



October 26, 2013

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"But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."  
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## **Heads Up!**

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## FEATURE ARTICLE - THE GENEROSITY OF OUR FATHER - by Buddy Smith



I was blest to have a generous father. He loved us kids and our mother in an openhanded and loving manner. One of my earliest memories was the wintry Saturday mornings when he would slip away from the house to do the grocery shopping for Mom and leave us kids to sleep in. The first thing we knew, he was waking us up with a new children's book to read. On a post-war salary of \$15 a week, Dad worked wonders. He only had a sixth grade education so he paid for a correspondence course and worked his way up the ladder in the telephone company. He bought a new car every few years. He paid off a little four room house, and then saved up for a brand new one, and sold it and bought another, and another until I felt that they lived in a mansion. Dad showed me how to get a loan to buy my first car, and every one after that. And when we went into the ministry, he paid off the car we had.

When I look back at all the acts of kindness he showed to us, I see that it wasn't the things he bought us that showed his generosity. It was the example he set, it was the way he worked, it was the relationships he built with men at work and with his pastor, and with the men at church. It was the generosity of his cheerfulness, of his outlook on life, of his patience with a headstrong son. It was the overflowing of his hopefulness that one day God would make something useful out of his kids.

I will never forget the sincerity of his laughter. If he ever laughed AT me, I can't remember it. But OH(!) the times we laughed together, mostly joyously, sometimes laughing AT someone, but I will never forget the generosity of his humour.

The verses that speak of the generosity of God are found on almost every page of Holy Scripture.

**He is the Giver of every good and perfect gift - James 1:17** *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. If we take the time to read the context of this verse, we see there is enormous breadth in the phrase "every good and perfect gift."*

The trying of our faith is a very sharp edged gift, but precious. Patience, too, is a great treasure. Wisdom is ours for the asking. And following hard on the heels of verse 17 is the gift of the new birth. Without a doubt God is the Greatest Giver in the universe!

**He is the daily provisioner of every creature on earth - Psalms 104:10-22** *"He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of the heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He watereth the hills from his chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth; And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the LORD are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted; Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens. The springs, the trees, the fruits of the land, grass for the cattle, herbs for man's use, the blood of the grape, oil for our skin, bread for encouragement, trees and caves for shelter for birds and animals, even the sun and moon, light and darkness God has provided for our good.*

And if you wonder **what is that INFINITE Motivating Force that moves our Heavenly Father to be always so generous**, it is to be found in **Romans 8:32**, *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*

Three beautifully intertwined truths are contained in this verse.

- **God's generosity cost Him His Son** - This world of men knows nothing of love like God's love. *He spared not his Son, but delivered Him up for us all.* The love of God moved Him to the ultimate act of generosity, completely paying for our sins by expending His wrath upon the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins.
- **God has already given to us the Greatest Gift we can ever receive** - In the dispensing of His gifts, God gives the best gift first. **John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* **1 John 4:9-10** *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* **John 1:11-12** *"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"* **1 John 5:11-12** *"And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."*
- **Since God has already given us His Son, He will freely give us all things - Romans 8:32** *"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"* So what about this "all things?" I am sure the Health, Wealth, and Prosperity crowd has made much of these words. It is never necessary for preachers to limit God or to say He didn't mean what He said. God Himself said, **James 4:2-3** *"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."* God is not going to give you everything you ask for. He knows it would destroy you. He sets the limits of His giving so that His gifts agree with His own character. His gifts agree with His nature. All the good and perfect gifts of James 1, all the providential gifts of Psalm 104, all the gifts that accompany the gift of His Son in Romans 8, and all the other gifts God gives will always work good in us. **Romans 8:28-29** *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."*

It is a wonderful Bible truth that our Father is the most generous Person in the Universe!

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## BLINDED MINDS –

(Ed. - Most pastors are not aware of the wolves that creep in among the LORD'S sheep until the flock begins to dwindle. When the pastor/shepherd inquires as to their whereabouts, he often finds that somebody gave them a book, or invited them to watch a DVD that sowed the subtle errors of one of an arch-heretic into their minds. The pastor/shepherd wonders how it was that they could so easily be deceived, never asking himself why his preaching was so timid that he never named the wolves or shot them every chance he had. Spong is a good example of the wolves that prey on the flock.)

<http://www.religionnews.com/2013/10/10/aging-maverick-episcopal-bishop-john-shelby-spong-regrets/>

AN AGING MAVERICK, EPISCOPAL BISHOP JOHN SHELBY SPONG HAS NO REGRETS - *David Gibson*



John Shelby Spong sits at his desk at his New Jersey home on Sept. 12, 2013. The liberal churchman writes longhand with a fountain pen on yellow legal pads. *RNS photo by David Gibson*

**MORRIS PLAINS, N.J. (RNS)** At 82, retired and enjoying life, Bishop John Shelby Spong doesn't have to be the liberal enfant terrible whose pronouncements for gay rights and against traditional dogmas once scandalized Christendom.

Indeed, many of the views that once turned the former Episcopal bishop of Newark into a lightning rod are now regarded as so matter-of-fact that they barely occasion much notice: ordaining gay clergy and blessing same-sex marriages, for example, or having a female presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, the first woman elected to lead a national church in the Anglican Communion. "I can remember when getting a woman as a rector was the hardest thing you ever did," Spong said with a gratified smile as he relaxed on a sofa in the suburban New Jersey home he shares with his wife, Christine. ("I was told to put a collar on. I haven't worn one in a long time.")

On a range of issues, Spong can point to advancements that he helped push during a long and remarkable career – 20 years as a priest in North Carolina and Virginia and 24 years as a bishop in

## DEACON TRUE SEZ -



Saw old Uncle Jack re-building his fence t'other day. He was puttin' in new posts and wire to raise it lots higher so I stopped and chewed the cud with him for a bit, "What for you raisin' that fence up so much? Them sheep ain't learned to jump over the old one, have they?"

"Nope, they don't jump the fence at all. It's them deer and wild goats what like free grass and them coyotes what's got a taste for lamb. You don't need much of a fence to keep the sheep in. It's them freeloaders I gotta keep out," he replied.

So I told him about the sermon our preacher preached last week on "Rice Christians", you know, the ones that the Lord fronted up to in John 6:53-71, and how he said that some folks are like goats or deer or coyotes. They don't belong to the flock at all, but they sure like chewin' that green grass and them new lambs.

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## NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- To trust some of the Bible is to trust none of the Bible ~ *pb*
- The two red flags of a false doctrine are a man's name and a date. ~ *pb*
- When I was a little boy I went to school right next door to Sherwood Forest. One day our teacher took us out into the forest and told each one of us to bring back an acorn. We put it on our desk, and she asked us, "What is inside your acorn?" I thought I would be real smart so I raised my hand and answered, "An oak tree!" She said, "No, there is a forest in that acorn!" I never forgot that. ~ *Leonard Ravenhill*

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Newark. During that time, he became an unabashed provocateur in the fierce debates over sexuality that split many churches, including his own, both in the U.S. and abroad. Through it all, Spong never retreated an inch. By the time he retired in 2000, his own diocese had 35 openly gay and lesbian clergy, and he also helped promote a new generation of church leaders who can carry his progressive torch: 11 clerics from his tenure are now bishops, more than from any other diocese, he says.

At the same time, Spong also became a best-selling author who routinely, and infamously, questioned long-held doctrines and literal interpretations of the Bible. The Virgin Birth, the bodily resurrection of Jesus, the historical accuracy of Jesus' sayings in the Gospels – all these and much more were targets of Spong's pointed pen during his heyday. "It was really a very exciting time," he said of the fight for rights for gays and women. "That battle was very controversial. But that battle is so over today. That battle is won." Yet while he finds the victory deeply satisfying, he says he doesn't take personal pride in this tectonic shift.

