, coined the term “agnostic” and founded along with J. Hooker the “Nature” magazine in 1869. “Nature” is one of the most prestigious scientific journals today.

[second]

The “Big Bang Theory”, the anchor theory of modern cosmology, is not a result of scientific data evaluation. This theory was invented by Jesuit Priest Georges Lemaitre¹³.

If the “abyss” beast from Revelation 11 is indeed “Romanism underground” or “hidden Romanism”, Romanism pulling the strings of power behind innocently appearing front organizations,

secret societies and intelligence agencies, then Revelation 17:8 describes the ultimate “resurrection” of the sea beast, when the wound would finally be healed:

01 • The beast that thou sawest was ...

... Romanism from the time of John the Revelator (or AD 538 for papal Rome) until AD 1798, when Pope Pius VI was taken captive.

02 • and is not ...

... because it went underground in the late 1700’s “hiding” in the “abyss” to attack God’s word, destroy man’s faith in a living God and take the lead in building a communist (Egyptian atheism based) totalitarian New World Order by ruling all nations from behind the scenes thru puppet “democracies” and dictators. To achieve this, it will create world-wide chaos and unrest, maybe even World War III.

03 • and shall ascend out of the bottomless pitt

It will roar back into power on the back of a communist/fascist world government system for the “man of sin” to finally appear pursuant to the motto “*ordo ab chaos*” (order out of chaos).

04 • and go into perdition

Thanks and praise to the Lord! When the Lord Jesus comes He will “*consume that Wicked with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy him with the brightness of his coming.*”

Revelation 17:8 tells us that the “resurrected” Papacy will catch everyone by surprise –that is everyone whose name is “*not written in the book of life*”. It is thus a matter of eternal life and death to study God’s word about the last great deceptions of Lucifer.

THE PINNACLE OF ABOMINATION

Back to Revelation 14. Here we learn that the papacy will finally coerce the “mark of the beast”, and the Bible itself explains what this will be about. About 685 years before John was given a rod to measure God’s temple, the altar and the people who worshipped in the temple (Revelation 11:1), the Prophet Ezekiel received astonishing truth from on high about four “tiers” or “levels” of abominations that eventually brought God’s judgment upon the people of Judah (Ezekiel 8):

Abomination Level 1: The image of “jealousy” (verse 9), but even greater was:

Abomination Level 2: Image idolatry in the dark (verses 10&11), but even greater was:

Abomination Level 3: Weeping for Tammuz (i.e., the sun god in the flesh, a Pagan counterfeit of Jesus Christ, verse 14), but even greater was:

Abomination Level 4: The pinnacle of abomination. This is important, so let’s read the entire paragraph:

“And he brought me into the inner court of the LORD’S house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the LORD, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs toward the temple of the LORD, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east.” (Ezekiel 8:16)

This is fascinating and chilling at the same time; **sun worship** appears to be the most detested loathed, top level of evil worship from the perspective of God’s truth. It is obvious why: “sun worship” transitions directly into worshipping Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:11-19). In Ezekiel 9:4, we read about how the sun worshippers were separated out from the remnants of true Judah:

“And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof. (emphasis supplied)”

A “mark of God” was issued to those who did not participate in sun worship, and the remaining people were judged (Ezekiel 9:5-7; compare this text with Revelation 14:15-20). True and false worship in the time of Ezekiel provide the typology for the end time: while Ezekiel’s message went only to Judah, John’s message goes to all people and nations on the earth. In the end time, things will be inverted: this time, the sun worshippers will receive a mark, while God’s true people will be imparted the signet of heaven. Dragon

worship (Revelation 13:4) will be manifest as world-wide sun worship, which will culminate in a Sunday law.

THE FALSE PROPHET: APOSTATE PROTESTANTISM

In the late 1700, when the Papacy went “abyss”, when it began to hide behind secret societies, another nation came “out of the earth” that would have a strong influence on the development of world politics: the lamb like beast with two horns (Revelation 13:11):

“Here is a striking figure of the rise and growth of our own nation. And the lamb-like horns, emblems of innocence and gentleness, well represent the character of our government, as expressed in its two fundamental principles, Republicanism and Protestantism. The Christian exiles who first fled to America, sought an asylum from royal oppression and priestly intolerance, and they determined to establish a government upon the broad foundation of civil and religious liberty. These principles are the secret of our power and prosperity as a nation. Millions from other lands have sought our shores, and the United States has risen to a place among the most powerful nations of the earth.” 4SP 277.1

Indeed, with respect to the supreme law, the Constitution, the United States of America has been an innocent and gentle republic. The Constitution guarantees liberty of conscience. I remember once when my wife and

I applied for a visa, the immigration attorney told us that, as long we are on US soil, we are “protected by the Constitution”. True, it is not any politician or government official that protect our freedom and liberty; it is the US Constitution. And this is very similar to most West European nations, where the government adopted principles of the Protestant reformation.

