



September 14, 2013

BUILDING BRIDGES TO LESBOS! - By Buddy Smith

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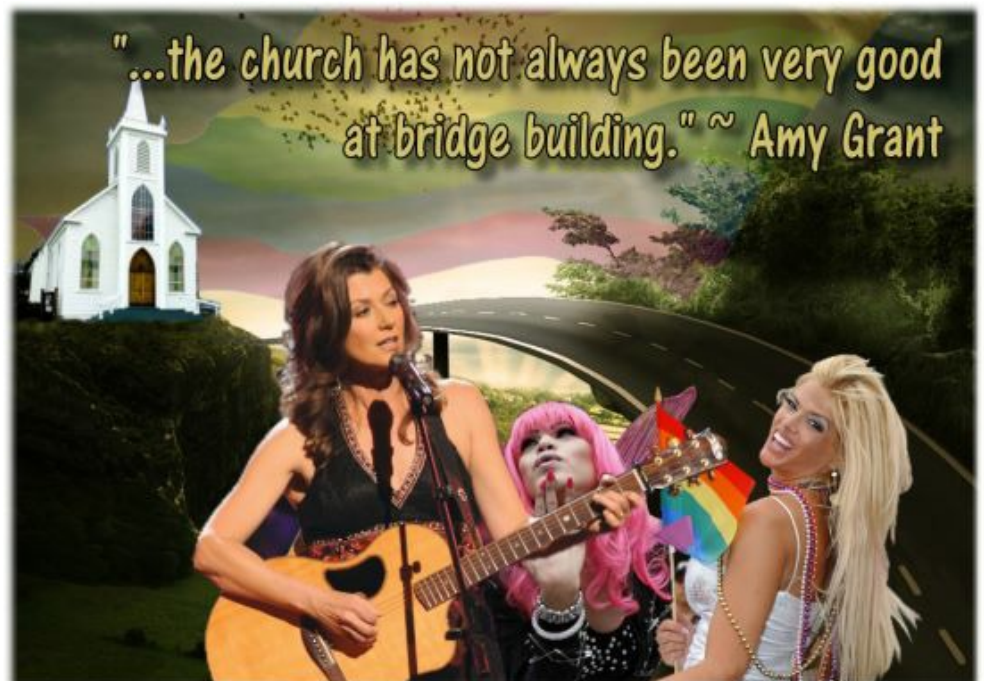
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Last week I read Bro. Cloud's article on **Contemporary Praise Music and the Internet**. He wrote as follows:

TECHNOLOGY GIVES US ACCESS TO THE AUTHORS AND COMPOSERS OF CCM

"We are living in the age of end-time technology, which means that one can no longer use songs and hymns without the listeners being able to come into communication with the authors with great ease. Whereas even 30 years ago, it was difficult to contact and be influenced by authors of Christian music, that has changed dramatically with the Internet.

Today if people in a Bible-believing church hear songs by Jack Hayford or MercyMe or Graham Kendrick or Stuart Townend or Darlene Zschech or Keith Getty, songs heard in "adapted form" in many Bible-believing churches, they can easily search for that group or individual on the web and come into intimate contact with these people -- not only in contact with their music (typically played in "real" rock & roll style as opposed to the watered-down soft-rock ballad versions performed in churches that are only beginning to dabble with contemporary praise music), but also in contact with their ecumenical/charismatic/separatist hating/one-world church philosophy.

Heads Up!

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MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE BRIDGE BUILDERS -

Let's say someone hears the choir perform "In Christ Alone" or "The Power of the Cross" by the Gettys. They like the music and decide to check them out on the web. They come across the Gettys rocking out at their concerts, and begin to question their church's stand against rock music. They see the Gettys associating with anyone and everyone and begin to question biblical separation. "The Gettys seem so sincere and Christ-loving; maybe I've been too hard-nosed in my Christianity; maybe the separatist stance is all wrong; perhaps I should lighten up." They come across Keith Getty's July 2013 interview with Assist Ministries and decide to listen to what the man has to say. They hear Getty speak highly of Bono and C.S. Lewis, so they decide to take a look at these people, and by so doing they begin to question fundamental Bible doctrines.

After time, through the influence of the Gettys, the soul who was once a content member of a Bible-believing church, raising his children in a Bible-believing path, is on the high road to the emerging church and the children and grandchildren will end up who knows where. The same could be said for the influence of Townend or Kendrick or MercyMe or Zschech or hundreds of other prominent contemporary worship musicians, because they hold the same philosophy and represent the same bridge to spiritual danger.

PASTORS AND SONGWRITERS WHO USED TO CALL THEMSELVES "FUNDAMENTALISTS" NOW DEFEND THE USE OF CCM -

Men such as Paul Chappell and Clarence Sexton and Ron Hamilton, who should know better but who are defending the use of contemporary praise music either in word or by example, will answer to God for the souls that cross the bridges they are building to the dangerous world that is represented by this music.

We have described the dangers of the world of contemporary worship music in the video presentation [The Foreign Spirit of Contemporary Worship Music](#), which is available as a free eVideo from www.wayoflife.org.

We have also documented the dangers in the 500-page [Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians](#), available as a free eBook from www.wayoflife.org."

THE ORIGINS OF THE TERM "BRIDGE BUILDERS" -

I noted Bro. Cloud's use of the term "Bridge Builders". This description did not originate with Bible preachers who oppose Praise and Worship CCM music. It's not our terminology. It is the terminology of Amy Grant, one of

the pioneers of "Crossover Music." Amy Grant made her debut when she was 17 years old. She is now 52. An article (from Wikipedia) on Crossover music comments that she was the first Christian artist to build a bridge between sacred and secular music.

*"The term "crossing over" is used to describe when an artist who had started predominantly in Christian markets starts receiving mainstream success. The first major artist crossover was by Amy Grant, with her 1985 album *Unguarded* and 1991 hit song *Baby Baby*" from the highest-selling Christian album *Heart in Motion*. The albums and single were distributed by a Christian label but received heavy play on pop radio stations and were chart-toppers on the Billboard charts."*

She is quoted as saying, "I've felt like music should always welcome people. Faith and love should always be very welcoming. Unfortunately, the church has not always been very good at bridge building, but I think because my personal feeling has always been, hey, the table's set, the food's laid out, come eat, get filled up--hopefully that's why everybody feels welcome." - Amy Grant

THERE ARE NO ONE WAY BRIDGES!!!

It is impossible for Christian musicians to "build bridges" to those whose morals and values agree with the pop music world without secular, pop musicians using the same bridges to export their morals and message to the churches.

Where has Amy Grant travelled after crossing the bridge she built to a world without Christ? I decided to type into a search engine Amy's name and see what came up. Years ago, I read a report that told of her going nude on a beach, and then someone told of her marriage breakdown, and another report said she had posed for a pornographic photo shoot. So it was no surprise to find the following article just posted on the web:

EXCLUSIVE: AMY GRANT IN HER FIRST GAY PRESS INTERVIEW

During her first gay press interview, and for an entire hour, the Grammy winner reflected - with her usual sincerity and thoughtfulness - on her loyal gay fan base, how she reconciles Christianity and homosexuality, her "compassion" for gay marriage and the unforgettable dinner she shared with out ACLU Executive Director Anthony Romero.

