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FATH  **ON THE LINE**
DARE TO STAND

Letters from our Readers:

Dear Editor,

Apart from the tests described in the article, there is a simple test anyone can do.

Apart from the tests, there exists a simple test that everyone can do who suspect him or herself to have a slow functioning thyroid.

If you suspect you have a slow-functioning thyroid, each morning for a week before getting out of bed, take your temperature with a thermometer placed in your armpit. Take the average temperature for the week by adding all seven recorded temperatures and dividing by 7. If the average for the week is below 36.4 °C (97.5 °F), there is a definite slowing of the thyroid function and you may want to do more research. A lower average temperature often indicates hypothyroidism when the T3 and T4 levels are still normal.

Secondly, in the listed toxins on page 22 that slow down the thyroid, radiation and fluoridated water are mentioned.

Fluoride alone can cause hypothyroidism, as it competes with iodine. This mineral is necessary for building the thyroid hormone thyroxin and so fluoridation alone is one of the great causes for slowing down the thyroid but there is another aspect. As Jeff Green and George Glasser have shown, the fluoride salts that are used in the USA for water fluoridation are bought from the fertilizer industry, which sells them the slush coming from their chimneys. This slush contains 19% silicoflourate, a pollutant that comes from the production of fertilizer from phosphate rock.

It also contains uranium and its most toxic decay product polonium with a radiation level 5000 times stronger than radium, so highly carcinogenic in tiny amounts. This slush is used unadulterated and untested for fluoridation. In other words: fluoridation = radiation.

The sting in this story is that our body cannot recognize polonium and registers it as calcium. As such it is a building block of our bones and the result is a highly active radiating polonium influencing any tissue which is in the neighborhood. After a couple of years this can give rise to, for instance, leukemia from radiated bone marrow, non-hodgkin's from radiated lymph glands, etc. Thus the findings of Dean Burk and Yian Yiamouyiannis in 1975 and the recent findings in Ireland that fluoridation after 5 years increases the cancer death rate up to 10% are vindicated by scientific evidence.

These are some minor remarks on an otherwise excellent article.

Sincerely yours,

H. M.

Dear Editor,

I was staying at my cousin's house for the weekend, and I was talking about being a bit frustrated with problems I have found where the Bible has inconsistencies with itself. I gave a couple of examples, and he left the room for a moment and came back with your magazine from winter 2013/2014, volume 20, issue 1, with the article called "30 Bible Contradictions Cleared Up". The article was fantastic, and answered my exact questions!

And then I read the rest of your magazine. I love the whole magazine. How may I subscribe?

D. N.

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.

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The Impending CONFLICT

BY ROBERT JAEGER

The recent turmoil in current world events should raise some alarms, prompting us to evaluate the valuable freedom that we still enjoy. What freedom am I talking about? There are many freedoms we enjoy in a supposed age of democracy. One of these—freedom of speech and expression—has recently come under close scrutiny.

To be more specific, the latest massacre involving Charlie Hebdo should be carefully examined. The mainstream news definitely does not clarify the issue but rather confuses it. On January 7, 2015, two gunmen gunned down the offices of the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo. While murdering cartoonists and editors, they shouted “Allahu Akbar,” or “god is great.” They killed eleven people, injuring many others in the

process. The gunmen identified themselves as belonging to Al-Qaeda, and this event has sparked debate about freedom of speech and freedom of expression worldwide. Since this event, anti-Islamist rallies have sprung up in Germany, and anti-Muslim protests and violence has erupted worldwide. In response, many Muslims are taking a stand for their beliefs, holding rallies and protests against Charlie Hebdo’s undoubtedly controversial and provocative comics.

French President Francois Hollande said: “This was an attack on freedom.” Further, he presented a solution, “We must realize our best weapon is unity. Nothing must separate us or drive us apart.”¹ Well, something is driving us most definitely apart. And what is that? Our beliefs and worldviews separate us. It’s painfully

obvious that there is a major contrast between the religions of Islam as compared to Christianity.

The journalists used their “freedom” to share their viewpoints. Note, however, the irony behind what happened: as a result of a few cartoonists that “attacked” a religious figure, everyone’s freedom of speech should be limited.

Free speech allows a person to say what they think, even if it is disrespectful and hurtful. It isn’t Christ-like to be disrespectful or hurtful to others, and freedom of speech should not be disrespectful or hurtful, but unfortunately freedom intrinsically allows one to be such. But how we respond to that message is also vitally important. Christians nurtured by Christ and studied in pure Scripture would never respond to Charlie Hebdo in the way a Muslim would, as Christianity has a completely different teaching towards its enemies.

Antagonism towards other religions is unacceptable. We should be respectful of other worldviews. But the need for respect does not negate anyone’s right to freedom of speech, whether respectful or not. Pope Francis is one of many that has been working very hard for the overall respect and acceptance of all religions with their included values and ethics and belief systems. But what acceptance and respect is this based on? How is it to be expressed?

The mainstream news definitely does not clarify the issue but rather confuses the real issue.

¹ *Don't pretend Paris terror attack has nothing to do with Islam* By Benny Avni, January 7, 2015 <http://nypost.com/2015/01/07/dont-pretend-paris-terror-attack-has-nothing-to-do-with-islam/>



Photo credits: JeSuisGodefroy Troude http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Place_de_la_R%C3%A9publique,_18h50,_une_foule_silencieuse.jpg

The Pope states: "Every religion has its dignity. I cannot mock a religion that respects human life and the human person."² That sounds almost like the human rights charter of the United Nations. Is the human rights our standard for respectfulness?

This standard is based on humanistic ideals and will never adhere to the needs of the Christian community, but will water it down to accommodate the whole community of religious ideals. The Jesus of the Bible needs to be universal, included and acceptable to all religions. This is the only way there can be unity according to this standard.

The prominent theologian Dr. Hans Kung in his thesis for world peace said: "No peace among the nations if not first peace among the religions."³ Further he suggests that universal values have to find common universal standards. These standards are called the golden rule of all religions. He even cites the verse: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets" Matt 7:12. But there is more to that statement than meets the eye. Christ did not annul or abrogate the individual laws and doctrines, but only summed up the main points of His teachings. Unfortunately, today, this verse is taken as a stand-alone principle, and the "law and the prophets" upon which it is based are set aside. Only inclusive teachings or doctrines that suit the new ideas of unity are promoted as useful for the purpose of the prosperity and well-being of humanity.

Now who does not want peace? But how does peace truly come and who will establish it? Well Obama answers that for us in his speech to the Joint Session

of the Indian Parliament in New Delhi (Nov 2010). He says the following:

"The United Nations exists to fulfill its founding ideals of preserving peace and security, promoting global cooperation, and advancing human rights. These are the responsibilities of all nations, but especially those that seek to lead in the 21st century".⁴ In other words Peace and security comes by cooperation and the advancing of "human" rights.

Paul gave us a warning regarding this time. He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:3:

"For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape."

My Jesus—the Jesus of the Bible—said that peace and security comes by something else than what Obama and the UN suggest.

In John 14:27 Christ distances Himself from this kind of worldly peace. He says:

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

How does He make peace?

Now who does not want peace? But how does peace truly come and who will establish it?

continued on next page

² <http://time.com/3668875/pope-francis-charlie-hebdo/>

³ Hans Kung, Christianity: Essence, History, Future

⁴ <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/08/remarks-president-joint-session-indian-parliament-new-delhi-india>

“And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”
1 Corinthians 1:20.

That’s not the type of peace the world looks for, is it? Christ is asking for a change of heart, and the carnal heart is not willing to submit to that change. The way of the cross involves change:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20.

It is especially the Judeo-Christian worldview that stands in the way of global unity. It presents a very dangerous threat to the current pull of acceptance and religious tolerance. The Judeo-Christian faith is exclusive in its inherent teachings. Take for example the absolute statements of Christ:

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. John 14:6 .

“Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword (God’s Word).”
Matt 10:34

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!” Luke 12:49

“My kingdom is not of this world.” John 18:36

These absolute statements by Christ drive a wedge between true Christianity and the rest of the world and its religions.

Now the demonstrations recently in the news might not be so alarming if it were not for the demands of Muslims urging the UN to make “contempt for religions” illegal.⁵ There has been an enormous outcry from the Muslim community for protection of their identity and values, including the prophet Mohammed. This is where we need to sharpen

⁵ <http://rt.com/news/224875-muslim-group-un-tolerance/>

our ears. If religious persons and lawmakers come together, that’s when we should wonder what application this may have for us.

Interestingly enough, as Adventists we have always believed that the Papacy would be behind the push against those that would speak up against its unBiblical teachings. Who is behind Islam? The similarities between Islam and Catholicism are too great to pass up. Could they be interconnected? Is the Papacy bringing to fruition its goals behind the face of Islam?

As Seventh day Adventists, we share a special burden for the spread of the Three Angels’ Messages and the end-time truth regarding the coming climax of the onslaught against Christ, specifically His moral law which applies to all mankind. Now we come to the point where truth will not be able to be preached legally, because it is offensive, discriminating and exclusive.

The events we see transpiring in France and Germany show us that the final events are coming upon us. Soon a fundamentalist will be anyone who defends the faith through apologetics, or who proselytizes (evangelizes).⁶ It will not be legal to witness about our faith. The Pope would like us to return to the Dark Ages when it was unlawful to say anything against the Catholic faith. This age of tolerance is actually not tolerance but restriction under the guise of tolerance.

Seventh-day Adventists should be using the short time now available to actively and prayerfully witness in their circle of influence. We should all be preparing ourselves for what lies ahead, spiritually strengthening ourselves and asking God to make us ready for that time. May we not lose heart. **AD**

Robert Jaeger grew up in Germany and is living currently in Canada where he works as Bible Worker at Amazing Discoveries. His experience comes from simple, but profoundly effective work at Medical Missionary Schools spread around the Globe. He is passionate about young people who share his enthusiasm for the Advent movement and wants to equip them for Christ.

⁶ <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DRD9reVCOPI> and <http://www.cruxnow.com/church/2015/01/26/pope-says-christian-unity-means-rejecting-proselytism-and-competition/>

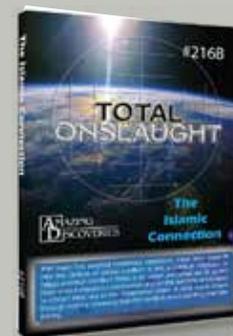
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261: Verily My Sabbaths

The Bible mentions the Sabbath almost 150 times. What makes the Sabbath so important, and why is it especially important for God's people? There is an enemy that wants to instill backwards and unBiblical beliefs in us. This is a massive battle, in fact it is a clash of minds. Walter Veith shares how keeping the Lord's day means having a real relationship with God.

