



July 20, 2013

SPOILED? WHO'S SPOILED? - PART 6 - By Buddy Smith

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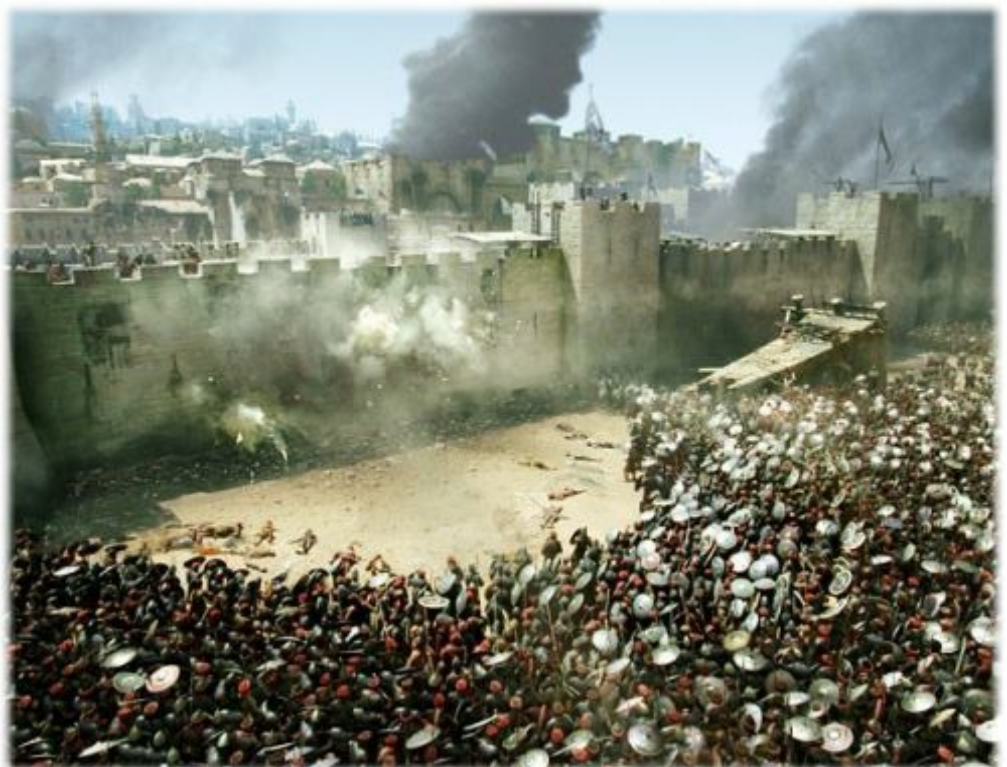
(In Scotland, at least! - Ed)

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"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."
Colossians 2:8

THE SPOILING OF THE CHURCHES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT -

The spoiling of the churches began in the days of the apostles and has continued unabated into the 21st century. In the first century, the churches faced subversion, infiltration and opposition from every side. False teachers robbed the churches of their spiritual riches and led many astray. They came from Jewish synagogues, from Greek philosophers, and from pagan, occultic, Gentile idolators. Most of the epistles written to the churches were written to defeat the errors being sowed among their members. The church in Corinth had its humanistic wise men, its sensual and immoral hedonists, and its ecumenists who dined in idol temples. The churches in Galatia were overrun by Law preachers who demanded that the churches keep Moses' law. The church in Colosse was besieged by gnosticism. The church in Thessalonica had its false teachers, confusing the church about the return of Christ. And what about the 7 churches

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in Asia with their Nicolaitans, their false apostles, the influence of the synagogue of Satan, the doctrine of Balaam, that woman Jezebel and her seductive teachings? We even wonder when we read about the Laodicean church with its wealthy lukewarmness, if they had the Health, Wealth, and Prosperity preachers in their midst.

THE SPOILING OF THE CHURCHES IN HISTORY -

Almost two thousand years of church history testifies to the spoiling of the churches. What is Roman Catholicism or the Coptic religion, or Maronite Catholicism, or Greek Orthodoxy, or Nestorianism but the plundering of the churches? The state churches that grew out of the Reformation, the lifeless denominations, the crazed excesses of Pentecostalism and Charismaticism, and cold, dead Modernism, and the numberless compromises of New Evangelicalism, and now the mysticism of the Emerging churches, all these are clear evidence of the spoiling of the churches.

THE MODERN ACCEPTANCE OF THE SPOILING OF THE CHURCHES -

One of the great surprises in this is the present blindness we see on all sides. Almost no one will admit that we are being spoiled by our Enemy. The spirit of the age is ecumenical, so ecumenical in fact, that the very same heresies that the apostles warned us of, are now welcomed and feted in our churches. Woe betide the pastor that speaks up about the spoiling of the churches!!! Hillsong and Saddleback and Willow Creek sing their siren songs of despoilment, and most of the little Baptist mice are running as hard as they can to join the crowd. Almost every week I receive word that a pastor or a songleader in an Independent Baptist Church is openly praising Hillsong, and telling their teachers and musicians that the new agenda for the church is to become like Hillsong!!! Some of them are still a bit cautious and are not advertising the fact that they are comfortable with the worship style of Hillsong. Their surrender is incremental, a millimetre at a time. Others are far down the track and are quite open about the direction they are moving. The pastors who ring me express differing levels of alarm. I tell them that they have to determine for themselves who they are going to fellowship with and who they are going to kiss goodbye. No one can decide for any other person what convictions to hold or how strongly to hold them. But, from this moment, I am going to begin urging the men who want me to tell them what to do, to find out for themselves. When pastors are concerned enough about the music and the message and the morals in a church to ring me and ask, then I am going to tell them that they should simply ask the pastor and his songleader these questions, "How comfortable are you with the music at Hillsong? If you had a chance to make your church like any other church, would Hillsong be on your list of churches to mimic in any way whatsoever? If you were to say this is where we are going ultimately, would you look at Hillsong?" Let me give you a hint who to ask. Ask the pastor and songleader at the Pastor's Refresher conference, or at the next Leadership Conference you go to (call it what you will.), or at the National Baptist Fellowship meetings in October here in Australia. Bro. Buhren and Bro. Barclay, whose churches are hosting the NBF, have already told me the answers to the above mentioned questions. But you will be surprised how their answers differ from the answers you will receive at the other conferences.

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



The "Oh, Wow!!!!!" lady and her husband were at church yesterday.

It always does us good to see them drop by on their travels. God brought her into our lives 33 years ago when we were in a tiny church that met in a little storefront building. She was a brand new Christian and didn't know any of our Christian vocabulary. Oh, she learned pretty quick how to say "Amen" and "Praise the Lord." But when she first came to us, she was as fresh as a breeze from Heaven. T

he pastor preached the old truths, but she had never heard them before, so when the light of Holy Scripture shone in her heart, her face would light up and she would cry out, "Oh, Wow!!!!!!!"

We all smiled, and thought her a bit eccentric, but looking back over the years, I remember rejoicing over and over that at least once in my lifetime I had met a Christian who was so happy in Jesus, and so unconcerned about what anyone would say, that her tongue was filled with simple unadorned praises to the God of her salvation.

I wonder if the Lord would mind if I left my "Amen" at home next week and took a handful of "Oh Wow's" to church instead?

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CCM IS THE CHANNEL FOR HERETICAL THEOLOGY TO SPOIL YOUR CHURCH -

Many pastors have forgotten, if they ever knew, that **composers draw from the well of their theology the doctrines and morals they promote in their music.** That is just as true for Darlene Zschech as it was for Charles Wesley, Fanny Crosby, Ira Sankey, Isaac Watts, and John Newton. The pastors who would spoil the churches by bringing in CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) should be indicted for their slothfulness in that they never inquired into the theology of the CCM rock stars whose music they now use. They not only do not know what Keith Getty, Bono, Darlene Zschech, and all the myriads of composers and performers believe, they do not want to know. What's more, they happily persecute anyone who exposes the tangled theology of Brian Houston/ Hillsong.