As long as our government is set up and guided by the Constitution and honors the Bill of Rights, the USA matches the lamb-like (Jesus-like) features as represented by the two horns. But the pen of inspirations draws a strange development that will eventually clash with constitutional rights, and established religious institutions, purportedly “Protestant” churches, will play a key role in forcing this development:

“When the churches of our land, uniting upon such points of faith as are held by them in common, shall influence the State to enforce their decrees and sustain their institutions, then will Protestant America have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy. Then the true church will be assailed by persecution, as were God’s ancient people.” SP4 278

The “image to the beast” represents that form of apostate Protestantism which will be developed when the Protestant churches shall seek the aid of the civil power for the enforcement of their dogmas.... {FLB 286.4}

Once constitutional rights are being weakened or even entirely nullified such that churches can employ state

power to enforce their doctrines, the image of the beast is formed. How can such a change take place, and why would it be widely adopted by the populace? Let us listen to once-US President James Madison¹⁴. Note the underlined passages:

“If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.[...] It is a universal truth that the loss of liberty at home is to be charged to the provisions against danger, real or pretended, from abroad. (emphasis supplied)”

Did US President Madison -who was also a political theorist- already sense that future “black-ops” or “false-flag” attacks would be orchestrated from the “abyss” for the purpose of installing tyranny and oppression? Hard to tell. Impossible to prove.

Sure is, according to the Spirit of Prophecy, in his final act of deception, Satan will pose as the leader of a “Protestant” movement. Much speculation abounds on the kind and nature of the “fire” that will “come down from heaven” (Revelation 13:13-14). Will it be a spiritual or a military phenomenon? From the context of Jesus’ warning in Matthew 24:24-27, we can deduce that it will probably be a combination of both. Martin Luther called Satan “God’s ape”, because Lucifer has been trying to “ape” (emulate and fake) God’s actions from the beginning. In Satan’s final ape theater, he will try to pose as a returning savior. Of course,



some impressive physical appearance in the sky will be needed for this, which would explain the spiritual and

these days must in reality be smoke-screen operations controlled by the beast out of the “abyss”.

the flames. From the pyre miraculously sprang a new phoenix, which, after embalming its father’s ashes



military background of deceptive “fire” coming down from heaven.

The irony is: true Protestantism once broke the power of the papacy; false Protestantism will bring it back to power. Apostate Protestantism, the “false prophet” (Revelation 19:20; 20:10), as controlled from the “abyss” behind the scenes, will take the lead in working against God’s truth and deceive mankind into setting up a false system of worship (Revelation 13:13-15). In Revelation chapters 11 and 13, Jesus tells John (and us) the truth about geopolitics in the last age. Satan’s schemes of deception are exposed. And there are only three forces involved: the dragon, which controls the beast, which, in turn, finally controls the image of the beast. Consequently, any political movement or organization that dominates the news headlines (and also people’s fears)

SIX HUNDRED THREESCORE AND SIX: OPERATION “PHOENIX”

The reader may now ask: what on earth does the bird Phoenix have to do with Revelation 13? For everyone who is not aware of this ancient Egyptian mythology, here is a concise summary¹⁵:

“Phoenix, in ancient Egypt and in Classical antiquity, a fabulous bird associated with the worship of the sun. The Egyptian phoenix was said to be as large as an eagle, with brilliant scarlet and gold plumage and a melodious cry. Only one phoenix existed at any time, and it was very long-lived—no ancient authority gave it a life span of less than 500 years. As its end approached, the phoenix fashioned a nest of aromatic boughs and spices, set it on fire, and was consumed in

in an egg of myrrh, flew with the ashes to Heliopolis (“City of the Sun”) in Egypt, where it deposited them on the altar in the temple of the Egyptian god of the sun, Re.”