262: Righteousness by Faith in Verity Part 1

Can we find righteousness by following God's law and His law only? Or does faith have to be part and parcel of the deal? In this lecture with Walter Veith, we examine the Bible and learn about justification. Let us determine the relationship between law and grace and understand what it really means to have righteousness by faith in verity

263: Righteousness by Faith in Verity Part 2

In Righteousness by Faith in Verity Part 2, we investigate the Catholic view on the Bible and also the Catholic view of Protestants. Through exploration of key Catholic excerpts, we discover the troubling idea that some may believe in unBiblical theories rather than doctrine. Decide for yourself what you should believe.

264: Righteousness by Faith in Verity Part 3

Lately in the religious world we have heard a lot of talk about unity. Amidst all the earthly conflict, we hear pleas for ecumenism time and time again. Pope Francis has been working toward an improved relationship between Protestants and Catholics. Upon initial observation, this may sound ideal and wonderful, but is unity really Biblical? Is unity the solution the world needs?

265: A Double Portion

Can we receive more spirituality than we already have? Watch as Professor Veith explores 2 Kings and the story of Elijah and Elisha, and how we should all be praying for double portions in our own lives. Do we have enough knowledge and strength to arm ourselves against the war upon God's word?

266: Without Me You Can Do Nothing

What is the ultimate defence against living amongst the spiritually dead? Listen to this powerful video with Walter Veith about how we are experiencing a battle of the mind, and how Jesus Christ is the one and only way out of the darkness.

267: The Herodian Mind Part 1

How often do we ignore God's laws in favour of earthly rules and beliefs? We always find justification for our fleshly impulses, but do our actions reflect that Christ is in our hearts? Walter Veith explores the Herodian Mind and methods in which we can reconcile our worldly laws with God's law. Part 1 of 2.

268: The Herodian Mind Part 2

Since we cannot see God, we often feel compelled to grow closer to earthly authority figures. Sometimes we trust in political or social leaders, hanging on their every word, deceived by their friendly and welcoming masks. Professor Walter Veith finishes off his lecture on the Herodian Mind, reminding us to choose the one true God over the earthly gods that evil has produced and propagated throughout our culture. Part 2 of 2.

269: I Think Therefore He Is

The famous philosophical phrase "I think, therefore I am" implies that our own logic and reasoning has led to our existence, and that we are powerful enough to create our own truth. This theology shifts the focus and power from God to men. Professor Walter Veith shows how we are not the Almighty, and just because we think, does not mean that we are. Watch this video to understand the truth: I think, therefore He is.

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An Interview about **ISLAM** with Walter Veith

Q: How did you become interested in the topic of Islam?

A: That was several years back now, when I was researching several different subjects mainly on different religions and also freemasonry. Amongst others, I also read material from Alberto Rivera. He claimed to have been a Jesuit and once to have overheard his Superior General say that Islam was a creation from the Catholic church itself, and that in their secret committees behind closed doors they would be working all together. In my studies, I researched also a great deal of information on all the Lodges, which also covered the Islamic lodges, who in time adopted different aspects of Freemasonry. And of course we cannot forget to mention that there are substantial connections between the British Empire, which I also researched, because the Ottoman Empire was occupied under British rule. Later on, Israel and several different protectorates, for example Egypt, were added.

In addition, we see that the different beliefs in the Islamic religion are very

similar to the Catholic Church. We have statements from Roman Catholic priests, that the Koran very strongly resembles the apocryphal Mary Gospel.

This coincides with my own explorations on travels in the Middle East, where I often observed Muslims at different Catholic holy sites (Mary shrines) who would leave prayer notes at these places. And after all, Mary is an important religious figure in Islam and the women especially hold her in high regard and venerate her as such.

It is interesting to read in the Koran that Mary is in higher rank or esteem than Mohammed's daughter Fatima herself, for the Koran says: "You, Fatima, will be the 2nd highest woman in Heaven after Mary." So we clearly see here a form of Mary worship. The whole structure is similar: We have prayer rituals; the Koran is read in the same manner as the Bible in Catholicism. It's called lectio divina. In other words: The Bible is sung with constant repetition. It's read the same way in the Koran: First you sing long chapters.

The Imams do the same when they call for prayer. A good Moslem learns the Koran by heart, even if he does not understand Arabic. It is not so much the content but the ritual and recitation.

If you take Islam in University as a subject, you are instructed how to pronounce the nuances and emphases of the Koran in song and prayer. The

whole objective is the right pronunciation, the right tone of voice, the overall speech melody, and no thought is given towards the content, as it plays no important role. The same applies to the Pope, Benedict XVI, who said that the Bible needs to be read in the style of lectio divina. But it's really just another form of occultism or spiritualism: the constant repetition of verses and chapters, that are not assimilated into the heart as truth, but that rather serve as a medium to transport oneself into an altered state of consciousness.

Q: Have you addressed the connection and parallels between Islam and Catholicism in public?

A: Several years back I gave a lecture on this, where I shared this information entitled, "Islamic Connection". It's part of the *Total Onslaught* series. It was all information that I had read. I did not make that stuff up. But believe me, there was a severe reaction to it; there was strong opposition. On the other hand, I have met a lot of Moslems, even in America, that have been imams and have seen this lecture and some of them are now Adventist pastors.

Q: Can you expound some more on this?

A: One of them studied at the Hel-derberg College in South Africa. I had a long conversation with him

there one day. He grew up in a family of imams, and he related to me that when he was still a boy he used to listen in on the conversations when all the imams met together out of curiosity. But one time, when they were just taking part in a secret ritual, he was caught and was brought before the group. He was told that because he had witnessed the ritual, he had to become a member and be part of their secret teaching.

In any case he had deep roots in Islam. His sister somehow ended up studying in Germany and later on she got to an Adventist school in Austria called Bogenhofen and became a Christian during her stay there. He got the job from his family to get rid of his sister. But his sister was very wise and she said to him that since he was already there at Bogenhofen, he might as well learn German and that everything else could come later. As time went by, he developed relationships with the teachers there and at the end he became an Adventist himself. He went back to his family and tried to explain everything to them but they stoned him and left him for dead, or at least they believed him to be dead—similar to the story of Paul the apostle. Anyway, he survived that experience and returned to South Africa and somewhat later I think he immigrated to the States.

Another person was Melek, our tour guide for the Turkish tour we took. We had many conversations with her on the bus drive and it just left a strong impression on her mind. And as things happen, she ended in Helderberg College in South Africa where she began her studies and later got baptized into the church. I remember the many Bible studies I gave her. She was a special friend of our family. She said she could not go back with her little daughter as they would kill her and so she decided to also go to America where she married an Adventist pastor. She is very active in the work with Moslems. She had to change her name, though, so she would be not be recognized.

Another very interesting experience I had with Moslems was related to a

girl I knew from my home in South Africa. She was Adventist but not a very strong one. She decided to go to Saudi Arabia to work over there. Many Africans do this, as there are higher wages over there. She married a Muslim there and became Muslim herself, despite her Adventist upbringing. That's a surprising jump!

The interesting part was that the Moslem women were just crying their hearts out to her as she herself was a Moslem now. There was one woman especially that was very unhappy with her faith. She asked her, "is it really true that a woman has to always be a second class citizen as in Islam?" And, "What is it like in heaven?" Is her only purpose there to be a plaything for men? And so forth. So my ex-Adventist friend told her that there is a different side to it but that she doesn't know it exactly and can't really answer her questions. She told her however that there is someone in South Africa who can maybe help her.

Once in every couple years this ex-Adventist would go and visit her family in South Africa. Her husband allowed her to do that. And as she had again opportunity to go, the Moslem woman wanted to join her and meet the "crazy guy" who her friend had talked about and ask him questions. So she came along. Her husband apparently brought her to the airport and said, "I don't know why I'm letting you go, but go before I stop you." So she visited us in South Africa and she told us about her problems. She told us how she felt like a second-class citizen as a woman. Did she have any value at all? What was the purpose of life anyway? She said that she loved her husband and that there was no problem there, and she wanted to return to him. But is God really as her faith portrays Him?

I studied the Bible with her and shared with her how God created man and that man and woman were made equal and that both have the same responsibility before God. Then we touched on the topic of Jesus, and she got a little ruffled and said, "No, no, it cannot be that Jesus is God." I responded with another study on

Bible prophecy to show her that the Bible and the Koran have completely different content. That gave her a whole new perspective and she was convinced that the Bible was a very special book. And finally at the end, we had a Bible study on Jesus as God. And when it became clear to her, she started to cry and said that she would love to choose this God rather than the other, because He sees her as a person with equal rights, as a person with value, and who wants to have a personal relationship different from the relationship she was used to having.

So I said to her then; "Good, then you have to accept Christ as your personal Savior" and explained to her how this is done. She agreed that we should pray together, and she even said a sweet prayer indicating that she

(see next page)



Discover the truth behind Islam!

continued from previous page

wants to accept Jesus as her personal Savior and wants to serve only Him.

But the time arrived when she had to go home again; she still had her husband down there that she did not want to abandon. What should she do now? Well what should I tell her? She told me if she would tell him that she became a Christian that she would surely die. Then I remembered the story of Naaman who had a similar problem: What if he goes back and he has to go into the heathen temple of his king in his home country? So I gave her the same answer: "Go in Peace". That was kind of the way I said it. I did not have any other response at that moment.

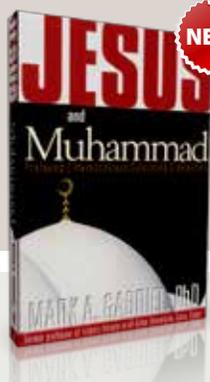
Q: Are you still having lectures on the topic of Islam?

A: No, no, I lectured on it only in the past. (It is part of *Total Onslaught*, "The Islamic Connection.") But the lecture still continues to bring this problem to a head. It was around that time that a teaching gained popularity in the Adventist Church that Allah is the same God as we have. There were several Pastors and evangelists that promoted that idea very strongly -- famous Pastors from big universities like Andrews and big evangelists from Australia who said, "Allah is just another name for our God. They are exactly the same and since we have so many similarities in our teachings, this gives us an advantage to reach out to Moslems."

Then I was invited to a discussion in one of our bigger universities. The dean and representative of the General Conference wanted to speak with me. My good friend François DuPlessis was there as well. During this discussion, I first realized how deep these thoughts had rooted themselves, because these two individuals were very angry about my lecture on Islam, especially that I had said that Catholicism is very similar to Islam. They stated very clearly that Allah was the same God as we have, and that we had so much in common. They mentioned that the Koran talks about the Commandments, and it mentions the health laws. The Moslems don't eat pork and we don't either. They

are not allowed to drink and get drunk. So, they said, we have all these awesome parallels, and it is in the Koran just like it is with us, they said. They also mentioned

that Moslems had respect towards Jesus, perhaps not as God, but as a Prophet. They also said that Moslems respected the People of the Book. So the conclusion was that we have the same God as they have and that we need to stop to talk such nonsense. They added that my type of evangelism is not reaching any normal people out there.



