



May 15, 2015

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### FEATURE ARTICLE

*The 401<sup>st</sup> Prophet*

### DEACON TRUE SEZ

### NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE SEPARATES

### WHOSE GLORY ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

### GOLD FROM OPHIR

*Seeking the Lost/Seeking the Lord*

### DINOSAURS ONLY THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD

### NOTABLE QUOTES & QUOTABLE NOTES

### POEMS THAT PREACH

### MUSLIM WATCH

### A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE CHURCHES THAT SING "YOU RAISE ME UP"

### THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE

### THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

### THE GROWTH OF APOSTASY

### LICKING THE LABEL

### EDDY-TORIAL

*I Thought They Were Dewdrops*

"But the path of the just is as the shining light,  
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."  
Proverbs 4:18

## **Heads Up!**

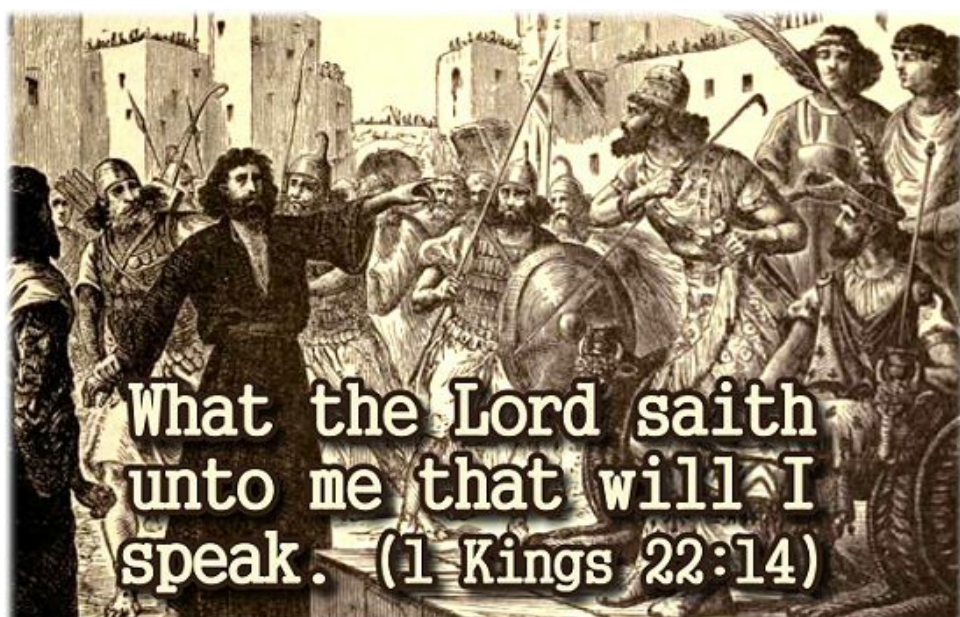
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## FEATURE ARTICLE - THE 401<sup>ST</sup> PROPHET - *by Vance Havner*



*Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might enquire of him (1 Kings 22:7).*

There is no period of Bible history more dramatic than the life and times of Ahab. Some of the worst and some of the best Old Testament characters were his contemporaries. There was Jezebel, one of the most wicked women who ever lived, and there was Elijah, who lived in a tempest and went to heaven in a whirlwind. The times were evil, but they were not dull. Something was happening every minute.

On one occasion, Ahab planned a campaign against Ramoth-gilead. It was a case of a bad man doing a good thing in the wrong way. He had Scripture for the undertaking (Deuteronomy 4:43), but it takes more than a verse of Scripture to justify such a venture. Ahab inveigled King Jehoshaphat of Judah into joining him in the enterprise. Jehoshaphat was a good man but easily influenced. Ahab put on a banquet -- a kick-off supper is usually all it takes to line up a Jehoshaphat. The King of Judah had no business in such a project, and the prophet Jehu asked him, "*Shouldest thou help the ungodly, and love them that hate the Lord (2 Chronicles 19:2).*" That text ought to be brought out of the moth balls and put into circulation!

Jehoshaphat asked that the Israelites enquire of the Lord. It was a little late, since they had already made up their minds, but four hundred false prophets

were called in and they were unanimous in their opinion. When four hundred preachers agree, there may be grounds for suspicion. Jehoshaphat asked, *"is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we may enquire of him?"* Give Jehoshaphat credit at least for raising the issue: "Isn't there somebody around who speaks for God?" Ahab replied, *"There is yet one man ... "* (1 Kings 22:8). Thank God, there usually is! But Ahab added, *"... but I hate him"* - which is to the eternal credit of that one man--*"because he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil"* (verse 8).

Does that not remind us of the Greatest Prophet of all, who said, *"... me it (the world) hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil"* (John 7:7)?

While a messenger went to bring Micaiah, one of the false prophets put a theatrical touch on his prophecy and added a dash of Hollywood. Zedekiah waved horns and dramatized the success of the forthcoming venture. It is bad enough to be a false prophet, but to be a ham actor besides is too much.

It was a day of unification, with Ahab and Jehoshaphat uniting; it was a day of unanimity, with four hundred prophets in unison; it was a day of uniformity. The messenger advised Micaiah that the clergy had agreed and that he should go along with them. But Micaiah had not been regimented, standardized, collectivized, or brainwashed. He had no axe to grind. He was not riding the bandwagon. He was not on his way up. The grass did not look greener in the next pasture and he craved no man's bishopric. He was not a link in anybody's chain.

Joseph Parker said, "The world hates the four-hundred-and-first prophet." Micaiah was Number 401. He broke the monotony when he said, *"As the Lord liveth, what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak"* (1 Kings 22:14). He was put on a diet of bread and water, but better a prophet on bread and water than a politician at the feasts of Ahab. With his immortal words Micaiah answered the question of Jehoshaphat: he was the prophet of the Lord besides.

We live in days not unlike the times of Micaiah. It is a time of unification. Ahab and Jehoshaphat are still going up against Ramoth-gilead. The world is being unified into the world state, the churches into the world church. It is a time of unanimity, of yes-men and rubber stamps.

Adlai Stevenson is reported to have said that he had devised a new word, "yo," which can mean either "yes" or "no"! It is a time of uniformity. We are like eggs in a crate. We talk about being "different" but never have we been more alike. Teenagers boast of being different but they dress alike, talk alike, look alike.