Does the story of Phoenix remind us of something we analyzed so far? Let us keep hold that Phoenix (1) lived very long (far more than 500 years); (2) there was only one Phoenix at a time; (3) he set his own nest on fire, only (4) to give birth to a new bird, which then (5) would fly to the temple of the Egyptian sun-god.

The name “**Fenex**” is an ancient name for Lucifer, meaning “The Shining One”¹⁶. In ancient Greek, some letters have a dual numeral meaning. Now, the sum of the numerals represented by f-e-n-e-x is 6+5+50+5+600=666. The final apostate worship system, Scripture tells us, will be recognized by the number of the beast, the figure 666 (Revelation 13: 17+18)



“Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six”.

We are asked to **count** the number of the beast. The simplest and most intuitive way to arrive at this number is to count to 36 and then add up all figures counted:

So now, what’s the deal?

Ancient Egyptian sun-worship provides the bigger picture. According to the ancient Egyptians, the sun, within the course of a year (360 days+ 5 extra “unlucky” days), passes 36 constellations with each of them lasting ten days (decans) long ¹⁷. Each constellation

died in flames and was reborn. The same story was told among the Babylonians, the Hindus and among the Japanese and Chinese. In the Greek language, Fenex adds up to 666. In nearly every case, the number 666 leads us back to the pagan sun-god. It’s likely that the coming Antichrist will publicly attach himself to the ancient sun-god mythos of the Mystery religions which he will publicly restate (emphasis supplied)”

Not much to add to this excellent summary! The number 666 links sun-worship to the worship of Lucifer, which, again, ties the matter back to the pinnacle of abominations in Ezekiel 8. The story of Phoenix details the mechanism of Lucifer’s last great deception: the Egyptian/Babylonian number of the beast “666” is quasi the

a dictatorship of sun-worship, supremely legislated by a world-wide Sunday law and visibly represented by the despotic “son of perdition” (2 Thessalonians 2:3), the last pope who will likely be possessed by Lucifer himself. Lucifer will “ape” the return of Christ and will pose as the world’s supernatural savior. For many who have been conditioned into “alien” stories, Lucifer will appear as a friendly being from outer space. This is very important to understand.

Every Christian better take heed to the stern warning of our Savior:

“For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:5)

$$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+...33+34+35+36 = 666!$$

had a god assigned to it. The superior sun-god Re (or Ra), who would oversee them all and who would constitute the “sum” of all of them, did have the number 666 assigned to him. In Chris Relitz’18 work *“Antichrist Osiris: the History of the Luciferian Conspiracy”*, we read on page 361:

“[666 is the] Summary-number of the sun god: the sun itself traces a path through the sky moving through the constellations, which the pagan astrologers count to be 36. If you add all the numbers together between 1 and 36, you get 666. Practitioners of Kabala use a system known as the ‘magic square’ which has 36 squares, to meet the Watchers. To many cultures the Phoenix represents their coming savior and is worshipped as the morning star. The American Indians, the Egyptians and Phoenicians all knew the legend of a bird that

“code name” for “operation sun worship” calling all false religions to unite against the creator God.

Like the sun-god “Phoenix”, the unclean raptor bird (compare Revelation 18:2), the beast (the papacy) committed “suicide” after many centuries of domination. But it will rise again, and the resurrected beast (Revelation 17:8)

will re-emerge in a very impressive manner (Revelation 13:3) and install

Revelation 13 thus concludes with the exaltation of a false law and a false system of worship. If the false law is exalted by Satan, what is God’s response? We find this answer in the conclusion of Revelation 11:

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.”

The conclusion of Revelation 11 is indeed the answer to the counterfeit worship system “666” of the beast.

“When God’s temple in heaven is opened, what a triumphant time that will be for all who have been faithful and true! In the temple will be seen the ark of the testament in which were placed the two tables of



stone, on which are written God's law. These tables of stone will be brought forth from their hiding place, and on them will be seen the Ten Commandments engraved by the finger of God. These tables of stone now lying in the ark of the testament will be a convincing testimony to the truth and binding claims of God's law" (Ellen G. White, *Letter 47*, 1902).