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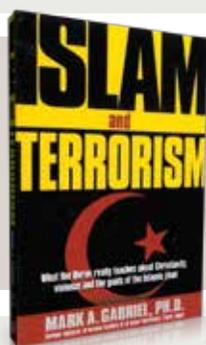
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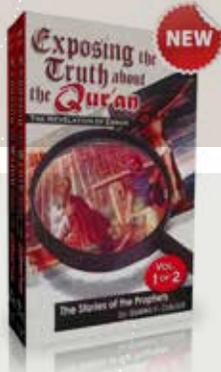


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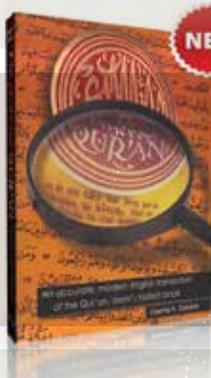
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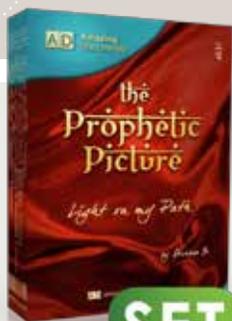
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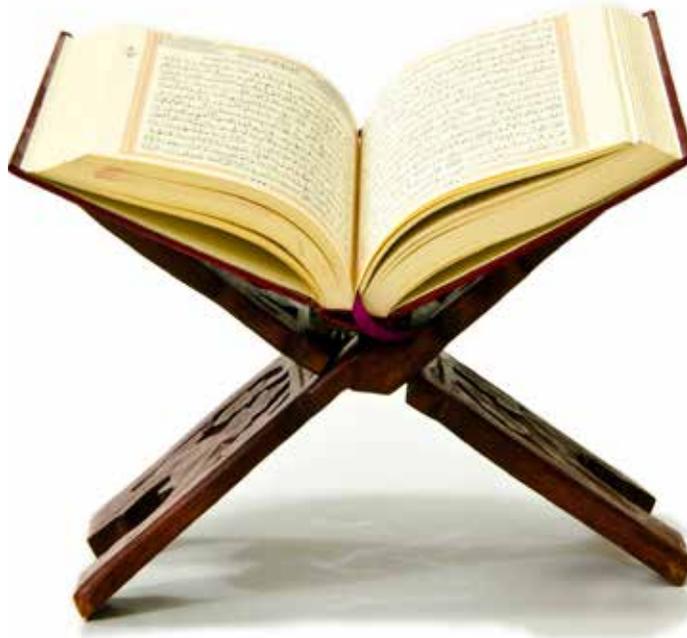
Very well, I told myself, and made my way back home. As we were leaving the place, a young man approached us who was involved in the esoteric world. He thanked us that he could learn the truth. Immediately after that, we went to eat and met a geologist who had been an evolutionist and had now become a creationist and Adventist. He thanked us very warmly for the truth he had learned. And then one more person, a neurosurgeon, found us and thanked us. Three right after the other! I thought, "Well, if this type of evangelism truly is for people of lower class then we have here a rather interesting palette from an esoteric to a neurosurgeon!"

I went back to South Africa and probably two years went by after that meeting. Then I visited a campmeeting with speakers from America where I was also a speaker. There were many seminars presented and I knew one brother very well who used to be a friend of ours in South Africa before he immigrated to the United States. He became a pastor and worked with some of the people who use these new methods of evangelism, especially evangelism with Moslems, promoting the opinion that Allah is the same god as ours. Because of our past friendship he took it as his responsibility to talk to me on this topic and so to speak "help me out".

That was an interesting conversation. We talked for three hours! He explained to me how evangelism works by today's standard and how it will be done in the future. He told me about our leading institution in America where they learn how to work with Moslems. He reasoned that because they believe in the same God as we do that we don't really have to call them out of Islam, as I preach it, because it was just a different culture form in contrast to our culture. So theoretically they could stay in their mosques and still pray to Allah in their way, for Al-

lah and God are the same person and there is no difference. He urged me also to stop my message of, "Come out of her my people". Of course I knew that did not go along with what I knew from the Spirit of Prophecy which has something else to say on the matter.

But the really interesting thing came later as we were on our way home. It was rather far, we had to drive approximately 2000 km. I had my camp trailer attached to my truck and using the GPS, we were able to find little places between the area of Karoo and our home in the Cape to spend the night. We came to the first town or



settlement and my wife said that she does not want us to drive through the night and look for a place in the dark, but that we should stop early enough before it gets dark.

So we followed the GPS to the first town and looked around for a camping site. Nothing was there, even though it showed up on the GPS. See, in South Africa everything's gone bankrupt, as a lot of towns were depopulated. To put it in other words, things were not what they used to be. I said, "Well we have to go to the next town then". But in South Africa, the towns are farther apart, sometimes 2 to 3 hours apart, so we drove to the next village and there was nothing there either, just

a barren field with nothing on it. By now things got late as it was already 11:30 pm. Now remember, I had just had that three-hour discussion with my friend and I was still thinking about the conversation. We were discussing the whole thing as we drove.

So we drive to the next village and we see a sign as we drive into town that said with big letters, CAMP GROUND. But it was already 11:30 and we weren't sure what to do. "Well there was a phone number", I said, "and, be it 11:30 or no, I am calling right now and asking them to open the gate". They answered the phone saying, "Yes, yes we're open. Come on in". We drove in and the man opened the gate for us. The man owned a pub and the campground, which only had 5 parking spots. After he showed us our spot, I got out of the car and said, "We'd like to leave very early in the morning. Can I pay for the spot up front? That way I don't wake you when I leave at 5 am." He said ok and I paid the bill. He suddenly stared at me and said, "You are Walter Veith!" He was slightly drunk as he had been sitting at the bar with his customers. He started to become a bit snappy and I did not feel up to that. I was tired and just wanted to lie down. It was already 12 pm and I really wanted to go to bed to be up at 5 and get going.

But because he was a bit drunk, he had well, let's say a "loose tongue". He said that I speak against freemasonry and because of that I am a very bad fellow. I responded and said "Yeah, sure. Lets talk another time about it. Maybe I'll send you a book on it."

He said "No, I don't want it." He then explained that he is the Grand Master of the fraternities around this whole area. And then he got into where they met and so on.

I said, "Great for you. Enjoy! But I would like to go to bed now so if you would

excuse me."Then he got even sharper, not against me but against Christ.

"You and your Jesus...and your..."and then a whole pile of different kind of expressions followed which are not worth mentioning. His tongue was really rather loose. "We will destroy this absurd belief!" he said. I re-tell it now with much nicer words than he did.

So I responded and said, "Well you know, this war is already 2000 years old. One week more or two won't make a difference either way, because I want to go and sleep now." Then he answered and said that they have made it their duty to give every Christian Pastor in South Africa a Koran. I said, "Good for you. But why exactly the Koran?"

"Because the Koran supports our side," was his answer. "The Koran removes the idea that Jesus is God. This ridiculous teaching that Jesus is God must be done away with!"

That experience just confirmed my own understanding on Islam again.

Q:Have you read the Koran yourself?

A:Yes, I did. After my meeting in the States that I had with the dean and the friend that criticized me, I decided that I have to read the Koran for myself so I can defend myself. How could I determine who has the truth, if I haven't read the Koran? So I bought the Koran in the version from the UNO, translated, of course. And then I went to a store for Moslems and got another version as well. I had two translations that were apparently good translations. So I started to read very carefully with pencil in hand and this entire discussion in the back of my head. And what I read there was unbelievable. I drove my wife nuts because I would stop every two minutes and ask her to come over and look at what is being said.

I paid special attention to the teachings, where supposedly Adventism and Islam agree.

Q:So what was the result of your study?

A:Well it turned out to be true that the Koran did mention the Sabbath and the health laws and so forth, but not as it is in the Bible. For example the topic of clean and unclean: In the Koran we find that the pig is unclean, but all the rest - everything that creeps and crawls and slithers, ducks, camels, and all kinds of other unclean animals are fine for Muslims to eat! Allah just forbade it for the Jews, because of their disobedience. But the Moslems can eat everything, just not the pig and no blood. So there are small points that overlap and are similar, but there is not such a thing as clean and unclean like in the Bible, because all other animals are allowed.

Then you have the commandment—the Sabbath for example. These laws were given only to the Jews because of their disobedience.

And then you have the topic of women. The translations do differ, but if you look at other sources you get a pretty good picture. A woman is seen in the Koran truly as a second-class citizen. For example, she only inherits half of what a man could inherit. In court, two women are equal to one man as witnesses—two women are needed in case if one forgets the other can help out.

What happens if somebody ends up in heaven or hell? In heaven, so they say, you'll get a silk sofa, half-naked young men serve you drinks, and you have many women, 72 to be exact, all virgins that will do your bidding. At least the traditional text reads as that. So that's how life is in heaven. The whole Jihad story is included too. If you die for Allah's cause, you go directly to heaven.

If you end up in hell, Allah will send an angel. In Islam angels are beings with no freedom of choice. They cannot choose for themselves what they believe or don't. There are several different creatures: there are angels, there are gins, and there are humans. So three different beings instead of two, as we find in the Bible. But there

are also different levels of angels with different tasks. Some angels were created just to lie flat on the floor and to worship Allah from morning to evening. Some other angels have the task of keeping hell running. And other angels gather the people that need to go to hell.



That happens very brutally. The angels drag you with your face over hot coals of fire and then throw you in hell. The fire in hell burns all your skin off and to ensure that you feel the pain, Allah gives you a new skin the next day so you can go through it all over again. As nourishment you are given fruits that look like a skull. Your drinking water is boiling hot like melted bronze and every time you drink it, it burns everything inside you. But because you are so thirsty, you'll drink it anyway. Basically, you're burning constantly from inside and outside. That's how you end up if you belong to the unbelievers.

Jesus Christ is not the Son of God and they believe Jesus Himself will acknowledge that at the end of the world. If we take a look at the other writings of Islam, like the Islamic tradition – the Hadith – in addition to the Koran, it becomes interesting. Because let's remember, I was told that in Islam Jesus is held in high regard and that they wait very eagerly for the Second Coming of Christ. But their own writing states that Jesus will destroy, at His second coming, everyone who worshiped him as a God! So only the Moslems will be left.

Further on, we find a lot of mistakes in the Koran. Mary the mother of Jesus is mistaken for Miriam the sister of Moses. So consequently Miriam becomes

the mother of Jesus despite the fact that there is 1500 years' difference between the two. Or take the story of Moses and the sojourn out of Egypt, Haman becomes the counsellor of the Pharaoh. The Koran says that the Pharaoh used to crucify his enemies, but historically it was the Romans who came up with crucifixion, not the Egyptians. Moses' stepmother supposedly was not the Pharaoh's daughter but his wife. The Pharaoh which reigned during this time is also changed. They also have historical mistakes regarding Alexander the Great who they say was very old and a Moslem. Yet Islam as a religion did not even exist at the time of Alexander the Great. Basically it has a lot of historical contradictions.