(read more at: <http://www.pridesource.com/article.html?article=59691>).

AMY GRANT HAS NOT TRAVELLED ALONE! -

Her decision to sing music that a lost world would love has been copied by countless other musicians (as Bro. Cloud has documented in the book and video mentioned above.) Sadly, pastors all over the world are discovering that their teens are being seduced to cross bridges that didn't even exist a generation or two ago. There are bridges to Rome, bridges to Las Vegas, bridges to Hollywood, Bridges to Nashville, and bridges to Wall Street. Some years ago I was driving along the Texas/Mexico border near Laredo. It had been years since I was in the area, so I made a wrong turn and ended up at the new bridge across the Rio Grande River. When we lived in South Texas there was a little two lane bridge there, but now it is an eight lane maxi-freeway! Just so, the tiny, narrow plank bridges into the abominable moral and doctrinal sewers of a Christless world have grown into maxi-freeways of heresy and immorality that are aimed at destroying our churches!

THE BRIDGE TO LESBOS -

It is thought that the island called Lesbos, off the shores of Greece was populated by immigrants from Thessaly as long ago as 800 BC. Its reputation as the origin of lesbianism dates back to a Greek female poet named Sappho, around 630 BC. The word itself, "lesbian" is of recent usage, but is commonly thought to agree with the morality of the island's inhabitants.

lesbian (adj.) 1590s, "pertaining to the island of Lesbos," from Latin *Lesbius*, from Greek *lesbios* "of Lesbos," Greek island in northeastern Aegean Sea (the name originally may have meant "wooded"), home of Sappho, great lyric poet whose erotic and romantic verse embraced women as well as men, hence meaning "relating to homosexual relations between women" (1890; *lesbianism* in this sense is attested from 1870) and the noun, first recorded 1925. Before this, the principal figurative use (common in 17c.) was *lesbian rule* (c.1600) a mason's rule of lead, of a type used on Lesbos, which could be bent to fit the curves of a molding; hence, "pliant morality or judgment." - from *Online Etymology Dictionary*

"One of the great Greek lyrists and few known female poets of the ancient world, Sappho was born some time between 630 and 612 BC. She was an aristocrat who married a prosperous merchant, and she had a daughter named Cleis. Her wealth afforded her with the opportunity to live her life as she chose, and she chose to spend it studying the arts on the isle of Lesbos.

In the seventh century BC, Lesbos was a cultural center. Sappho spent most her time on the island, though she also traveled widely throughout Greece. She was exiled for a time because of political activities in her family, and she spent this time in Sicily. By this time she was known as a poet, and the residents of Syracuse were so honored by her visit that they erected a statue to her.

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Our preacher told us on Sunday that church discipline is almost extinct. He said he didn't know how long it's been since he heard of a church putting a disobedient member out of the membership. He preached it to us out of Matthew 15 and I Cor. 5 and II Cor. 2 and Gal. 6.

Pretty quiet in the pews during the sermon, I'll tell you!

So, after church, I told him about old Fred, one of our neighbors, who tried to take one of his pigs to the vet in the front seat of his pickup truck last week. He didn't want to take time to put the stockcrate on the bed of his truck and didn't reckon he could tie the pig down good enough to hold him in the back of the truck, so he "just put a tow sack on the front seat, took Mr. Pig in and set him up on the seat, buckled him down with the seatbelt, and hoped for the best." Well, it seems the little grunter didn't like the way Fred was a-drivin' or sump'n and started kickin' up a fuss, a-squealin' and squirmen', and givin' old Fred the eye like he might take a bite out of him any minute.

So I asked him, "How did you solve that little problem?" He said, he soon guv up tryin' to comfort that there pig, hit the brakes right hard, reached across to open the passenger side door, punched the seat belt loose and kicked that pig right out the door. Mr. Pig wasn't real happy about that turn of events, but it sure made things lots easier inside the truck.

Preacher had a chuckle over Fred's "ejection seat for pigs" and said we may have to put that program to work in the church if them "oinky sort of sheep" don't shape up.

Should be ok, as I don't reckon Fred's got a patent on it.

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Her style was sensual and melodic; primarily songs of love, yearning, and reflection. Most commonly the target of her affections was female, often one of the many women sent to her for education in the arts. She nurtured these women, wrote poems of love and adoration to them, and when they eventually left the island to be married, she composed their wedding songs. That Sappho's poetry was not condemned in her time for its homoerotic content (though it was disparaged by scholars in later centuries) suggests that perhaps love between women was not persecuted then as it has been in more recent times. Especially in the last century, Sappho has become so synonymous with woman-love that two of the most popular words to describe female homosexuality-- lesbian and sapphic have derived from her."

<http://www.sappho.com/poetry/sappho.html>

Amy Grant's Long Attachment to Gays and Lesbians-

Amy Grant actively, knowingly built a bridge to the world by performing music that purposely avoided confronting its immorality and narcissism. By singing songs that reached out to the sensuality that gays and lesbians are addicted to, she implied to them that they were welcome in her world and in her religion.

The bridge to the world is always a two way street. It is not possible to smilingly give wicked men a non-confrontational message and not expect them to carry their worldview, their mindset, their morals, and their gay marriages across the bridge you built and into your world. If Amy had been converted to Christ and taught the Scriptures she would have heard the verse, *"Be not deceived. Evil communications corrupt good manners."* (1 Cor. 15:33).

Amy built a bridge to Lesbos. So they came in droves across the bridge into Amy Grant's world.

From the interview above, we read these excerpts:

"You came from a fairly strict religious upbringing, but it sounds like there's been an evolution in the way you see people.

Well, I don't know. When you say strict, that's interesting. What do you mean by that? (Laughs) I mean, we went to church every Sunday morning, every Sunday night, every Wednesday night.

You're right. I should say diligently religious.

Yeah. I remember when we moved to Texas and my parents went to this really, I guess, conservative church - a Church of Christ - and something incredible was happening within that church community. I remember seeing this

transformation in my mom and dad. I was old enough to remember that. What I remember about our home after that was that it was welcoming ... to everybody.

Did you ever feel that you had to reconcile your Christian faith with your acceptance of homosexuality?

That's not my life experience. In the same way, if you put my shoes on, you would go, "I thought this experience was going to be one way and it was totally different." None of us has any idea what somebody's life experience is like.

Do you remember the first gay person you knew? Did you have a close gay friend?

Absolutely. But my first: maybe college. Someone might have just seemed theatrical or, I don't know, effeminate, but when I was in high school - I graduated in '78 - I had friends in high school who eventually said, "I'm living a gay lifestyle," but they didn't say it then. People were very private about their sexuality, period. Maybe not everywhere, but I just don't remember, "I'm exploring this, I'm exploring that."

When did you first know you had a gay fan base?

Probably by the time I was 18.

From photos I've seen and conversations I've heard, you seem to have established some close relationships with people in the Gay Friends of Amy Grant group on Facebook over the years. Can you describe your relationship with them?