Do you want to know what Brian Houston believes? His "theology" is displayed in who he is comfortable with and who he invites to speak in their conferences. It is no accident that Houston invites men like Rick Warren (the greatest advocate of emergent errors alive today), like T.D. Jakes (the Unitarian Pentecostal leader), like Benny Hinn (the Health, Wealth, and Prosperity showman who prays to Kathryn Kuhlman at her graveside), like Joyce Meyer (who preaches the Word Faith error that Jesus' death on the cross did not redeem us, but His being tormented in Hell by the Devil and his demons did), like Reinhard Bonnke (a false prophet who falsely claims to have raised the dead), like Matt Redman (whose all time favourite musicians are the Beatles), like Jerry Savelle (A Kenneth Copeland mimic), like Beth Moore (who spruiks her contemplative New Age prayer-ism), like John Maxwell (who teaches pastors how to be CEO's of religious empires), and like Nicky Gumbel (the author of the Alpha course). All these are encouraged to freely proclaim their errors at Hillsong (see Hillsong's own list of guest speakers - <http://hillsongcollected.com/archive/hillsong-guest>)

Though he did not speak at Hillsong, Pope Benedict, at the Roman Catholic World Youth Day was praised by Hillsong's "worship leader" Darlene Zschech, when she made the following statement:

"We see World Youth Day as a great opportunity to serve the Catholic Church in it's vision to present the gospel and reach out to our city,our nation and our world in unity."

WHO ELSE IS BRIAN HOUSTON COMFORTABLE WITH? -

The Brisbane Courier Mail newspaper published recently the following article on Hillsong and Brian Houston, (excerpted) *" BRIAN Houston had just paid the bill and was about to head into a cool autumn night when two men approached him and bailed him up in the corner. Wearing*

full-length robes and brandishing a camera, their approach was undeviating. It was an ambush. Had they noticed the intermittent glances this lanky Hillsong senior pastor had been giving them across the floor of Bondi's starry Icebergs restaurant, in between mouthfuls of pesce del giorno and warm dinner conversation with his American guest? He couldn't help it. He was fascinated by them: two maroon-clad Tibetan monks being loved on by a clutch of eastern Sydney arty types. A man of deep spiritual convictions himself, he was intrigued by this harmonious duo who reside at seemingly polar opposites of the religious spectrum; how they reacted, what they ate; whether they were immersed in the no-doubt philosophical thought being bandied around their table. But now they wanted to speak to him.

"You Brian?" one monk asked. The pastor nods.

"Oh, you are famous, you are famous in Tibet. We all watch you in TV," he followed. And now they wanted a photo with him. Smiles, hugs and a warmth that eroded their religious disparity."

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/hillsong8217s-message-and-music-has-a-resonance-worldwide-that-eclipses-that-of-the-church8217s-aussie-birthplace/story-fnihsrf2-1226678522761>

CAN YOU LIVE WITH HILLSONG'S THEOLOGY? -

Once upon a time Baptists believed and preached Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together except they be agreed?" Someone should ask, "If Hillsong walks with those who deny the saving efficacy of the death of Christ, with those who promote the worst excesses of the charismatic movement, with those who promote the latest form of modernism (in the emergent "church"), and with New Age prophets, and with Buddhist priests, then what is their true theology?"

The answer? It is the ecumenical, syncretistic theology of a one world religion, the deadly amalgam of heresies of every stripe, the doctrines of the Antichrist and the False Prophet as described in Revelation 13, 17, & 18.

IMPORTING HILLSONG'S HERESIES -

And what are the implications of Brian Houston's inclusivist theology? It means that all the exports of Hillsong are infected with the heresies they admire and embrace in their guest speakers. When Baptist pastors and song leaders buy their DVD's and memorise their rock productions, being mesmerised by their carnal dance routines, when they use Hillsong music, then

they import the heresies of all their guest speakers into their churches. Milligram by milligram their churches are ingesting the heresies of Hillsong.

We have yet to see what damage will ultimately be done to our churches as a result of Hillsong's heretical theology being exported worldwide and imported into our churches.

Caveat Emptor! Let the buyer beware!

POISON IN HILLSONG'S BOTTLE -

As I write this, a news agency is reporting the deaths of more than 25 students in India as a result of a teacher bringing cooking oil to school in a pesticide bottle. *"(Reuters) - At least 25 Indian children died and dozens needed hospital treatment after apparently being poisoned by a school meal, sparking violent protests and angry allegations of blame.*

The children aged four to 12 fell ill on Tuesday after consuming a lunch of rice, soybean and lentils in the impoverished eastern state of Bihar. The school, at Mashrakh village in the district of Chapra, provided free meals under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, the world's largest school feeding program involving 120 million children. Medical teams treating the children said they suspected the food had been contaminated with insecticide. "It appears to be a case of poisoning but we will have to wait for forensic reports ... Had it been a case of (natural) food poisoning, so many children would not have died," Poonam Kumari, local government administrator at the village, told Reuters by phone from Mashrakh. "The administration has helped cremate 21 children and, unfortunately, four more children have to be cremated," she said, adding that the remainder of a total of 48 children who consumed the contaminated food were being treated in Patna. "We feel that some kind of insecticide was either accidentally or intentionally mixed in the food, but that will be clear through investigations," said R.K. Singh, medical superintendent at the children's hospital in the state capital Patna. "We prepared antidotes and treated the children for organophosphorous poisoning," he said. Organophosphorus compounds are used as pesticides. The state government said it was investigating the cause of the disaster.

ACCUSATIONS - *The school headmistress fled after the deaths became known and was dismissed, P.K. Shahi, Bihar's education minister, told a news conference. "In spite*

of the cook's complaint (over the smell of cooking oil used for the food), the headmistress insisted on its use and the cook made the food. The children had also complained about the food to the cook," Shahi said. The cook, who also fell ill after eating the food and was hospitalized, told Reuters television it had looked as if there was a layer of residue at the bottom of the oil jar. "I thought that this is locally-made oil as often there is an accumulation of residual waste at the bottom ... generally we get just about enough oil to prepare one meal, as there is no space for storage," Manju Devi said in Hindi."

I wonder how many Christians will see the parallel between this belligerent headmistress and the undiscerning pastor who permits the poison of CCM into his church? In our case, the doctrines of demons are covertly brought in under the Hillsong label and blended into the music and messages of undiscerning pastors and musicians in Independent Baptist Churches.

THE GREATEST DISASTER IN HISTORY -

The Church, as described by the Spirit of God, is a body, a temple, and a bride.

- How sad it is to see, at the end of the church age, the body of Christ spoiled and ravaged by its enemies! The members of the body have become spastic and no longer obey the Head. Many are consumed by the leprosy of sin, and have lost their strength.
- What a grief it must be to God that His temple is defiled. The living stones are stained with the graffiti of the world, and posters of Hollywood's lasciviousness and rock concert posters festoon her sacred walls.
- The bride is battered and bruised, mutated and mutilated until it she bears very little likeness to the wife of the Lamb, who *"hath made herself ready, arrayed in fine linen, clean and white..."* (Rev. 19:7,8)

The greatest disaster in history is the spiritual calamity happening all around us as we see our churches are spoiled by Philosophy, Vain Deceit, the Traditions of men, and the Rudiments of the World.

