Spring 2007 • Earth Day Edition



people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Hence, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we do not have a lasting city. but we are seeking the city which

-Hebrews 13:12-14

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### Earth Day Edition

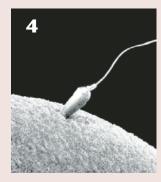
### **TWELVE TRIBES FREEPAPER**

### Spring 2007





Farmer Jones & the Atomic Tractor



Earth the Crucible Why were you, one out of a billion sperm cells, born?





### Earth Will Be Changed

Earth is the only planet that is habitable. Obviously, there is a purpose being played out here. Surely the infinite universe has a greater purpose than providing pretty lights for the night sky of our tiny planet. Once the testing of mankind is complete, the earth will have served its purpose. Then the heavens and the earth will be changed.

### **FALSE ADVERTISING!**

### *By Kevin Carlin*

Looking back, I don't know why I was shocked. I was obviously far more naïve than I thought I was. There's no point in naming names, but my first job out of school was with a company that routinely put products on the market before they were ready. What shocked me was the openness with which people in the company talked about it. What made it all work? The answer probably won't surprise you as it did me; their advertising was superior, even award winning. So was their packaging. What you saw was prettier than the box it came in which was nicer than what was in it, which wasn't much. Christmas meant December was their biggest month of the year, when they did one-quarter of their business. In that odd phenomena, "poor baby Jesus born in a manger" was good for business, very good. Hundreds of thousands of people unknowingly bought their not-quite-ready products. We'll just say it was consumer electronics. Naïve, like me, they expected their product to work like they did in the commercials. Those advertisements were snazzy and effective and somehow reached many people. Those images of sophisticated, happy men and women kindled desire for our product. The ads blurred the edge between image and reality. At home, it really seems most people didn't want to face the fact their money had purchased less than promised. I guess it's easier to pretend it's better than it is, or good enough anyway, than to admit someone has fooled you. It's amazing what people will put up with, isn't it? I know, because it was years before I stopped to consider all the ways I was being fooled. It's easy to assume you're "in the know" as I was at my company. Have you ever wondered whether you're blind and can't see what's going on? How do you find out you've been taken in by superior advertising? All I know is nothing changed for me until I faced the hard fact that what I had was not what I thought.

Flamboyant advertising is a good sign, like any promise of something too good to be true, that someone is selling you a "bill of goods." Every huckster, no matter how expensively dressed and sincere seeming they are, must do this to advertise a product that doesn't work. They aggressively and shamelessly puff it up. As an evil man once said, "A lie told often enough becomes truth."1 What if this were true about the most important decision you've ever made? What if the huckster who fooled you "peddled his wares" in a flamboyant, striking, brilliant, even glamorous fashion? What if only Las Vegas nightclubs matched his showmanship and elaborate settings and powerful driving music? Flamboyant comes from the same root word as flaming, which is what he does to your emotions. Why? What if he was just like a mega-church pastor who televises his shows and puts them on the Internet? After all, he gets 20,000 people to attend every Sunday. They wouldn't come unless the show was great. And what if he was a mega-church pastor? And what if nothing went off in you about his incredible presentation, like it would about any other huckster? Shouldn't you have been alarmed that he was selling you a "bill of goods" because of what he went through to dazzle you and give you a sense for an hour a week you were someone great, someone with a future, a destiny, a holy man of God, and all you did was go home and face the same lonely existence, job, and dead end life? You did and he didn't. His name is in the news; he's even on the Larry King Show. His family flies away for vacations and you wish yours could, too. Next week you go back to the wild cheers, the flashing lights of the stage shows, the pretty wife, the uplifting sermon, and you wait for the incredible feelings of being

# EARTH God's Testing Ground

Life on earth is certainly a great destiny. struggle. The tiny chick struggles to peck its way out of its shell. The butterfly wrestles persistently to break free of its cocoon. The salmon rushes upstream, full of zeal and determination to propagate the next generation before it dies. A billion sperm cells fervently strive to be the one to reach the egg. All the others will die trying. The mother labors in pain to bring that new life into the world. And as Job said, "Man is born to trouble, as surely as sparks fly upward." (Job 5:7)

Surely the ancients understood that there was a purpose for the struggle. Even nature teaches us that the little chicken would not have the strength it needs to live without the great effort it takes to escape from its shell, the butterfly would not be strong enough to fly, and the salmon would quickly become extinct apart from its treacherous journey upstream to where it was spawned. So also Job understood that man's struggle on earth would determine his eternal

"If a man dies, will he live again? All the days of my struggle I will wait until my change comes." (Job 14:14)

### What Is Man?

So who does man think he is? Who does God think man is?