When you've done something for a long time, there is a great familiarity that comes over the years. I will say that I have a couple of friends that I made - just because they came to shows for a long time - and I figure we must have some things in common because, of all the music we're all attracted to, at least we share this music in common.

I recall seeing you perform with Melissa Etheridge for Lifetime's "Women Rock!" special in 2000 and thinking, as a teenager struggling with his sexuality, "She's performing with an openly lesbian performer; she's throwing her gay fans a bone."

You know what's so interesting, even when I was discovering my own sexuality and meeting people that had a different experience, I didn't categorize then, and I don't categorize right now. It makes me realize that I don't have any idea of

what it would feel like every moment of my life to go somewhere and feel judged.

So how do you respond to people when they ask you about your feelings on gay marriage?

In the same way that I did not tell one person who I voted for. I don't. I never talk about anything like that. I did tell Vince (Gill, her husband) the day after the election. (Laughs) But I think my response is, I have had so many occasions in my life where I have felt really strongly about something - but that feeling has changed. Those feelings change about different situations, and so because I'm a public person - and because I want always to bring people together - I really do say this is a world that's unfamiliar to me and I am always trying to observe with compassion."

What Hillsong, Paul Chappell, Robert Bakss, and men of like mind do not realise is that, in their love and use of

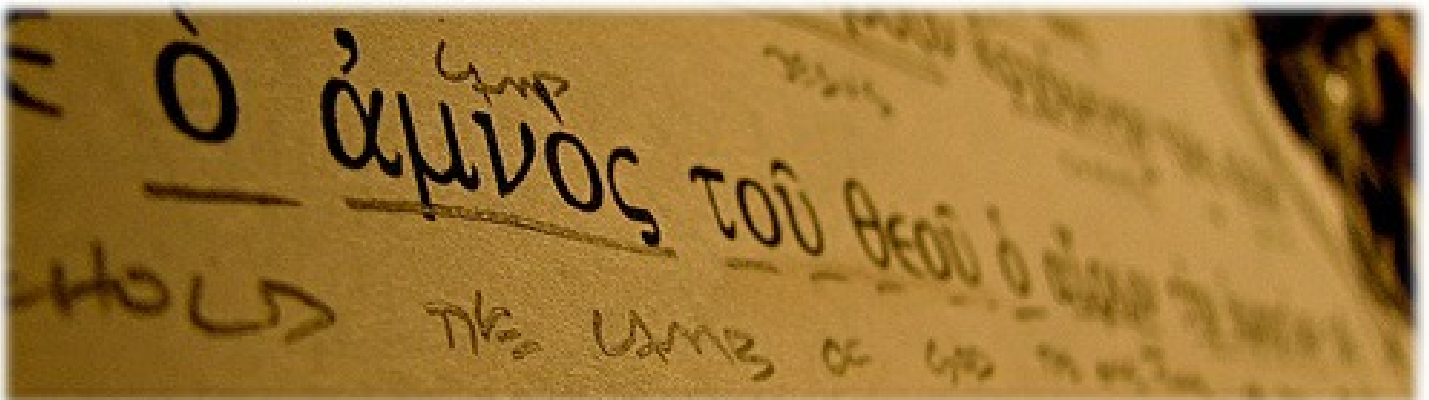
Contemporary Praise and Worship Music, they are building bridges to Lesbos so that the sodomites of our generation can feel at home in our churches. These churches will find it more and more difficult to preach on God's judgment on Sodom, or on Hell being a literal place of eternal punishment.

We are seeing an enormous influx of illegal immigrants into western nations at present. Very few Australians or Americans realise that these people do not come to embrace our values, but to replace them with those of Islam. This tragedy, the loss of our values, is nothing, compared to the loss of Christian values and doctrines and morals in our churches. That is the greatest tragedy of all!

BECAUSE WE DID NOT WARN OUR PEOPLE AGAINST BUILDING BRIDGES TO LESBOS!

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THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE - by Pastor Tom Hill



As from the beginning, and through time, the simplicity of the gospel remains under attack by the enemy. It is not unusual to hear presentations of what some refer to as "the gospel" that, in one way or another, pervert it and make it of none effect. There are those who say the gospel is "inviting Jesus into your heart." Others say, "just believe." Some believe that a belief in God or Jesus is enough to bring about the forgiveness of sin. Still, there are those who believe that the gospel includes some sort of human work, such as baptism, so as to say that Jesus did not do enough on the cross, and we have to help some how with the payment for our sin. Then there are those who will present Jesus Christ as the Savior, and declare that we must have faith in Him, and yet they leave out repentance. The Bible is so very clear about salvation, but men have changed the truth of the gospel so as to make it more palatable to mankind.

This became of great and grave concern of the Apostle Paul while he was in Corinth, so he wrote to the churches of Galatia. He said, *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ."* (**Gal. 1:6,7**) Those who believed that salvation was the sum of faith + works, known as the Judiazers, had come into the Galatian churches and had perverted the gospel.

That is an interesting passage of Scripture that warrants a consideration of some of the words that the Holy Spirit chose to use. The word for REMOVED is the word *METATITHEMI*, which means *"to transpose two things, one of which is put in place of the other."* Breaking the word down further, we would understand it has the thought of *"to desert"*. It came to be used as a military

word that spoke of a soldier that left the army, that is, one who had gone AWOL. Still further, the word has a reflexive quality about it that tells us that the false teachers twisted the truth and that the people were accountable for their own actions of literally "*transferring themselves away*". They transferred themselves away from the Person of Jesus Christ, to something else. Paul says unto ANOTHER GOSPEL.

The word ANOTHER is used two different ways in v. 6 and v. 7. This is a word that should be looked up in lexicon, Greek word study, or Greek concordance any time it appears in the New Testament. The first time that Paul uses "ANOTHER," it is the word *HETEROS*. *HETEROS* simply means "*another of a different kind*." You transferred yourselves away from Christ to another "*of a different kind*" of gospel.

Verse 7 continues the thought, "*which is not ANOTHER*." The word ANOTHER this time is the word *ALLOS*, which means "*another of the same kind*." The "gospel" you transferred yourselves to was not a gospel of the same kind, but you went AWOL to a gospel of a different kind. Quite simply, beloved, Paul is saying that they left the gospel of grace, to a gospel of works. That message to which you went is not the gospel. That "gospel" to which you have gone is simply more bondage.