The human race is gradually being homogenized into one faceless, monolithic mass. It is the day of the lowest common denominator, the happy medium, the middle of the road. A pleasant "get-alongism," a "togetherness," has so paralyzed us into moral inertia that it is almost impossible to arouse us from our amiable stupor. The steamroller is flattening all the mountains into one level plain. Such a time does not breed prophets.

Men who speak for God never merge into the fog around them. Noah stood alone in a civilization of culture and progress. His contemporaries must have laughed at him as an eccentric who was building an oversized houseboat and looking for the world to end. Elijah stood alone among the priests of Baal and the stooges who ate at Jezebel's table. When he challenged the multitude, that fifth-amendment crowd "answered not a word." Amos stood alone in the religio-political system of his day.

Dr. Kyle Yates wrote, "His time had not been spent in a divinity school. He was unwilling to be classed as a member of the guilds who made their living by bowing to the wishes of the people and preaching a pleasing message that would guarantee a return engagement."

Jeremiah stood alone among the tranquilizers of his day who were preaching peace when there was no peace; but we are still reading Jeremiah while the happiness boys of his day have been forgotten. Daniel spoke for God in the midst of a pagan empire and it was worth a night in a lion's den to be able to read God's handwriting on the wall. Paul conferred not with flesh and blood but got his orders direct from Headquarters. He was not the product of any assembly line.

Dr. Mordecai Ham said, "Paul was a strategist who thought out his strategy on the field of war, not in some Jerusalem war office where parchment and sealing wax were more plentiful than experience and foresight."

True prophets are solitary people; eagles do not fly in flocks. It is not easy to be a Lone Dissenter. When the messenger was sent for Micaiah he must have said, in effect, "The clergy have agreed, and you had better make it unanimous. It is quite an honor to speak before two kings and four hundred prophets. Why are you such an odd number! This is a good gravy train and you had better ride it. This is the mood of the hour and you had better get with it."

The same subtle pressure today would persuade preachers to get in step with the times and ride the wave of the future. What we need are more preachers out of step with the times, more odd prophets like Micaiah. We are told that we must adjust. Adjust to what! What is there in this world set-up to adjust to? God's man needs



to adjust only to God's Word and God's will. It is not the business of the prophet to harmonize with the times. *"... what concord hath Christ with Belial?" (2 Corinthians 6:15).*

The preacher is a soloist; he was never meant to play the accompaniment to anything. The pulpit is not a platform from which to boost the projects of men to bring in a false millennium, the Kingdom without the King. No matter how much Scripture may be quoted or how many false prophets bid Ahab go up against Ramoth-gilead, Micaiah will stand his ground and refuse to be swept off his feet by popular movements. The greatest need of the hour is a four-hundred-and-first prophet of the Lord besides, that we may enquire of him.

There are several ways of silencing a prophet. Persecution will do it. John the Baptist's head is not always brought in on a charger; there are newer ways of decapitating the prophet with more finesse. Promotion sometimes does it. The prophet is given a high seat in the synagogue and is never heard from again. The pressure of the times and discouragement can do it. Jeremiah wanted to quit preaching, get out in the wilderness, and run a motel. Another prophet can sometimes do it, as when the prophet at Bethel backslid in his own revival, and he who could turn down a king was deceived by another prophet.

Prophets are not popular at home; they are without honor in their own countries. They are not popular with politicians. Ahab hated Micaiah—but he feared him enough to disguise himself when he went to battle, lest Micaiah's predictions came true. There was another prophet by the name of Obadiah who was out with Ahab looking for grass when he should have been with Elijah praying for rain. The true prophet does not know how to work both sides of the street. He refuses to dine with Jeroboam and does not let his hair down with the priests of Bethel.

Prophets are not popular with Pharisees. Our Lord asked, *"Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted?" (Acts 7:52)*, and He said, *"... ye are the children of them that killed the prophets" (Matthew 23:31).*

One generation stones prophets and the next builds sepulchers in their honor. Organized religion hates the preacher whose headquarters is heaven, whose Superintendent is God. They are enraged when they cannot control him. The times are never propitious for the Lone Dissenter.

Naturally, one can hardly expect a sermon on Micaiah to be any more popular than its subject. But it is worth preaching if in the congregation one man will hear and

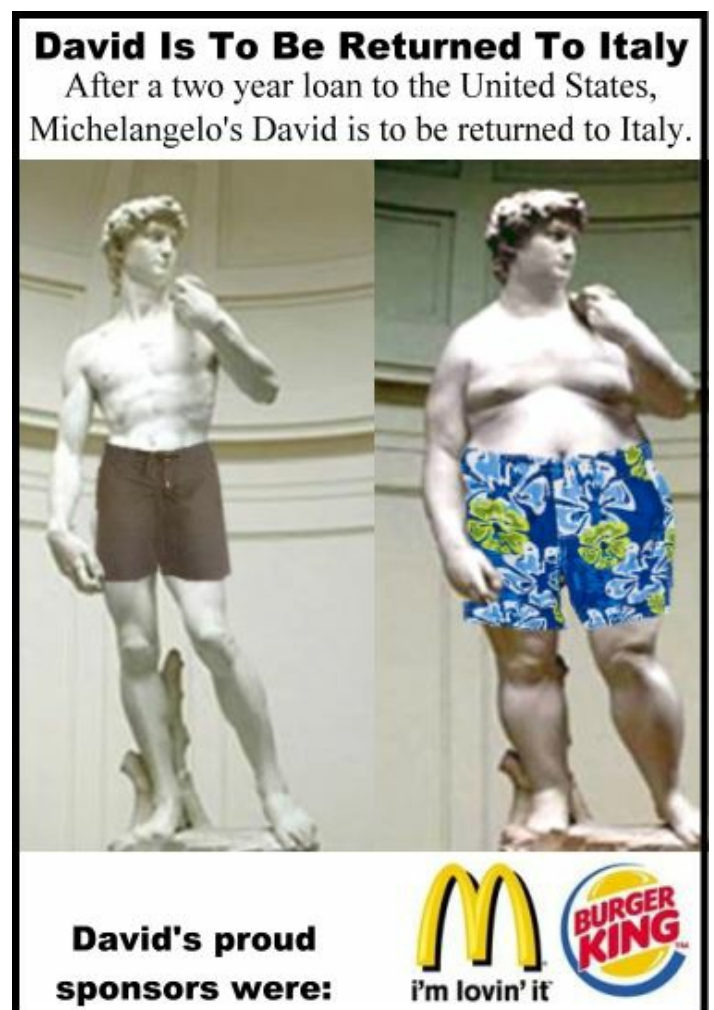
heed the call to be a New Testament prophet. If such a prospect is reading this, God bless you. The odds will be four hundred to one, the diet may be bread and water, and the orders are: *"... what the Lord saith unto me, that will I speak."*