[\(The fourth thief, Rudiments of the World, is the subject of the Feature Article in the next issue of Heads Up - Ed\)](#)

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(Bold print headings added. - Ed)

THE HISTORY OF HOLLYWOOD'S "BIBLE-BASED" MOVIES

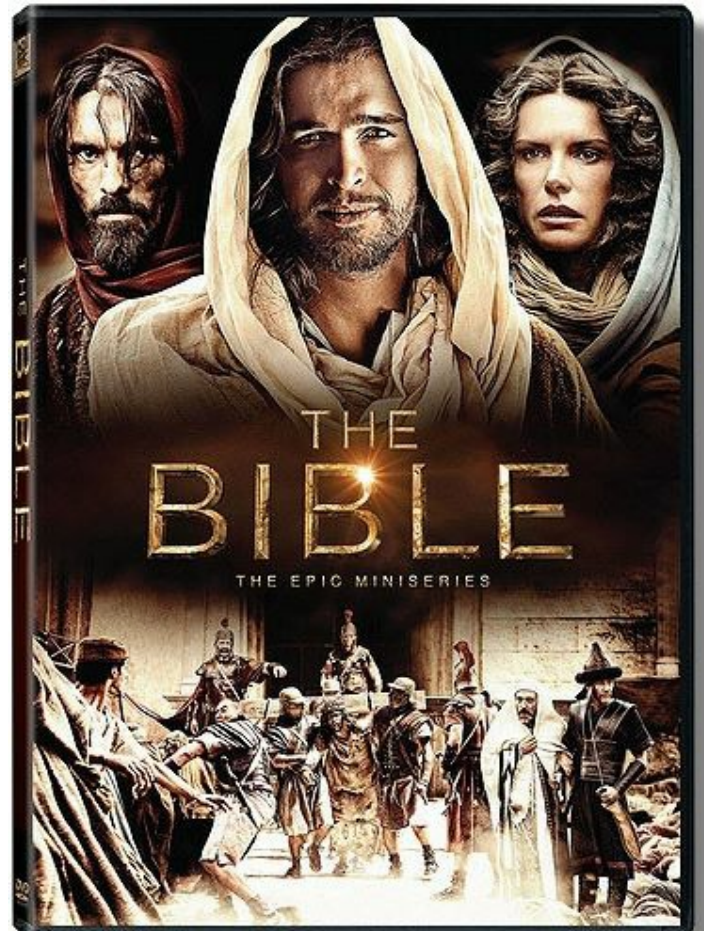
Hollywood has a long history of making Bible-based movies, including epics by Cecil B. DeMille and John Huston; Italian directors Pasolini, Rossellini, and Zeffirelli; American Martin Scorsese, and Australian Mel Gibson. Broadway musicals have also been made into "biblical" movies and videos such as *Jesus Christ, Superstar* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Smaller productions abound including the Visual Bible's *Matthew*, *Acts*, and *The Gospel of John*, the TV presentation *Judas*, Campus Crusade's *The Jesus Project*, and Johnny Cash's *The Gospel Road*. Then there are upcoming movie epics with proven box-office stars. *Noah*, for example, features Russell Crowe and Anthony Hopkins, and there are other offerings planned by two major studios. Warner Bros. and 20th Century Fox are planning productions on the life of Moses, with Steven Spielberg being sought to direct one of them. Randall Wallace (*Braveheart*, *Secretariat*) will direct the upcoming film version of the *New York Times* bestseller *Heaven Is for Real* (see May 2011 feature article), which, although not a biblical story, claims to give the first-hand experiences of a young boy who visited heaven.

WHY HOLLYWOOD IS ATTRACTED TO THE BIBLE

It seems that Hollywood has been attracted to the Bible more than ever, thanks in large part to the financial success of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. The History Channel's recent 10-hour miniseries titled *The Bible* did nothing to dampen the ongoing enthusiasm as it broke viewer records, making it *"the most-watched cable entertainment telecast of the year."* It played to more than 13 million viewers. Many Christians might conclude that much of the interest from secular entertainment companies is reason to rejoice. Of course, that would prove to be a hasty conclusion, especially for those who would call themselves *biblical* Christians.

THE DEFINITION OF A TRUE BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN

Let's start with a definition of true biblical Christians. They would be individuals who regard the Bible as God's direct communication to mankind. They believe that Peter's words were inspired of the Holy Spirit when he wrote, *"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost"* (2 Peter 1:21). They believe that all the words



were without error as they were given to and written down by the writers of Scripture. Both Matthew and Luke proclaimed that *"man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word...of God"* (Luke 4:4; Matthew 4:4). Paul commended the Thessalonians for receiving the "word of God," which they had been taught, *"not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God"* (1 Thessalonians 2:13). Jesus prayed to the Father that His disciples be set apart by God's *"truth: thy word is truth"* (John 17:17). Luke writes to his friend Theophilus that he had "perfect understanding" in all that he wrote and that Theophilus could receive them with confidence: *"That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed"* (Luke 1:1-4). The point of all those verses (and many more) is that they are a support for a biblical Christian who believes in the supernatural accuracy of the Scriptures.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ACCURACY OF THE BIBLE

For those who aren't on that page, let's reason together. There are three possibilities regarding the sources of information found in the Bible:

1. The words came directly from God
2. They came from men, that is, the words are based upon man's speculations, opinions, and guesses about God
3. The words in the Bible are a mixture of 1 and 2. Biblical accuracy would suffer greatly under possibilities 2 and 3 but not under 1, the belief that the Scriptures came directly from God.

God's claimed attributes of omnipotence and omniscience support His ability to produce a book that is without error--that is, if the claim is true. We believe that the claims of God in the Scriptures are indeed true and that they are supported by the amazingly detailed prophecies that constitute nearly 30 percent of the Bible (see *TBC* 11/01; 6/09; 7/09; Q&A 3/04, etc.). Prophecy is the astounding device that God uses to verify that He alone is God and that He alone knows the future. In numerous chapters of the Book of Isaiah, God declares His sovereignty, challenging the worshipers of the idols and false gods of the pagans to ask their gods to produce accurately fulfilled prophecies. They can't--although down through history there have been continual bogus attempts (fortune tellers, crystal ball gazers, wizards, astrologers, psychics, channelers, etc.) to prove that the God of the Bible has made a false claim regarding His uniqueness.

If the Bible is of any value to mankind whatsoever, it *must* be accurate. Those who have no problem with a bible that includes the speculations and opinions of men, even in part, are putting their faith in something with contributions by fallen, finite people rather than the words of an infinite, righteous, and holy God.

WHY MOST MODERN TRANSLATIONS ARE HARMFUL

Preferences for various Bible translations are issues of controversy among many Christians and are beyond the scope of this article, except in principle. In terms of scriptural accuracy, however, few would disagree that a *literal translation* would be the most objective and therefore the most accurate. Literal versions rely on prayerful biblical scholarship familiar with the most accurate data in translating the Hebrew and Greek words into English (for English Bibles). Furthermore, they are far less subjective, meaning they do not involve the personal biases of what men *think* a verse *should* say. The most popular Bibles today lean to the subjective. These would include *dynamic equivalent* versions, which feature the personal opinions of a translation committee as to what the sense of a verse is rather than a literal translation of the terms. More subjective yet are *paraphrase* versions--those that are based upon the ideas of an individual in declaring what a verse says and means. As one can clearly see, in the slide from a literal translation to a paraphrase version, the movement is from the *objective* to the personally *subjective*, and from God's words to man's suggestions, opinions, and guesses.

AN EXAMPLE - THE MESSAGE

If you need an example of the kind of damage that the subjective departure from God's words has caused, you need only to read Psalm 1:1 in *The Message* (*How well God must like you--you don't hang out at Sin Saloon, you don't slink along Dead-End Road, you don't go to Smart-Mouth College*) to recognize that what Eugene Peterson wrote could never fit

NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- "Keep your sins confessed! If not, God will expose them!"
- The world's most populous countries in descending order: China (1.3 billion); India (1.2 billion); Facebook (800 million); Skype (521 million); Twitter (380 million); United States (312 million) ~ *Wendy Francis*
- "It was IMPOSSIBLE that the apostles could have persisted in affirming the truths they had narrated, had not JESUS CHRIST ACTUALLY RISEN FROM THE DEAD..." ~ (*Simon Greenleaf, An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice, p.29*).
- The law of God is a storm which wrecks your hopes of self-salvation, but then washes you upon the Rock of Ages. ~ *Charles Haddon Spurgeon*
- Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. ~ *Proverbs 17:28*

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with the phrases, “Thus saith the Lord,” and “The word of the Lord came to me,” which occur thousands of times throughout the Bible. Those phrases would seem ludicrous when applied to *The Message*, which can only say, “Thus saith Eugene Peterson.”