"I was simply interpreting a rising consciousness," he said. "Whether it was race or women or homosexual people, the issue was always the same: fighting against anything that dehumanizes a child of God on the basis of an external characteristic." Now, he said, "I feel mellow," his soft drawl burnishing the tone of reflection. "And I don't think I've changed, particularly. I'm just not controversial in my church anymore." But those who love Spong – and the many who love to hate him – need not worry: He is hardly going gently into that good night. He seems as vital and youthful as ever, tall and lanky with a shock of reddish hair that still falls insistently across his forehead. He does four miles every morning on the treadmill, and he and his wife travel about 60 percent of the year, mainly at the invitation of audiences who want to hear more from Spong. And he has a new book out – his 24th. This latest one is a take on the Gospel of John called "The Fourth Gospel: Tales of a Jewish Mystic." As the subtitle suggests, Spong reads the Gospel through a Jewish lens, as he has done in many of his works. Yet this book is also an unusual one for Spong. Not only is John considered the least historically reliable of the four Gospels, but it is also the one most focused on the divinity of Jesus at what many would say is the expense of his humanity, which has been Spong's chief interest. Spong doesn't think any of the Gospels are literal retellings of the life of Christ. "All of them were written 40 to 70 years after the Crucifixion, in a language that Jesus did not speak, and not by eyewitnesses," he said. "I see them more as Jewish interpretive portraits painted by Jewish artists try to capture the essence of this man's life." Those are, of course, the kinds of statements that set many Christians

— even many fellow Episcopalians — on edge, to say the least. "A lot of people hear me attacking their certainty. I don't have any interest in doing that. I'm interested in penetrating the meaning of certainty. We have to get beyond the symbols. And John's Gospel does that for me." Still, he concedes, "I wouldn't have touched John's Gospel even 10 years ago." But age has a way of shifting one's focus. In 2010, Spong published a book on life after death ("Eternal Life: A New Vision") that he had abandoned 25 years earlier because "I clearly wasn't ready to write it." Even in his late 70s, describing the afterlife was a struggle. "I had no vocabulary for it," he said. "I don't think much about my physical body going off into the long, green fairways of heaven to play golf." In a sense, following the path of a mystic — like the author of the Gospel of John — only became possible as Spong, the rational-minded Bible scholar, aged. And that process in turn seems to have highlighted Spong's roots as a pastor and teacher — a spiritual writer as much as a controversialist. "The older I get the more deeply I believe but the fewer beliefs I have," he said, citing an adage once relayed to him by an older bishop. "And I think that's probably where I am. I have a sort of mystical awareness (of God) that's indescribable, but I can't avoid it. When I'm asked to define God I'm almost wordless."

Not that he's toothless, by any stretch. He still relishes the memory of past battles with the likes of Fox News' Bill O'Reilly. "I really like him, strangely enough. Once you get him off camera he's a very decent man. Much of that's his persona. He's a tough nut on the air, hard to get a word in edgewise. I think he's got a personal integrity. I've really enjoyed him." HBO's Bill Maher, who comes from the other side of the spectrum from O'Reilly, also had Spong on his cable show many times. "He's violently anti-religious in his pronouncements and yet he introduced me once as his favorite theologian in America," Spong said. Despite the labels that have stuck to him — maverick, reformer, revolutionary and, of course, heretic — Spong thinks of himself "as an old-fashioned religion man." "It always surprises my critics. Plenty of people out there think of me as the Antichrist or the devil incarnate because I do not affirm the literal patterns of the Bible. But the fact is I can no more abandon the literal patterns than I could fly to the moon. I just go beyond them." He's currently writing about the Gospel of Matthew, though he isn't sure whether it will be a book or just part of the weekly column he writes. "I'm 82. I can't be sure I'll be alive in the two or three years it'll take me to finish it." However it turns out, Spong will be happy if people take something positive away from it. "It's been kind of nice to get past the controversial stuff," he said, "and have people begin to appreciate me."



## POPE FRANCIS ASSURES ATHEISTS: YOU DON'T HAVE TO BELIEVE IN GOD TO GO TO HEAVEN - *Michael Day*



In comments likely to enhance his progressive reputation, Pope Francis has written a long, open letter to the founder of *La Repubblica* newspaper, Eugenio Scalfari, stating that non-believers would be forgiven by God if they followed their consciences.

Responding to a list of questions published in the paper by Mr Scalfari, who is not a Roman Catholic, Francis wrote: "You ask me if the God of the Christians forgives those who don't believe and who don't seek the faith. I start by saying – and this is the fundamental thing – that God's mercy has no limits if you go to him with a sincere and contrite heart. The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience.

"Sin, even for those who have no faith, exists when people disobey their conscience."

Robert Mickens, the Vatican correspondent for the Catholic journal *The Tablet*, said the pontiff's comments were further evidence of his attempts to shake off the Catholic Church's fusty image, reinforced by his extremely conservative predecessor Benedict XVI.

"Francis is a still a conservative," said Mr Mickens. "But what this is all about is him seeking to have a more meaningful dialogue with the world."

In a welcoming response to the letter, Mr Scalfari said the Pope's comments were "further evidence of his ability and desire to overcome barriers in dialogue with all."

In July, Francis signalled a more progressive attitude on sexuality, asking: "If someone is gay and is looking for the Lord, who am I to judge him?"

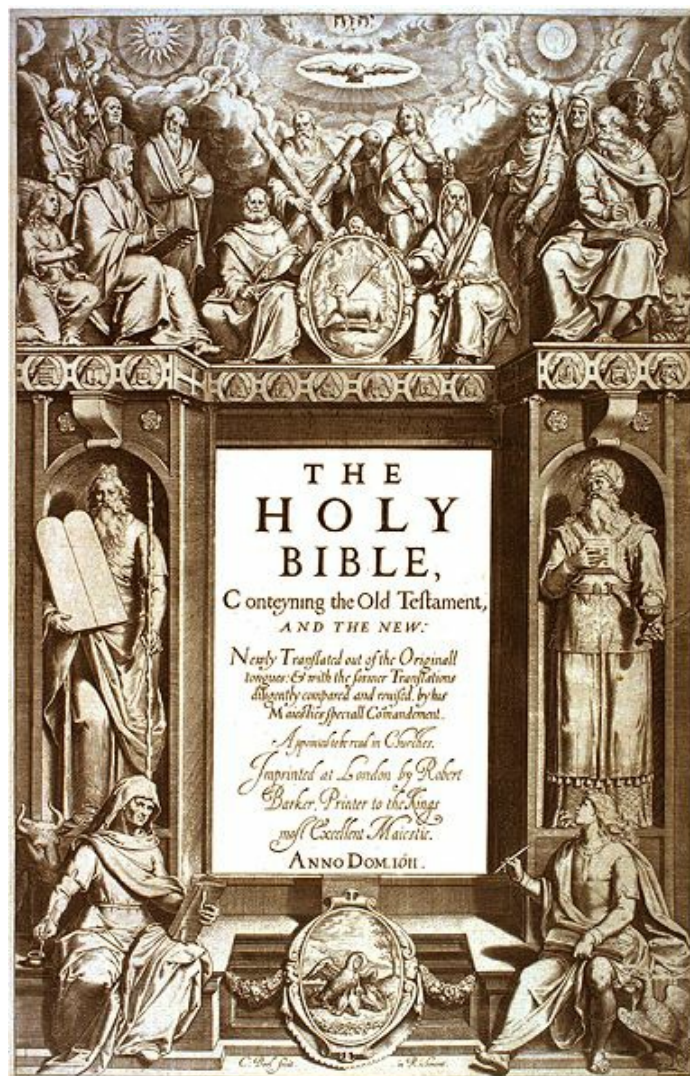
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## THE COUNTRY THAT PRODUCED THE KING JAMES BIBLE TO REMOVE IT FROM COURTROOMS

Source; Daily Mail - 07 October 2013

Defendants and witnesses in British courts will no longer swear on the Bible to tell the truth under controversial plans being considered by a powerful body of judges. England today is in the midst of a liberal firestorm. Having allowed, for the past 20 years, Islam to multiply and flourish within their borders, they now find themselves being crowded out of their own country.

Now to "seal the deal", they are drawing up plans to have the God of the bible kicked out of their courtrooms. And what will God do about it? He will leave them to their own devices, as He does with ALL nations that reject Him and His holy word.



**The title page to the 1611 first edition of the Authorized Version Bible.**

**From Daily Mail UK:** Defendants and witnesses in British courts will no longer swear on the Bible to tell the truth under controversial plans being considered by a powerful body of judges.

The traditional religious oath could be scrapped amid concerns that many giving evidence in criminal cases no longer take it seriously. Instead, all witnesses and defendants would promise to tell the truth without mentioning God, and would acknowledge they could be jailed if they are caught lying.

It is claimed the new oath would be fairer for everyone and make it easier to understand the importance of what they are saying.

But critics point out non-believers already have the option of promising to tell the truth without any reference to a sacred text, and that the change would further erode Britain's Christian heritage.

The historic change will be debated this month by the Magistrates' Association, and if it is voted through the organisation's influential policy committee will draw up plans to be sent to the Ministry of Justice.

The Rt Rev Michael Nazir-Ali, former Bishop of Rochester, said: 'This could be the slippery slope towards the increasing secularisation of society. Where will it end - with the Coronation Oath? The Bible is bound up with the

constitution, institutions and history of this country. It is right for people to have a choice of oath, a religious or non-religious one.

'But we are being urged, in the name of tolerance and secularisation, to restrict that choice.'