If you are interested in the prophetic ministry, get ready for trouble! You will be despised by Amaziah and all who want to preserve the status quo at Bethel. You will be hated by Jezebel and all who would set up the worship of Baal alongside the altar of Jehovah. You will be too angular to fit the Procrustean beds of the religious world. You will not be able to feather your nest in this world; scant provision is made for prophets down here. You will report to Heavenly Headquarters and get your orders from the Main Office.

If you are a prospect, think it over. You had better mean business, else your ministry will be pathetic instead of prophetic. And remember that prophets *are needed*, but *not wanted*.

It is time for another four-hundred-and-first prophet of the Lord *besides*, that we might enquire of him.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



## DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Well, the Easter Fancy Dress Parade at our little country church is over, with some surprisin' results. Ma don't go in for it, but she does wash my old overalls and starch and iron 'em so I don't shame her. She even talked me into wearin' a tie so I dug around in the back of the closet till I found my old John Deere tie and dusted the cobwebs out of it so the tractor on it looked half presentable. Ma give me one of them looks, but I told her if I had to wear starched overalls, I at least got to choose which tie goes with 'em.

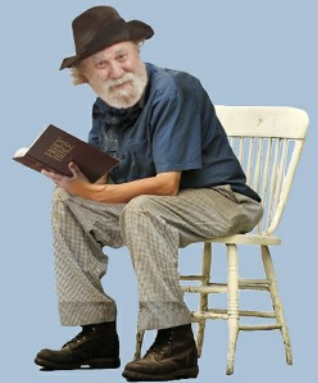
Esmerelda Fluglehorn was sportin' a pair of red shoes to match her new purse. Too bad she didn't see the 50c price sticker on the back of one shoe. Nanetta Berkenshire wore a fancy glass necklace made out of what looked like Tom Bowler marbles with holes drilled right through 'em and strung on fishin' line. But Ma said they did sorta match her mascara. Hephziba Shackelford talked her old miser husband into buyin' her a new dress, but she needed to lose 20 lbs. before she wore it to church. Nuf sed about that. The real show stopper was Agnetha Jerkenstein's Easter hat. Musta been at least three stories tall, what with feathers and bows and ribbons and lace and what looked like lantana flowers draped all over it. The ladies was Gobsmacked (with a capital G!) and all gathered 'round dear old Aggie, ooooo'in and aaaaahh'in and lookin' at it from all angles. Us men stood off a good distance chucklin' and shakin' our heads. Delbert Jorgenson went out to the car to get his Bible and came back in the door with mischief wrote all over his face.

Uncle Charley says, "What are you up to, Delbert?"

Delbert looked us each one in the eye and smirked, "Watch the door, just you watch the door."

So we did, at least out of the corner of one eye.

Sure enough, the door swung wide and in pranced Doreen Dooblefiddler, the local bag lady that scavenges the garbage dump for things to sell to poor folks. Yep, you guessed it, Doreen had on a l-dentical hat to Aggies' fancy headgear, I mean down to the lantana flowers, the whole shindig!



And of course old Delbert, he never lets us down. He says in that piercing voice of his, "Good mornin' Doreen! Sure do like your Easter hat! How much did that set you back?"

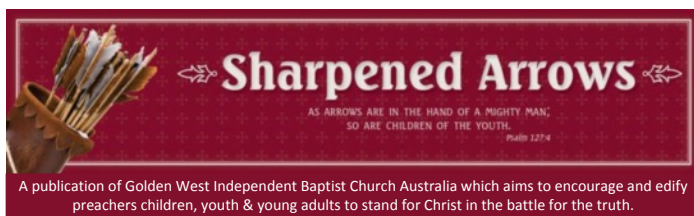
Well, of course, all the ladies did the swivelneck thing. You shoulda seen their eyes. Talk about deer in the headlights!

Doreen hadn't spotted the ladies yet when she picked Delbert out, "Got it fer nuthin', Delbert! Walmart musta bought a hunnerd of these here showponies and sold one of 'em to some sucker! They throwed the rest of 'em in the dump yestiddy so I grabbed me one. How do ye like it?"

Dunno how Agnetha got out the side door so quicksmart, but the next time I looked at Ma, Aggie weren't nowhere to be seen.

I asked the preacher why he don't never preach on "puttin' on the dog" at Easter time, and he just looked at me with big eyes and shook his head.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



**Sharpened Arrows**  
AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN,  
SO ARE CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH.  
Psalm 127:4

A publication of Golden West Independent Baptist Church Australia which aims to encourage and edify preachers children, youth & young adults to stand for Christ in the battle for the truth.



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## NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE SEPARATES FROM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA OVER ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUAL "MARRIAGE"



(Friday Church News Notes, April 3, 2015,  
[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org) [fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-295-4143) –

The following is excerpted from "34K Black and Latino Churches Cut Ties," Breitbart.com, Mar. 29, 2015"

A coalition of 34,000 black churches has cut its ties with Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) in the wake of its recent vote to approve same-sex marriage. In a statement at *Charisma News*, Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), wrote that PCUSA's 'arbitrary change of Holy Scripture is a flagrantly pretentious and illegitimate maneuver by a body that has no authority whatsoever to alter holy text.'

... In 2012, Bishop Janice Hollis, head of the Covenant International Fellowship, joined Rev. Bill Owens, president of the Coalition of African-American Pastors (CAAP), at a press conference to condemn President Obama's support of same-sex marriage.