Considering the blasphemy (“blasphemy” meaning a distortion of the character of God and His Word) of *The Message*, one might think that’s as bad as it could get in terms of inaccurate Bible versions. Yes and no. It may be the worst thus far (it’s used by more than 10 million evangelicals), but in terms of overall adverse influence, no written version’s effects can compare to the damage done to the Bible when its content is translated to the silver screen or television. Those numbers of viewers are incalculable, and the effect has been devastating beyond measure. Hopefully, most who are reading this are getting the picture (pun intended). If not, I recommend *Showtime for the Sheep?*, which gives many more reasons why much harm is done when attempting to translate the Bible visually. This brief article will focus primarily on the necessity of biblical accuracy.

A QUESTION AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF “BIBLICAL MOVIES”

How does a biblical movie satisfy the necessity of biblical accuracy?

Answer: It doesn’t, and it can’t--and the reasons are many.

1. A movie takes what God has directly communicated in the Scriptures and makes the visual translation of what He said dependent upon what is in the minds and the craft of a film production crew (writers, director, cameramen, art director, actors, and a host of others).
2. Other constraints that determine what shows up on the screen have to do with budget, locations, weather, and the inevitable “Murphy’s law” of filmmaking, which states, “If anything can go wrong, it will.” Those are hardly “let’s be true to the Scriptures” considerations.
3. Any movie must begin with a screenplay. The Bible cannot be translated into a biblically accurate movie because nearly all movies need dialogue, which the Bible provides only in limited situations. Hence, the screenwriter (whether he is a believer or not) has to supply the dialogue to maintain story continuity, which means that he must add to the Scriptures, thus including false information. “Adding to the Scriptures” is forbidden by God’s Word (Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19). A few such productions try to avoid some of the translation problems by incorporating only those words that are found in a particular Bible version. This is greatly misleading because it gives the false impression that the production is more accurate. More

accurate than what? A movie is, first and foremost, a visual medium. When a person exits a theater after watching a powerful movie, I can almost guarantee that it will be the images that he will leave with, not the words.

4. “Biblical” movies are an assemblage of false images and scenes. Not one frame is accurate. Yet *The Passion of the Christ* was lauded by many highly regarded evangelical leaders as “the most accurate biblical movie yet.” Yet?--as if the film medium were capable of a progressive movement toward truth? No! Suppose that I were to watch a video by someone who claims that he has produced a documentary featuring my family. After watching the video, I tell him that he has gotten a few things right but that everything else is wrong: yes, my wife’s name is Peggy; no, she doesn’t weigh 300 pounds. Yes, I have five children; no, they are not all girls. Yes, my kids are excellent athletes; no, they are not on the synchronized swimming team.

I’ve been told all too often that my concern for accuracy misses the fact that God can “use” these movies. Some have said, “Admittedly there are problems, but...but...the Lord can use a movie to get people interested in reading the Bible,” which, by the way, was a stated goal of the History Channel’s *The Bible*. Should I likewise conclude that the inaccurate documentary of “my family” might get some people interested in knowing my real family? Would they be disappointed that my kids are all very good runners but that my three sons are not huge fans of the “sport” of synchronized swimming? What happens when the multimillions who might be motivated to read the Bible because of all the Hollywood drama, effects, dialogue, and compelling music realize that it’s not in the “book version”?

A similar situation occurred when the Bibleman (a character playing off the popularity of super heroes Batman, Superman, Spiderman, Iron Man, etc.) video series and tour, through the “wisdom” of marketing, attempted to get pre-teens excited to read the Bible. They found that if the kids even bothered to look at the Bible at all, they were disappointed at not finding the fleshly excitement in the written Word that they had loved in the video.

5. There are many more aspects unique to the medium of film that work against the translation of the Bible into that means of communication. Through this art form, one is attempting to convince the audience that what they are seeing is believable. Shooting a scene in the place where the

actual biblical event took place may help its accuracy, but often, if that location doesn't quite satisfy what the film director believes an audience will accept, then it's "on to a more 'believable' location." For example, *The Passion of the Christ*, featuring Christ's crucifixion in Israel, was shot mostly in Italy.

6. This point may be the most serious error. Those who have played the character of Jesus in Bible-based movies from the last century on have all portrayed false Christs. Many spoke words that Jesus never spoke and misrepresented the character of the biblical Jesus. In a made-for-TV movie, as one example, Judas questions the Jesus character regarding his actions in clearing the moneychangers out of the Temple. Jesus' reply was that he blew it. This is a misrepresentation of the perfect, sinless God/Man. Yet, tragically, that--along with all the other misrepresentations of Jesus--are the only representations that millions upon millions around the world may ever see or hear about the One who came to save them from their sins.
7. Finally, the problem isn't only for the lost worldwide, but it is also a stumbling block for many evangelical Christians, even those with a reasonable amount of biblical discernment. I spoke at a conference about a year after *The Passion of the Christ* had its theatrical release. As I sat chatting with a group of young adult believers, Mel Gibson's movie somehow became the topic of our conversation. I listened, somewhat uncomfortably, to their glowing praises of the film and wondered how I might make an important point without seeming to be "preaching" to them. Then the thought came to me, Why not give these somewhat biblically literate Christians a Bible quiz of sorts? Having seen the movie a couple of times and written a book on the subject, it was easy for me to describe eight scenes in detail. The quiz part was, "Tell me which of the scenes are found in the Bible and which are not." The consensus of the group was that five were biblical and three were not. To their shock, they only got three correct; all eight were either from Mel Gibson's movie-making mind or the mystical nun's book (*The Dolorous*

Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ) to which Gibson had looked for more content in creating his script. I have great concern for our upcoming visual generation.

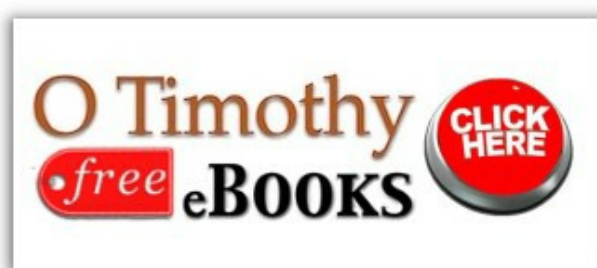
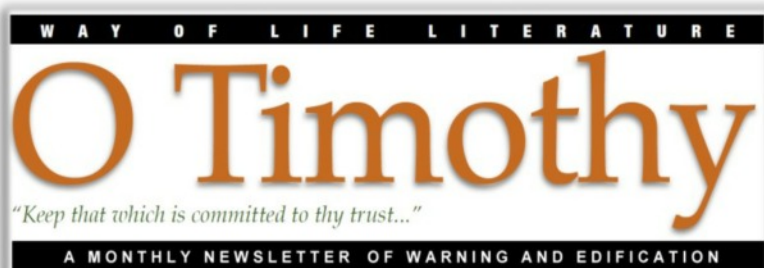
Ignorance of the visual medium with regard to so-called biblical productions is a serious problem among evangelicals of all generations. Without the support of evangelicals, whose churches bought out theatres so that their sheep and guests could view the film, Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* would have been a box-office flop. In *Showtime for the Sheep?*, I could have filled nine pages with endorsements from evangelical leaders for this production that Gibson described to Christianity Today as "his very Marian movie."