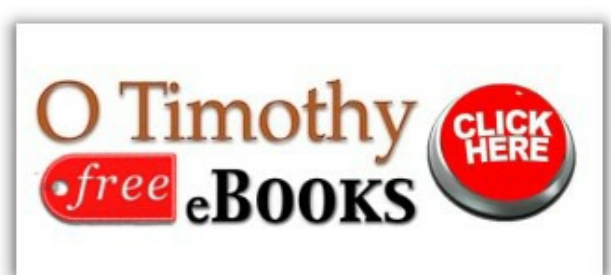
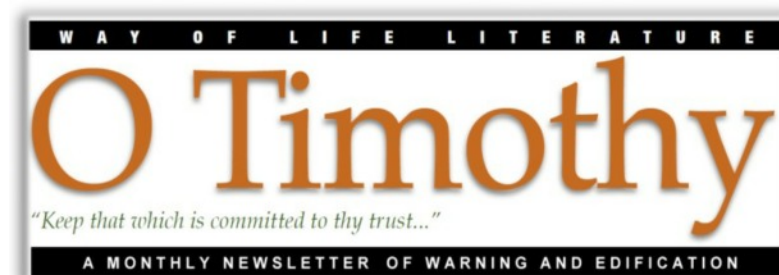
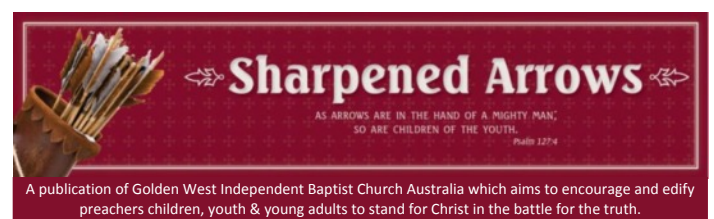
There were those actively troubling the churches of Galatia. The word for TROUBLE is *TARASSO*, which means "*to agitate, to cause inward commotion*." These evil false teachers knew what they were doing. They attacked Paul, and his apostleship, so as to imply that he was wrong

about the gospel, and then they pressured the Galatians to change their beliefs. By this, Paul says, the message had now completely changed – "*and would pervert the gospel of Christ*." The word *PERVERT* – *METASTREPHO* – means "*to desire to turn about or turn around*." The Greek literally says, "*desiring to turn about the gospel of the Christ*." Deliberately, they were changing grace to legalism.

That which is declared in the world of religion today is this "*another of a different kind of gospel*." Remember that religion is man reaching up to God through his works, but Bible truth is God coming down to man in the Person of Jesus Christ, who offers eternal life through His grace alone. It is not the gospel, for it is full of the error of salvation by works. Or man centered religion leaves out part of the truth of the gospel. That goes back to Cain, the firstborn of Adam and Eve, who chose works over faith. Cain certainly had a way that seemed right to him. But the Scriptures declare in **Proverbs 14:12**, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*." Cain and countless others placed their hope in that "*different kind of gospel*" have already discovered their mistake and will soon experience the second death in the lake of fire because of that choice.

That should remind us of our responsibility to others in telling them the gospel, and how to be born from above not as man has stated it, but as the Almighty has declared it in His word.

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How did Naomi and Ruth know that Boaz was "Mr. Right" for Ruth? After all, Naomi laid out a strategy for Ruth to pursue, and Ruth willing said, *"All that thou sayest unto me I will do"* (Ruth 3:5). Before considering an answer to this practical query, several factors must be considered.

First, the great overarching motivational agenda for all women in ancient times was not merely to have children, but to have a male offspring in hopes of mothering the Messiah. The Seed Promise (cf. Gen. 3:15) that Jehovah gave the sinful couple in the Garden was for Eve to give birth to their Saviour,¹ and hence Adam named his wife "Eve" (חַוָּה),² indicating he had requisite faith in God's means of redemption. Because of the faith of Adam (and Eve), the LORD accepted their faith and covered them with the product of the first blood sacrifice (cf. Gen. 3:20-21). Subsequently, Eve thought her firstborn Cain was the incarnate Jehovah, saying literally, "I have begotten a man, even Jehovah."

This interpretation is confirmed in her later statement as Scripture stated, saying, *"And Adam knew his wife again; and she bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew"* (Gen. 4:25). Eve, no doubt, told her daughters of this hope, who in turn told the women on Noah's ark, who in turn passed on this hope of having the Messiah to the nations represented in the Table of Nations (cf. Gen. 10:1 ff.). Thus, Daniel used the *hapax legomena* expression *"the desire of women"* (הַדְרָמָה בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל)³ as a periphrastic (roundabout way of speaking) construction referring to Christ the Messiah (cf. Dan. 11:37). In other words, the Antichrist will not regard the desire that women had (i.e., to birth the Messiah); he will be opposed to the ultimate product of this desire – Christ!

Second, the Scripture gives the record of four women in the Messiah's lineage who were highly motivated theologically to mate with a Jewish man in hopes of producing the Messiah (cf. Mt. 1:3-6). These women were Tamar (cf. Gen. 38), Rahab (cf. Josh. 2), Ruth (cf. Ruth 1-4), and Bathsheba (cf. II Sam. 11). Three of these women used unsavory methods (immorality or deception) to get into the messianic lineage, as God honored their faith and not their means. Ruth, with the same theological motivation of her soon-to-be mother-in-law Rahab, used aggressive but honorable means to pursue Boaz.

Third, the Christian perspective on interpreting Ruth and the Song of Solomon especially, must be built upon the truth found in Paul's letter to Titus, which states, *"Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled*



and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled" (Tit. 1:15). In other words, a man's commentary on the Bible is really a commentary on the man. If the reader of Scripture sees impure and immoral behavior in passages of Ruth, he is reading in his wicked presuppositions. Scripture avers about the virtue of the woman Ruth, saying, *"And now, my daughter, fear not; I will do to thee all that thou requirest: for all the city of my people doth know that thou art a virtuous woman"* (Ruth 3:11).⁴

So why did Naomi eagerly propose her unusual plan⁵ and Ruth submissively accept it without question or hesitation? The women followed several biblical teachings and concluded Boaz was "Mr. Right" for Ruth.

1. Ruth met Boaz in the place of truth. She did not go back to Moab, but went to the geographical location of truth—Bethlehem Judah. The Messiah was promised through the man Judah (cf. Gen. 49:10) and in the Promised Land (cf. Mic. 5:2). In this dispensation, the Baptist assembly is the divinely-ordained place of truth to meet one's mate.

2. Ruth honored her "mother." As a grown woman, Ruth nevertheless submitted to her guardian's biblical advice (cf. also Ruth 1:16-17). Ruth probably was aware of the

SERMON FODDER -

"FISHING FOR SNAILS" - By
Jerry Wilhite

There is a fable about a crane that was wading in the shallow waters sticking his head down into the water trying to find snails to eat....because it loved snails. When suddenly, swooping down out of the sky, came this great big beautiful white swan and lands along side of him.

Somewhat shocked, the crane looked over at the swan and said, "Where in the world did you come from"? The swan said, "I just came down from heaven where I was swimming around in the clearest and most beautiful river in the world; they call it the river of life".

The crane asked the swan, "Are there any snails in it"? The swan said, "I don't really know, I was so overwhelmed by the beauty of the river, I didn't take notice if there were any snails in it".

The crane said, "I don't think I would be interested in a place like that, because I love my snails"

I don't know how many times I have told people about the glories of heaven and how to get there but most of them are so taken by the snails of this world that they aren't interested in the glories of heaven.

Imagine missing heaven because of snails, but that's about all this world has to offer....snails.

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biblical truth of the Law, which stated, "*Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee*" (**Dt. 5:16**).

3. Ruth recognized that Boaz was spiritual. Boaz's tenor around everyone exuded spirituality. For instance, he greeted his workers with a beatitude from Jehovah (cf. Ruth 2:4). He commended Ruth for trusting in Jehovah (cf. Ruth 2:12).