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty! You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea, whatever passes through the paths of the seas. (Psalms 8:3-8)

It's really quite amazing what God revealed to David in this psalm. Imagine this young shepherd boy sitting on a grassy knoll as his little sheep rested around

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### ABORT or Abandon

In this day and age, what chance does a child have not to be raised to go to hell?



### Gone with the Wind

If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?



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<sup>1</sup> Vladimir Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution in 1917.

WARNING: The ideas expressed in this paper may cause the reader to have deep thoughts, which could be life-changing.

### **Detonation of the Nuclear Family**

will find the family — and the husband and wife are the nucleus of the family. From this union have come all the great civilizations of the earth, both their leaders and all their inhabitants. Societies have risen and fallen based on the strength of their families. When families were strong, children were well behaved and grew up to become responsible and productive citizens, furthering the prosperity of their towns and countries. When families were weak and dysfunctional, moral chaos, violence, and collapse soon followed.

Vladimir Lenin is said to have boasted, "Destroy the family, and society will collapse without a shot."1 This poison has been slowly injected into the world today, though ever so subtly, and the outcome has been just as he predicted — collapse on a massive scale. Through a calculated educational system, abundant social and political programs, and a barrage of marketing that has encouraged people to live for themselves,

<sup>1</sup> "In the Communist Manifesto (1848) Marx proclaimed that communism abolishes all eternal truths, religions, morality, and the family. He called for compulsory schooling, a heavy graduated income tax, and abolishing the right of inheritance, among other things. These were three of the ten steps he advocated to revolutionize society, all of which have been adopted, in differing degrees, by virtually every nation in the world. Lenin's goal of abolishing the family was entirely in line with Marx's thinking."

At the nucleus of society you that once seemingly impenetrable social structure called marriage and the family is beginning to sink, taking with it any hope for a bright future.

> If someone is honest with himself, then it is not difficult for him to see that something fundamental has gone awry in humanity's march toward the future. But what happened? Why is everyone so unhappy? Where did it all begin? And is there any hope for the future? To answer these questions we have to go back to the beginning — the very beginning.

> The story of creation is a beautiful one indeed: from the spectacular array of life that filled the oceans, to the birds that soared throughout the skies, keeping a watchful eye on the planet below; from the unimaginable variety of color and smell that burst forth when each tree and plant had been completed, to the animals, both great and small that would roam the earth and need to be cared for. Each and every one of these things was filled with life, but something was missing — a caretaker.

> So God created man in his very own image and likeness. He would care for the animals and the plants, watching over all that had been made. But how could he do this alone? The events that ensued brought forth the most beautiful and perfectly made helper that anyone could have imag-

> > Continued on Page 4

### 1 - 8 8 8 - T W E L V E - T

MERE GLANCE AT the stars invites the question, "Are we alone?" — one of the ultimate facing mankind. Not long ago astronomer Carl Sagan thought there were a million advanced civilizations in the Milky Way alone. But astrobiologists, men who look for life in other solar systems, and scientists are painting a far different picture. Once thought to be average, our planet, sun, and galaxy are anything but. Heavier than 95% of the stars in the Milky Way, the sun is both metal-rich and life-friendly. It has been a stable source of radiant heat for literally billions of years, releasing most, but not all of its radiation in the safe, visible light portion of energy. More energetic stars would release too much ultraviolet radiation, tearing apart the biological bonds of living creatures. Less energetic ones would be so small that the habitable zone around them, the orbits where water for it, life on planet Earth, can exist on a planet, would be too close to them.