This is the face of England today. Islam is in the ascension and has forever changed the landscape of Britain. Followers of other faiths are given copies of their sacred texts with Muslims swearing on the Koran and Jews on the Old Testament, for instance. Those who choose instead to make an affirmation are required to 'solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm' the truth of their evidence.

Under this new proposal, the scriptures of all faiths would be removed and the oath would read: 'I promise very sincerely to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth and I understand that if I fail to do so I will be committing an offence for which I will be punished and may be sent to prison.'

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## GREEN CHURCH FOR SALE - by Andrew Bolt - October 10 2013

One of the most Left-wing of churches is now in debt:

The hammer is about to fall on 56 Uniting Church properties in Victoria as the church tries to raise \$56 million to pay debts incurred in the calamitous collapse of Acacia College last year.

[S]tate secretary Mark Lawrence said the sales would affect at least 14 church complexes. Among the churches being sold are Brunswick West, Glenroy, Strathmore, Hawthorn West and Doncaster East.

Malcolm McIlvena, the secretary at St David's Uniting Church in Brunswick West, said: "They've told us we are out after 105 years..."

He said the weekly congregation was down to about 20 - in the 1930s the Sunday School alone had 200 members - but the church hall was in use every night for tai chi, children's drama and the like.

Dr Lawrence ... said the sales involved less than 1 per cent of the church's properties - it has more than 600 congregations in Victoria and Tasmania and runs 32 welfare agencies - and no services would be cut.

Here's how the Uniting Church now publicly presents itself - more as a kind of Green party than a church:



The Uniting Church in Australia is committed to social justice, valuing the inherent dignity of all people. The statements and resolutions found here represent our interest in national and international issues of justice, peace and environmental sustainability.

Some of the issues addressed include: justice for refugees and asylum seekers; positive action to address climate change; peaceful solutions to terrorism and international conflict; international trade and industrial relations policies which support the most vulnerable people; active citizenship; and an end to violence, racism, discrimination and the abuse of human rights.

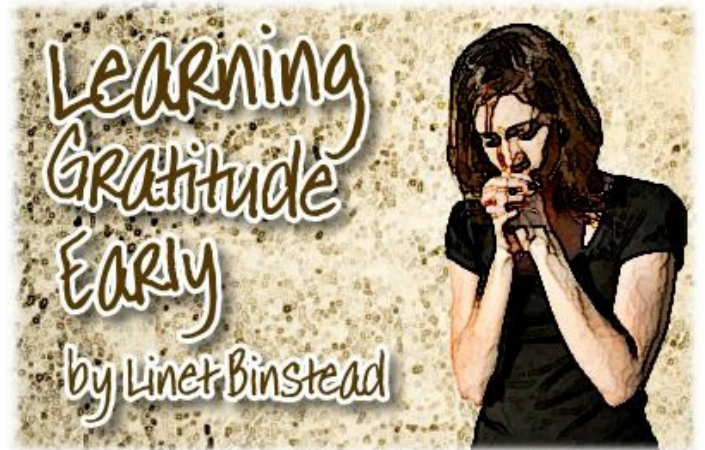
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## LEARNING GRATITUDE EARLY - by Linet Binstead

I am extremely thankful that when we think we have our lives planned out, God steps in and shows us His plan. Earlier on this year, I took the week of the 22nd – 28th of September off from work. I had plans for that week. I prayed about it all year. Surely this was God's will that my plans come together. How could it not be?

Well, I had my plans. And God had His. His over-ruled. My plans fell through. I was devastated. Why hadn't God allowed it to happen? I had prayed all year about it, and had been so certain that it was God's will! The first day of my week off, I cried. I wasn't supposed to be at home, I was supposed to be on holiday! Then the Lord touched me and said, "I know that you didn't get what you asked for this week. But, I'm going to give you something else."

That same week our church's family camp was on. Our family hadn't booked ahead, and so wasn't planning on going. But, a friend from church offered me a lift in her car. She had a spare seat, and a spare bed in her cabin. And so, my plans were overruled by my Heavenly Father. Am I glad I went to the family camp? Yes. Do I still wish that I had been able to attend the event that I had planned? Well, yes. But, you know what? Even though attending our church camp wasn't my dream holiday, those few days gave me something beautiful: The



reminder that God loves me, and if He says 'No' to my prayers, it's because He has something better in store.

Joni Eareckson once said, 'I suggest there are only 2 joys. One is having God answer all your prayers; the other is not receiving the answer to all your prayers. I believe this because I have found that God knows my needs infinitely better than I know them, And He is utterly dependable, no matter which direction our circumstances take us.' Thank you, Lord.

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## THE WORDS GOD CHOSE TO USE - by Pastor Tom Hill



Some of the words we find in the Scriptures started out with the noblest of meanings, but soon degenerated into something of a much more dastardly sort. One of those words is found only seven times in the New Testament.

This word first appears in Romans 2:8 But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath. The word is "CONTENTIOUS." The Greek word is ERITHEIA. By the time ERITHEIA was used in the Bible, it meant in its Bible usage, "a courting distinction, a desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit which does not disdain low arts; partisanship, fractiousness."

According to H. D. Thayer (Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament), the word "is found before NT times only in Aristotle where it denotes a self-seeking pursuit of political office by unfair means." It is used mostly in the New Testament to denote a fault that literally will destroy a true church when exhibited by a member or

members in that church. For instance, Paul uses it in 2 Corinthians 12:20 in a list of sins that were destroying the church at Corinth. Paul also lists ERITHEIA among the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:20 (translated as "strife").

It is found two times in the book of Philippians. There, Paul used it to speak about the wrong motive in preaching (1:16), and of the wrong manner in which to live and serve the Lord (2:3). James used it twice as well in 3:14 & 16. There, in the context, James is showing two kinds of wisdom. The wisdom which is not from above includes "strife."

So, what was the noble meaning before the word degraded into something undesirable that had come into the churches?

In the study of root words, one would think that it came from the same word Paul uses in Romans 13:13, which is "ERIS" ("strife"). It almost appears to be of the same word family. But that is not the case. It comes from the word ERITHOS. ERITHOS spoke of a day laborer, and was often used in reference to a spinner or weaver. It was a good word, and very respectable, as it soon came to mean "labor for wages." But like with other words, it soon moved toward a much darker meaning. It started being used to describe a laborer that merely worked for money and nothing else. As one writer stated it, it spoke of an attitude of a worker that said, "What do I get out of it?"

Soon, it came to speak of one seeking public office, not to give service for others, but for whatever that man could do to gain more honor for himself, along with any sort of profit. The downward trend continued to the place that ERITHEIA came to speak of a "party squabble." This was the seeking of a position for more power in both the secular world and sadly, among churches. The darkness of the word grew even more when it came to speak about simply "selfish ambition." All idea of service disappeared, and it became a word that describes the sinful nature of mankind.

When one reads the way that the word described what was going on in the church at Corinth, it becomes very

clear that this is why the church had divided into so many different groups instead of one Body unified in Christ. Many were concerned with the own selfish ambition than they were for others in the church, and certainly without much concern at all (if any) for Christ and the furthering of the Kingdom of God. At Philippi, some preachers were more concerned about their fame and greatness, rather than seeking to give the Savior glory. Perhaps these had titles such as "Dr." before their names and demanded for all to acknowledge that degree. The preacher James Denny stated, "No man can at one and the same time prove that he is clever and that Christ is wonderful." How many churches and/or pastors have come to such a place?

ERITHEIA was at first a good and noble word, that illustrates human nature, in that it started out speaking of labor that man would do for a day's pay, to one of absolute selfishness and pride. When we consider the nations in the world today, it becomes very evident that the problems of economics, policies, and the like, are not a result of this political party or that political party, but it is the result of ERITHEIA – "What can I get?" Self becomes supreme.

What happened to the church at Corinth? What happened to the once loving church at Ephesus? No doubt, ERITHEIA was allowed to flourish and permeate those churches, until all that mattered was "ME."

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University of Regina researcher Mauricio Barbi holds a hadrosaur skin sample that he and his colleagues hope will still contain melanosomes, the cellular organelles that contain pigments that control skin colour. “If we are able to observe the melanosomes and their shape, it will be the first time pigments have been identified in the skin of a dinosaur,” he said. “We have no real idea [yet] what the skin looks like. Is it green, blue, orange ...”<sup>1</sup>

Such is the power of the dinosaurs-died-out-millions-of-years-ago paradigm, that it not only limits what scientists *expect* to find, but also bizarrely affects how they view ‘unexpected’ evidence when they *do* find it.