4. Ruth realized that Boaz was single. She was interested in one who was a biblical candidate for marriage, and not in a divorcee (cf. Mk. 10:11-12; Rom. 7:2-3).

5. Ruth experienced that Boaz was considerate. She already knew that he was considerate of her needs before their relationship blossomed (cf. Ruth 2:8 ff.). She did not anticipate that she would have to change some inconsiderate man into becoming a gentleman after marriage!

6. Ruth knew that Boaz had means to support her. Since he was her kinsman or **גִּידֵן** (Ruth 2:20; 3:2), this necessitated that he had met the requirements: he was a "near" relative (cf. Lev. 25:48); he was able (cf. Ruth 4:4-6); he was willing (cf. Ruth 4:6); and he could pay the price (cf. Lev. 25:26-27).⁶

7. Ruth appreciated that Boaz was mature and witty. Boaz did not identify himself with younger field workers (cf. Ruth 3:10), suggesting that he was older and more mature (his actions belied this perspective). He also punned to her as she did to him (cf. Ruth 2:10-11). They both enjoyed clever repartee.

The women considered that Boaz was "Mr. Right" for Ruth for the aforementioned reasons. Of course, Scripture confirms their choice as the biblical choice, based on biblical precepts (cf. Ruth 4:13-22; Mt. 1:5). Christian young people ought to follow this biblical example for the Lord's full blessing when looking for God's will in a spouse.



Footnotes:

¹ The Apostle Paul confirmed this interpretation, saying, "*And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety*" (**I Tim. 2:14-15**).

² This is a redemptive pun on the word "living" (**חַיִּים**).

³ The Hebrew refers to "women's desire (to bear the Messiah)" and not to "a desire for women," as is often fallaciously taught.

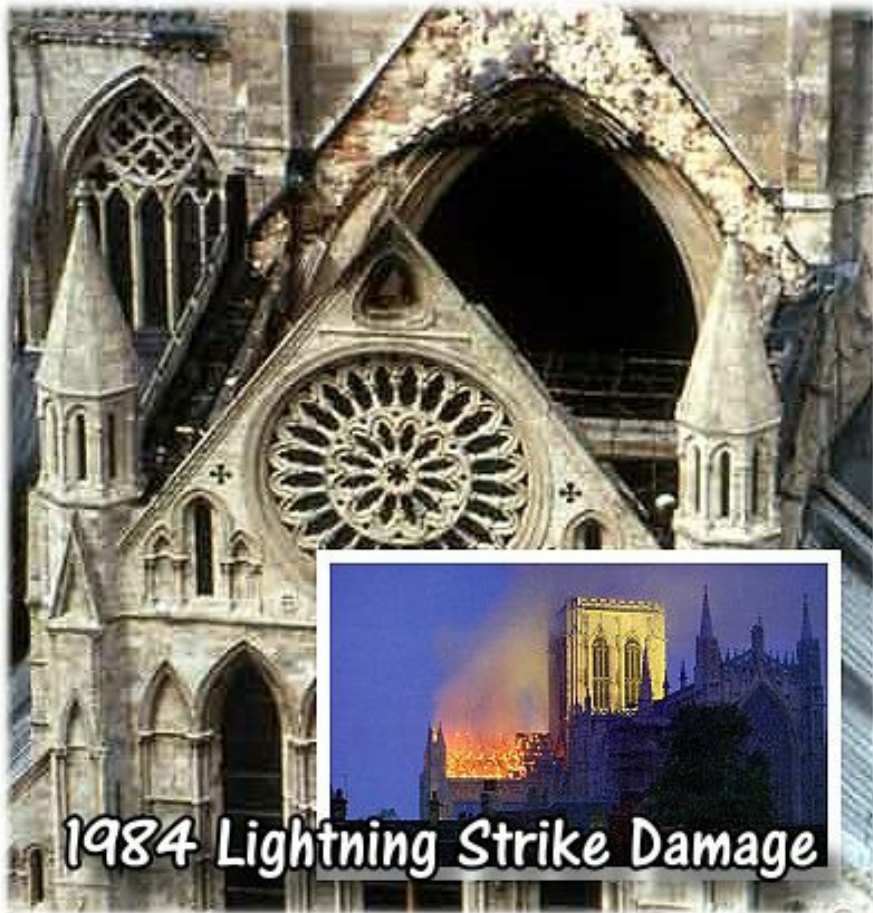
⁴ Cf. Prov. 31:10-31.

⁵ The plan was unusual for the Western mind, but apparently it was an accepted biblical practice (cf. Dt. 25:5 ff.; Ezk. 16:8).

⁶ Of course, Boaz prefigured the Lord Jesus Christ, the ultimate Kinsman-Redeemer Who met all of the qualifications (cf. Rom. 8:3; II Cor. 8:9; Mk. 10:45; I Pet. 1:18-19).

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(God's judgment has always been on those who blaspheme the doctrine of Christ. It is sad that most of the clergymen in mainline denominations all over the world now despise most of the glorious truths of Holy Scripture. An excellent example is this excerpt from Bro. Cloud's article on Anglican Liberalism. To read the entire article, go to http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/fifty_years_of_anglican_liberalism.html - Ed)

In 1984, David Jenkins, Anglican Bishop of Durham, described Christ's resurrection as "a conjuring trick with bones" ("English Bishop Calls Christ's Resurrection Conjuring Trick," AP, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, Oct. 28, 1984). Jenkins also said, "The Christian is not bound up with freak biology or corpses getting up and walking around" and "You don't have to believe in the virgin birth."

(On July 9, 1984, three days after Jenkins was consecrated bishop, lightning struck his cathedral and caused extensive damage. A spokesman for the fire brigade said that though the roof was fully wired with lightning rods, none of them worked that morning; the smoke detectors in the ceiling did not go off, even though they were tested only a month before; and there was no thunder accompanying the lightning. *EP News Service*, Dec. 21, 1984).

FIFTY YEARS OF ANGLICAN LIBERALISM Updated September 5, 2013 (first published June 16, 2003)

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PSALM 119:121-136

¹²¹ AIN. I have done judgment and justice: leave me not to mine oppressors.

¹²² Be surety for thy servant for good: let not the proud oppress me.

¹²³ Mine eyes fail for thy salvation, and for the word of thy righteousness.

¹²⁴ Deal with thy servant according unto thy mercy, and teach me thy statutes.

¹²⁵ I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.

¹²⁶ It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.

¹²⁷ Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

¹²⁸ Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.

¹²⁹ PE. Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them.

¹³⁰ The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

¹³¹ I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.

¹³² Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

¹³³ Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.