Yet the lack of discernment continues to abound. Here is a list of some of the advisors/endorsers for the History Channel's *The Bible*, most of whom were thrilled with the series' "biblical accuracy" or "bringing the Bible to life": Rick Warren, Joel Osteen, Nicky Gumbel, Luis Palau, Tony Campolo, Erwin McManus, T. D. Jakes, Leith Anderson of the National Association of Evangelicals, and Jim Daly of Focus on the Family. Details of their endorsements, as well as more endorsers can be found at:

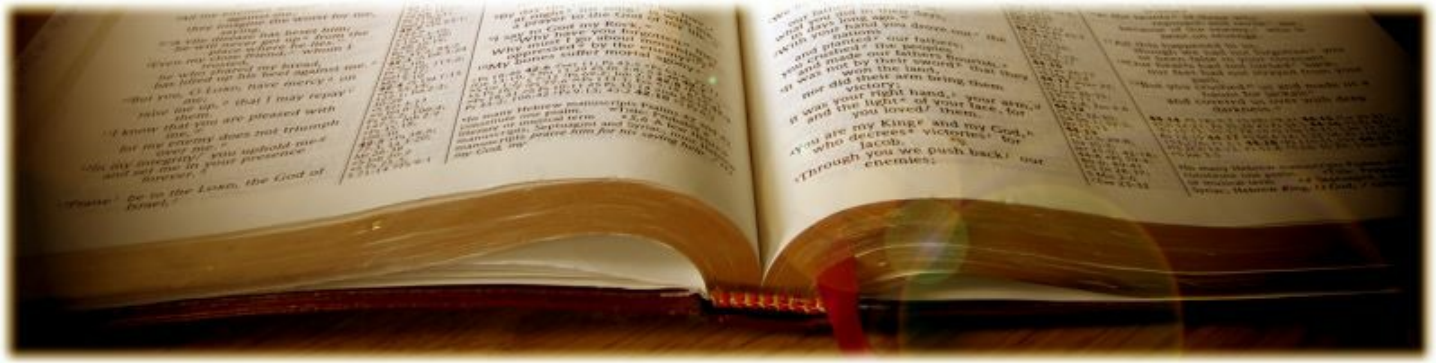
<http://www.outreach.com/the-bible/about.aspx>.

As overwhelming as this lack of discernment may seem in the church today, it has only just begun as Hollywood continues with its mistranslation of the Bible for Christians. Pray that the Lord's people will take to heart His words of warning: "Take heed that no man deceive you." Only the habit of daily reading God's Word and living it out will equip us with the discernment necessary to avoid being deceived.

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TEXT: II KINGS 4:12

Gehazi is mentioned by name twelve times in Scripture, and all of them are both in the same book and time period. Here in 2 Kings we see the prophet Elisha, who is a mighty man of God, the successor of the second man ever to have never tasted of death on earth. Elisha is training this man, Gehazi, who had the possibility of one day succeeding Elisha and doing something great as God's ambassador to His people. At least for now, Gehazi is a servant to Elisha.

He is first mentioned in our text, then again two verses later. This is the miracle in the raising of a woman's child who had been sick and then died. In these early two verses, we learn the lady was originally childless. Elisha then tells her that next year she will have a son, and this came to pass. Some time later, though, he gets sick and dies. The lady remembered Elisha and sought after him, believing he could do another miracle for her. Elisha does recognize her and dispatches Gehazi to meet her. However, she shrugs off Gehazi and then confronts the prophet. Elisha commands Gehazi to take his staff and lay it upon the dead child's face. He does as is commanded, yet the boy does not stir.

This reminds me of the disciples' inability to cure the possessed child in Mark 9, where the Lord has to cure him and when they asked Christ how come they couldn't do this, His response was : *"This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."* (v. 29) Sometimes our greatest desires cannot be answered with a simple seeking. The Lord expects our fervent prayers, but sometimes He is looking for a little more, and this may have been one of these occasions.

It is something worth considering when you haven't gotten what you want and it is the Lord's Will, like the salvation of a soul may take this extreme effort. It takes Elisha's prayer to God and some mouth to mouth resuscitation to bring the boy back to life. Gehazi then is

ordered to tell the lady to pick her son off the bed and go forward.

GEHAZI'S GREAT OPPORTUNITY

This was perhaps the greatest event Gehazi witnessed in his lifetime. I draw a tremendous observation from this: *watch and observe*.

If we just watch and observe how others in our local church(es) behave as they should by the changed life, it will make an impact in our lives.

I had a rare privilege that not many get to enjoy. When the Lord called me to the needs of Norwood, Massachusetts, I had no means of affording anything but food and gas for a while. Not only did God provide every other thing I needed, I got four good months of witnessing how a godly family operates. God is given first place in the home and is glorified. The husband takes leadership and loves his wife. The wife is submissive to her husband and at the same time instructs the children in the household. The children walk close to God, obey their parents, and do right.

I also observed the inner details of what a Pastor of a local church needs to do at times to properly run one of the Lord's candlesticks, feed his flock, and remain qualified to be in this God-given position. I'd like to praise God for something only He can do in hearts and lives! The world may have its advice and devices; but the people of God have the Word of God, and it is far greater to watch and observe those who have experience in running the race (cf. Heb. 12:1-2).

For years, Elisha had the opportunity to watch and observe Elijah, how he served, how he worshiped, and how he honored the Lord; and also how the Lord blessed and used him. Now Elisha was in the "driver's seat", and

Gehazi got to witness possibly the next greatest type of miracle, next to salvation, in the Bible; the resurrection of a soul.

While an event of this nature hasn't occurred since Eutychus (Acts 20), we can be certain that if you get real close to other godly Christians, they will make a positive impact.

As the only Christian in my family, I had no one else to turn to, but God undertook for me. He blessed me with a great Christian friend at work and a solid local church to turn to for worship and close fellowship. If you're the only Christian in your family, my heart goes out to you. I would also make a petition to you to watch and observe other Christians. Get as much fellowship as you can. Attend every time the doors of the local church are open, and make sure your pastor is teaching God's Word without error. Read and study the Bible, and watch and observe the behavior of the solid Christians in your assembly. You never know what blessings will come down the road when you have seen it done before.

NAAMAN TRIED TO BUY HIS HEALING

Chapter 5 is the tale of a man named Naaman. He sought healing for his leprosy and for his sin-sick soul. He is told to go to Elisha, who told him to go wash in the Jordan seven times, and he would be healed. Yet Naaman was irritated at one thing. It seems that he was willing to buy his healing. He had a lot of goods with him: ten talents of silver, six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment (v.5).

This has an estimated value today of somewhere around the three million dollar mark. However, he was trying to buy something even he and his \$3,000,000 couldn't buy. You can't buy what you need from God. Time after time a person will attempt to buy their way into Heaven. The religions of the world claim they have a way in, yet God said in His Word: *"(It is) not of works, lest any man should boast"* (Eph. 2:9).

The rich men believe they will get to Heaven by giving God "their" money; but the Lord, who owns the cattle of a thousand hills, owns "their" money, it is His to begin with, and Bill Gates' pocketbook isn't going to fit through the strait gate (cf. Matt. 7:13-14).

Doing things your own way only gets you into a heap of trouble. You need God to save you and you need God to get you out of your mess not only spiritually, but in every aspect of your life. Naaman was gloriously healed for free (v.14-16). However, he still had nearly \$3,000,000 in treasures with him, and his king would be asking how come

he still had the money if he went back to him with it. So he then attempts to give it away.

Elisha politely refuses his money. This was for a singular purpose. Naaman would have had a reason to brag. His sales pitch would have been: "Go to Elisha and be cured of your leprosy! It takes three million bucks! Go now! Don't delay!" Three million would not have even been close to enough to buy his healing.

No amount of money will buy you what you truly need from God, lost person or Christian alike. You need God to show you grace and you need Him to undertake. You can't buy your healing alone should you have a terminal illness. You need to petition the Lord if He would heal you or give you the grace to deal with whatever trial comes your way.

GEHAZI CHEAPENED THE BLESSING OF GOD UPON NAAMAN

Yet after Naaman finally goes away, here comes the servant of Elisha, Gehazi, who gets greedy. In so doing, he cheapens what God did by healing Naaman.

Gehazi was given two talents of silver and two changes of raiment, which has an estimated value of under fifty grand. He pared a tremendous miracle to something meager.

This is what happens when we as Christians live for the moment and lose our testimonies. We cheapen what God has done and make it look like a fifty thousand dollar reconstruction project, when in reality there was a price tag with a number we could never afford. Gehazi was judged and struck with the very same illness that Naaman had as a result (v.27).

Greedy acts may cost us dearly, children of God. He presumably lost his opportunity to be in Elisha's shoes one day. Note chapter eight though. We see Gehazi talking to the king about all Elisha did for the Shunamite woman in the tremendous miracle that took place in chapter four.