... Owens and his group have called for the impeachment of Attorney General Eric Holder on the basis that he violated his oath of office by 'attempting to impose same-sex "marriage" throughout the nation.' CAAP was also highly critical of Obama's comparison of the same-sex marriage movement to that for civil rights during the president's remarks at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 'Bloody Sunday' march in Selma, Alabama. 'President Obama is a disgrace to the black community,' Owens said. 'He is rewriting history. We didn't suffer and die for gay marriage. We marched for opportunity, equality, justice, freedom from oppression. We are the true heirs of the civil rights movement. We have a new movement to reclaim the real civil rights movement. The LGBT community hijacked our movement, a movement they know nothing about.'

... Last week, Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore, who recently instructed Alabama's state probate judges not to issue same-sex marriage licenses according to a federal court's ruling, joined CAAP and other conservative leaders to defend the Texas constitutional ban against same-sex marriage. Moore and CAAP have also called for U.S. Supreme Court Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan to rescue themselves from the same-sex marriage case that is currently before the high court, since both justices have officiated at same-sex weddings and, according to Owens, have demonstrated 'lack of impartiality.'"

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

### WHOSE GLORY ARE YOU LIVING FOR? - by Pastor Charlie Haddad

#### JESUS CHRIST SHOULD BE IN THE CENTER AND IN THE CIRCUMFERENCE OF OUR LIFE!

We were never born into this world to live an independent life without God... God never intended for His people to live for their own glory.

##### 1. We were created for God!

**Colossians 1:16** "...all things were created by him, and for him:"

##### 2. We were created for God's Glory!

**Isaiah 43:7** "...I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."

##### 3. We were created for God's Good Pleasure!

**Revelation 4:11** "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things,

and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

A good mark that we have a desire to live for God, for His glory and good pleasure is that we have a heart to obey our Great God in all things. Especially when we obey the Great Commission for that was God's Mission: "To seek and to save the lost". It brings God good pleasure to see souls saved, and then seeing those souls bring glory to God as they become like Christ.

The question has to be asked...

Are we sacrificing time to bring God pleasure by reaching out to others with the Gospel? Or are we spending the majority of our time living for self?

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



# Gold From Ophir

## Seeking the Lost/Seeking the Lord

By Jerry Wilhite



Perhaps one of my favourite Old Testament prophets is Amos and maybe it is because of similar backgrounds. Amos and I grew up on farms caring for animals and harvesting crops, yet neither of us could claim we were the son of a prophet. Furthermore, we share the camaraderie of having those who need our message, simply reject our message.

In Amos 5, the prophet challenges his hearers to seek the Lord -- *For thus saith the LORD unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live (v4); Seek the LORD, and ye shall live (v6); Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion, and turneth the shadow of death into the morning, and maketh the day dark with night: that calleth for the waters of the sea, and poureth them out upon the face of the earth: The LORD is his name (v8); and Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken (v14).*

A balanced view of the Bible tells us that God seeks the lost sinner (Lu 19:10; Mt 10:6; Eze 34:16; Rom 3:11), yet the lost also must seek the living Sovereign as seen in Amos 5 and other places (Isa 55:6; Zep 2:3).

Men are not automatons--they have free wills; they can see their condition and respond; they apparently can seek after God or Amos would not have emphasized this in his book.

Like Amos, a missionary normally crosses an international border with a message for the masses. He knows that most will reject his missive, so his eye is open for the ones who will accept his God-given mandate. He is excited! God has called! The missionary has responded! The finances have been raised in record time! The doors have opened! God worked a miracle for visas to be secured! Just the right house! Just the right vehicle! On and on the divine hand can be seen at the outset and launching of a new endeavour in the harvest field.

The discouragement settles in, though, when even the few reject his message. His encouragement is not their encouragement. Obviously the hand of God has been

moving to get him to them. Do they not see this? Do they not understand the importance of the message? Do they not understand the urgency of accepting it before it is eternally too late? Do they not comprehend that their eternal destiny is at stake?

This has happened time and again here on the field despite people's nationality, economic status, language, or gender. Has it happened to you? It has if you are faithfully broadcasting the seed. You have been doing a Bible study with an individual or with a group, and there seems to be interest...initially. The individual or the group begins with seeming interest, but in time interest is lost. Then you pull out your hair (that is, if unlike Buddy Smith, you have any left) and think, "What did I do wrong? How could I have said it differently? Why is there so little interest? Is it a language barrier? Am I really that boring? Could I have used some different verses? Was it not relevant? Did I not stress the significance of our study?" And on and on the questions roll from your thoughts.

I suspect this is one of the reasons that some missionaries have cut their message to "One, two, three, Pray after me." Our particular field is full of "television gazers." You know, the entertainment type who find it tiresome to sit through even one 45 minute study let alone several.

Unfortunately here it seems that folks need around 12 months before they finally understand the gospel enough for it to get past their ears and mind down into their hearts where a decision for Christ can mean something for now and eternity.

But the missionary need not be disheartened. Through him, God has been seeking the lost. God has done his part. Let's not forget that this is just half of what it takes. The lost must respond. The lost have a responsibility to respond to God's seeking.

Missionaries need prayer to keep on seeking the lost even when the lost don't keep on seeking the Lord!

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

## DINOSAURS ONLY THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD



(Friday Church News Notes,  
April 17, 2015,  
[www.wayoflife.org](http://www.wayoflife.org)  
[fbns@wayoflife.org](mailto:fbns@wayoflife.org), 866-  
295-4143)

The following is from  
CreationMoments.com,  
Mar. 30, 2015:

"Previously Creation Moments has reported on the surprising discovery of soft tissue, collagen, blood and even DNA in dinosaur bones. Researchers now claim they have discovered how such tissues can be found in bones that are supposedly millions of years old.

A team of researchers, using Carbon-14 dating on multiple samples of bone from eight dinosaurs, revealed that the bones are only 22,000 to 39,000 years old! The 10-member research team presented their findings at the 2012 Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting in Singapore.

After the applause died down and the conference came to a close, the report was quietly removed from the conference website by two chairmen who refused to accept the findings! Rather than challenge the data openly, they erased the report from public view without a word to the authors.

Frankly, we're not surprised. As John Michael Fischer of NewGeology puts it, 'Carbon-14 dates in the range of 22,000 to 39,000 years before present, combined with the discovery of soft tissue in dinosaur bones, indicate that something is wrong with the conventional wisdom about dinosaurs.'