¹³⁵ Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

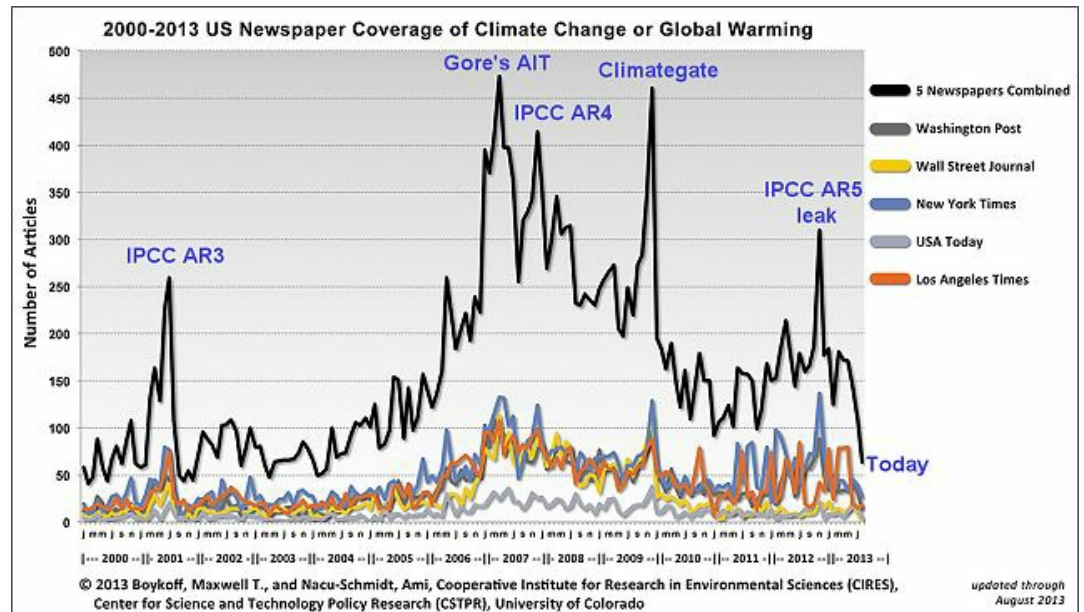
¹³⁶ Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.



One of the most interesting aspects of the global warming hoax is the part the media plays in it. We would think that by now every sane person would have realised that the media does not and has not for a long time, simply "reported the news." It is increasingly likely they never did. Rather, what we are seeing is the media managing the news so they can shape public opinion enough to control the masses. Whether it is politicians who determine what news is reported, or evolutionary "scientists", or "banksters" (what a terrific word!), or New Age gurus, what we read in the papers, etc. is not what is happening. I like the comment I heard in a sermon by Vance Havner recently. He reminded his hearers of Walter Cronkite's news program in the 1960's, and the phrase that Cronkite used to close the broadcast. He would say, "That's the way it is!" And old Bro. Havner said that he always replied, "No, that's NOT the way it is! That's the way it appears!" We must learn that phrase and use it when we hear pseudo-scientists like Al Gore or Tim Flannery (Flin Flannery?) telling us all about global warming, etc. The following link is quite interesting, in that it exposes the lack of support by the common man for the global warming agenda.

<http://freebeacon.com/ofa-gets-zero-attendance-for-climate-change-rally/>

Watt's Up With That? is a blog site that has a great deal of analytical information regarding the climate change hoax. Of particular interest is the following graph and article. It shows how the media loves a "good story", as long as it has the "fear factor" in it. Global Doofuses need only to



whisper, "The sky is falling!" and the media happily shouts it from the rooftops. - Ed.

THE BOTTOM FALLS OUT OF MAJOR US NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF CLIMATE - By Dr. Roger Pielke Jr

One graph (above) says it all, especially after I annotated it for climate news spike events.

Source of original: http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/media_coverage/us/index.html.

Note that WUWT was at the source/center of two spikes: Climategate and the IPCC AR5 leak. Always happy to help.

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2013/09/04/the-bottom-falls-out-of-major-us-newspaper-coverage-of-climate/>

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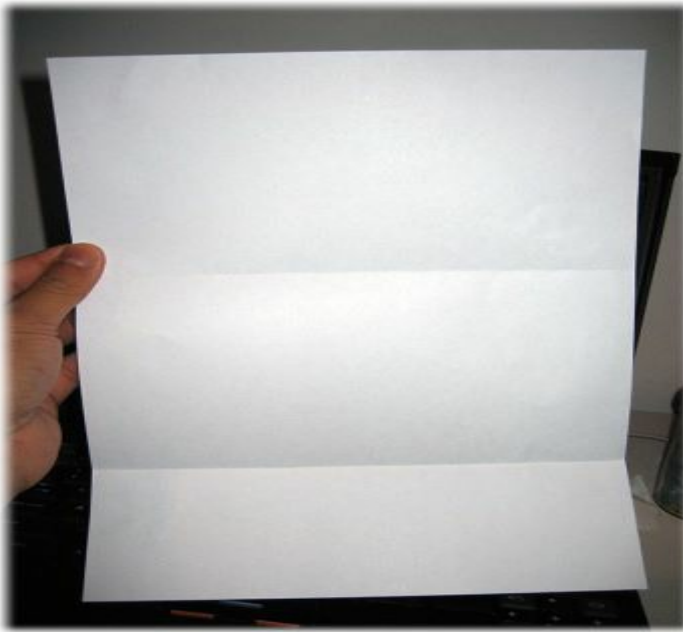
Lifting Up The STANDARD

"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church
www.fairhavensbaptist.net

CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL





"I have just put my soul as a blank into the hand of Jesus, my Redeemer, and desired Him to write on it what He pleases; I know it will be His image." ~ George Whitfield

I came across this quote in Lilies of the Field this week and it reminded me of Bro. A. J. McClure's testimony. He had come home from Viet Nam and was working as a mechanic in Kingston, Tennessee, when the Lord brought him under conviction of his need to be saved.

Looking back on his conversion years later, he told me he started "writing out contracts for salvation and submitting them to the Lord for approval." He said, to start with, he wrote terms into the contract that were very favourable to himself and hard on the Lord. Everything was going to be for AJ's benefit, and nothing for the Lord's.

But, he told me, the Lord kept refusing to sign the contracts. So he'd start over and write out one that had less in it for himself, and more for the Lord. And everytime, the Lord would refuse it.

So he finally came to the place where he just wrote his name at the bottom of a blank piece of paper and handed it to the Lord, saying, "Here, Lord, you write in the terms, and sign it, and I'll accept your terms, no matter what they are."

And the Lord saved him. Of course, he found that the terms were actually so much better than he could ever have asked.

That's the way it is with the Lord. His ways and His thoughts are so much better than ours.

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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

Oxymorons: Words or phrases that have opposite meanings.

- Act naturally
- Found missing
- Resident alien
- Advanced BASIC
- Genuine imitation
- Airline Food
- Good grief
- Same difference
- Almost exactly
- Terribly pleased
- Sanitary landfill
- Government worker
- Hurry, Girls
- Alone together
- Legally drunk
- Silent scream
- Living dead
- Government organization

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A little boy wasn't getting good marks in school.

One day he made the teacher quite surprised. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, "I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says if I don't get better grades, somebody is going to get a spanking."

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and his family decided to go on a vacation to celebrate his recent win in the election there. Grace, his wife, John his son, and Sarah his daughter wanted to go to Bahamas but Mugabe wanted to go to Dubai. So the 4 decided to vote and the results were as follows: Bahamas 3 , Dubai 68. Zim elections. Happens everytime!

I've received many remarkable nature photographs over the years but this photo of a nesting Falcon is perhaps the most remarkable Nature shot that I've ever seen. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Nature is truly breath-taking!