The discovery of hadrosaur (duck-billed dinosaur) skin near Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, is a classic example. University of Regina researcher Mauricio Barbi recounts: “As we excavated the fossil, I thought we were looking at a skin impression. Then I noticed a piece came off and I realized this is not ordinary—this is real skin. Everyone involved with the excavation was incredibly excited ....”<sup>2</sup>

Their excitement is understandable. Everybody is taught that dinosaurs became extinct millions of years ago yet here is a piece of real skin. No wonder they didn’t expect to find it, and initially thought it must have been only a skin impression.

The basic question arising from the discovery ought now to have been, “Why is it that we’ve been taught these fossils are millions of years old, when here quite plainly is evidence to the contrary?”

Instead, Mauricio Barbi and colleagues are trying to answer *their* question: “how the fossil remained intact for around 70 million years.”

They plan to use the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron to look at melanosomes—the cellular organelles that contain pigments that control the colour of an animal’s skin.

*Mauricio Barbi and colleagues are trying to answer their question: ‘how the fossil remained intact for around 70 million years.’*

“If we are able to observe the melanosomes and their shape, it will be the first time pigments have been identified in the skin of a dinosaur,” said Barbi. That will determine if the hadrosaur skin was green or grey like most dinosaurs are currently portrayed, or a completely different colour.



CLS scientist Tim May is also amazed: “It is astonishing that we can get information like this from such an old sample.” And Barbi further mused: “What’s not clear is what happened to this dinosaur and how it died. There is something special about this fossil and the area where it was found, and I am going to find out what it is.”<sup>3</sup>

If only these researchers could look at the world’s geological and fossil evidence through the biblical framework of a 6,000-years-ago Creation and 4,500-years-ago Flood timeline, they would be way less incredulous.

The photo at below shows part of the hadrosaur skin sample found in a remote area of northwestern Alberta known as the Wapiti formation. It was found by paleontologist Philip Bell, who trawls the dry riverbeds



there every summer, looking to see if the spring runoff has exposed any fossils.

Sure enough, in June 2012 he and his team came upon a cliff that had collapsed, revealing dinosaur remains. “I first picked up a bit with skin impressions, and I thought,

great, there should be more in there," he said. "We immediately changed our approach to make sure everything was kept in pristine condition. Soon, we hit upon a section of skin that was glossy and black, unlike anything I had ever seen in the field before. We looked at it closely, and realized that it had a three-dimensional structure."<sup>4</sup>

Now, does Dr Bell consider that the standard textbook slow-and-gradual processes were at work to preserve this skin so exquisitely? Despite believing in millions-of-years and evolution, he says: "Obviously skin is something that decays rapidly, so the fossilization must have been incredibly fast."

For some enlightening material on how such fast fossilization could occur, Dr Bell would do well to read our articles [Deluge disaster](#) and [Dinosaur herd buried in Noah's Flood in Inner Mongolia](#).

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“<sup>5</sup> For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: <sup>6</sup> Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished.”

2 Peter 3:5-6

## THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

A tour guide was talking with group of school kids at Yellowstone Park when one of the kids asked him if he had ever come face to face with a wolf.

"Yes, I have. Only once, face to face. As it happened, I was alone and without a weapon."

The little girl put both hands over her mouth and gasped, "What did you do?"

"What COULD I do? First, I tried looking him straight in the eyes, but he stepped toward me. So I stepped back. And he growled and showed his teeth and crouched down like he was going to spring. I knew I had to think fast if I was going to get away."

"How did you get away?"

"I knew I would have to move fast if I was going to survive..... So I turned and walked to the next cage."

---

I urgently needed a few days off work, but, I knew the Boss would not allow me to take leave. I thought that maybe if I acted "Crazy" then he would tell me to take a few days off. So I hung upside-down on the ceiling fan and made funny noises.

My co-worker (who's blonde) asked me what I was doing. I told her that I was pretending to be a light bulb so that the Boss would think I was "Crazy" and give me a few days off.

A few minutes later the Boss came into the office and asked, "What in the world are you doing?" I told him I was a light bulb.

He said, "You are clearly stressed out. Go home and recuperate for a couple of days." I jumped down and walked out of the office.

When my co-worker (the blonde) followed me, the Boss asked her, "And where do you think you're going?"

She said, "I'm going home, too. I can't work in the dark."

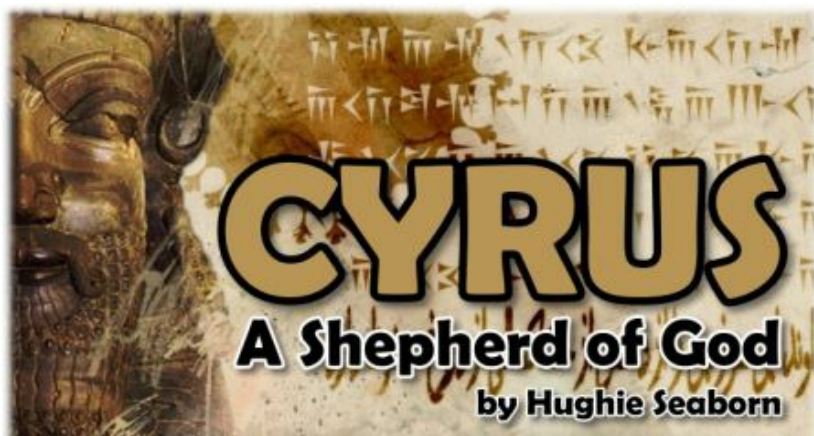
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## THE COMPUTER IS DOWN

I work in a busy office, and when a computer goes down, it causes quite an inconvenience. Recently one of our computers not only crashed, but it also made a noise that sounded like a heart monitor.

"This computer has flat-lined," a co-worker called out with mock horror. "Does anyone here know how to do mouse-to-mouse?"

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be none other than King Cyrus the Persian, and this was generations before Cyrus was even born. Following are the relevant scriptures associated with this express period of Jewish history and also an account by Josephus the historian (who lived in the same historical period as Jesus Christ), regarding the prophecy of Isaiah and also the effect that this same prophecy had upon King Cyrus of Persia when he read his own name recorded in God's holy word.

### JEREMIAH

#### THE PROPHETIC WORD

Recently, while studying in the Word of God, I had reason to reacquaint myself with the prophecy recorded in the 25th chapter of the book of Jeremiah which foretold that the Jews would be exiled to Babylon for a specific period of seventy years, after which time they would be returned to Jerusalem to rebuild their ruined temple and city.

This is one of a number of noted prophecies which is tendered whenever it is deemed necessary to make the point that God's Word is infallible, and that the prophecies which are recorded in the Bible are words from God, spoken by holy men under the anointing of the Holy Spirit which are bound to come to pass. The prophecies are bound to come to pass because the success rate for God's prophets is no less than one hundred per cent.

In this very same field of fulfilled historical prophecies, and particularly in reference to the return of the Jews from Babylon to their homeland, is revealed, in my estimation, one of the most amazing and exciting accounts of God's omniscience. He knows the things that will happen before they come to pass.

While it is true that God used Jeremiah to reveal to the people that they would be taken into captivity to Babylon at the hand of King Nebuchadnezzar, and also that the duration of the captivity would be specifically seventy years, nevertheless, more than a century before Jeremiah came upon the scene, the prophet Isaiah spoke forth the word of God proclaiming that the Jews would be captured and oppressed by the Babylonians, then, after a period, returned to their homeland.

More amazingly though, Isaiah even went so far as to name the person who would be responsible for their release. He boldly announced that the redeemer would

Jeremiah appeared upon the scene of Jewish history about one hundred years after Isaiah. He was born into a priestly family at Anathoth (Anata), a few miles north of Jerusalem, about 640 BC, and was called to be God's prophet in 627 BC, when, as recorded in Jeremiah 1:6, he was still 'a child', a term which probably meant advanced adolescence.

The prophecy which foretold of the seventy year period of captivity was made by Jeremiah in the year 605 BC, and is recorded for our benefit in:

#### Jeremiah 25:1-14:

<sup>1</sup> The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; <sup>2</sup> The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,

<sup>3</sup> From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened. <sup>4</sup> And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending *them*; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.

<sup>5</sup> They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever: <sup>6</sup> And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt. <sup>7</sup> Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, <sup>9</sup> Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations.

<sup>10</sup> Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. <sup>11</sup> And this whole land shall be a desolation, *and* an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. <sup>12</sup> And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, *that* I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations. <sup>13</sup> And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, *even* all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations. <sup>14</sup> For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

#### ISAIAH

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the 8th century BC. In chapter six of the book that bears his name, he describes his call from God which happened in the year of King Uzziah's death (about 740 BC).