It is interesting to note that the Hollywood movies based on Biblical themes, such as the Exodus, are not based on the Biblical versions but based on the Koran. That is fascinating. And when we know that company executives like Disney are high Freemasons, everything becomes a bit clearer.

The Koran has also no prophecy whatsoever. And there is also no plan of salvation in its writings. Your salvation or damnation is most likely based on the mood that Allah has at that time. The only absolute security is if you die as a warrior for Allah.

The origins and history of Islam are also interesting. The wife of Mohammed was a Catholic and belonged to a monastery, even if she wasn't a regular nun. She was very rich and made her wealth available. And interestingly enough, with his wars, if I remember correctly, he had problems with his own

people, and during that time the Catholic princes gave him protection until the conflicts passed.

And then we have the whole story with Mohammed and his wives. As you know, he had several wives, and even a wife that was as young as nine years old. Because of his own relations, he made it legal to have up to four wives. But because he himself, after his first wife died, had more than four wives, he had to come up with some sort of justification for it. And so Allah said to him, "Because you are a special Prophet, it is for you and you only, to have more than just four wives."

Another thing was that he was coveting his son's wife. He did also marry her after she divorced his son. That was an ethical problem and because of that we read in the Koran: "Because you are my prophet, you can transgress the Law that one is not allowed to marry family relatives. For you it is allowed."

The Koran also takes quite a strong position against the Trinity or the Godhead found in the Bible just for the simple reason that Mohammed did not agree with the Trinity.

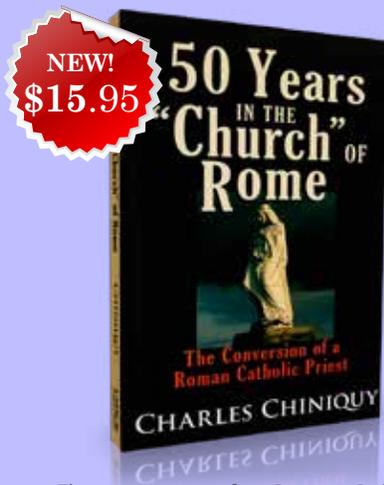
All these things are found in the Koran: Allah has no Son, he will exterminate all non-Moslems (that is not written in the Koran, but in other writings of Islam), and Jesus Himself will testify that He is not God's Son. And that should be the same God we have. Really? **AD**

.....to be continued in the Summer issue

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ENMITY

UPDATE

The Enmity documentary is starting to take shape. The series will discuss the great controversy theme through each episode and discuss the tension between good and evil experienced in our world in the context of salvation and current events.

Please pray for the series as AD continues to work on its production, especially that Satan will be prevented from hindering the work in progress.

enmitydocumentary.com

Revelation's Coming

by Daniel Pel

CLIMAX

– It's Only a Breath Away

The 18th of January, 2015 will go down as a historic day for the papal church. Millions of people gathered to attend a massive outdoor mass in the Philippine capital, Manila. City officials estimated that six million people attended the ceremony or lined the papal route to Rizal Park - an absolute record for any papal event! This is all part of a six-day tour Pope Francis is making in Asia.

The popularity of the present Pope is overwhelming and spreads all across the globe.

The popularity of the present Pope is overwhelming and spreads all across the globe. He has set himself up, not just as the shepherd of the Roman Church, but as the shepherd of the world. This last year has been one of the most significant years in the Catholic Church in centuries, marked by numerous religious leaders flocking to Rome to meet the new Pope and seek for a greater unity with the Church of Rome.

Besides meeting religious leaders, Pope Francis has been very eager to meet political leaders, seeking to extend the influence of the papal church into the political arena of the world. In May of 2014, the Pope advised the United Nations on economics, calling for "legitimate redistribution of wealth to the poor." Though this may sound normative for a church leader to say, the significance of this is huge. The Pope made his speech to the leader of the United Nations, among others, while he was visiting the Vatican. Here, a religious leader is addressing economic policies to some of the most influential political figures. In March of last year, Pope Francis was formally invited to address a joint session of congress in the United States, which will take place later this year. At that time, he will

again be addressing some of the most powerful political leaders of the world. There seems to be no limits to the influence the present Pontiff of Rome has over world affairs.

What baffles me most is that a large number of Protestant Christians are cheering the Pope along in his rise to world dominion. Historically the word "protestant" was connected with a "protest". During the Reformation the Reformers clearly identified the Church of Rome as the Antichrist of Scripture. The false teachings and corruptions within the papal church, along with its long tyranny of persecution, met the clear prophetic fulfillment of Scripture in the books of Daniel and Revelation. A clear call went forth for men and women to return to the Bible, as the motto of the Reformation rang throughout the lands: "Sola Scriptura" - the Bible only! The traditions of Rome had corrupted the Church and buried sacred Scriptural truths, including the very simplicity of the Gospel. Rites and rituals, placing the power of salvation within the confines of the Roman Church, replaced simple faith in Christ. Confession to the priest took the place of confession to Christ. Praying to dead saints took the place of praying to Christ. And on we could go. A massive counterfeit had taken the Christian world by surprise and continues to do so. Though the world may seem to think otherwise, the papal church itself claims not to have changed.

Bible prophecy predicts that what marked the power of the Roman Church in the past will mark its power in the future. In the book of Revelation, chapter 13, we read about a beast that comes up out of the sea. A beast in prophecy is a symbol of a kingdom or power (Daniel 7:17). All the identification marks of this beast clearly reveal it to be none other than the Church of Rome. Again, this is nothing new as Bible students like Wycliffe, Tyndale, Cranmer, John Bunyan, Sir Isaac Newton, George Whitfield, Jonathan Edwards, and Charles Spurgeon identified the office of the Papacy as the Antichrist.

According to the prophecy of Revelation 13, this beast would be given power for 42 prophetic months (Revelation 13:5). Following the Biblical principle of a prophetic day equaling a literal year (Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:6), we are here looking at a period of 1260 years. Historically, this is the exact time that the Papacy wielded power over Europe during what was known as the Dark Ages. In AD 538 the Papacy assumed political power as the Church united with the state. This unholy unity of church and state plunged the continent of Europe into 1260 years of bloodshed and persecution on all the enemies of the Church. Not participating in mass, confessing your sins directly to Jesus instead of the priest, or merely possessing a Bible, was enough to deem you an enemy. Millions lost their lives due to the "crime" of believing differently than the Church of Rome. All this was made possible because the Church



had military support and authority by its alliance with the kings of Europe. The 1260 years of domination by the Roman Church came to an end in 1798, when Napoleon sent his army into Rome and abolished the Papacy, taking the Pontiff captive. The world seemed to move into a new era.

So why is this history so significant? Revelation Chapter 13 predicts that what has been will come again.

*He was granted power to give **breath** to the **image** of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed (Revelation 13:15).*

Interesting language, "the image of the beast". An image is a resemblance of something, like a son that is the spitting image of his father. In other words, he looks like his father, perhaps walks or talks like his father, though he is not the father. Or like the reflection you see in the mirror - the reflection looks exactly like you, though it is not you. The image or picture of the beast that we have in the past is something that is going to be strikingly similar to what we will see in the near future. What caused the persecution of the past is going to cause a persecution in the future. It

is again the unholy unity of church and state, prohibiting the liberty of conscience. Again the Church of Rome will require worship and allegiance, enforced by the political powers of the world. Breath will be given to the image of the beast. This implies that the power of Rome is being resurrected to life. It is very interesting to see how this religious/political power is desperately trying to counterfeit the very acts of God.

Let's just press the rewind button for a moment and go all the way back to Genesis. What is the first thing we learn about mankind?

*So God created man in His own **image**; in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them (Genesis 1:27).*

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath** of life; and man became a living being (Genesis 2:7).*

Breath. Image. Life. Sounds familiar, right? You can see where the language in the book of Revelation is taken from. But here in Genesis we have the real deal, while Revelation describes a counterfeit power at work. God breathes His life into us and sustains us as our Creator. Furthermore, Jesus wants to breathe on us the Holy Spirit as He did to His disciples.

*And when He had said this, He **breathed** on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22).*

So the big question is: Who has our allegiance? Is it a man-made religious/political power, seeking for world dominance, or is it our Creator and Savior Jesus Christ, who took our sins upon Himself to set us free? The one leads us into bondage, while the other leads us out of bondage. The one promises the power of the world, while the other gives us the power of the Holy Spirit to live a new life.

Again the Church of Rome will require worship and allegiance, enforced by the political powers of the world.

Do you feel you need to be revitalized in your spiritual life? What a time to ask your heavenly Father to breathe into you new power which comes from above! At the very time when the world is wondering after the beast (Revelation 13:3), who is receiving breath from stately powers to rule the world once more, Jesus is looking for people who are praying for the Spirit to be breathed upon them. We are facing the climax of the ages! And it is only a breath away!

In Matthew, chapter 22, we read that Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees on the question of whether or not to pay taxes to Caesar. His answer strikes at the very heart of how we should relate to worldly powers and the claims of God.

*"Show me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, "Whose **image** and inscription is this?" They said to him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:19-21).*

The things of Caesar and the things of God were not to be mixed. History has shown us the dark chapters that were written when this simple principle was not followed. When politics and religion unite, liberty of conscience is under attack.

But there is something more in this incredible answer of Jesus. He asked for a denarius that obviously showed the image of Caesar on it. There we have our key word again – image. Give to Caesar what has his image, but give to God the things that are God's. The question that lacks in this story, but just begs to be asked is, "What are the things of God?" That's not a hard one to answer. If the coin that belongs to Caesar contains Caesar's image, then the things that belong to God must contain God's image. So what contains the image of God? Yes, that's you and me!

And so we end where the story of Scripture begins. We were made in the image of God. Though this image has been marred by sin, God, through the Gospel, is seeking to restore His image in mankind. As millions are wondering after the beast, will you turn to the only One who can breathe new spiritual life into you and restore His perfect image in you? Will you do it right now? Precious little time remains, because Revelation's coming climax is only a breath away! **AID**



Fancy Clothes & Golden Chalices

Editor's Note: This chart prepared by a supporter of Amazing Discoveries shows some startling differences between the Lord Jesus and many of the popes of Rome (the vicars of Christ) throughout the centuries.