<http://i.imgur.com/YW6Fufm.jpg>

THE WORD FAITH HEALERS OWE JONI EARECKSON TADA AN APOLOGY!!!! -

On December 8, 1999, Joni Eareckson Tada was on the Bible Answer Man, and made the following devastating comments about Word-Faith teachings:

"Kenneth Copeland or Kenneth Hagin or Benny Hinn - they've never called me and asked me to come on their program."



"...I had read some portions of Scripture that seemed to indicate that if God's Word abided in me, and I abided in Him, I could ask whatever I wished and the request would be fulfilled and my joy would be brighter. I took that to mean that God wanted me healed. And my sister packed me into her station wagon and a couple of friends, and we drove down to the Washington DC arena and Kathryn Kuhlman swept on stage and praise choruses and testimonies and songs and all of us in the wheelchair section, we kind of like with baited breath were waiting and wondering, and nothing happened. In fact, the ushers came up to all of us in the wheelchair section, about 35 or 40 of us, and said, "Let's escort you all out early so as not to create a traffic jam, and so there I was, number 15 in line of 35 people in wheelchairs or on crutches, waiting at the stadium elevator to go up to the parking lot, and we could still hear the distant strains of the organ and piano - Kathryn Kuhlman's meeting was still going on - and I looked up and down this line of solemn-faced individuals and saw so much disappointment, and I thought "Something's wrong with this picture. Either I wasn't reading God right in His Word or God is not coming through on His promises." And I knew that wasn't true.

It was that experience that drove me into God's Word so deep I started reading people like R. C. Sproul and J. I. Packer and Jeremiah Burrows and John Owen and Jonathan Edwards and other contemporary authors - Dr. John MacArthur, there's so many. I really dove into God's Word with both sleeves rolled up to understand the Lord's perspective on healing and I can say now that I am so grateful for the wisdom of God.

...John 5 talks about where Jesus once visited the Pool of Bethesda, and among all these disabled people He touched and healed a man paralyzed on a straw mat for over 30 years. I remember I was in the dark at night. After my Bible was closed I'd picture myself at that same pool. I would imagine me dressed in maybe a rough burlap coat lying on a straw mat, perhaps even near that man that Jesus healed, and I would plead with God in prayer, "Oh, Lord, do not pass me by." I would even sing to Him that hymn, "Jesus, Jesus, hear my humble cry. While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by." I would pray that, and yet I was never healed.

Well, as you know, years later, and I began to get my spiritual act together with the Lord Jesus and I realized He was using my affliction, my paralysis to push me up against a spiritual wall with my back, getting me to seriously consider His Lordship in my life - years later -

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

A young coal miner got saved. He told his fellow miners that he was a Christian now. He didn't go drinking with them anymore. They made fun of him. One of them said, "Don't you know that Jesus turned water into wine?" The young saved miner said that he had never read that part of the Bible or heard his pastor preach on that; but, he said, "If you come down to my house, I can show you how Jesus turned beer into food and furniture." ~ Jerry Wilhite

R. A. Torrey once faced a heckler who mockingly asked, "Can you walk on water?" Torrey wisely replied, "I can walk on water...better than I can walk on whiskey!"

We are taught of God not to panic, but to publish." (In the sense of getting all of God's truth out to all men. II Tim. 1:7 "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of love and of power and of a sound mind." ~ Anon

I've got a friend, who attended a minor league professional baseball game, and they had a homosexual choir sing the national anthem. Rather than sit there, he stood and shouted very loudly, because he knew what that was all about, "That's an abomination!" He was bold. Merritt would say that's not good. I say, that is good. That is right. He, by the way, was not derided for that -- the crowd around him, thanked him. He did have to fear a little for his family's safety, because of a couple of kooks, who might want to target him for doing that, so he moved to another location in the ball park. But we need people to stand up against that sin, not just sitting on our hands when it is elevated in our society. ~ Kent Brandenburg

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in fact, just last year my husband Ken and I had a chance to visit Jerusalem, and we chose to do the old city on a hot, dry, dusty day, midday, when we knew no tour buses would be around and we'd have the place pretty much to ourselves. And Ken was pushing me in my wheelchair down the cobblestone streets and we arrived at the sheepgate, made a lefthand turn, and there, a couple of hundred yards down the path, it opened up into this grand old ruins of - my goodness, it's the pool of Bethesda. Ken, I said, would you look at this. And although you could not make out the colonnades because the ruins were crumbling and tumbling, and there's no water in the pool yet, the place was empty, and as I leaned against the guardrail with my elbow, Ken hopped the guardrail to jog down to the bottom of the pool to see if there was any water in one of the cisterns.

And while he was gone and the wind was warm and dry and the sun was hot, tears began cascading down my cheeks as I looked over this pool of Bethesda and I said, *'Oh, Lord Jesus, how good of You to wait 30 years, almost as many years as that man laid on his straw mat, You waited this long to bring me to this place, a place where I imagined myself so many years ago, and I'm so grateful that You did not pass me by, because a 'no' answer to a*

request for healing has meant purged sin from my life, and it strengthened my commitment to you, Lord Jesus. It has forced me to depend on Your grace. It has bound me with other believers. It has produced discernment. It has disciplined my mind. It has taught me to spend my time wisely. It has given me a hope of heaven. Lord Jesus, You were so good in not healing me.'

I know there are many people listening now who wish to be free of their circumstances - they are looking for an escape hatch, or maybe a quick fix for their affliction, and they think they might find it in a divorce or they are pondering maybe with the idea of suicide, ...

Or they're thinking that they'll find it in pills or medication, or a healing service. But the 32 years that I've been in this wheelchair and being at the Pool of Bethesda last year, has taught me that suffering is that good sheepdog, always snapping at my heels and driving me into the arms of the Shepherd. For that, I am so grateful. I am so grateful."

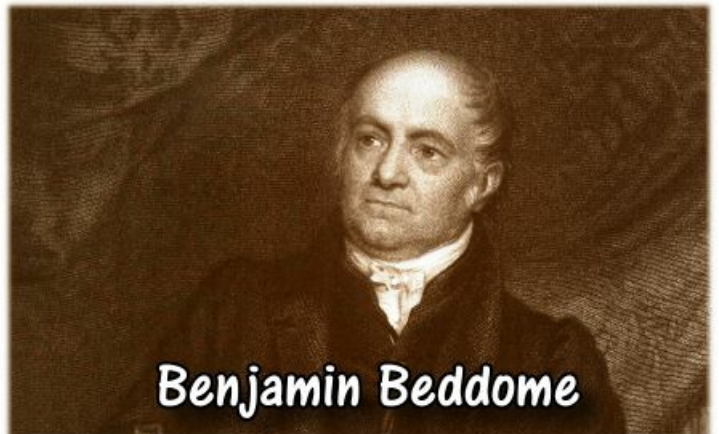
Joni Eareckson Tada

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THE BONES OF ELISHA –

(Once in a while I like to include in Heads Up a short biographical sketch of a godly man or woman whose abiding testimony is still a help to God's people. When Elisha died and was buried, the men of a funeral procession, upon seeing a raiding party approaching, quickly cast the corpse into Elisha's grave and fled. When the body touched the bones of Elisha, the man revived and came out of the grave. I always wonder if the raiders ran away when they saw him come out of the tomb? We don't know, but we do know that the bones of Elishas, that is, the testimonies of departed saints, still stir us up and provoke us to godliness. - Ed.)