Creation Moments couldn't agree more! Once again, we see how scientists are led astray by their preconceptions that dinosaurs lived millions of years ago. Since Carbon-14 dating is only used to date bones thought to be less than 50,000 years old, scientists never thought of using C-14 dating to determine the age of dinosaur bones.

Or perhaps they were afraid of what they would find!"

### [NOTES - PRESENTATION VIDEO](#)

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES

- I am only an ordinary man. I have no special gifts. I am no orator, no scholar, no profound thinker. If I have done anything for Christ and my generation, it is because I have given myself entirely to Christ Jesus, and then tried to do whatever He wanted me to do. - *F. B. Meyer*
- When the law becomes negotiable, civilization utterly collapses. - *anon*
- Stories of imagination tend to upset those without one. - *selected*
- It's a dangerous world out there, mum. It's not all rainbows and Thermomixes!! - *Our grandson, Simeon Whitton*
- A marriage is always made up of two people who are prepared to swear that only the other one snores. - *selected*
- Give a man a fire and he's warm for the day. But set fire to him and he's warm for the rest of his life. - *selected*
- Real stupidity beats artificial intelligence every time. - *selected*
- "Educational" refers to the process, not the object. Although, come to think of it, some of my teachers could easily have been replaced by a cheeseburger. - *selected*
- Dickens, as you know, never got round to starting his home page -*selected*
- The trouble with having an open mind, of course, is that people will insist on coming along and trying to put things in it.- *selected*
- It is well known that a vital ingredient of success is not knowing that what you're attempting can't be done. - *selected*
- Some humans would do anything to see if it was possible to do it. If you put a large switch in some cave somewhere, with a sign on it saying 'End-of-the-World Switch. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH', the paint wouldn't even have time to dry before somebody pushed it to see what would happen.- *selected*
- Here's some advice boy. Don't put your trust in revolutions. They always come around again. That's why they're called revolution.- *selected*
- Evil begins when you begin to treat people as things. - *selected*
- The intelligence of that creature known as a crowd is the square root of the number of people in it. - *selected*
- They say a little knowledge is a dangerous thing, but it's not one half so bad as a whole lot of ignorance. - *selected*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

## POEMS THAT PREACH -

### Preach On!

If you're preaching from the Bible, just preach on!  
If you're longing for revival, just preach on!  
Preach and sin and condemnation,  
Preach to sinners God's salvation,  
Preach to Christians consecration,  
But preach on!

If you step on somebody's corns, just preach on!  
Take the bull by the horns, and preach on!  
Even if they may not like it;  
Even if they try to fight it;  
Where there's wrong,  
The Lord will right it!  
Just preach on!

From the Law to Revelation, just preach on.  
Christ for every situation, just preach on!  
Cleanse their heart and make them well,  
He can save their soul from Hell,  
Even if it's after twelve,  
Just preach on!

*contributed by Bro. Al Anger*

### Surprise! Surprise!

I dreamed death came the other night  
And heaven's gate swung wide;  
With kindly grace an angel came  
And ushered me inside.

And there to my astonishment  
Stood folks I'd known on earth,  
Some I had judged as "unfit"  
And of "little worth."

Indignant words rose to my lips  
But never were set free;  
For every face showed stunned surprise,  
NO ONE expected me!

*Anonymous*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



When the most liberal country in Europe pulls the plug on Islam, the world is beginning to see the light...we hope.

Queen Beatrix of The Netherland attended a concert in the capitol, The Hague.

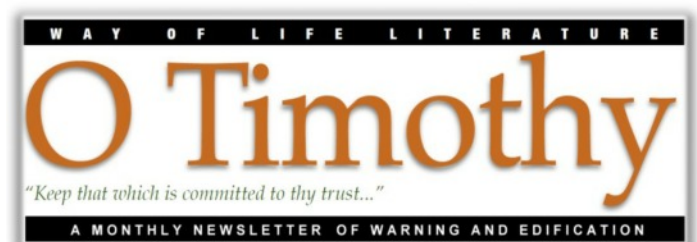
The Conductor, who just happens to be a Muslim, proceeds to give the Queen a lecture on the "beauty" of Islam. The entire orchestra got up and walked out, refusing to be associated with someone lecturing their queen. Staff of the music hall escorted the conductor off-stage and after questioning, out of the building.

Now that took courage. Good for the people of Holland.

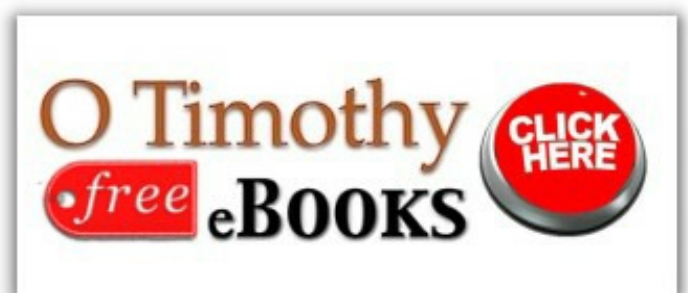
Watch the walk out. Bet you didn't see this on your local news.

Here's the link: <http://www.safeshare.tv/w/cqjiYhtiXs>

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



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G'day A\_\_\_\_\_ and M\_\_\_\_\_ ,

Is it ok if I comment on the song You Raise Me Up? Our daughter attended a church several years ago which used the song as a worship hymn in a church service. She wrote to me and expressed her surprise that it was sung in a church.

I do not follow pop music and had never heard of the song so I looked it up. Needless to say, Google has almost 3,000,000 webpages that popped up when I typed in "The meaning of the lyrics of You Raise Me Up."

Browsing the origins of the song confirmed what I guessed. The song had no Christian roots, but was adopted for use in churches as a religious song. Since I listened to it the first time and several times since, several conclusions came to mind.