Our friendly sun is surrounded by an orderly array of planets with nearly circular orbits. If they had more eccentric orbits that brought them closer to the sun, gas giants like Jupiter would drive the inner, earth-like planets right into it. A massive moon, both lovely and useful, orbits



hundreds of millions of years, stabilizing the earthis surface temperatures in ranges suitable for life. The molten core of the Earth makes possible its great shield against solar and deep space radiation — its magnetic field. Its oceans, oxygenrich atmosphere, and mighty upheavals of its crust to form continents — all have played their part in supporting life. Even the earthis rotation has played a role. Planets like Mercury, locked into presenting one side to the sun, have an unchanging freezing cold half and a boiling hot half on the same planet. Any one of these features would make our earth and solar system uncommon; together, they make it unique.

In spite of everything going according to the fossil record, has faced extinction no less than 15 times in the last five hundred million years. Five of these "mass extinction events" have eliminated more than half of all the species then inhabiting our planet. One of the most spectacular, 65 million years ago, ended the reign of the dinosaurs on planet Earth. A comet or



Central America, darkening the skies for months with the dust of the explosion, the billowing black smoke of forest fires ignited worldwide, and a prodigious fall of acid rain. One just twice that our beautiful earth. It has kept asteroid only 6 to 10 kilometers size might well have sterilized the tilt of the earth constant for in diameter struck the earth in the entire planet. The moon

bears mute witness to the power of even larger impacts.

Much of the universe is actually inhospitable to life ever arising. Besides such spectacular events as stars going supernova, many regions of the universe are either too energy-rich or too metal-poor to ever support advanced life. And then there are events of a magnitude that men have never before dreamed, like mergers of two neutron stars, which cause the most powerful explosions in the universe and release enough energy to sterilize an entire galaxy!

Yes, we are alone. The universe is inhospitable for man now. It is waiting, groaning under the futility of so many stars, shining on so many lifeless planets, all of them alike subject to the same death and decay that faces men and women today, on this planet.1 But there is a secret more vast and more significant than the death of neutron stars: man was never meant to die. Man was always meant to fill this planet with peace and life and take that to the stars. The many wars of science fiction are quite accurate — if man could go to the stars in the future he would just bring the war, the pollution, and his moral degradation there. But planet

Earth is under a quarantine until the deep-seated problems within men and women are dealt with. It is not just a quarantine of distance; it is deeper than that — it is a quarantine of uniqueness. There are no other earth-like planets where we can live. But the day will come when the uninhabitable universe will be transformed and made inhabitable.3 It is beyond our highest imagination.

That is the hope that we have - a hope for the world that we found in Messiah Yahshua. His forgiveness of our sins makes possible a life of peace and friendship, not only between men and women, but between humanity and their precious cradle of life — the earth. The only true contribution you can make to solve the earth's problems is to surrender the life you now live (whose wealth is causing all of the problems — including war) to the One who can save both you and the planet. He will one day return to destroy those who are destroying the Earth.4 You can be on His side today and in the ages to come, when human life will fill the universe in unending generations, forever and ever. 🏶

Romans 8:19-23 <sup>2</sup> Ephesians 3:21 <sup>3</sup> Hebrews 1:10-12 <sup>4</sup> Revelation 11:18

### **Abort or Abandon:** Which is Worse?

"How can I make up for the evil I have done by aborting my child? Or, would I have done a greater evil by bringing a child into this world?"

THIS DAY and age, what chance does a child have not to be raised to go to hell?

What is a fetus? Is it alive? Is it a human being with an eternal soul and spirit that will have to spend eternity somewhere? Where will he spend eternity if he dies in the womb?

A child grows into a full-fledged and responsible human being, a member of the human race, with a conscience that holds him accountable for the choices he makes, according to the knowledge of good and evil inherent in all men. As a spiritual creature, he is also vulnerable to the evil spirits that lead the whole world astray from their created purpose. So what chance does he have to spend eternity in good standing with his Creator, who made him responsible to determine his own eternal destiny? Here is a great dilemma: Is it a greater sin to abort a child, or to bring him into this world and let him go to hell? Perhaps the greatest horror is the adult human being who was raised to go to hell and is now responsible for where he will spend eternity. Will he end up in that place of eternal torment which Yahshua,1 the Son of God Himself, the Word of God incarnate, told about in the Gospel according to Luke? <sup>19</sup> There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 "But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 "desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.





nods and murmurs. Little did they know. **U. S.** the drive was on to

<sup>22</sup> "So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23

<sup>1</sup> See The Name Above All Names on page 10 for an explanation of this name.