Prepared by Darryl Eberhart, editor of ETI and TTT Newsletters

JESUS CHRIST (during His earthly ministry)	MANY BISHOPS OF ROME (i.e., popes)
He had no golden crown, and He had no precious gems. (He did, however, wear a crown of thorns.) He wore simple clothes.	Popes have magnificent golden crowns – many of which are embedded with precious gems. They wore richly embroidered robes.
He had no permanent residence “to lay His head” while ministering to others.	Popes live in <u>luxurious palaces</u> with servants and the very best of accommodations.
He worked with His hands as a carpenter to provide for His mother and His siblings.	Many popes came from <u>aristocratic families</u> and never worked one day with their hands.
He <u>loved</u> the Scriptures (i.e., the books of the Old Testament), and He <u>often</u> quoted from them during His earthly ministry.	Many popes <u>hated</u> the Bible, <u>forbade</u> people to possess or read the Bible in their native language, and <u>burned</u> such Bibles!
He <u>never</u> tortured anybody – nor did He authorize or command His disciples to torture anybody.	Many popes authorized and commanded the torture of so-called “heretics.” Some added their own special tortures!
He <u>never</u> burned anyone alive – nor did He authorize or command His disciples to burn anyone alive.	Many popes <u>coerced</u> state authorities into cruelly burning thousands upon thousands of “heretics” alive – both men and women!
He <u>never</u> called for a “Holy” Crusade against anyone; nor did He authorize or command His disciples to launch any crusades.	Popes not only commanded the launching of crusades against infidels, but also had crusades launched against Bible-believers!
He said, “No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.” (John 14:6)	Popes say that people must come to God <u>through their church</u> .
He said, “My kingdom is not of this world.” (John 18:36).	Popes have striven for centuries to bring all nations on Earth under their despotic rule!
He <u>never</u> tried to forcibly convert anyone – and He <u>never</u> authorized or commanded His disciples to do so.	Popes for centuries encouraged the <u>forced conversion</u> of Jews in Europe, and of native populations in Latin America, etc.
He <u>never</u> told His disciples to participate in wild orgies.	Numerous popes had wild orgies (including sex and booze) in their papal palaces!

JESUS CHRIST (during His earthly ministry)	MANY BISHOPS OF ROME (i.e., popes)
He was dedicated to doing His father's will, and to "preaching the Gospel [i.e., the good news] of the kingdom." (Matthew 4:23).	Many popes – by killing Bible-believers – and by preaching a false "gospel of works" – have <u>not</u> done the will of God the Father.
His sole "authority" was the <u>Word of God</u> . Jesus Christ is the living embodiment of <u>truth</u> – and of God's written Word!	Many popes have placed their "tradition" <u>above</u> God's Word. They have endorsed <u>lies</u> and <u>forgeries</u> , e.g., the Isidorian Decretals.
He condemned the <i>Nicolaitanes</i> in the book of Revelation (Revelation 2:6, 15). The two Greek words used for <i>Nicolaitanes</i> mean: "Those who have conquered the [lay] people – the laity."	Popes rule an authoritarian, despotic religious system that allows little to no dissent from below. The Pope became an <u>absolute monarch</u> when papal infallibility was forced upon Roman Catholics in 1870!
He told His disciples that they were all <u>brethren</u> (Matthew 23:8). He also told them: "...The princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you..." (Matthew 20:25, 26).	All popes – by being the Bishop of Rome, the <i>Pontifex Maximus</i> – exercise dominion and authority over their fellow bishops, the cardinals, and the entire priesthood – despite the fact that the One they claim to represent, i.e., Jesus Christ, <u>forbade</u> such behavior!
He <u>never</u> poisoned anyone. In fact, during His earthly ministry as the Messiah sent from God, Jesus Christ <u>never</u> murdered anyone!	Popes have poisoned their rivals. John XXII obtained the "office of pope" by poisoning the preceding pope! Pope Alexander VI had cardinals poisoned to get their money!
He <u>never</u> sold indulgences, nor did He ever suggest such a "religious travesty"!	Many popes made lots of money through the sale of indulgences!
He <u>never</u> sold relics, bones, or any other religious items for profit. He <u>never</u> told His disciples to sell relics, bones, or any other religious items for profit.	Many popes made lots of money through the sale of relics, the sale of bones of alleged saints, and the sale of other religious items.
He told His disciples that when they prayed, they were <u>not</u> to use "Vain repetitions, as the heathen [do]..." (Matthew 6:7).	Many popes have encouraged Roman Catholics to pray the rosary, which includes the <u>repetition</u> of decades of <i>Hail Marys</i> !
He called <u>God the Father</u> by the name, "Holy Father" (John 17:11).	Many proud, pompous popes have <u>allowed</u> themselves to be called "Holy Father"!
He told His disciples to call no man [referring to clergymen] on Earth "father"! "And call no [man] your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven." (Matthew 23:9).	Popes allow their priests to be called "father" by their parishioners. This is just one of the practices found in the Roman Catholic Church that is in <u>direct violation</u> of the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ.
He gave His disciples the "formula" for prayer: He told them to pray to <u>God the Father</u> in His (Christ Jesus') name (Matthew 6:5-13). He <u>never</u> said to pray to Mary or the saints.	Many popes have encouraged Roman Catholics to pray to Mary and to dead saints, contrary to what Christ Jesus taught! Shouldn't the <u>alleged</u> "Vicar of Christ" obey Christ's teachings in all things?

Dec 1, 2014, www.toughissues.org



God's Character:

The whole point of the Gospel (and the Great Controversy) is to tell the truth about the character of God. That's the great issue that started the controversy from the beginning. God can be trusted, especially to be fair! Satan would like the world to believe the opposite. Further, God wants to be known as the searching, waiting Father who never gives up on encouraging His children to return home. He never shuts the front door, always leaves the light on for us (Luke 15).

God wants to be known as the searching, waiting Father who never gives up on encouraging His children to return home.

The underlying issue in the great controversy between God and Satan is "freedom." Over that mysterious word - that word that has summoned unspeakable courage, honor, and unselfishness in its defense - the well-being of the universe has been wrenched and jeopardized. *Why did God risk all on freedom?* (See Revelation 12; Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28.)

The issues that led created intelligences in heaven to rebel against God the Creator are the same reasons created beings continue to rebel against God, consciously or unconsciously. Satan had certain accusations that could persuade one-third of the angels to distrust God so why did God risk all on letting Satan live?

What were Satan's accusations that could persuade one-third of the angels to distrust God?

God responded to Satan's charges in such a way that the unfallen angels and worlds could see that He is not the kind of God that Satan had made Him out to be. God has a long-range plan to tell His side of the story: Jesus as our Substitute ("atoning Sacrifice"), High Priest ("all-powerful Mediator"), and our

Example tells the truth about God and about the destiny of men and women of faith. Why did God risk all in allowing Jesus to become truly man, exposing Himself to possible failure and eternal loss? (See Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16.)

Risking it All

God created human intelligences on Planet Earth to be His laboratory in which the principles of His government and those of Satan's could be fully displayed. Think about how men and women of faith respond to God's plan for them and how they help to vindicate God's character and government. Why did God risk all by putting into the hands of men and women who professed to be followers of Jesus the evidences for His case when He would be put on trial before the universe? God will have a people who will rightly represent Him. They will present His final appeal to the world at a time just before the forces of good and evil come to their final clash and Jesus returns. Is it possible that God would risk all in placing the future of the universe **on the final generation** who will be the targets of Satan's fiercest attacks?

The controversy will end after both God and Satan have had sufficient time to display the consequences of their particular plans for governing the universe. What is the core issue that will make the universe eternally secure, once and for all? The evidences that will be presented in favor of God will be the consequences of evil and the rewards of loyalty to God. How will the display of these evidences before the entire universe provide this eternal security? **How do the mental/physical habits of the redeemed, who have become so settled into the truth that sin will never arise again, add to this eternal security and demonstrate God's wisdom in granting freedom to created intelligences?**¹

Even though God saw it all in advance, as soon as He created Lucifer there was no turning back! He was willing to be "slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8) in order that His grand design of a universe populated with trusting, loving individuals could eventually be realized—in an eternally secure universe where never again would a rebel say "No" to the overtures of love.

Further, in the meantime, God, the cosmic Lover, will not give up wooing His reluctant bride, His chosen people who wanted His name but not always the responsibility of love. God would not give up on His restless, wayward bride. He does everything He can to help her get herself ready for the "wedding." Imagine that! The Creator and Sustainer of the universe motivated by a love more personal and intense than that of a human lover, more ten-

der than a nursing mother. It boggles my mind. And to think that you and I are the unique objects of His astonishing love! What could be a greater reason to help Him get us ready for the wedding? (See Revelation 19.)

God knows three things:

1. He knows His own ability to be patient.
2. He knows that some in every generation will say "Yes" to His overtures and will rightly represent Him in their profession and character.
3. He knows that with the accumulated record of people living today who are being constantly wooed by His Spirit along with those who have been wooed by Him throughout history, eventually He will have a significant witness through whom and on whom He will rest His case. (See Matthew 24:14.)

God will not rest until He has "sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads" (Revelation 7:3), those who have "the Father's name written in their foreheads. . . These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes . . . And in their mouth was found no guile, for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Revelation 14:1, 4, 5; see also Revelation 22:4). Such people indeed help secure the universe forever!

God will not rest until He has "sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads".

Love wins, but also loses. Love remains, but some angels and human beings will turn away their faces forever. Such spurning of God's love has been God's risk from

¹ Ellen White, *The Desire of Ages*, 761

the beginning. Perhaps Jesus revealed the heart of God most clearly when, just before His own people murdered Him, He said, "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem... How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you desolate" (Matthew 23:37, 38).

The risk of granting freedom was not only that God should have a forever heart-ache. *He would also put Himself on trial!*

The risk of granting freedom was not only that God should have a forever heart-ache. He would also put Himself on trial!

He would be charged with the meanest, most unfair accusations that could be leveled against anyone! For

millennia, it has seemed that Satan, with his accusations, has been winning. More people, it seems, have believed Satan's lies about God than those who have had faith in His Word, His promises, and His trustworthiness.

We all know how God responded to that awful moment in the history of Planet Earth when Eve and Adam trusted the serpent rather than God: "The Lord God called to Adam and said to him, Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9). Haunting call, and every one of us has heard it more than once!

God took the initiative to restore this broken relationship. He didn't wait for Adam

or Eve to seek Him! That thought alone is astounding! God seeking men and women, not men and women, somehow, seeking God—even though they were burdened with remorse!

All this leads us to how Jesus, in flesh and blood, entered the picture. In His own words, He described how all this works. Jesus told three parables in Luke 15 that highlighted what our heavenly Father is like. He is the faithful, persistent Shepherd of His sheep. No matter how far a sheep wanders, the sheep will be found, even though it doesn't know it is lost (Luke 15). This is another way of saying that God in Jesus is that Light which gives light "to every man who comes into the world," (John 1:9) even before a person knows that he needs the light! And He will keep shining that Light on us, even when we drift into a "far country."

In the second parable, God is the persevering Housewife who searches for that lost coin of her dowry, never resting until the coin is found—because the coin is still valuable, no matter how lost it may be! This was another way of saying that God in Jesus "is able to save to the uttermost" all those who may feel they are worthless. But not in God's sight! (Hebrews 7:25).

In the third parable, God is the waiting Father who never gives up on His wayward children. This is another way of saying that God in Jesus always has His everlasting arms outstretched to everyone, saying in words that all can understand, "Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). No man or woman can ever say that God's front door was shut and that there was no light left on for him or her. Ever!