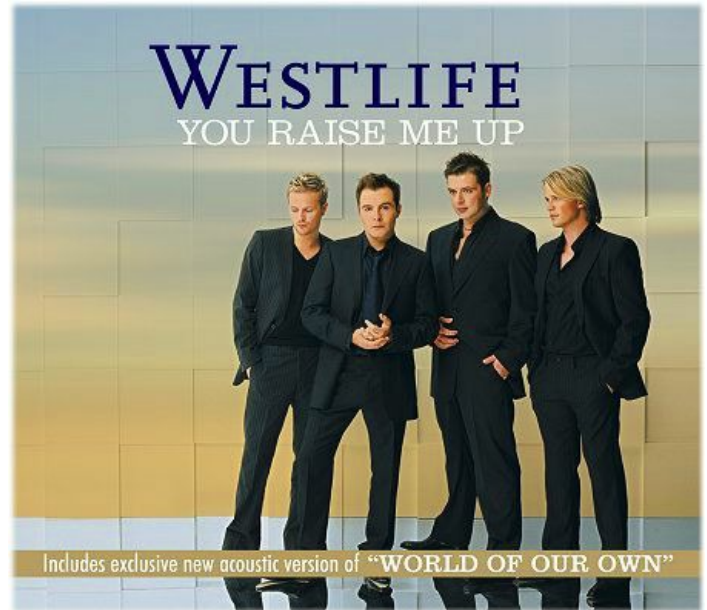
1. It is an inspiring secular song with a catchy melody that sticks in your mind once you hear it.
2. That makes it so different from most of the tuneless drivel performed in churches at present that it is easy to see how it would appeal to churchgoers.
3. The lyrics are semi-religious even if they did not originate from a Christian composer.

It is very similar to Amy Grant's music 25 years or so ago, when she determined to perform what she called "cross-over" music that would appeal to non-Christians and thus enlarge her audience and market.

In You Raise me Up, the composer did not originally court a Christian audience.

4. Since the lines are already been blurred between secular and sacred music to such a large degree (through performers like Amy Grant), You Raise Me Up was acceptable to be performed in churches that are trending toward Emergent "worship."

(To understand the Emergent movement, we only have to read books like Gary E. Gilley's



book *This Little Church Stayed Home*. He describes three perspectives on history, Pre-Modern [from Creation to 1700 AD], Modern [from 1700 to 1950], and Post-Modern [1950 to the present]. If you are interested in a summary of Post-Modernism, please let me know and I will forward to you a short article on The Great Emergent-cy of the Post-Modern Church.)

5. In conclusion, I agree, it is exciting to see the resurgence of interest in Christianity in China.

Time will tell how much of their interest is genuine and how much is the Post-Modern Emergent-cy. I am a bit skeptical to say the least.

I do believe that those who know Christ as He is presented in the Holy Scriptures ought to be concerned when secular, unconverted, unsaved, unspiritual composers write the music sung in churches.

This is one of the symptoms of apostasy, perfectly consistent with megachurches seeking the methods and message from big business rather than from our Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God.

Bro. Buddy Smith

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



# THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE BARA - GOD, THE CREATOR

By Pastor Tom Hill

In seven short Hebrew words, Moses tells the Hebrews the great statement concerning creation in [Genesis 1:1](#): *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* There is one word of action in that verse which is the word CREATED. There are at least thirteen Hebrew words used in reference to creating. Most of those words are used in reference to God and to man throughout the Old Testament. But the word that Moses used here is a word that is only used of God Himself. It is found forty-six times in the Old Testament.

The word is [BARA](#) (ar'B'). [BARA](#) is a word with which God's people should be familiar. The primary meaning of [BARA](#) means "to create." When the Scriptures use this particular word for creation, it usually carries the idea that something new in scope is being brought about. This one term is used exclusively of God's activity. The very magnitude of God's power is exemplified in His ability to [BARA](#). Primarily, [BARA](#) is used in reference to the creation of heaven and earth.

Much of the time, [BARA](#) speaks about the making something or bringing something into being without the use of pre-existent materials. The only One that could accomplish such a feat is God. He brought into existence something from nothing without any prior organic materials involved. The term in Latin is "ex nihilo" which means "out of nothing" is often used to describe the work of [BARA](#). Man cannot create like that, because man must have some sort of material in which to create, and in that case, all man can do is to shape, form or fashion something from that pre-existing material.

Most of the time [BARA](#) tells us that God brought from nothing the smallest atomic structure of everything. I say most of the time, because some instances of the use of [BARA](#) clearly do not mean from nothing, such as in [Genesis 1:27](#), *So God created [BARA] man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created [BARA] He them.*

In v. 26, God inspired Moses to use the other most common word for create in Hebrew which is ASAH (which means "make"), usually carrying the meaning of "to fashion, or to do." [BARA](#) seems to be used as a synonym in that case.

Moses was simply showing that only God could do such a work by using the word [BARA](#), and it was not set in motion by God to "evolve" on its own to make a man. (Asah is one of the words that is used of both God and man making things elsewhere in the Scriptures.)

[BARA](#) is used three times in the Old Testament as a proper name of God. In [Ecclesiastes 12:1](#), Solomon said, *"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth..."*

Technically, the name CREATOR is used as a verb and means the "creating One." In [Isaiah 40:28](#), *"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of His understanding."* Again, [Isaiah](#) uses it in the sense of God being the "creating One." Then [Isaiah](#) uses [BARA](#) in [43:15](#), *"I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."*

There is another interesting fact concerning the word [BARA](#). It refers to that which is instantaneous in action. It did not take God eons to [BARA](#). He spoke and it was done.

I remember hearing in both grade school and in secular college that both matter and life is nothing more than simple chemistry. We were told that all the building blocks were now understood, and that mankind was at the threshold of creating life. That was well over 30 years plus ago when that was first stated.

Has man accomplished the impossible yet? Life and matter is much more than mere chemistry. Matter and energy cannot be created by man out of nothing. Only God and God alone can [BARA](#).

Since only God can [BARA](#), only God can destroy what He has created. Mankind cannot destroy anything as far as the complete destruction of the atomic structure. But God can and God will one day. Peter reminds us of that truth in [2 Peter 3:10](#), *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."* This will be the absolute destruction of that which was created from nothing, save for mankind. Then, God will as we read in [Isaiah 65:17](#), *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."*

Again, the word [BARA](#) is used for CREATE. He will create from nothing that which has not been tainted with sin that will remain forever and ever.