God's truth -as represented by the Old and New Testament- that Satan tried to blot out, ascended to heaven (Revelation 11:12). His redemptive Truth, as symbolized by the opened temple and the visible Ark, will prevail:

*"Sacrilegious minds and hearts have thought they were mighty enough to change the times and laws of Jehovah; but, safe in the archives of heaven, in the ark of God, are the original commandments, written upon the two tables of stone. No potentate of earth has power to draw forth those tables from their sacred hiding place beneath the mercy seat" (Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, February 28, 1878).*

Revelation chapters 10, 11, 13 and 14 together form a coherent logical unit that reveals to us the war between truth and error. Truth is exalted, while error, lie and disinformation, are exposed. Truth will win (see Figure). The two agents of the dragon: the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth, are defeated foes. Remember that the mighty angel (Revelation 10:3), Who sets His right foot on the sea and His left foot on the earth, does have ultimate control:

"Of David. A psalm. The LORD says to my lord: "Sit at my right hand until

I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." (Psalm 110:1)

Let us close with another quote:

"As we near the close of this world's history, the prophecies relating to the last days especially demand our study. The last book of the New Testament scriptures is full of truth that we need to understand." COL 133

May God's special blessing be upon us all as we discover and internalize His precious truth.

....to be continued in Part 5 **AD**

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¹ Heidi Heiks, *The Source*, AD 538, <http://thesourcehh.org/store.htm#AD538> (accessed 06/24/2016).

² *ibidem*, AD 1798, <http://thesourcehh.org/ad1798.htm> (accessed 06/24/2016).

³ Encyclopædia Britannica Online, s. v. "French Revolution", (accessed 07/01/2016), <https://www.britannica.com/event/French-Revolution>.

⁴ <http://www.jesuit.org.uk/suppression-and-restoration-jesuits> (accessed 07/30/2016).

⁵ Encyclopedia Britannica, 11th Edition, Volume 12, 1910, page 320.

⁶ Terry Melanson, *Perfectibilists: The 18th Century Bavarian Order of the Illuminati*, available on <https://books.google.com>.

⁷ <http://www.napoleon-empire.com/freemason.php> (accessed 08/16/2016).

⁸ Albert C. Mackey M. D., *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry and its Kindred Sciences*, "JESUITS", http://www.phoenixmasonry.org/mackeys_encyclopedia/j.htm (accessed 08/16/2016).

⁹ M. Cusack, "The Black Pope", freely available as PDF at <http://www.biblicalscholarship.net/blackpope.pdf>.

¹⁰ A black operation or black op is a covert operation by a government, a government agency, or a military organization. This can include activities by private companies or groups. Key features of a black operation are that it is secret and it is not attributable to the organization carrying it out. The main difference between a black operation and one that is merely secret is that a black operation involves a significant degree of deception, to conceal who is behind it or to make it appear that some other entity is responsible. (from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_operation).

¹¹ Jesuit Origins of Communism-Part 1, <http://thejesuitcontinuumomegapoint.blogspot.com/2014/06/jesuit-origins-of-communism-part-1.html> (accessed 08/14/2016).

¹² <http://www.conspiracyarchive.com/2014/01/15/the-ascendancy-of-the-scientific-dictatorship-part-one/> (accessed 07/30/2016).

¹³ <http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/science/faith-and-science/a-day-without-yesterday-georges-lemaitre-amp-the-big-bang.html> (accessed 08/01/2016).

¹⁴ http://www.constitution.org/jm/jm_quotes.htm.

¹⁵ Britannica Academic, s.v. "Phoenix," accessed August 15, 2016, <http://academic.eb.com/levels/collegiate/article/59758>.

¹⁶ http://www.bibliotecapleyades.net/sociopolitica/newage_illuminati/illuminati_02.htm.

¹⁷ An interesting side-note: during the French Revolution, the implementation of a 10-day week was attempted, which ties atheism back to Egypt (Revelation 11:7,8).

¹⁸ Chris Relitz, "Antichrist Osiris: the History of the Luciferian Conspiracy", lulu.com (June 13, 2012), Page 361.