If this indeed took place chronologically, then he would have had to have gotten right with God, gotten right with Elisha, and was still used. This is a probability at best, and not a one hundred percent certainty, but if this was the case, then God still used him despite his fall.

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"Jesus was handling big money because that treasurer He had was a thief. Now you can't tell me that a ministry with a treasurer that's a thief can operate on a few pennies. It took big money to operate that ministry because Judas was stealing out of that bag." - John Avanzini, Praise The Lord, TBN, 09/15/1988

"Jesus had a nice house, a big house—big enough to have company stay the night with Him at the house. Let me show you His house. Go over to John the first chapter and I'll show you His house. . . Now, child of God, that's a house big enough to have company stay the night in. There's His house...

John 19 tells us that Jesus wore designer clothes. Well, what else you gonna call it? Designer clothes—that's blasphemy. No, that's what we call them today. I mean, you didn't get the stuff He wore off the rack. It wasn't a one-size-fits-all deal. No, this was custom stuff. It was the kind of a garment that kings and rich merchants wore. Kings and rich merchants wore that garment...

You don't think these Apostles didn't walk around with money? I mean, they had money. I just thank God that I



saw this and gave up the denominational line and got on God's line before I starved me and all my family to death. Go to Acts 24. I mean. You don't think there wasn't money in this Paul's life! ... Paul had the kind of money that people, that government officials, would, would block up justice to try to get a bribe out of old Paul." – John Avanzini, Believer's Voice of Victory, TBN, 01/20/91"

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LILIES OF THE FIELD

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Lifting Up The STANDARD

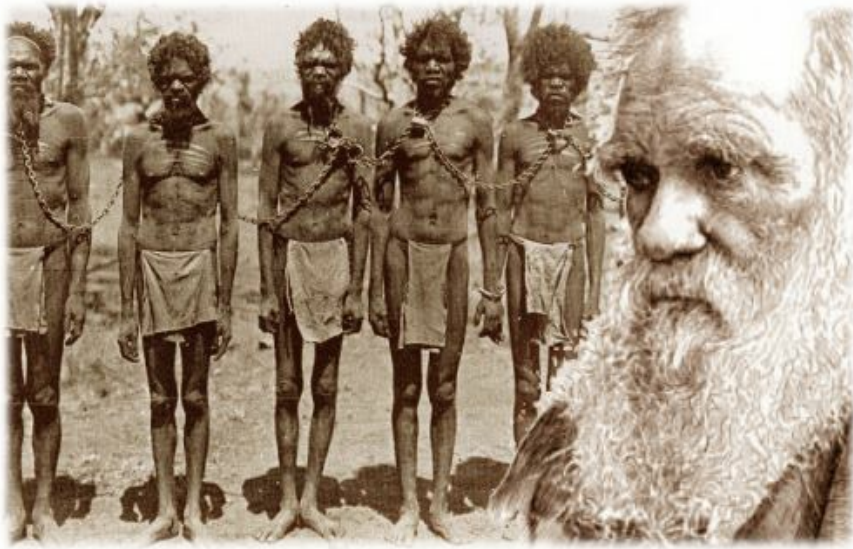
"WHEN THE ENEMY SHALL COME IN LIKE A FLOOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL LIFT UP A STANDARD AGAINST HIM" (ISAIAH 59:19).

An Outreach Ministry of FairHavens Baptist Church

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CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL





Charles Darwin and all of the founding evolutionists were racists who considered people such as the Negro, the Australian aborigine, and the Asian inferior to whites.

"Although racism certainly existed before the 1850s, evolution gave white Europeans a 'scientific' justification to dominate the 'less evolved' Africans and Australian Aborigines. Australian Aborigines were actually killed and taken to London as museum specimens of the 'missing link' between apemen and modern humans. A pygmy by the name of Ota Benga was placed on exhibit in the monkey house at the Bronx Zoo. What could justify such treatment of humans? Evolution was used to justify the display because the Africans, Aborigines, and Mongols (Asians) were arbitrarily considered inferior races to the Caucasians of Europe" (Roger Patterson, *Evolution Exposed*, p. 219).

In *Outcasts from Evolution*, John Haller documented "the ingrained, firm, and almost universal racism of North American men of science during the nineteenth (and into the twentieth) century."

Dr. Henry Morris observed, "It was not only Darwin and Huxley, the two top evolutionists, who were racists. All of them were!" (*The Long War Against God*, p. 61).

Other examples are Arthur Keith, Ales Hrdlicka, E. A. Hooton, and Henry Fairfield Osborn, head of the American Museum of Natural History.

Charles Darwin's influential book *On the Origin of Species* was subtitled "The preservation of favored races in the struggle for life," and he was not referring only to animals.

In *The Descent of Man*, Darwin even wrote that the "inferior" "savage races" would eventually be wiped out by the superior white race as a product of the "survival of the fittest."

"At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate and replace

THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

(Here are a few chuckles for the intellectuals among us - Ed)

- It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.
- A physicist, a mathematician and an engineer were each asked to establish the volume of a red rubber ball.

The physicist immersed the ball in a beaker full of water and measured the volume of the displaced fluid. The mathematician measured the diameter and calculated a triple integral. The engineer looked it up in his Red Rubber Ball Volume Table.

- Pavlov is sitting at a cafe enjoying a cup of coffee when the phone rings and he jumps up shouting "Oh no, I forgot to feed the dog!"
- Entropy isn't what it used to be.
- So this classics professor goes to a tailor to get his pants mended. The tailor asks: "Euripedes?" The professor replies "Yes. Eumenides?"
- How many Marxists does it take to screw in a lightbulb? None; the lightbulb contains the seeds of its own revolution.
- A Roman walks into a grocery store, holds up two fingers, and says, "Five loaves of bread, please"
- A mathematician, a physicist, and an engineer are hired by a farmer to build a fence that would enclose the largest amount of area possible.

The engineer decides to build a circular fence, since it was the most practical way of enclosing the most area.

The physicist starts building an infinitely long, straight fence that would encircle half the world.

The mathematician builds a small, round fence around only himself and says, "I declare myself to be on the outside!"

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throughout the world the savage races. At the same time the anthropomorphous apes ... will no doubt be exterminated. The break will then be rendered wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state, as we may hope, than the Caucasian, and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as at present between the negro or Australian and the gorilla."

In this quote, Darwin looked upon the negro and the Australian aborigine as just a little higher than the gorilla and he said they will be exterminated. *Exterminated!*

Thomas Huxley, Darwin's greatest promoter in England, was also a racist who looked upon non-whites as inferior. He wrote,

"No rational man, cognizant of the facts, believes that the average negro is the equal, still less the superior, of the white man" (*Lay Sermons, Addresses and Reviews*, 1871, p. 20).

Huxley argued that regardless of what privileges are given to the black man he will not "be able to compete successfully with his bigger-brained and smaller-jawed rival [Caucasians], in a contest which is to be carried on by thoughts and not by bites."

On a voyage to New Guinea, Huxley decided that it would be good if the Aborigines were wiped out. Their "elimination ... from the earth's surface can be viewed only with satisfaction, as the removal of a great blot from the escutcheon of our common humanity" (Adrian Desmond, *Huxley*, p. 144).

Ernst Haeckel, the most influential promoter of Darwinian evolution in Germany, believed in racial superiority, considering it a natural product of evolution. Some of his charts depicted the supposed evolution of modern man from the lower "race" (dark-skinned people) to the higher (Caucasians, and especially, of course, Germans).

He divided man into two "species" -- the straight-haired and the woolly-haired. He looked upon Australian aborigines as closer to apes or even dogs in their reasoning faculties than to the "higher humans."

Haeckel published a drawing of a tree populated by a gorilla, a orangutan, a chimpanzee, and a dark-skinned man.

In *The Natural History of Creation*, Haeckel featured a series of 12 drawings depicting the alleged evolution of man from the ape to Greek. There are six apes and six men. The highest ape looks much like the lowest man,

who is some sort of African negro or an Australian aboriginal. The drawings are heavily doctored, in that the apes are given more human features, while the "lower" humans are given more ape-like features.