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

## THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I'VE ALWAYS HAD A FEAR OF SOMEONE UNDER MY BED AT NIGHT. SO I WENT TO A SHRINK AND TOLD HIM,

"I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy. I was so self conscious I never told my parents or even my wife."

"Just put yourself in my hands for two years," said the shrink. "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears."

"How much do you charge?" I asked him.

"Eighty dollars per visit", replied the doctor.

"I'll sleep on it", I said.

Six months later the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" He asked.

"Well, Eighty bucks a visit, three times a week for two years, is \$24,960.00. My wife told me she could cure me for \$100.00. And it worked. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought me a new pickup truck."

"Is that so?" With a bit of an attitude he said, "and how, may I ask, did your wife cure you?"

"She told me to cut the legs off our bed. Ain't nobody under there now."

### "WHERE is my SUNDAY paper?"

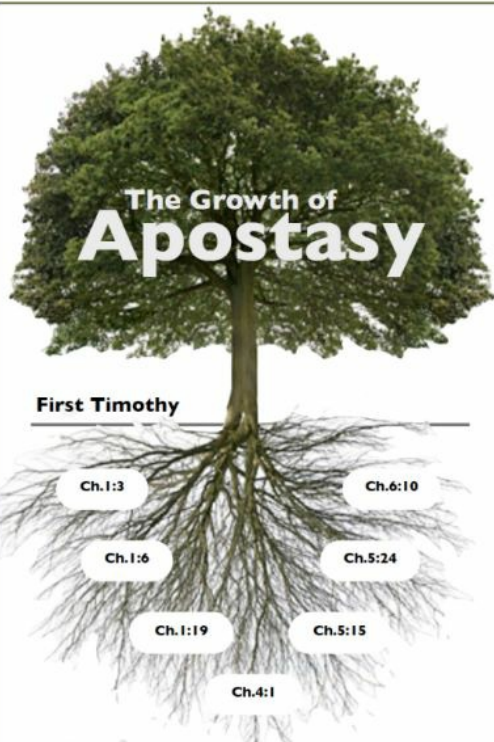
The irate customer calling the newspaper office, loudly demanded to know where her Sunday edition of the paper was.

"Madam", said the newspaper employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper is not delivered until tomorrow, on SUNDAY".

There was quite a long pause on the other end of the phone, followed by a ray of recognition as she was heard to mutter,

"Well, shoot, that explains why no one was at church either."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



**The Growth of Apostasy**

**First Timothy**

- Ch. 1:3
- Ch. 1:6
- Ch. 1:19
- Ch. 4:1
- Ch. 5:15
- Ch. 5:24
- Ch. 6:10

**First Timothy 1:3,**  
"Charge some that they teach no other doctrine."

**First Timothy 1:6,**  
"Some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling."

**First Timothy 1:19,**  
"Some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck."

**First Timothy 4:1,**  
"Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."


**First Timothy 5:15,**  
"Some are already turned aside after Satan."

**First Timothy 5:24,**  
"Some men's sins are open beforehand, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after."

**First Timothy 6:10,**  
"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

By Pastor Bob Kirkland -

**Lifting Up The STANDARD**  
"When the money that came to this man's hand, the Spirit of the LORD shut it up a standard against him" (Isaiah 55:11)







My son started his day this morning with a bowl of sugar frosted chocolate nonsense. I commented on its lack of staying power but chocolate with a side of sugar is pretty much ambrosia to a 12 year old male. By 9am there were rumblings in the vicinity of his middle, and the 'I'm starving,' followed close on its heels.

I've been thinking a lot about food these past few days. Not in the usual, questioning way as to why there isn't any in the fridge or cupboard, or even the fact that the only way for there to be some is for me to spend time sweating it out in the kitchen. It's so hot here .

I have been contemplating how food nourishes us. Again, not in the usual way. I have been thinking about our spiritual food, and how our spiritual growth depends on it. Mostly, I have been wondering about the reasons we don't thrive in our Christian walk.

I think it would be a reasonable assumption to say that Christians, as a whole, are undernourished spiritually. I include myself. We live in an era of instant gratification, and this cultural bent influences all areas of our lives. We want the quick fix, the fast food, the one hour photo, the while you wait. We really don't like queues. Why do you think we do so much of our business online? No waiting!

We take this mindset across to our relationship with God. We try and fit Him in between our other tasks and pleasures. If we could contact Him online, we'd be over the moon! But He never fits neatly into a time slot, so we shuffle Him around, and cut Him off halfway through His conversation with us. "Oops, sorry! Got to go!" And then we wonder why we don't have the strength to get through our day.

My dad called this 'Licking the Label.' Have you ever seen a toddler in a shopping trolley hanging onto a packet of something delicious, and giving the packaging a good licking all over to try and get a taste of what's inside? That is what we do spiritually! No time for chewing my food one hundred times, I'll just give the label a lick, and be on my way. Silly, hey?

Let's have a look at some reasons why we neglect our spiritual food, and are undernourished and stunted Christians.

**1. We just don't want it!** In Numbers 21:5, the Israelites had the same problem. *"And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."*

We are just as human as they were. We think we know better than God, just like they did. They didn't appreciate the manna. It wasn't to their taste.

How often do we find God's Word not to our taste? We decide to push away our spiritual food, we don't like the way it makes us feel. Wasn't Israel ungrateful? God was literally keeping them alive from day to day, and they pushed away their plate?

How about us? God's Word nourishes us, it gives us strength to live for Him each day. Are we pushing away our plate?

**2. We are unhealthy or sick Christians!** Hebrews 5:12 says, *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."*

It used to be that whenever my kids would sit at the table and say, 'I'm not hungry,' I could be sure they were sick. The writer of Hebrews is saying to the believers, 'You guys are on an invalid's diet!' They had once been able to eat meat, but had become Christians that needed milk.

How did they get to this place? They'd caught the spiritual flu. The end of verse 14 tells us, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Those Christians were weakened by not using what God had taught them. They did not exercise themselves.

How do we as believers' exercise? We use what God has taught us in discerning between what is evil and what is good. If we don't, we become armchair Christians. All our spiritual muscle goes to flab, and we forget what we once knew. It doesn't take very long to happen.

When we start ignoring wrong in our lives, when we neglect what is good, we are going the right way to becoming an invalid Christian. Someone is going to be spoon feeding us soon!