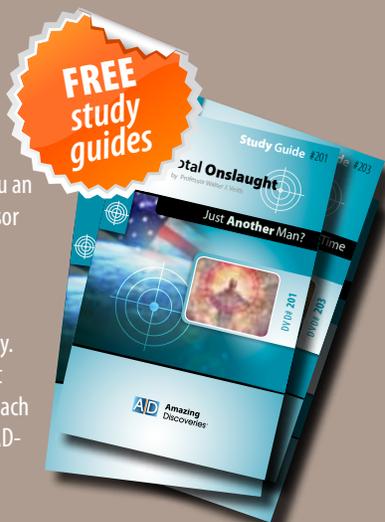
No man or woman can ever say that God's front door was shut and that there was no light left on for him or her. Ever!

Hence, God the Father, God our Lord Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit, together have united to use every method possible to bring us back to Eden, back to that marvelous embrace where straying, sinful men and women see more clearly than ever the kind of God who is running the universe, the kind of God who is forever searching out the children who left home, giving them every reason to trust Him.

God is patiently but deliberately calling His children back home. He wants to ring the homesick bell, as long as it takes, to get a child to come home. But every person must choose to hear and respond to that love or choose to keep

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going down that road, farther and farther away from home until he/she no longer is attracted by the Father's whisper: "Please come home."

In all my theological adventures, I have discovered that the simplest explanation is always the solution and that solution is always wrapped up in the simple story of the great controversy.

I am reminded of those priceless words in one of my favorite books-- *Steps to Christ*, pages 10-11:

God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love.

Though all these evidences have been given, the enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear; they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving.

Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice--one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.

It seems to me, getting the character of God right—the character that Jesus came to reveal—provides the framework for all theological studies, especially when framed within the great controversy paradigm. All this is exactly the promise that Jesus gave us in His marvelous prayer in John 17:3—getting the character of God the Father right is the eternal door opener: "This is life eternal, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

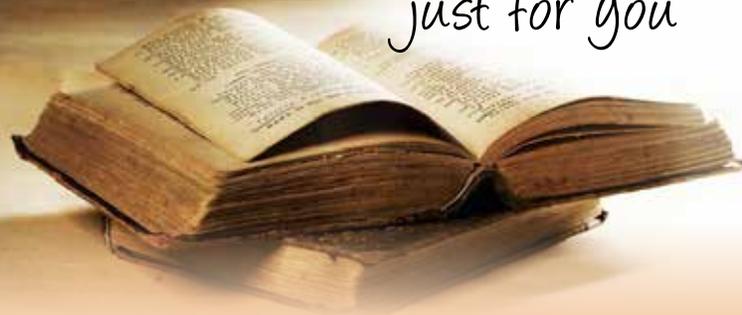
That is our Lord's Gospel in a few words, out of which flows the great controversy story. 

Herbert Edgar Douglass, Jr. (16 May 1927- 15 Dec 2014) was a Seventh-day Adventist theologian. He earned his Doctorate in Theology at Pacific School of Religion in 1964. He has authored over 24 books and numerous articles. Until his death in 2014, he resided in Lincoln, California.

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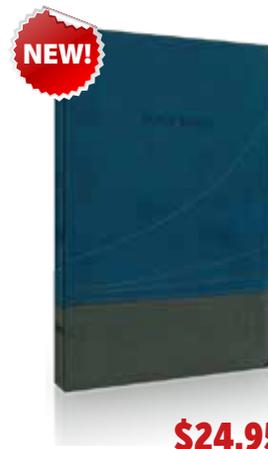
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COME UP HIGHER

by Grace Mackintosh

But thus says the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contends with thee, and I will save thy children. Isaiah 40:25.

In 1960, the Smithsonian Institution's journal, Horizon, published a daring three-part recipe on "The Childhood Pattern of Genius". The first ingredient was much time with warm, responsive parents and other adults. The second was isolation from peers, and the third called for much freedom for children to explore their own interests. Finally, study director Harold McCurdy applied it to families and schools: "...the mass education of our public school system is, in its way, a vast experiment on reducing...all three factors to a minimum; accordingly, it should tend to suppress the occurrence of genius."

The above paragraphs are the introductory remarks of Raymond Moore to the World Congress of Families II in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1999. Raymond S. Moore, Ph.D. is the author of numerous books on children, education, and cultural questions. He was chairman of the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth, a U.S. Delegate to UNESCO, and a co-founder of the Family Research Council.

Dr. Moore went on to state in his presentation that: *Cornell's Bronfenbrenner's famed research on the influence of parents versus peers, found that when children spend more time with peers than parents until near junior high school they [become] peer dependent. This in turn causes losses of self-worth, optimism, respect for their parents and even trust in peers. Yet the most parents and school officials insist peers are the best socializers.*

Another iteration of this statement is found in the book, *Day Care Deception: What the Child Care Establishment Isn't Telling Us*, published in October 1, 2004, by Brian C. Robertson. The author warns that early education and daycare in particular, will result in children referencing the "group" or their "peers" instead of their primary caregiver, their teachers, or pastors for morality and major life decisions.

Neither at the time of Raymond Moore's presentation, nor of the writing of the book by Brian Robertson, could

anyone dream that their warnings would entail the searing of the minds of our youth. The effects of daycare and early education have been escalating through the watching of television and movies, video games, and internet use. An unintended result is that many high school students have been posting

pictures and videos on social media of drug use, interracial violence and disturbing pornography. This trend of sharing immoral and illegal activities via social media knows no socioeconomic boundaries. Further, there are no gender or racial norms. Because it is an emergent phenomenon there is little research at this time. However, there is a consensus that a major contributing factor is the early introduction of children to group situations involving daycare or schooling. It seems that the students post these things because the reference group, which may even be the internet, says it's "cool" or funny. In the past, vicarious involvement in immoral and illegal behaviors has been present, but it was different. Often the families involved were poor or broken, the prevalence was much lower and, most significantly, everyone knew it was wrong, even those involved. Now, we are facing a situation in which the participants do not think what they are doing is wrong.

In order to meet this crisis, we must look closely at the true science of Christian education.



If we do not meet this crisis, we stand to lose a whole generation of children. The Pied Piper has come and is taking our children hostage - some to everlasting ruin. The situation is so grim that some Christian schools have reported that at least one third or more of their students are involved in using social media in this way and many of these are leaders among their peers with excellent grades. In order to meet this crisis, we must look closely at the true science of Christian education.

The true science of Christian education is the concern for the eternal destiny of each student. Accordingly, the student is equipped to reason from cause to effect as early as possible. The Bible is replete with calls to see, know, understand, consider, seek and prove. **Reasoning from cause to effect, along with deductive reasoning, are the pillars upon which Christian education places the belief that there is ultimate truth and morality.** Originality and independence of mind, love of truth for its own sake, the power of reflecting and of forming correct judgments are the hallmarks of Christian education.

Broadly speaking, the secular educational system, to a greater degree, has as its foundation the educational methods of critical thinking, which bases itself in never removing doubt, and classical conditioning. The result of such a system is to create doubt with respect to any given subject and is the edifice upon which the belief that there is no ultimate truth rests, encouraging absolute indifference to the idea of morality.

Ivan Pavlov's twenty-five years of research with dogs resulted in a wave of psychologists that would change the method and delivery of education. His book, *Conditioned Reflexes*, is fascinating in that Pavlov applies his research to humans, stating that classical conditioning is a form of hypnosis. Pavlov exulted that humans were merely the sum of stimuli and responses. In fact, classical conditioning does not engage the frontal lobe, the throne of reason. Students subject to this methodology are taught that they are what they have experienced rather than a created being made in the image of God. Such teaching encourages the pursuit of experience rather than truth

and trains the mind to operate on the basis of gratification rather than on the basis of reason or responsibility.

With this in mind, the importance of Christian education could never be more critical than at this time. However, the current climate with respect to education in Canada is becoming more and more intolerant. It is based upon a secular understanding

of human rights - an understanding that can never attain to the height of the value of humanity as set out in the Scriptures.

Most notably, the case of Trinity Western University's (TWU) application for a law school has captured the attention of educators and business people across Canada. In summary, the opponents of the evangelical law school believe that society is such that even though TWU's code of conduct, which prohibits sexual relations except between a husband and wife, is not illegal; it is anathema. They do not want to bring the system of justice into disrepute by allowing judges and lawyers who adhere to the TWU code of conduct to practice. It is a shocking manifestation of a religious test for employment. There are some who would say it is a sexual test for employment but the religious context within which the conversation takes place makes this assertion too narrow. The stakes are very high with respect to the outcome of the TWU case. It threatens the existence of Christian schools, the right to hold a differing worldview and the pursuit of truth.

A careful read of the 2001 TWU case that dealt with their education program, will reveal a sentiment expressed by the court that the attack on a corporate Christian organization could develop into an attack on individuals based on their religious beliefs.

The developing principles in this battle are important to track. In 2001, the opposition attempted to discredit the graduates of TWU by arguing that they would discriminate against homosexual students. This argument failed.

However, this time, the arguments are leveled at the institution itself, the strongest argument being that times have changed - that society will not tolerate such narrow worldviews as those espoused in the code of conduct of TWU. There is a demand that TWU be tolerant in its expressed views and subject itself to the prevailing worldview.

On the heels of such toleration come laws that enforce toleration, and after these, restrictions on speech that is intolerant. This ultimately puts the power of conscience in the hands of the majority. Toleration laws are blasphemy laws in disguise and are enacted on the dubious ground of protecting a particular worldview. In the time of Christ, blasphemy laws were operative. It was against the law to speak of a new religion not sanctioned by the state. It was against the law to try to persuade or invite or evangelize, as this was in itself an affront against currently held worldviews. It not only shut down freedom of expression and religion but also freedom of association and the freedom to seek truth.

Secular human rights will always seek to impose the worldview of the majority, as it is based upon majoritarian views and the common good.



Secular human rights will always seek to impose the worldview of the majority, as it is based upon majoritarian views and the common good. Further, it does not see any impediment to using governmental authority to bolster its position. Secular human rights are focused on balancing the rights of individuals in a manner that forces the adaptation of the individual to society within the legal landscape. There is no protection with respect to seeking truth, as secularism does not acknowledge truth. Secularism only recognizes individual truths that are changeable and convenient and as a result must be subject to the common good, whereas Biblical human rights elevate the individual to a being made in the image of God and holds sacred the search for truth. This protection is subject only to civility, as the search for truth may not include murder, assault or other impositions on our fellow human beings.

As in the time of Christ, so now there are people who would be happy to make the government a party to their disputes. They want the government, by law, to commit itself to the defense of their particular worldview, so they can add its power to their side of the controversy, and send to ignominy those that even accidentally disagree with them. But government has no business to be made a party to any worldview controversy. This has been the bane of every nation in prior history except ours. The government should find its legitimate employment in seeing that such disagreements are kept within the bounds of civility.

Come up higher, is the clarion call of the Christian. Secular human rights afford some protection, but Biblical human rights will put into practice those principles that make space for differing worldviews with a healthy respect and recognition that we are all seeking truth.