He believed that "the lower species of men" are no more valuable than apes. "The value of life of these lower wild peoples is equal to that of the anthropoid apes or stands only slightly above them" (*From Darwin to Hitler*, p. 109).

Haeckel argued that since evolution rewards the "fittest," man should help evolution along by eliminating the unfit. He wrote,

"The cruel and unsparing 'struggle for existence,' which rages--and naturally must rage--everywhere in the biosphere, this unceasing and inexorable competition of all living creatures, is an undeniable fact; only the chosen minority of the privileges fit ones is in the condition to survive successfully this competition, while the great majority of the competitors must necessarily perish miserably" (*From Darwin to Hitler*, p. 80).

Haeckel "became one of Germany's major ideologists for racism, nationalism, and imperialism" (Daniel Gasman, *The Scientific Origins of National Socialism*, p. xvii).

Arthur Keith, one of Britain's top anthropologists, believed that war was necessary for "the building of stronger races" (Keith's preface to *Darwin's Theory Applied to Mankind*, p. viii).

The term "Mongoloid" or 'MONGOLISM' to describe a person with Down's syndrome, was devised from the racist Darwinian view. Dr. John Langdon Down (1828-96) believed Haeckel's Darwinian dogma of recapitulation, that the embryo passed through various stages of evolution, from fish to reptile to mammal to human. He considered the Asians (called by early Darwinists the Mongolian or Mongoloid "race") to be one of the "lesser" stages of evolution on the pathway to the superior Caucasian. He thought the problem with the Down's syndrome individual was that it had somehow gotten stuck in this process in the womb and had not evolved beyond the "mongoloid" or Asian stage.

Henry FAIRFIELD Osborn, one of the most prominent evolutionary scientists in America in the first half of the twentieth century, was a great racist. In 1926, he wrote that Negroes and Asians were inferior to the white Caucasians.

"The Negroid stock is even more ancient than the Caucasian and Mongolian, as may be proved by an examination not only of the brain, of the hair, of the

bodily characters, such as the teeth, the genitalia, the sense organs, but of the instincts, the intelligence. The standard intelligence of the average adult Negro is similar to that of the eleven-year-old youth of the species *Homo sapiens*" ("The Evolution of Human Races," *Natural History*, Jan.-Feb. 1926).

Osborn was prominent in the eugenics movement in America, which was dedicated to the development of "a new and improved race of men." He was the president of the Second International Congress of Eugenics in 1921. He praised the work of racists Jon Mj  en and Hermann Lundborg for giving men "a new appreciation of the spiritual, moral and physical value of the Nordic [white] race" (Edwin Black, *War Against the Weak: Eugenics and America's Campaign to Create a Master Race*, p. 244).

The influential Eugenics movement was Darwinian and racist to the core. Founded by Charles Darwin's cousin, Francis Galton, it was built upon the idea that the white race is superior and should be kept pure from intermixture with other "races."

In Germany the eugenics movement was called "race hygiene." The founder, Alfred Ploetz, said that his ideas about eugenics were drawn from Darwinism. He praised Haeckel as a key influence (Richard Wiekart, *From Darwin to Hitler*, p. 15). He wrote that "the hygiene of the entire human species coincides with that of the Aryan race ... [which] represents the civilized race par excellence; to further it is the same as furthering all of humanity" (p. 118). Ploetz's goal was to purify the "Nordic-Germanic race" of all impurity from inferior races.

HITLER WAS A COMMITTED DARWINIST.

Many books have documented the powerful influence of Darwinism on Hitler and his Nazi movement.

Henry Morris observes, "There is no question that evolutionism was basic in all Nazi thought, from beginning to end. Yet it is a remarkable phenomenon how few are aware of this fact today. ... above all, Hitler was an evolutionist in every fiber of his being. Nazism was an overripe fruit of the evolutionary tree" (*The Long War Against God*, p. 80).

Daniel Gasman says, "[Hitler] stressed and singled out the idea of biological evolution as the most forceful weapon against traditional religion, and he repeatedly condemned Christianity for its opposition to the teachings of evolution. ... For Hitler, evolution was the hallmark of modern science and culture, and he defended its veracity

as tenaciously as Haeckel" (Daniel Gassman, *The Scientific Origins of National Socialism*, 1971, p. 168).

In *Mein Kampf*, Hitler expressed his Darwinian thinking. The very title, which means "my struggle," reflects his belief in the survival or struggle of the fittest. *Mein Kampf*, the Bible of Hitler's National Socialism, sold 11 million copies in 1944 alone. Hitler envisioned a war between the master Nordic or Aryan race and inferior races that would culminate in a glorious millennial empire led by the "racially pure" elite. The head of Hitler's brutal Gestapo, Heinrich Himmler, said, "the law of nature must take its course in the survival of the fittest" (cited from Francis Schaeffer, *How Shall We Then Live?* p. 151).

Arthur Keith, British anthropologist and co-discoverer of the Piltdown Man, defended Hitler on the ground of evolutionary philosophy. He wrote, "The German Fuhrer, as I have consistently maintained, is an evolutionist; he has consciously sought to make the practices of Germany conform to the theory of evolution" (*Evolution and Ethics*, 1947, p. 28).

EVOLUTIONARY ART has invariably depicted inferior humans with the features of dark-skinned people.

Though modern evolutionists are quick to distance themselves from the racism that was rampant among Darwinians in the past, if evolution is true it would give racism a scientific basis. Why would all evolved men be equal? Why wouldn't some be more recently and more highly evolved? And if man is merely an animal and life is the product of chance with no ultimate purpose, why would racism be any more "wrong" than any other philosophy or morality?

It is only the the Bible's doctrine of divine creation, which teaches that men are made in the image of God, that gives men real equality and refutes racism. Creation teaches us that all men and women are children of the same father, Adam, and he was not an ape!

David Cloud and his wife have spent 20 years in South Asia as church planting missionaries. Together with their co-laborers they have had the privilege of pioneering Baptist church planting there in the 1980s and they continue this ministry today. They make their home in South Asia.

http://www.wayoflife.org/index_files/darwinian_racism.html

Way of Life Literature - www.wayoflife.org

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This morning we were reading from Colossians 1:19-29. Perhaps Paul was changing the stream. Verses 24-29. Then we were pointed to 1 Corinthians 15:58. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

We were very challenged by the illustration to follow. "As a final project for a final high school earth science class, a friend and I built a stream table. With extensive help from my father, we built a long plywood box with a hinge in the middle. Then we lined it with plastic and filled it with sand. At one end we attached a hose. At the other end was a drainage hole. After assembling all of it, we raised one end of the stream table, turned on the water, and watched as it created a path directly to the hole on the other end. The next part of the experiment was to place a rock in the stream and watch how it changed the path of the water.



This project taught me as much about life as it did about science. I learned that I can't change the direction things are going if I'm on the bank of the river. I have to step into the stream of life and stand there to divert the flow. That's what Jesus did. The Bible refers to Salvation as a rock (2 Samuel 22-47; Psalm 62:2,6-7), and the apostle Paul clarifies that Christ is that ROCK, (1 Corinthians 10-4.) God has placed Jesus in the stream of history to change its course.

When we remain steadfast in Christ, abounding in the work of the Lord, God uses us to change the course of history through acts of obedience that turn others to Him." (End quote)

As we read this today we were greatly challenged, "WE CAN'T CHANGE THE FLOW OF WATER STANDING ON THE BANK". The rock, and our Platypus have to be in the stream getting wet with the water, buffeted by the stream, chilled by the icy winds, to make any change on the flow of that stream.

How often we want to stand on the bank, snug in our beautiful homes, protected from the icy winds, whilst a

world of sinners flows idly by with no one to change their direct descent into an eternal hell. I am sure I heard The Lord say to me again, "How many lost souls will flow past you today as you stand on the bank just observing the situation?" Is there a challenge to us all, "Lets get down into the stream, change the flow, and point some poor sinner to Christ." I am so glad for those who were prepared to step into the stream some 63 years ago now and point me to a living Saviour, (The Rock) who set my path on a new way to life Eternal. (Hallelujah!)