**3. We are already full!** Jeremiah 2:13 tells us, *“For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”*

God is painting a picture here of a nation that had an abundant supply of fresh, flowing water; crystal clear and delicious. They turned their back on this, and dug deep into the ground. They made themselves cisterns; deep caverns that had no spring of their own but waited for the sparse rains to fill them. The water in them was stale and contained dirt and debris.

We have God’s Holy Word, so pure and fresh and delicious; and yet, we fill up on the word of man. Supplements. How many of us gobble up spiritual self-help books, biographies and commentaries, only to find we are too full to fit in any of the Bible? We love to tell our friends all the latest theories we’ve just read, and how they are impacting our lives, but the Word of God is not on our tongue.

The word of man is flawed, and I think all of us know that reading it is like eating fish...you are always on the lookout for bones. We don’t have to practice discernment when reading God’s Word. We can just feast on it, we can fill right up to the top with no ill effects.

Why would we put our Bibles aside to read books about our God? The Bible is the definitive work on Him! God’s Word should come first, we can fill up the cracks (if there are any) with good books later.

**4. We are spiritually bulimic.** We know what bulimia is. It is the partaking of food, and then the rapid purging of it from the body, so that no nourishment is gained from it.

God told Ezekiel that Israel suffered from this, in Ezekiel 34:31-32. *“And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do*

*them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not.”*

Maybe we have been in the situation that we don’t want to hear what God has to say on a subject; and yet, it is preached on as we sit in the Sunday Service. What do we do? Probably just what Israel did. We thank the Speaker with kind words, and dash outside to get rid of his message.

How many times does God’s Word rebuke us, and we feel it, but we determinedly push it away. We distract ourselves with a myriad of things; we hear God’s Words but we do them not. We need to allow God’s Word to remain in us, so that it can nourish us and change us.

Don’t jump up as soon as church is over but take a moment to remain in your seat, and think about what God has said. Ask Him to work through His Word in your life. He has a reason for the words He speaks to us. We need to know them, not get rid of them.

These are only four examples. I am sure you can think of more. Like, we have starved ourselves and kept ourselves from God’s Word, and now we don’t feel a hunger for it anymore. Maybe we can all take a look at ourselves and see what our spiritual diet is like. Are we supplementing? Are we purging? Are we invalids? Or just don’t want what there is to eat?

We don’t want to be just licking the label either. Don’t read God’s Word like that. Open it up and absorb the goodness inside! Make time with your Father a priority. There is no online connection, only a personal one. Other things need to be set aside, so that you can feast on His Word and be nourished.

1 Timothy 4:6, *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.”*

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)

# I Thought They Were DEWDROPS

Bro. Buddy Smith



Old age has its benefits. Long forgotten gems of truth tend to work their way to the surface of the mind, shrugging off the detritus of the trivial, and shining like diamonds. A year or so ago, my sweetheart turned up one of those gems. We don't know who told us of it, but it was solid gold, and we've polished it ever since by regular use. It goes something like this, "When troubles arise, ask God to show you a token for good."

And He will.

Psalm 86 is one of King David's prayers that contains a request for the LORD to show him "a token for good." It is the last petition in the psalm. *"Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me."* The commentators suggest no particular "dark night of the soul" as a backdrop for his prayer, but we need only read it once through to see that it is one of the forty or so psalms that refer to his enemies. David wrote seventy five of the one hundred and fifty psalms and at least forty three of them refer to his enemies. Forty three of David's seventy five songs! (What? When? Who? Why? Where? How?) We have so many questions. Carelessly, lightly, foolishly we ask, "How could David have any enemies?" And then the Lord tells us of Saul, and Goliath, and Shimei, and Absalom, and Hanun, the king of Ammon.

David's prayers for protection from his enemies remind me of the old poem,

*You have no enemies, you say?  
Alas, my friend, the boast is poor.  
He who has mingled in the fray that the brave endure,  
Must have made foes.  
If you have none,  
Small is the work that you have done.  
You've hit no traitor on the hip.  
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip.  
You've never turned the wrong to right.  
You've been a coward in the fight.*

Charles Mackay

So in the midst of his "day of trouble" he prayed for a token for good, "when the proud were risen up against him, and the assemblies of violent men sought after his soul, men who had not set God before them..." And God showed him a token for good, again and again and again.

God gave him Jonathan's friendship, and Michal's help, and shewbread, and Goliath's sword, and Nabal's food, and mighty men, and daily protection, and fifteen years of guidance, one day at a time. There was even a crown and a throne at the end of it all.

It was no flight of fancy when he penned the words, *"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies..."* Rather, it was a statement of historical fact.

With one hand God held David's enemies at arm's length, and with the other hand he spread for him a seven course feast, a meal fit for the king who was anointed but not yet crowned. And God did it over and over and over. It is His way.

## GOD SHOWED HIM TOKENS FOR GOOD.

They are still available for the asking, but we need clear eyes to see them and nimble fingers to gather them up. Doubt dulls our sight and anger clouds the vision. Slander narrows one's perspective, and pride throws dust in our face.

On the other hand, faith clears the air and gratitude in all things clarifies the handiwork of God. Meekness and humility tap us on the shoulder and point out the tokens for good lying all around us.

Horace Walpole coined a word in 1794 to describe these tokens for good. He called it "serendipity" and defined it as "always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things (we) were not in quest of." We solemnly protest his word and his definition. Rather, we call it the providence of God, meticulously



timely, precisely sufficient, gloriously simple, delightfully surprising, rustically ornate, and magnificently mundane.

They are the instantaneous supply of tokens for good, each one sovereignly devised by the Almighty God and sent on its way to us even before the worlds sprang into existence at His command. All in answer to a prayer I prayed two seconds ago.

*I thought they were dewdrops, but found them to be diamonds. I thought they were dandelions, and found them to be gold sovereigns, I thought they were birdsongs, but found them to be the anthems of angels.*

*Tokens for good everywhere I looked.*

I have taken to collecting and depositing them one by one into the treasure chest of my heart. Already it is near to overflowing.


Maybe that's why...

Maybe that's why David prayed that other prayer, "Enlarge my heart..."

[\(Back to Table of Contents\)](#)



**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).*  
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**CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL**





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## Heads Up!

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