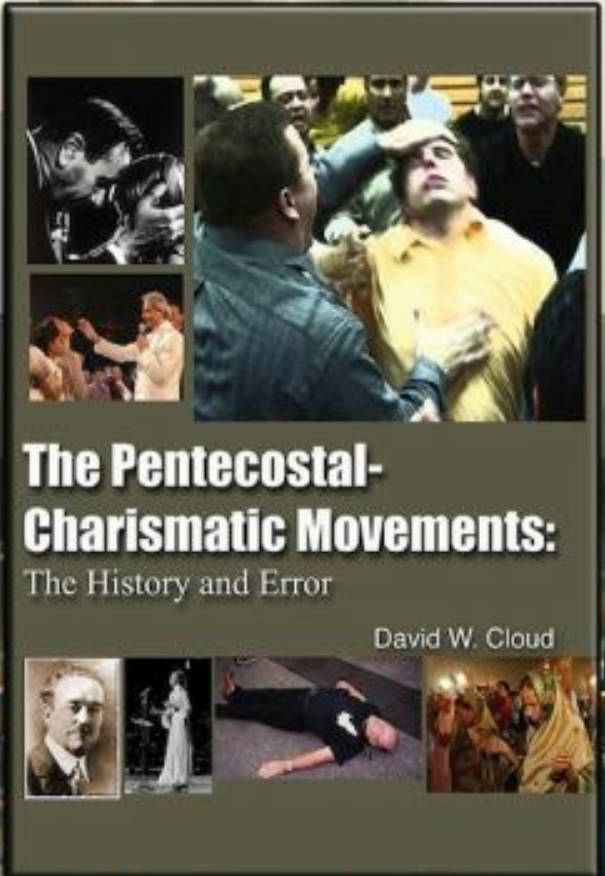
He prophesied for over forty years, through the reigns of Jotham (a godly man like his father), Ahaz (one of Judah's worst kings) and Hezekiah. He may have lived on into the dark days of the evil King Manasseh.

Many find it difficult to believe that Isaiah could actually have named the king (Cyrus) so far in advance. But they fail to believe that God can reveal what no man could possibly predict.

His word assures us in **Isaiah 42:9**, "Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."

The following prophesy was made by Isaiah one hundred and forty years prior to the demolition of the temple in Jerusalem at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar in the year 587 BC. It would be another fifty years (536 BC) until Cyrus of Persia would in turn invade and destroy Babylon.

Approximately two hundred years before the event took place, God spoke through His prophet proclaiming not



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only the event, *but also declaring the name of the person* who would be used as His redeeming instrument.

**Isaiah 44:24 - 45:13**

<sup>24</sup> Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, *I am* the LORD that maketh all

*things*; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; <sup>25</sup> That frustrateth the tokens of the liars, and maketh diviners mad; that turneth wise *men* backward, and maketh their knowledge foolish; <sup>26</sup> That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: <sup>27</sup> That saith to the deep, Be dry, and I will dry up thy rivers: <sup>28</sup> That saith of Cyrus, *He is* my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

<sup>1</sup> Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut; <sup>2</sup> I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron: <sup>3</sup> And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call *thee* by thy name, *am* the God of Israel. <sup>4</sup> For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.



King Cyrus takes Babylon.

<sup>5</sup> *I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else, *there is* no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: <sup>6</sup> That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that *there is* none beside me. *I am* the LORD, and *there is* none else. <sup>7</sup> I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these *things*. <sup>8</sup> Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the LORD have created it.

<sup>9</sup> Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! *Let* the potsherd *strive* with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or

thy work, He hath no hands? <sup>10</sup> Woe unto him that saith unto *his* father, What begetteth thou? or to the woman, What hast thou brought forth?

<sup>11</sup> Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me. <sup>12</sup> I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, *even* my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded. <sup>13</sup> I have raised him up in righteousness, and I will direct all his ways: he shall build my city, and he shall let go my captives, not for price nor reward, saith the LORD of hosts.

## THE ACCOUNTS OF THE BOOKS OF CHRONICLES & EZRA

The second book of Chronicles, chapter 36, verses eleven to twenty-three, and the first chapter of the book of Ezra, verses one to eleven both have the same account recorded of how King Cyrus of Persia was stirred by the Spirit of God to send the Jewish captives in Babylon back to their homeland in Jerusalem.

### 2 Chronicles 36:11-23

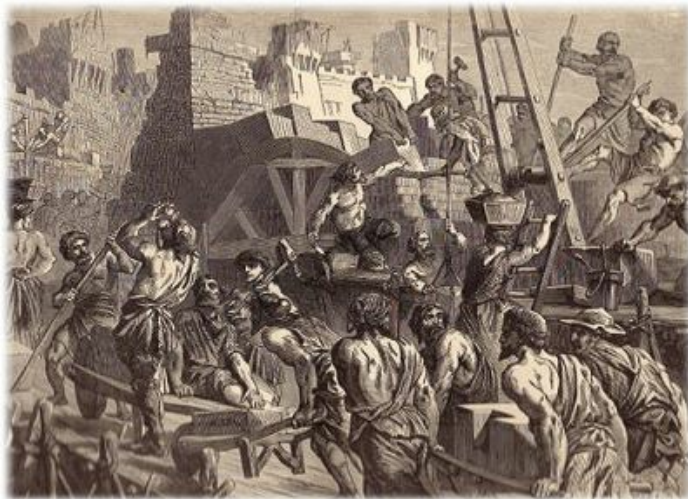
<sup>11</sup> Zedekiah *was* one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> And he did *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD his God, *and* humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet *speaking* from the mouth of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel. <sup>14</sup> Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

<sup>16</sup> But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till *there was* no remedy. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave *them* all into his hand. <sup>18</sup> And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all *these* he brought to Babylon. <sup>19</sup> And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. <sup>20</sup> And them that had escaped from the sword

carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:  
<sup>21</sup> To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: *for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.*

### CYRUS CALLED

<sup>22</sup> Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD *spoken* by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and *put it* also in writing, saying, <sup>23</sup> Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. *Who is there* among you of all his people? The LORD his God *be* with him, and let him go up.



The Jews restore the city and temple.

### JOSEPHUS

Thus far we have scrutinised the Biblical record of the calling of King Cyrus as God's instrument of release to the captive Jews.

We have looked at the particular prophecies that were made regarding the actual captivity and eventual release, the prophecy that specifically named King Cyrus, and the reasons for God's judgment upon the Jews.

We will now look at an extra-biblical account which has been recorded by Flavius Josephus, a Jewish priest, historian, and author who was born in 37 AD and died sometime after 100 AD.

In the first year of the reign of Cyrus, which was the seventieth from the day that our people were removed out of their own land into Babylon, God commiserated

the captivity and calamity of these poor people, according as He had foretold to them by Jeremiah the prophet, before the destruction of the city, that after they had served Nebuchadnezzar and his posterity, and after they had undergone that servitude seventy years, He would restore them again to the land of their fathers, and they should build their temple, and enjoy their ancient prosperity; and these things did God afford them; for He stirred up the mind of Cyrus, and made him write this throughout all Asia:- "Thus saith Cyrus the King:- Since God Almighty hath appointed me to be king of the habitable earth, I believe that He is that God which the nations of the Israelites worship; for indeed He foretold my name by the prophets, and that I should build Him a house at Jerusalem, in the country of Judea."

*This was known to Cyrus by his reading the book which Isaiah left behind him of his prophecies; for this prophet said that God had spoken thus to him in a secret vision:- "My will is, that Cyrus, whom I have appointed to be king over many and great nations, send back My people to their own land, and build My temple."*

This was foretold by Isaiah one hundred and forty years before the temple was demolished. Accordingly, *when Cyrus read this, and admired the divine power, an earnest desire and ambition seized upon him to fulfill what was so written; so he called for the most eminent Jews that were in Babylon, and said to them, that he gave them leave to go back to their own country, and to rebuild their city Jerusalem, and the temple of God, for that he would be their assistant, and that he would write to the rulers and governors that were in the neighbourhood of their country of Judea, that they should contribute to them gold and silver for the building of the temple, and besides that, beasts for their sacrifices.*

When Cyrus had said this to the Israelites, the rulers of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, with the Levites and priests, went in haste to Jerusalem, yet did many of them stay at Babylon, as not willing to leave their possessions; and when they were come thither, all the king's friends assisted them, and brought in, for the building of the temple, some gold, and some silver, and some a great many cattle and horses.

So they performed their vows to God, and offered the sacrifices that had been accustomed of old time; I mean this upon the rebuilding of their city, and the revival of the ancient practices relating to their worship.

Cyrus also sent back to them the vessels of God which king Nebuchadnezzar had pillaged out of the temple, and carried to Babylon.

So he committed these things to Mithridates, the treasurer, to be sent away, with an order to give them to Sanabasar, that he might keep them till the temple was built; and when it was finished, he might deliver them to the priests and rulers of the multitude, in order to them being restored to the temple.