The poet has said,

*The Master is seeking a harvest,
in lives He's redeemed by His blood;
He seeks for the fruit of the Spirit,
and works that will Glorify God.*

I'm not sure where Abraham Lincoln stood with the Lord, but he once said, "BE SURE TO PUT YOUR FEET IN THE RIGHT PLACE, THEN STAND FIRM."

"WHERE ARE WE STANDING?"

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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.




To A LOUSE


[ON SEEING ONE ON A LADY'S BONNET, AT CHURCH]




Ha! whare ye gaun, ye crowlin ferlie!
Your impudence protects you sairly:
I canna say but ye strunt rarely,
Owre gauze and lace;
Tho' faith! I fear, ye dine but sparely
On sic a place.




Ye ugly, creepin, blastit wonner,
Detested, shunn'd by saunt an' sinner,
How dare ye set your fit upon her,
Sae fine a lady!
Gae somewhere else, and seek your dinner
On some poor body.




Swith, in some beggar's haffet squattle;
There ye may creep, and sprawl, and sprattle,
Wi' ither kindred, jumping cattle,
In shoals and nations;
Whare horn nor bane ne'er daur unsettle
Your thick plantations.




Now haud you there, ye're out o' sight,
Below the fatt'rils, snug an' tight;
Na, faith ye yet! ye'll no be right
'Till ye've got on it,
The vera tapmost, tow'ring height
O' Miss's bonnet.




My sooth! right bauld ye set your nose out,
As plump and grey as ony grozet;
O for some rank, mercurial rozet,
Or fell, red smeddum,
I'd gie you sic a hearty doze o't,
Wad dress your droddum!




I wad na been surpris'd to spy
You on an auld wife's flannen toy;
Or aiblins some bit duddie boy,
On's wyliecoat;
But Miss's fine Lunardi! fie!
How daur ye do't?



O Jenny, dinna toss your head,
An' set your beauties a' abroad!
Ye little ken what cursed speed
The blastie's makin'!
Thae winks and finger-ends, I dread,
Are notice takin'!



O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us!
It wad frae mony a blunder free us,
An' foolish notion!
What airs in dress an' gait wad lea'e us,
And ev'n devotion!



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CARTOONS FOR OUR KIDS





Three times in John's account of the gospel, Jesus declares that we are not of the world (John 15:19, 17:14, 16). When He uses the word world (KOSMOS), He is speaking about this vile evil world system. Too often, the worries, the cares, and the lusts in this world appeal to the "old man" in our lives, and we find ourselves acting like the world. So, how are we to see ourselves in this world?

There are two wonderful words that the writer of Hebrews used in that section we call the walk of faith chapter, that describes how we really are in this present world as God's children: *Hebrews 11:13 "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."*

The two words the writer uses are strangers and pilgrims. These two words describe our relationship to this vile evil world – or they **should** describe that relationship of the believer to the world.

The first word STRANGERS is from the Greek word XENOS which means "a foreigner, a stranger, one without a share in." The stranger was considered as one that was opposite of the person known as the citizen of the country or the person that was an inhabitant of the land.

Digging deeper, the word XENOS can even mean a "wanderer or a refugee." Is that not our place in the world as believers? In the ancient world, the XENOS had a rather uncomfortable time in the world, as he was despised by others because he was a stranger.

Clearly, Peter is showing that we as God's children are strangers in this world. We should not be comfortable with the world. Beloved, we cannot be at home nor can we regard this world as our permanent home. As strangers, our ways must seem very odd and different to those who are of the world – if we are living according to God's word. As long as we are in the world, we must remember that our true citizenship is not of this world, but of and in heaven - *Philippians 3:20 "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."* When Paul uses the word "conversation," he used a word that quite literally means "citizenship."

But there is another word the writer of Hebrews uses to define our sojourn in this world – PILGRIM.

The word PILGRIM is the Greek word PARAPIDEMOS which means "one who comes from a foreign country into a city or land to reside there by the side of the natives." In classical Greek, this spoke of a person who had settled temporarily in a place without making it a permanent place of residence. This is a compound word made up of the word PARA, which means "beside," and the word EPIDEMEO, which means "among people."

Again, as believers, we are temporary residents in this world. We are literally "on the way." We may live here, but our real "roots" are not here and our permanent home is not here. Beloved, we are the people that are continually and literally "looking beyond" this world. The world is the "stopping place" on the way to our real home.

One of the great men of faith lived a life as such that sets a pattern of what it means to be a stranger and a pilgrim. That man's name, of course, was Abraham. Again, the writer of Hebrews tells us - *Hebrews 11:9 "By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose Builder and Maker is God."*

So, how are you and I seen in this world – a permanent resident or a stranger and pilgrim? I pray that all of us are seen as just passin' through this world of sin, and yet, being witnesses of the world for which we are heading. May our eyes be looking beyond as we travel through.

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Every once in a while I think of old Uncle Bill Amos, a 96 year old brother in the Lord we met in the 1960's in the Missouri Ozarks. He was born just a few years after the Civil War.

He and his 65 year old daughter Elsie came to church with us for a while. He'd lost his wife and she'd lost her husband so she moved back home to the little farm with dad. They lived down a narrow little dirt track, way back in a valley, not too far from Reeds Springs. No electricity, no car, only a dirt track to get in and out. He still chopped his own firewood, and milked a cow, and raised a garden. They'd get snowed in for weeks at a time. We came across them somehow, I think it was when somebody told me about them when I was doing shoe-leather visitation down a dirt road, house to house. I had read a book about "The Walking Preacher of the Ozarks" and decided to try it myself. The little country church that called me to my first pastorate was set on a hilltop outside Galena. We didn't have many people attending when I accepted the call, and the locals all told us that it would take years to be accepted, so I decided I would be a "walkin' preacher" too, and get my sweetheart to drop me off at one end of a road, and knock on all the doors I saw, and then she'd pick me up at the other end a few hours later. Somewhere along that road that day, somebody told me that Uncle Bill and Elsie would like a visit, so I called on them and they agreed to come to church if somebody would go and get them.

Old Uncle Bill was as deaf as a post. He couldn't hear a word I said as I preached, but he picked up that I was enthusiastic and happy and excited about the gospel, and he saw that people were getting saved, so he would nod his head in agreement. We used to have a testimony time most Sunday nights and he would sit there watching people stand up and share what God was doing for them. So he wrote his daughter a note one week at home and asked her what was happening when people stood up and talked and then sat down again. She explained to him that we were giving testimonies. So he decided he wanted to give a testimony next Sunday night. And he did. He stood up and told everybody how he was converted to Christ and how and when he got saved and what the Lord had meant to him all the years, and how he loved the preaching there at Grace Baptist Church. He just wanted to go to church and be seen to be on the Lord's side, even if he couldn't hear a lick.

He would tell me every Sunday as he got out of the car how much he enjoyed my preaching. That helped this little preacher and encouraged him. (Of course, if he'd had a hearing aid he might have changed his tune.)



It made me think of the old brother who went to church every time the doors were open. One of his friends asked him one day why he went, since he was deaf and couldn't hear a word. He replied, "I may not be able to hear what the preacher says, but at least people can tell I'm on the Lord's side."

Isn't that good? It reminds me of old Brother Denton, the pastor of West Side Baptist Church in our home town. He pastored for many, many years, and finally went into the nursing home. One day, when the nursing home staff weren't watching, he slipped out the door and walked off down the street. He hadn't been gone long when they noticed he was missing and went looking for him. They corralled the old preacher and asked him, "Bro. Denton, where were you going?" And he replied, "I was going on visitation to talk to some folks about the Lord."

It tells me that the fire may burn low in old age, but the coals are still there under the ashes, and all it takes is a breath of fresh air and they spring up to life again.

Just because there's snow on the roof don't mean there's no fire in the "chimbley."

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Heads Up!

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