In conclusion, it is imperative that Christian education retains its right to exist, as the future of our youth depends upon it. As we can see from a brief canvassing of the issues in education, the challenges we are called to meet at this time come from within and without. They demand our prayerful attention and guidance from the Fount of All Wisdom. **AD**

¹http://worldcongress.org/wcf2_spkrs/wcf2_moore.htm.

Grace Mackintosh is General Counsel and Director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Canada. While serving at the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, she developed human rights policy and made public presentations on behalf of the Commission. She is currently involved in several religious freedom public awareness projects addressing national and international issues.

A ROMAN MIRACLE

(A poem about transubstantiation by an unknown author)

Taken from the book, "Babylon Mystery Religion: Ancient and Modern",
by Ralph Edward Woodrow (Page 117)

*A pretty maid, a Protestant, was to a Catholic wed;
To love all Bible truths and tales, quite early she'd been bred.
It sorely grieved her husband's heart that she would not comply,
And join the Mother Church of Rome and heretics deny.*

*So day by day he flattered her, but still she saw no good
Would ever come from bowing down to idols made of wood.
The Mass, the host, the miracles, were made but to deceive;
And transubstantiation, too, she'd never dare believe.*

*He went to see his clergyman and told him his sad tale.
"My wife is an unbeliever, sir; you can perhaps prevail;
For all your Romish miracles my wife has strong aversion,
To really work a miracle may lead to her conversion."*

*The priest went with the gentleman – he thought to gain a prize.
He said, "I will convert her, sir, and open both her eyes."
So when they came into the house, the husband loudly cried,
"The priest has come to dine with us!" "He's welcome," she replied.*

*And when, at last, the meal was o'er, the priest at once began,
To teach his hostess all about the sinful state of man;
The greatness of our Savior's love, which Christians can't deny,
To give Himself a sacrifice and for our sins to die.*

*"I will return tomorrow, lass, prepare some bread and wine;
The sacramental miracle will stop your soul's decline."
"I'll bake the bread", the lady said. "You may", he did reply,
"And when you've seen this miracle, convinced you'll be, say I."*

*The priest did come accordingly, the bread and wine did bless.
The lady asked, "Sir, is it changed?" The priest answered, "Yes.
It's changed from common bread and wine to truly flesh and blood;
Begorra, lass, this power of mine has changed it into God!"*

*So having blessed the bread and wine, to eat they did prepare.
The lady said unto the priest, "I warn you to take care,
For half an ounce of arsenic was mixed right in the batter,
But since you have its nature changed, it cannot really matter."*

*The priest was struck real dumb – he looked as pale as death.
The bread and wine fell from his hands and he did gasp for breath.
"Bring me my horse!" the priest cried, "This is a cursed home!"
The lady replied, "Begone; tis you who shares the curse of Rome."*

*The husband, too, he sat surprised, and not a word did say.
At length he spoke, "My dear," said he, "the priest has run away;
To gulp such mummery and tripe, I'm not for sure, quite able;
I'll go with you and we'll renounce this Roman Catholic fable."*

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When was the

Ice Age?

Joshua Joscelyn

During the great ice age, approximately 30% of Earth's land surface was covered in ice – including all of Canada and much of the US. We observe the signs of these gigantic glaciers, such as lateral and terminal moraines, which clearly mark the extent of this ice age. Millions of woolly mammoths are preserved in ice even today or have left their fossilized remains in the areas south of current ice levels. But for creationists, the question is often asked “When was the ice age?” After all, the accepted theory put forth by the scientific establishment cannot be true, because it claims the ice age began over 2 million years ago.

There are many problems for those who hold to the ancient ice age theory. Possibly the most obvious is explaining where all of the water and ice came from. An ice age requires huge amounts of water in the atmosphere, which then falls as snow. Much of

There are many problems for those who hold to the ancient ice age theory.

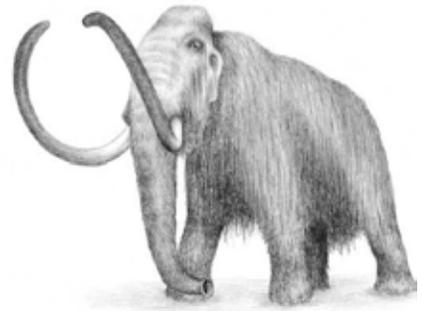
the areas still buried under hundreds of feet of ice in the Arctic Circle are deserts that receive nowhere near the amount of precipitation needed to accumulate that much ice – not even over a

very long time period. So where did the water come from? Scientists have been puzzling over this question for over a hundred years. The August 18–25, 1997, U.S. News & World Report listed as one of the great scientific mysteries, “What causes ice ages?”

But for creationists, the mystery is much more easily solved when viewed in light of God’s Word. Most creationists agree that there was an ice age that occurred soon after the Flood and lasted only about one to two hundred years. Noah’s Flood was a tremendous tectonic and volcanic event, and threw the entire planet’s environment into chaos. Initially, the warmer pre-Flood environment, combined with the latent heat potential of rapid precipitation experienced during the Flood, as well as the heat released from inside the earth as the “fountains of the deep” split open spewing their water into the atmosphere, caused a spike in overall planet temperatures. For years after the Flood, the world would have most likely experienced a sauna ef-

fect, with enormous quantities of water vapor in the atmosphere.

Large amounts of volcanic aerosols would have been prevalent in the atmosphere as the Earth reeled from the recent splitting open that the Bible describes. These accumulating aerosols would have eventually generated a considerable temperature drop over land by reflecting much solar radiation back to space. This dramatic cooling effect, combined with the vast amount of moisture already in the air, could have caused sudden and significant snowfall that could easily account for all the ice needed for the ice age we see evidence for today.



It’s quite possible that the Bible even alludes to this ice age in a couple places. Job, who lived about 500 years after the Flood might have been describing this phenomenon when he stated in Job 38:29-30, “Out of whose womb came the ice? and the hoary frost of heaven, who hath gendered it? The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.” Another phenomenon related to the ice age is mentioned in Genesis 10:25: “And unto Eber were born two sons: the name of one was Peleg; for in his days was the earth divided.” Peleg lived about 100 years after the Flood and may have witnessed the rise of the oceans that would have resulted from the melting ice when the ice age drew to a close. This rise in water levels would have flooded land bridges and separated lands, thus “dividing” the earth.

It’s quite possible that the Bible even alludes to this ice age in a couple places.

Furthermore, it may well be that the reason the ice age is not directly and explicitly discussed in Scripture is because the Scandinavian ice sheet and mountain ice caps were farther north than the region in which the Bible was written and the Bible writers were not aware of these ice sheets. Regardless, we may reasonably conclude from the evidence that the ice age did occur, is perfectly consistent with the Biblical flood account, and did not take place millions of years ago. **AID**

Joshua Joscelyn writes on a variety of topics, including Creation, politics, history, and Biblical issues. He has worked with various Creation ministries and currently resides in Milton, FL, with his wife, Felicia, where he enjoys reading, studying, and ministering in street and prison evangelism.

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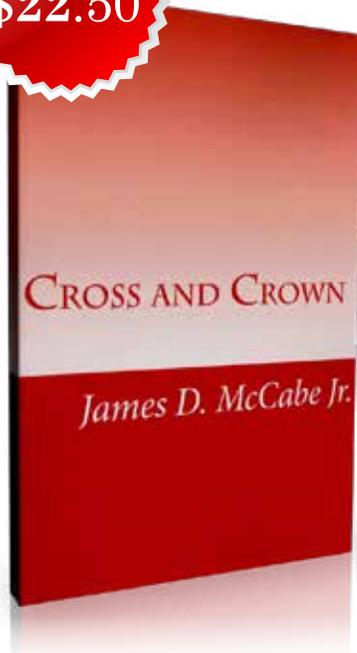
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OR, THE SUFFERINGS AND TRIUMPHS OF THE HEROIC MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE PERSECUTED FOR The Religion OF JESUS CHRIST.

JOAN MATHURIN

The town of Carignan stands on the left bank of the River Po, south of Turin, and beyond the actual limits of the Vaudois Valleys. Being near to them, however, it contained during the sixteenth century, a number of Vaudois who had been tempted by the prospect of profitable employment to settle in it in spite of the edict which confined them to their Valleys. For some time the Piedmontese authorities suffered these persons to remain unmolested; but at length the Romish priests, finding that the Vaudois were assembling secretly for prayer, determined to exterminate them. The persecution began in 1560. Without giving them any warning, the priests caused them to be seized and imprisoned as contumacious heretics. They were not allowed any examination or opportunity of defending themselves. They were seized on suspicion, condemned on suspicion, and were burned within three days after their arrest. They could save their lives by one means only—by abjuring their religion and going to Mass.

The first person thus seized in Carignan was a French refugee named Mathurin. He had come from the Vaudois Valleys of France, and had married a woman of the Vaudois Valleys of Piedmont. He was a plain and simple workingman, who cared little for the great matters going on around him, and whose only desire was to earn a living for his family and to worship God in peace. He was detected in the act of conducting family prayer in his own house, and for this "terrible crime" was sentenced to be burned alive. The commissioners urged him to abjure his religion and save his life; but he refused.

We give you three days to reflect" said they; "but after that time you will be burned alive if you do not come to Mass."

The family of Mathurin were plunged in great grief by his arrest and sentence. His wife, Joan Mathurin, went at once to the commissioners, and asked to be allowed to see her husband.

"We will grant your request," they replied, "provided that you do not harden him in his errors."

"I promise," she replied, "that I will not speak to him except for his good."

The commissioners interpreting this promise as an intimation that she meant to persuade him to recant, conducted the wife to the dungeon where her husband was confined. Mathurin was overjoyed at seeing her again. The commissioners remained to witness the interview, curious to see if a man could withstand the tender pleadings of a young and beautiful wife to whom he was bound by the deepest affection. But they had entirely misunderstood the promise of the Vaudois wife. She devotedly loved her husband, and the prospect of his death filled her heart with anguish. She was a worthy daughter of the martyrs, however, and her greatest fear had been that her husband would prove weak in the hour of trial, that the thought of leaving her would tempt him to forsake the path of duty; and she had come to urge him to be firm, to do his duty to his God and his Church, and if necessary, to die with him.

"Accordingly," says Gilles, by whom the martyrdom is related, "she exhorted him, in presence of the commissioners, as earnestly as possible, steadfastly to persevere in his religion, without putting the death of the body, which is of brief duration, in the balance against the eternal salvation of his soul."

The commissioners were furious when they heard her words, and bitterly reproached her for having deceived them. She paid no heed to them, however, but holding her husband's hand in her own, she went on gently, but firmly :

"Let not the assaults of the wicked one make you abandon the profession of your hope in Jesus Christ."

"Exhort him to obey us, or you shall both be hanged," cried the commissioners.

Again unheeding them, she said to her husband:

"And let not the love of this world's possessions make you lose the inheritance of Heaven."

"Heretical she devil," cried one of the magistrates, "if you do not change your tone, you shall be burned tomorrow."