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So which is worse — to have aborted one's little developing baby, or to have let him come to birth and then raise him to go to hell?

> "And being in torment in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

<sup>24</sup> "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

<sup>25</sup> "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. <sup>26</sup> 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

<sup>27</sup> "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 'for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment."" (Luke 16:19-28)

In the Gospel According to Mark, the Son of God again makes it clear the state of a person who ends up in this place of torment. Three times He describes that place: "...where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched."2 There is no exit from this place. How one lives his life in this age determines his eternal state of being. There is no way out once this determination is sealed at the judgment.<sup>3</sup> There is no second chance, but only the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

### Which is Worse?

For you formed my inward parts. You knitted me together in my mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13)

So which is the worst sin — to have aborted one's little developing baby, or to

<sup>2</sup> Mark 9:43-48, NKJ, KJV

<sup>3</sup> Romans 2:14-16 and Revelation 20:12-15, as in Matthew 25:41

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unlock the atom before the Nazis did. They succeeded in dropping an Abomb on Hiroshima, Japan, so they could put a quick end to the war. It worked. Now was the dawn of the nuclear age.

Back on the farm, Farmer Jones was reading his Popular Mechanics magazine about how soon the atom would be harnessed to power such things as farm tractors. A man of vision like Farmer Jones could see the wave of the future, and he knew he had to have one. Just think, no more worries about gas prices! He ordered the first model off the showroom floor, the Model "A" (for "Atom").

The day it was delivered to his farm, everybody in Holloway County showed up to marvel at this miracle of modern technology. Why the price tag alone caused some eyebrows to raise, but when Farmer Jones pulled out onto the lower field with three plows and took off in high gear, he also dropped some jaws! By the time he reached the end of the field folks speculated that Jones was doing around 75 miles per hour, plows and all. (The earlier models didn't have speedometers, and the government had yet to put speed limits on tractors out in the field. Of course, that was soon to change.)

brakes compared to its horsepower, so when Farmer Jones reached the end of the field in a glorious cloud of dirt, he misjudged his speed a bit and slammed into the old stone wall at the end of his row. Well, there went Farmer Jones head over heels past his shiny new atomic tractor flopped right into the manure pile on the other side of the wall. (There were no seat belts on the early models, either.)

Jones slid off the pile, a little embarrassed by such a sudden stop, and also a little worried about his new tractor with the new dent in it. He' read the manual and it cautioned him about hairline cracks in the nuclear pile, so as he was inspecting the reactor for some tell-tale cracks, he hardly noticed the crowd of friends running up to him.

"You okay, Jones? Golleee! I ain't seen a car going as fast as you was down that field! Whooo boy! Now that atomic tractor is really somethin'!" All his neighbors nodded in agreement, big smiles everywhere. "Well, Jones," a thin woman with a big wad of snuff in her lip piped up, "with a tractor that fast you could just about feed the whole world, and make a lot of money at it, too!" Again, approving

"Aw, shucks!" said Jones as he flicked

a dry manure chip off the front of his bib overalls, "I never figgered on nothin' like that." But truth be told, Farmer Jones really had been entertaining the thought of feeding the whole world- for a price. He'd been burning some midnight oil over the past few weeks, and figured that it would take a great financial risk to purchase an atomic tractor. But if his math was right, he could out-produce all the farms in his county put together! In order to get the money together, though, he would have to re-finance his farm, dip heavily into his retirement savings, maybe even declare bankruptcy and for sure divorce his wife. Jones didn't mull over it too long before deciding. The possibilities of empire were just too great to resist.