Cyrus also sent an epistle to the governors that were in Syria, the contents whereof here follow:-

### The Decree of Cyrus

“King Cyrus to Sisinners and Sathrabuzanes, sendeth greetings.

“I have given leave to as many of the Jews that dwell in my country as please to return to their own country, and to rebuild their city, and to build the temple of God at Jerusalem, on the same place where it was before.

“I have also sent my treasurer, Mithridates, and Zorobabel, the governor of the Jews, that they may lay the foundations of the temple, and may build it sixty cubits high, and of the same latitude, making three edifices of polished stone, and one of the wood of the country, and the same order extends to the altar whereupon they offer sacrifices to God.

“I require also that the expenses for these things may be given out of my revenues.

“Moreover, I have also sent the vessels which king Nebuchadnezzar pillaged out of the temple, and have given them to Mithridates the treasurer, and to Zorobabel the governor of the Jews, that they may have them carried to Jerusalem, and may restore them to the temple of God.

### The Inventory

“Now their number is as follows:- Fifty chargers of gold and five hundred of silver; forty Thericlean cups of gold, and five hundred of silver; fifty basons of gold, and five hundred of silver; thirty vessels for pouring (the drink offerings,) and three hundred of silver, thirty vials of gold, and two thousand four hundred of silver; with a thousand other large vessels.

I permit them to have the same honour which they were used to have from their forefathers, as also for their small cattle, and for wine and oil, two hundred and five thousand and five hundred drachmae; and for wheat-flour twenty thousand and five hundred artabae: and I give order that these expenses shall be given them out of the tributes due from Samaria.

“The priests shall also offer these sacrifices according to the laws of Moses in Jerusalem; and when they offer them, they shall pray to God for the preservation of the king and of his family, that the kingdom of Persia may continue.

“But my will is, that those who disobey these injunctions, and make them void, shall be hung upon a cross, and their substance brought into the king’s treasury.”

And such was the import of this epistle. Now the number of those that came out of the captivity to Jerusalem, were forty-two thousand four hundred and sixty-two.

### CONCLUSION

This example of fulfilled prophecy demonstrates the power and knowledge of God in a way that should quell any arguments as to the reality of a living and personal God who is interested and involved in the affairs of mere humans like you and me, but of course it won’t.

As Jesus states in Luke 16:31, even if one should rise from the dead, there are those who still will not believe.

I try to imagine what it would have been like to be King Cyrus when he actually read the Book of Isaiah and realised that these words were addressed to him personally. He just happened to come across some old scrolls and was reading them with mild interest when he noticed his name mentioned.

Josephus records that the king became very zealous to carry out what had been written approximately two centuries previous.

What were the emotions that gripped king Cyrus as he read the scrolls? What inner passion caused him, the most powerful man in the world at that time, to desire to do the will of a God he had never known? The impact upon him must have been tremendous. He would have been astonished as he realised that the words were to him personally.

God’s desired reaction, experienced by Cyrus to the written words, was taken into account by Him when the prophecy was first proclaimed centuries before Cyrus was even born. The words had to have the needed effect, which was of course the return of the Jews to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the city. The reaction had to be dramatic and powerful enough to cause a conquering and victorious king to sit up and take notice.

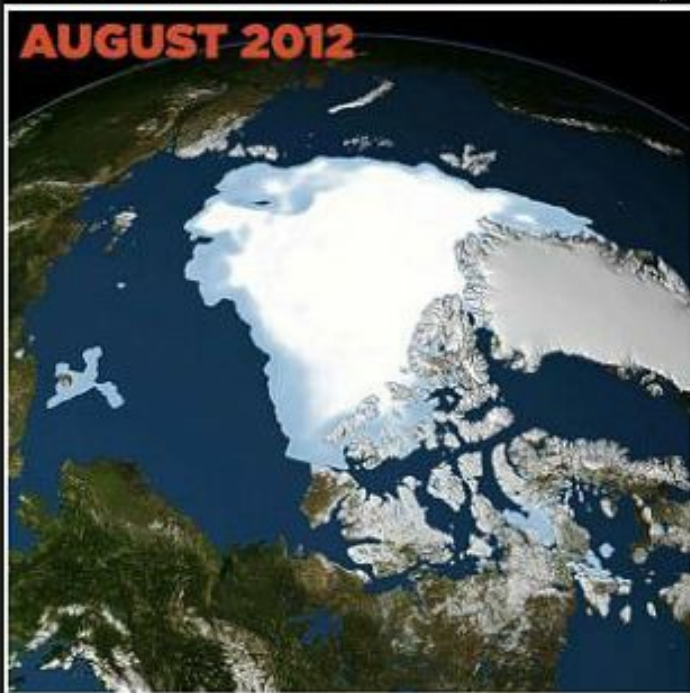
Scripture and history show that God’s plan prevailed.

### DATES

- Isaiah’s period of prophecies - (approx.) 740 - 700 BC.
- Jeremiah’s prophecy - 605 BC.
- Solomon’s temple destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar - 587 BC.
- Babylon captured by King Cyrus - 536 BC.
- Jews return under Zorobabel - 535 BC.

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## HOW ICE SHEET GREW 533,000 SQUARE MILES IN A YEAR



**CONTRACTION:** This Nasa satellite image shows the ice at the smallest extent on record, with much of the Arctic Ocean uncovered



**RECOVERY:** Contrary to predictions that the ice would have vanished by this summer, it has actually increased by 29 per cent from last year

### RECORD RETURN OF ARCTIC ICE CAP AS IT GROWS BY 60% IN A YEAR

- Almost a million more square miles of ocean covered with ice than in 2012
- BBC reported in 2007 global warming would leave Arctic ice-free in summer by 2013
- Publication of UN climate change report suggesting global warming caused by humans pushed back to later this month

A chilly Arctic summer has left nearly a million more square miles of ocean covered with ice than at the same time last year – an increase of 60 per cent.

The rebound from 2012's record low comes six years after the BBC reported that global warming would leave the Arctic ice-free in summer by 2013.

Instead, days before the annual autumn re-freeze is due to begin, an unbroken ice sheet more than half the size of Europe already stretches from the Canadian islands to Russia's northern shores.

The Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific has remained blocked by pack-ice all year. More than 20 yachts that had planned to sail it have been left ice-bound and a cruise ship attempting the route was forced to turn back.

Some eminent scientists now believe the world is heading for a period of cooling that will not end until the middle of this century – a process that would expose computer forecasts of imminent catastrophic warming as dangerously misleading.

The disclosure comes 11 months after The Mail on Sunday triggered intense political and scientific debate by revealing that global warming has 'paused' since the beginning of 1997 – an event that the computer models used by climate experts failed to predict. In March, this newspaper further revealed that temperatures are about to drop below the level that the models forecast with '90 per cent certainty'.

The pause – which has now been accepted as real by every major climate research centre – is important, because the models' predictions of ever-increasing global temperatures have made many of the world's economies divert billions of pounds into 'green' measures to counter climate change.

Those predictions now appear gravely flawed.

### THERE WON'T BE ANY ICE AT ALL! HOW THE BBC PREDICTED CHAOS IN 2007

Only six years ago, the BBC reported that the Arctic would be ice-free in summer by 2013, citing a scientist in the US

who claimed this was a 'conservative' forecast. Perhaps it was their confidence that led more than 20 yachts to try to sail the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific this summer. As of last week, all these vessels were stuck in the ice, some at the eastern end of the passage in Prince Regent Inlet, others further west at Cape Bathurst.

Shipping experts said the only way these vessels were likely to be freed was by the icebreakers of the Canadian coastguard. According to the official Canadian government website, the Northwest Passage has remained ice-bound and impassable all summer.

The BBC's 2007 report quoted scientist Professor Wieslaw Maslowski, who based his views on super-computer models and the fact that 'we use a high-resolution regional model for the Arctic Ocean and sea ice'.

He was confident his results were 'much more realistic' than other projections, which 'underestimate the amount of heat delivered to the sea ice'. Also quoted was Cambridge University expert

Professor Peter Wadhams. He backed Professor Maslowski, saying his model was 'more efficient' than others because it 'takes account of processes that happen internally in the ice'.

He added: 'This is not a cycle; not just a fluctuation. In the end, it will all just melt away quite suddenly.'

The continuing furore caused by The Mail on Sunday's revelations – which will now be amplified by the return of

the Arctic ice sheet – has forced the UN's climate change body to hold a crisis meeting.

The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was due in October to start publishing its Fifth Assessment Report – a huge three-volume study issued every six or seven years. It will now hold a pre-summit in Stockholm later this month.

Leaked documents show that governments which support and finance the IPCC are demanding more than 1,500 changes to the report's 'summary for policymakers'. They say its current draft does not properly explain the pause.