Turning full upon her persecutor, and looking him calmly in the face, the brave Christian woman asked him:

"Would I have come to persuade him to die rather than to abjure, if I could myself seek to escape death by apostasy?"

"You should fear at any rate the torments of the pile," said the magistrate, abashed by her manner and words.

"I fear Him who is able to cast both body and soul into a more terrible fire than that of your billets."

"Hell is for heretics," exclaimed one of the commissioners. " Save yourselves by renouncing your errors."

"Where can the truth be if not in the Word of God?" she asked.

"This will be the destruction of you both," said one of the magistrates, yielding to his admiration and pity.

The face of the Vaudois wife lighted up with a sudden and overwhelming joy, and turning to her husband, who had not released her hand, but had clung to her as if all his strength lay in her, she said to him tenderly:

"Blessed be God, because having united us in life, He will not separate us in death."

One of the commissioners, a cruel and fanatical man, here broke into a savage laugh, and exclaimed exultingly:

"Instead of one, we shall have two of them to burn."

"I will be thy companion to the end," said the heroic woman, quietly, speaking to her husband rather than to the commissioners.

"Will you come to Mass and have your pardon?" asked the magistrates once more.

"I would rather go to the pile, and have eternal life," was her answer.

"If you do not abjure," said one, sternly, "Mathurin shall be burned tomorrow, and you three days after."

"We shall meet again in Heaven," she said, meekly.

"Think of the delay that is still granted you," said the magistrate, who had appeared to pity her.

"The length of it is of no consequence, for my resolution is for life," she answered.

"Say, rather, it is for death," he said, sadly.

"The death of the body is but the life of the soul," was her response.

One of the most violent of the magistrates, he who had exulted over the prospect of burning two, instead of one, now exclaimed brutally:

"Have you nothing else to say to us, you damned obstinate wretch?"

"Nothing," she answered, meekly; "except that I beseech you not to put off my execution for three days, but to let me die with my husband."



"The magistrates consulted together for a few moments, and then one of them said to her:

"Be it so. You will both be burned at the same stake to-morrow."

With this they departed. The heavy door of the dungeon clanged behind them, and the husband and wife were left alone—yet not alone, for God was with them to cheer and comfort them. Mathurin had from the first made up his mind to die rather than abjure, and the heroism of his noble wife confirmed him in this resolution. He did not oppose her determination to die with him. It was better to enter upon their rest together than for one to live on exposed to the bitter malice of a persecuting Church. And above all, it was very sweet to pass their last hours on earth together, and to be able to cheer and encourage each other as they should go down hand in hand into the valley of the shadow of death. They spent their last night in prayer, and in tender communion with each other. The brave wife had her reward on earth, for she saw her husband grow strong and cheerful, and even rejoice with her at the fate which was to unite them for all eternity. Her presence made the gloomy cell seem full of light to him, and her beloved face shone upon him through the darkness as the face of an angel. Never had either been so dear to the other; never had their love been so full, so pure, so free from earthly taint as on this eve of martyrdom.

The next day, being the 2nd of March, 1560, a stake was set up in the public square of Carignan, and around it was heaped a pile of fagots ready for lighting. A crowd of townspeople had gathered around the pile, and prominent among them were the priests and monks of the Church which had brought about this terrible deed. It was late in the afternoon when the deep tones of the Cathedral bell announced the approach of the condemned. A few minutes later a detachment of men at arms entered the square, and halted at the stake. Then came a band of monks chanting the requiem for the dead, and after them, hand in hand, erect, calm, and even smiling, came Joan Mathurin and her husband. A murmur of pity ran through the throng, but was quickly suppressed as the priests turned abruptly to discover who had dared to pity the victims of the " Holy Church." The martyrs paid no heed to the chanting or exhortations of the priests. They spoke to each other only to exhort to still greater firmness, and they did not quail when the executioner came to lead them to the stake. Hand in hand they mounted the pile, and submitted to be chained to the fatal post. The slanting rays of the declining sun lighted up the scene with a soft and subdued radiance, encircling the heads of the innocent victims of cruelty and superstition with a halo of light. Then the executioner fired the pile. The flames flared up wildly, hiding the martyrs from view. Through the mingled glare of the flames and gloom, of the smoke could be heard the calm, patient voice of Joan Mathurin bidding her husband be of good cheer, for the gates of Heaven were opening on her sight. Then there was silence, broken only by the roar of the flames.

The sun went down and the soft twilight came stealing on. The crowd still hung silent and sad about the spot. The monks had ceased their *Miserere*, and the peals of the great Cathedral bell had died away. The flames still hissed and leaped around the devoted pair. Not a cry nor a groan of pain had escaped them. Locked in each other's arms they had yielded to the devouring element. When the moon arose, only a heap of smouldering embers and a mass of blackened bones remained to show the spot from which the wife and her husband had passed hand in hand into the Kingdom of God. **AD**

Cross and Crown is a gripping description of the Protestant Reformation in Northern Italy, France and England during the 16th and 17th Centuries. This book contains historical sketches of each region and dramatic descriptions of how the Roman Catholic Inquisition impacted the lives of those who read the Bible and attempted to worship in their own way. Available at our webstore - go to www.amazingdiscoveries.org.

Spinach Salad with Pomegranate

- 6 cups spinach leaves
- Seeds of one pomegranate
- 1/3 cup chopped walnuts

In a large salad bowl, toss the spinach leaves with the pomegranate seeds and walnut pieces.

Dressing

- 4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 4 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons honey
- pinch of unrefined sea salt

Combine dressing ingredients in a small jar with tight fitting lid and shake to mix or whisk together in a bowl. Pour over salad and toss to coat. Serve immediately.



Pomegranate

He



As I paid for my pomegranates at the local grocery last week, a fellow shopper asked, “What do you do with that?” I’ve been eating pomegranates for years and don’t think much about their strangeness anymore, but I understand the lady’s curiosity about the fruit.

The leathery exterior of the pomegranate doesn’t even hint at the deliciously juicy, sparkling little jewels inside. Beneath the rind, the fruit is densely packed with small white seeds, each enveloped in its own bright, clear packet of juice, somewhat like orange pulp inside an orange segment.

As much as I am delighted by the flavour and visual appeal, what most impresses me about the pomegranate is what it can do for our health. As a disease fighter and health promoter, this fruit is an absolute powerhouse.

Here’s what research has found. Scientists took some cancer cells from men with highly aggressive prostate cancer.¹ The cells were allowed to grow in tissue cultures in the lab. When extracts from pomegranate were added, the growth of the cancer slowed. The researchers then took those aggressive cancer cells and injected mice with them. The mice that got pomegranate juice in their drinking water developed significantly smaller tumors than mice that didn’t get pomegranate juice.

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Health Power

by Laura Lepard and Tammie Burak



Pomegranate juice is also beneficial for those with coronary heart disease. Another study found that patients who drank eight ounces of pomegranate juice each day for three months had better blood flow to the heart.² Pomegranate may help prevent plaque build-up in arteries.

Osteoarthritis is a painful disease that results from the breakdown of cartilage in the joints. Scientists studying osteoarthritis are also interested in what pomegranate can do for those suffering from this disease. Early research has had promising results.³ Laboratory tests showed that pomegranate extract blocked the production of an enzyme that destroys cartilage.

Scientists attribute pomegranate's health benefits to the fruit's powerful antioxidants. Pomegranates are in season from November to early spring, so get them while you can! [AID](#)

1 Harvard Health Publications, Harvard Medical School, "Health benefit of pomegranate juice on prostate cancer and the heart," http://www.health.harvard.edu/press_releases/health-benefit-of-pomegranate-juice (Accessed January 22, 2014).

2 Michael D. Sumner, Melanie Elliott-Eller, Gerdi Weidner, Jennifer J. Daubenmier, Mailine H. Chew, Ruth Marlin, Caren J. Raisin, and Dean Ornish, "Effects of Pomegranate Juice Consumption on Myocardial Perfusion in Patients With Coronary Heart Disease," *The Ornish Spectrum*, <http://www.ornishspectrum.com/wp-content/uploads/Effects-of-Pomegranate-Juice-Consumption-on-Myocardial.pdf> (Accessed January 22, 2014).

3 Hadipour-Jahromy M, Mozaffari-Kermani R., "Chondroprotective effects of pomegranate juice on monoiodoacetate-induced osteoarthritis of the knee joint of mice," *PubMed.gov*, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19504467> (Accessed January 22, 2014).

How to cut it:

The best way to eat a pomegranate is to cut away the top at the shoulder on the flower end. Locate the ribs inside (the seeds are arranged like orange segments). Score the peel down the ribs, then push your thumbs into the centre at the top and pull the pomegranate apart. This way you get chunks of seeds arranged in large segments and have much less membrane to pick at to get at the seeds. If you've got internet access you can see a demonstration of this on YouTube.



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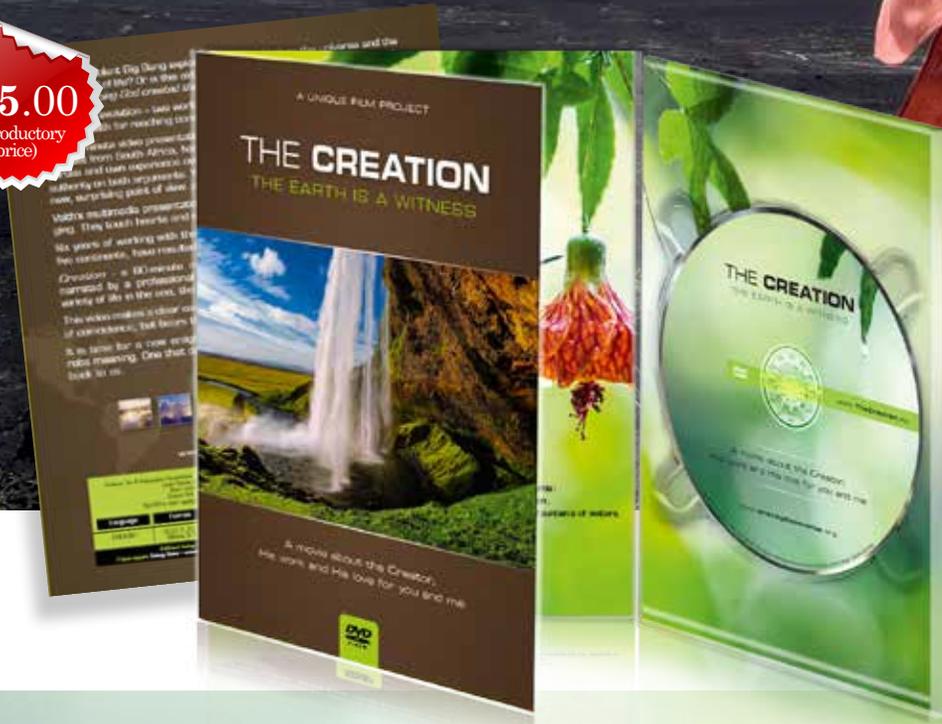
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