BENJAMIN BEDDOME pastored one church for 54 years. He wrote many excellent hymns, one a week for years and years. "The labours of this good man among his charge were unremitted and evangelical. He fed them with the finest of the wheat. No man in all his connections wrote more sermons, nor composed them with greater care; and this was true of him to the last weeks of his life. In most of his discourses the appreciation of a student and the ability of a divine were visible. He frequently differed from the generality of preachers by being somewhat striking either in his text or in his method. If the passage were peculiar or abstruse, simplicity of illustration and familiarity in discussion characterised the sermon; or if his text were of the most familiar class, he distributed it with novelty, discussed it with genius, and seldom delivered a hackneyed discourse. Indeed, sermonising was so much his forte that at length, when knowledge had received maturity from years, and composition was familiarised by habit, he has been known, with a wonderful facility of the moment, to sketch his picture at the foot of the pulpit stairs, to colour it as he



was ascending, and, without turning his eyes from the canvas, in the same hour to give it all the finish of a master. One instance of this will be long remembered, which happened at a ministers meeting at Fairford, in Gloucestershire. After public service began, his natural timidity, it seems, overcame his recollections. His text and his discourse, for he did not preach by notes, had left him: and in the way from the pew to the pulpit he leaned his head over the shoulder of the Rev. Mr. Davis, pastor of the place, and said, "Brother Davis, what must I preach from?" Mr. Davis, thinking he could not be at a loss, answered, "Ask no foolish questions." This afforded him considerable relief. He turned immediately to Titus 3:9, "Avoid foolish questions," and he preached a remarkable methodical, correct, and useful discourse on it." ~ [Excerpted from Baptist History](#) by J. M. Cramp - published June 1868

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I have always been attracted to the book of Daniel, and especially the first six chapters.

Fifty years ago, my wise old pastor, A.V. Henderson, nailed me as I was going out the church door the night I surrendered my life to preach the gospel. He said, "I want you to preach Wednesday night week. Come to my study tomorrow afternoon after work and I will help you get started on a sermon."

(I have never been so frightened as I was that afternoon. Me, preach? Sure, I had responded to God's call and had walked the aisle, and my pastor had prayed with me, and had told the church that I was the first man (?) to surrender to preach under his ministry. And everyone in the building had come by after and shook my hand. But me preach? Maybe in a year or ten or twenty? But not NEXT week! Surely not.)

My preacher was of the old school. He believed that, if God called a man to preach, then he also gave him the ability to preach. It wasn't a matter of IQ or education or how many books he'd read. He believed that, if I had the call, I'd have the goods. There was no use beating about the bush. We might as well know now if the call was real or not.

When we met the next night, Bro. Henderson asked, "What do you want to preach about?" And by that time I knew. I said, "Daniel chapter 3."

I still have the notes. Somehow the Spirit of God had already taught me (in the week or two after my conversion) that Daniel chapter 3 was the account of Him saving those who trusted in Him, and that He would do the same for me.

But if I loved chapter 3 then, I think I love chapter 4 even more now. You see, chapter 4 tells of "When The Axe Began To Bite."

- It is the chapter that teaches that Success Is Dangerous!
- It is the chapter that teaches that Success Genders Pride!
- It is the chapter that teaches that God Always Resists Pride!
- It is the chapter that teaches that God Always Exalts The Humble!

The dream of the felling of the great tree demanded interpretation and Daniel alone had access to its secrets.

"The tree that thou sawest....It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth."



VERY FEW MEN SURVIVE THEIR OWN SUCCESS!

Nebuchadnezzar boasted of having built Babylon, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?"

Pride exaggerates its accomplishments, as did the king when he boasted of having built Babylon. The construction of Babylon took almost 2000 years. In all likelihood, Nebuchadnezzar never lifted one brick into place.

It sees its achievements as being superlative. He called the wicked city, "Mighty Babylon."

It ignores the contributions of others. Many kings and myriads of slaves had laboured to build the city.

It seeks all the glory for itself - No credit was shared with those who did the work.

It hardens its owner against every reproof. Daniel's brave counsel in verse 27 was ignored by the proud king.

It inevitably brings its owner down. "Hew down the tree! And cut off his branches! Shake off his leaves and scatter his fruit! Hew the tree down and destroy it!" So the

watcher cried. "O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; the kingdom is departed from thee!"

That is the felling of the tree.

WHEN THE AXE BEGAN TO BITE -

The axe actually began to bite long before the fall of Nebuchadnezzar's tree. God soon begins to hew every boy/man/tree down to the ground, no matter how many Axe strokes it takes. We seldom see all the strokes of the Heavenly Axeman in anyone's life but our own. We hear from afar the powerful cuts of God's Axe as He hews down a proud man, and are oft drawn to the site. We see the Oaks of Bashan tremble, and the Cedars of Lebanon creak and groan under the onslaught of the Axe of humiliation in the mighty hand of God. Pharaoh felt ten distinct axe blows in the plagues before he fell in the Red Sea. Sisera, Ahab, Sennacherib, Belshazzar, Herod, and every other man born of woman feels the edge of God's Axe. John the Baptist knew all about God's Axe. He warned proud Israel, *"And now also the axe is laid to the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down and cast into the fire."* (Matt. 3:10) Note the word "trees". All trees. All men. All women. All children.

THE AMAZING GRACE OF GOD TOWARD NEBUCHADNEZZAR -

There is, I believe, no other chapter in the Bible quite like Daniel chapter 4. The mightiest king, the head of gold, the sheltering, fruiting tree that blest the whole earth, the Epitome of Earthly Emperors, the pagan Gentile was converted to genuine faith in Jehovah God. God showed mercy to him in that He forewarned him of the Axe's

deadly work. And when the Axe bit deep at that last blow, the cut that dropped Nebuchadnezzar from the throneroom to the cowpasture, God bound the stump with bands of Divine preservation for seven years. God saved not only his throne, but his life, and at the appointed time imparted light and gave him eyes to see.

It is possible that we may read in haste the record of Nebuchadnezzar's salvation, and miss the appeal of Daniel to the king. It is found in verse 27, *"Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity."* What courage Daniel showed in his bold reproofs! Break off thy sins! There is another word for that phrase. It is called "Repent!" Daniel offered hope to the king, but only if he would repent. He appealed to him to bend, to bow, to yield, to submit before the Axe Began to Bite! But he would not. God had to hew him down to the ground. He had to humble the proud king to save him.

Everywhere we look we see God hewing proud men down to the ground. Some of them are potentates, some princes, some professors, and some pastors. Because of pride all men must feel the edge of God's Axe.

How do I know? I have the scars. I still have the grass stains on my knees and the palms of my hands.

But the stump was bound with bands of mercy and love.

It is good for us to remember when the axe began to bite.

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