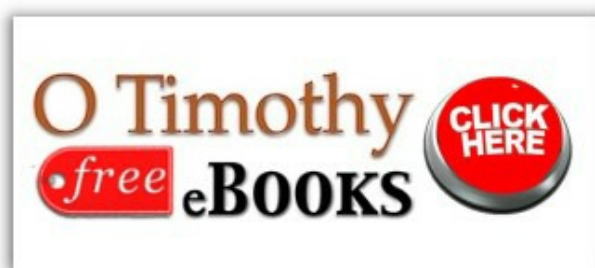
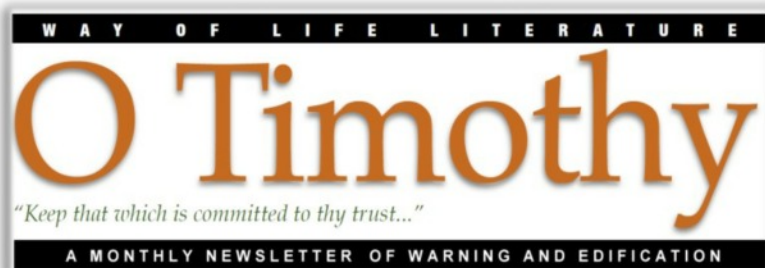
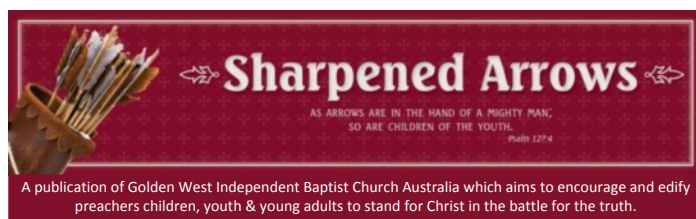
At the heart of the row lie two questions: the extent to which temperatures will rise with carbon dioxide levels, as well as how much of the warming over the past 150 years – so far, just 0.8C – is down to human greenhouse gas emissions and how much is due to natural variability.

In its draft report, the IPCC says it is '95 per cent confident' that global warming has been caused by humans – up from 90 per cent in 2007.

This claim is already hotly disputed. US climate expert Professor Judith Curry said last night: 'In fact, the uncertainty is getting bigger.'

It's now clear the models are way too sensitive to carbon dioxide. I cannot see any basis for the IPCC increasing its confidence level.'

She pointed to long-term cycles in ocean temperature, which have a huge influence on climate and suggest the world may be approaching a period similar to that from



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1965 to 1975, when there was a clear cooling trend. This led some scientists at the time to forecast an imminent ice age.

Professor Anastasios Tsonis, of the University of Wisconsin, was one of the first to investigate the ocean cycles. He said: 'We are already in a cooling trend, which I think will continue for the next 15 years at least. There is no doubt the warming of the 1980s and 1990s has stopped.'

Then... NASA satellite images showing the spread of Arctic sea ice 27th August 2012

And now, much bigger: The same Nasa image taken in 2013

'The IPCC claims its models show a pause of 15 years can be expected. But that means that after only a very few years more, they will have to admit they are wrong.'

Others are more cautious. Dr Ed Hawkins, of Reading University, drew the graph published by The Mail on Sunday in March showing how far world temperatures have diverged from computer predictions. He admitted

the cycles may have caused some of the recorded warming, but insisted that natural variability alone could not explain all of the temperature rise over the past 150 years.

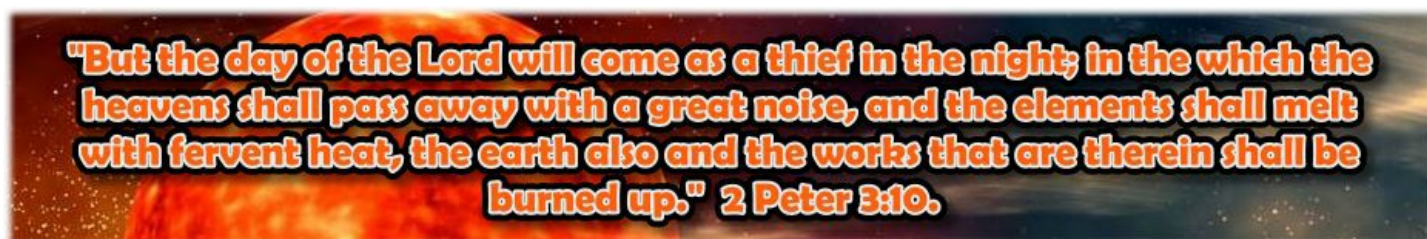
Nonetheless, the belief that summer Arctic ice is about to disappear remains an IPCC tenet, frequently flung in the face of critics who point to the pause.

Yet there is mounting evidence that Arctic ice levels are cyclical. Data uncovered by climate historians show that there was a massive melt in the 1920s and 1930s, followed by intense re-freezes that ended only in 1979 – the year the IPCC says that shrinking began.

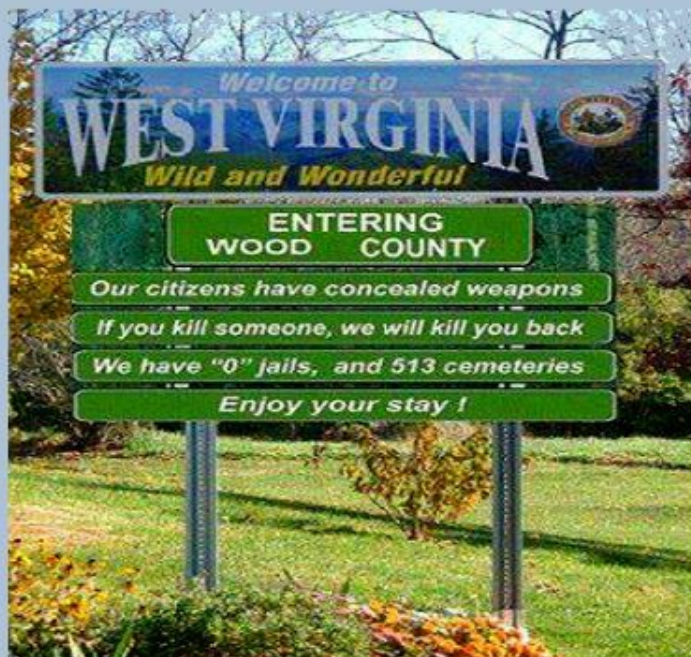
Professor Curry said the ice's behaviour over the next five years would be crucial, both for understanding the climate and for future policy. 'Arctic sea ice is the indicator to watch,' she said.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2415191/Global-cooling-Arctic-ice-caps-grows-60-global-warming-predictions.html#ixzz2eKpgrCiw>

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## POSTER-ITY - WE ALL DECIDE WHERE WE WANT TO LIVE!



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Ernie Pyle served as a war correspondent in England, North Africa, and in the South Pacific. He was a little short red headed chap, liked by everybody, and prolific in his correspondence. I just received his book *Here Is Your War* as a Father's Day gift (we observe Father's Day in September here in Australia.) The edition our daughter sent was first printed the month I was born, May, 1944.

From Algiers in North Africa he wrote, "It was late afternoon at our desert airdrome. The sun was lazy, the air was warm, and a faint haze of propellor dust hung over the field, giving it softness. It was time for the planes to start coming back from their mission, and one by one they did come - big Flying Fortresses and fiery little Lightnings. Nobody paid a great deal of attention, for this returning was a daily routine thing.

Finally they were all in - all, that is, except one. Operations reported a Fortress missing. Returning pilots said it had lagged behind and lost altitude just after leaving the target. The last report said the Fortress couldn't stay in the air more than five minutes. Hours had passed since then. So it was gone.

Ten men were in that plane. The day's accomplishments had been great, but the thought of ten lost friends cast a pall over us. We had already seen death that afternoon. One of the returning Fortresses had released a red flare over the field, and I had stood with others beneath the great plane as they handed its dead pilot, head downwards through the escape hatch onto a stretcher.

The faces of his crew were grave, and nobody talked very loud. One man clutched a leather cap with blood on it. The pilot's hands were very white. Everybody knew the pilot. He was so young a couple of hours before. The war came inside us then and we felt it deeply.

After the last report, half a dozen of us went to the high control tower. We went there every evening for two

things - to watch the sunset, and to get word on the progress of the German bombers that frequently came just after dusk to blast our airdrome.

The sunsets in the desert are truly things with souls. The violence of their color is incredible. They splatter the sky and the clouds with a surging beauty. The mountains stand stark against the horizon, and palm trees silhouette themselves dramatically against the fiery west.