[THE EMERGENT

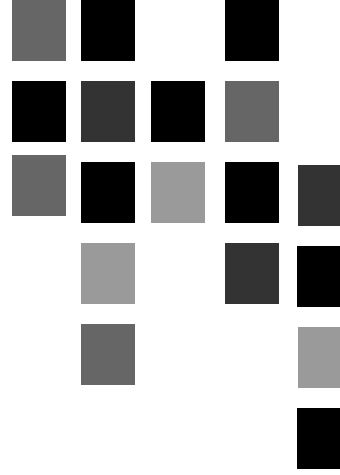
A movement that has been afoot since the 1990's within various denominations is "the Emergent Church". Whether we are aware of this new theology or not, it has already established its particular brand of quasi-doctrinal thinking into mainstream Christian culture, including Adventism. Most of us are not familiar with its precepts and do not recognize many of its buzz words or the meanings behind its catch phrases. "Social Justice", "being missional", "participating in a conversation", and "an alternative framing narrative" are but a few of the terms emergent authors bandy about during the disclosure of their post modern orthodoxy. Writers such as: Brian McLaren, Rob Bell, Leron Shults, Jurgen Moltmann and Doug Pagitt are but a few of this new breed of "Christian" spin doctors. But why do we need to concern ourselves with this recent trend that has infiltrated contemporary Christian thinking? Because, when its theological ramifications are understood for what they are, we suddenly realize our Advent message of the 3rd Angel's Message is diametrically at odds with an emergent agenda.



So what exactly is the Emergent Church and what do they stand for?

The Emergent Church, the Emergent Village, or the Emerging Church is a post modern movement that manifests itself through almost all contemporary Christian denominations of today. It has as one of its core behaviours, a preoccupation to evade labels, theological mission statements, or any fixed ideas regarding its form, style, or structure. Rather it places emphasis on the deconstruction of traditional Christian methods of worship and expression. Yet this emergent movement is the most powerful and pervasive direction Christianity has taken into its worldview since the inception of the ecumenical mandates from Rome.





CHURCH]

BY ROBERT LLEWELLYN



What does the Emergent Church concern itself with theologically?

Leaders, writers, and laity who sympathize with emerging ideas busy themselves with the "Social Gospel" and by "being missional" rather than espousing salvational strategies or evangelism. There is a simple reason for this. The Emergent Church does not believe in the Biblical concept of a final judgement nor does it therefore accept the necessity of salvation.¹

The Emergent Church also denies any concrete absolute interpretations of Biblical texts thus making the reader of the scripture the originator of their own subjective/contextual theology.²

This is what is referred to as participating in a theological "conversation". The Emergent Church embraces mystical rituals and practices as a means to bring us closer to God, not just the vehicle of faith. Contemplative prayer, chanting, yoga and prayer labyrinths are but a few of such techniques being used to accomplish intimacy with God in emergent savvy churches.³

So to them faith is not the only road to God. This return to mysticism, by those what are emergent, has placed many unwitting Christians firmly within the bastions of spiritualism.⁴

The occult world has arrived in broad daylight to ply its trade through emergent expressions of worship. However, few Christians seem to realize the gravity of such seemingly innocent practices. In short, the emergent church has through its authors, academics and popular pastors such as Rob Bell's Nooma video vignettes, radicalized and changed Christianity, taking the evangelical gospel

theology and tearing it to shreds. The problem with most lay Christians, Adventist included, is that they do not take the time to research the nature of these movements, and thus find themselves joining interfaith initiatives, such as the "More Than Gold" program at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics.⁵

Often, we have no idea who we are aligning ourselves with or their various ulterior agendas. It is sad to see how many Christians today have been so easily misled and taken down Satan's garden path, only to find themselves in a circus of twisted theological carnival rides that support modern Babylon's apostate plan. The Emergent Church is one such harlot. Nothing within the Emergent Church message advocates God's blueprint to end once and for all, the universal scourge of sin and Christ's ultimate sacrifice to emancipate us individually from the plight of Satan's nihilistic abyss. The Emergent Church is a delusional utopian fairytale that has no basis in Biblical truth. It offers up many sensational distractions and removes any notion of spiritual consequences to rejection God's invitation of eternal life based on Christ's substitutionary atonement. Is it any wonder this emergent movement is front and centre within most Christian denominations today since Satan's time is fast dwindling during these last day events?

¹ Brian McLaren, "Everything Must Change" Page 38, 78-81, 296.

² Leonard Sweet, Brian McLaren, Jerry Haselmayer .. "A Is For Abductive- The Language Of The Emergent Church" Pages 31,32., Doug Pagitt, Tony Jones. "An Emergent Manifesto Of Hope" pg 100 see chart

³ Doug Pagitt, Kathryn Prill, "Body Prayer-The Posture Of Intimacy With God" Pg 4, 7

⁴ Ray Yungen, "A Time Of Departing -How Ancient Mystical Practices Are Uniting Christians With World Religions" Pg 127, 128

⁵ Canadian Union Messenger Magazine, April 2010, vol 79 #4. (With Glowing Hearts)pgs 13-16.

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