As we stood on the tower looking down over this scene, the day began folding itself up. Fighter planes, which had patrolled the field all day, were coming in. All the soldiers in the tent camps had finished supper. That noiseless peace that sometimes comes just before dusk hung over the airdrome. Men talked in low tones about the dead pilot and missing Fortress. We thought we would wait a few minutes more to see if the Germans were coming over.

And then an electric thing happened. Far off in the dusk a red flare shot into the sky. It made an arc against the dark background of the mountains and fell to the earth. It couldn't be anything else. It had to be. The ten dead men were coming home.

'Where's the flare gun? Gimme a green flare!' yelled an officer.

He ran to the edge of the tower, shouted, 'Look out below!' and fired a green rocket into the air. Then we saw the plane - just a tiny black speck. It seemed almost on the ground, it was so low, and in the first glance we could sense that it was barely moving, barely staying in the air. Crippled and alone, two hours behind all the rest, it was dragging itself home.

I was a layman, and no longer of the fraternity that flies, but I could feel. And at that moment I felt something close to human love for that faithful, battered machine,

that dark speck struggling toward us with such pathetic slowness.

All of us stood tense, hardly remembering anyone else was there. With all our nerves we seemed to pull the plane toward us. I suspect a photograph would have shown us all leaning slightly to the left. Not one of us thought the plane would ever make the field, but on it came - so slowly that it was cruel to watch.

It reached the far end of the airdrome, still holding its pathetic little altitude. It skimmed over the tops of parked planes, and kept on, actually reaching out - it seemed to us - for the runway. A few hundred yards more now. Could it? Would it? Was it truly possible?

They cleared the last plane, they were over the runway. They settled slowly. The wheels touched softly. And as the plane rolled on down the runway the thousands of men around the vast field suddenly realized that they were weak and that they could hear their hearts pounding.

The last of the sunset died, and the sky turned into blackness, which would help the Germans if they came on schedule with their bombs. But nobody cared. Our ten dead men were miraculously back from the grave. And what a story they had to tell! Nothing quite like it had happened before in this war.

The Tripoli Airdrome, which was their target, was heavily defended, by both fighter planes and anti-aircraft guns. Flying into that hailstorm, as one pilot said, was like a mouse attacking a dozen cats.

The Thunderbird - for that was the name of their Fortress - was first hit just as it dropped its bomb load. One engine went out. Then a few moments later the other engine on the same side went.

When both engines went out on the same side it was usually fatal. And therein lay the difference of that feat from other instances of bringing damaged bombers home.

The Thunderbird was forced to drop below the other Fortresses. And the moment a Fortress dropped down or lagged behind, German fighters were on it like vultures. The boys didn't know how many Germans were in the air, but they thought there must have been thirty.

Our Lightning fighters, escorting the Fortresses, stuck by the Thunderbird and fought as long as they could, but finally they had to leave or they wouldn't have had enough fuel to make it home. The last fighter left the

crippled Fortress about forty miles from Tripoli. Fortunately, the swarm of German fighters started home at the same time, for their fuel was low too.

The Thunderbird flew on another twenty miles. Then a single German fighter appeared, and dived at them. Its guns did great damage to the already crippled plane, but simply couldn't knock it out of the air. Finally the fighter ran out of ammunition and left. Our boys were alone with their grave troubles. Two engines were gone, most of the guns were out of commission and they were still four hundred miles from home. The radio was out. They were losing altitude, five hundred feet a minute - and then they were down to two thousand. The pilot called up his crew and held a consultation. Did they want to jump? They all said they would ride the plane as long as it was in the air. He decided to keep going. The ship was completely out of trim, cocked over at a terrible angle. But they gradually got it trimmed so that it stopped losing altitude.

By then they were down to nine hundred feet, and a solid wall of mountains ahead barred the way homeward. They flew along parallel to those mountains for a long time, but they were then miraculously gaining some altitude. Finally they got the thing to fifteen hundred feet.

The lowest pass was sixteen hundred feet, but they came across at fifteen hundred. Explain that if you can! Maybe it was as the pilot said, 'We didn't come over the mountains, we came through them!' The co-pilot said, 'I was blowing on the windshield trying to push her along. Once I almost wanted to reach a foot down and sort of walk us along over the pass.' And the navigator said, 'If I had been on the wingtip, I could have touched the ground with my hand when we went through the pass.'

The air currents were bad. One wing was cocked away down. It was hard to hold. The pilots had a horrible fear that the low wing would drop clear down and they'd roll over and go into a spin. But they didn't. The navigator came into the cockpit, and he and the pilots navigated the plane home. Never for a second could they feel any real assurance of making it.... Everything seemed against them. The gas consumption doubled, squandering their precious supply. To top off their misery, they had a bad headwind. The gas gauge went down and down.

At last the navigator said they were only forty miles from home, but those forty miles passed as though they were driving a horse and buggy.

Dusk, coming down on the sandy haze, made the vast flat desert an indefinite thing. One oasis looked exactly like another. But they knew when they were near home. They shot their red flare and waited for the green flare from

our control tower. A minute later it came - the most beautiful sight that crew had ever seen.

When the plane touched the ground they cut the switches and let it roll. For it had no brakes. At the end of the roll the big Fortress veered off the side of the runway. It climaxed its historic homecoming by spinning madly around five times and then running backwards for fifty yards before it stopped. When they checked the gas, they found one tank dry and the other down to twenty gallons.

Deep dusk enveloped the field. Five more minutes and they never would have found it. The weary, crippled Fortress had flown for the incredible time of four and a half hours on one pair of motors. Any pilot will tell you it's impossible.

Perhaps the the real climax was that during the agonizing homeward crawl that one crippled plane shot down the fantastic total of six German fighters. The score was officially confirmed.' (Editor's note- Not only did the crew bring the Thunderbird home, but not one of the crew suffered one wound!!!! )

I see a "war-parable" in the story of Thunderbird making it home. It reminds me of Paul's last words to Timothy, " I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." **2 Timothy 4:7-8**

Paul, the battered and beaten wreck of a man, scarred and mutilated, and with that permanent thorn in the flesh, made it Home without loss. He recorded the wounds of his warfare in **2 Corinthians 11:23-30** "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers,

*in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities." At least this once he counted the bullet holes in the old ship."

There is another interesting little footnote to the story of the Thunderbird coming home safe. Two of Jesus' disciples, John and James, were given the name, "Boanerges" which means "Sons of Thunder"(Mark 3:17) Tradition has it that John was called "Brontophonos" which means "thunder voice." Maybe he was a loud preacher, who knows?

There is a lovely text in **II Peter 1:11**, which says, "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." An entrance ministered unto us abundantly!"

Palms of victory we shall bear!!!

So, dear brother (or sister), labour on, keep flying. Trim the controls to stay in the air a little longer! It may not seem that you are making any progress, but press on. The enemy hoped to have shot you down in flames. He riddled your plans and hindered your course, but don't give up!

There! There is our home base! It's not far now! Send up one last time the red flare of the gospel! Let them know you are still on course. And look, the tower has shot off a green flare! We are cleared for landing!

Thunderbird is on finals and will touch down safe any moment!


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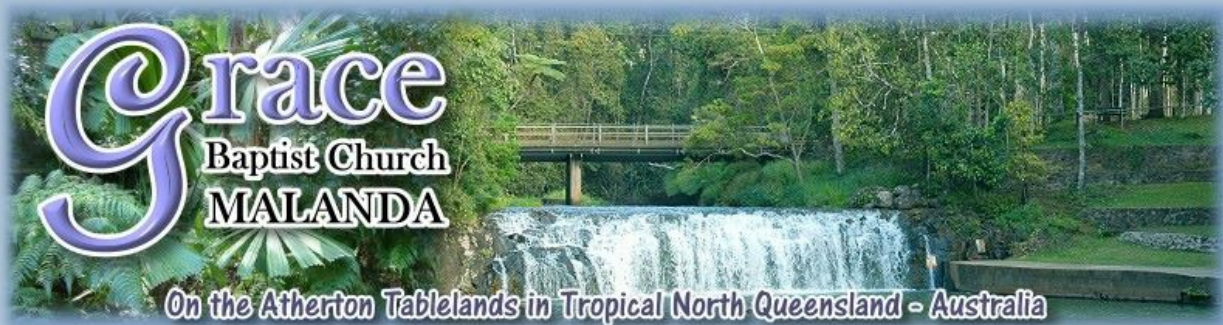
# Lifting Up The STANDARD

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

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CHALLENGING AND ENCOURAGING GOD'S REMNANT TO REMAIN FAITHFUL





## Heads Up!

A fortnightly publication produced by Pastor Buddy Smith, [Grace Baptist Church](http://www.gracebaptistmalanda.net.au), Malanda, QLD., 4885. Australia.  
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