Yessir, Farmer Jones was never a man to look down or think twice. He was a man of action, always looking ahead to a bright future. That was quite a day that sunny afternoon in Holloway County when Farmer Jones tested his new atomic tractor, and everybody there knew it, too. A new day was dawning, a new era in agriculture. Oh, there were a few diehards, and it took some time, but before The early models also had inferior long you could see the tell-tale signs of the new age as all the farmers began to re-finance their farms, liquidate their savings, declare bankruptcy and divorce their wives- all for the sake of keeping up with the Jones's. The rewards were sure to come, and already there was talk of no more smoke or noise pollution- these atomic tractors were so quiet. And on a really dark night with no moon you could look out over your fields and see a faint greenish glow coming from a few patches of ground. Kind of pretty.

But try as they could, no one could keep up with Farmer Jones. He got the jump on the new age, and was coming up with some pretty spectacular and unexpected bonuses. It all started one day when Farmer Jones checked out the lower end of his broccoli patch. He'd sprung an oil leak there once, and now several of his plants had grown to be as big as a Christmas tree! Not only that, but several of his cabbage plants in the next row could each fill a bushel basket.

Never one to get alarmed too easy, Farmer Jones called in his local agricultural agent from the government.

### Brave New Woorld shoes. Or maybe you were the one withdrawing when the other person got too close. Increasingly, The conditioning is painstakingly designed to create the perfect order in society. Everyone works the become

YOUNG MAN WALKS through the city park. All around him the native flora erupts in an explosion of color. The aromatic fragrance of flowers drifts on the gentle breeze. Magnolias in bloom reach up into a bright blue sky, dotted with puffy white clouds. He turns down an avenue of majestic live oaks draped with Spanish moss. Azaleas dressed in an array of red, pink, and white line the path. It is springtime and nature is singing its ancient song of hope and rebirth.

The young man's shoulders slump and his eyes stare blankly into the distance. He is lost in a memory of a girl whom he had loved. He is in pain.

Their relationship had been so wonderful in the beginning. He had never felt so happy in his entire life. They did everything together. They talked about music and movies and places they'd like to see. As time passed he felt himself falling deeper and deeper in love with her. He tried to talk to her about the things he felt in his heart, even though it made him feel weak and vulnerable. He could hardly form the words. His cool exterior began to crack. At his openness, she withdrew and grew quiet. There was an awkward silence. He said something funny and fake. She laughed. They went out for dinner and a movie. The movie was a romantic comedy.

He tried to get over the rejection felt, but he was torn up inside. He took long walks and qui-

etly suffered with depression for weeks. Though he tried to hide it, she began to notice. It weighed her down. He didn't make her happy anymore. She told him that she didn't want to see him anymore.

And now he found himself wandering alone through the park, completely numb to the natural beauty all around him. He groped to understand

what had happened. Despite all of the emotion and feeling, their relationship had been shallow and superficial. Neither one of them had really known how to be real. He had hoped for more, but it had been false hope. "What is love?" he thought. "Will I ever know?"

#### **A Prophetic Vision**

The landscape of modern society is littered with failed relationships such as this. Chances are you have been in this young man's shoes. Or maybe you were the one withdrawing when the other person got too close. Increasingly, people are having trouble connecting with one another on a real and meaningful level. Their lives are becoming progressively more solitary and secluded. Something very tragic is overtaking the human race in the 21st century.

As far back as 1932, Aldous Huxley saw it starting. In the novel, *Brave New World*, he painted a chilling picture of a world in which science and technology have created the perfect society. All deep social relationships have been eliminated. No more fathers, mothers, husband, or wives. No more deep bonds. In this new world, all life is created in

### Increasingly, people are having trouble connecting with one another on a real and meaningful level.

a test tube. Human beings are bioengineered mentally and physically to perform all of the different essential functions in society, from those called "Epsilon Minus" (who do all the hard, mindless labor) to the elite class designated "Alpha Plus" (who perform all of the highlevel corporate jobs). Everyone is biologically and psychologically engineered to be completely satisfied with his particular position in society.

ingly designed to create the perfect order in society. Everyone works the optimum number of hours for their mental and emotional well-being. Everyone is conditioned to love shopping, travel, entertainment, sex, and sports, and all social life revolves around these meaningless pursuits. Since there are no deep relationships, no one feels rejected or hurt. Books with deep meaning or truth are banned, but no one would be able to understand them anyway, because no one has the capacity to think deeply. And because everything is shallow and superficial, there is nothing controversial anymore. No one has the time or desire to think about anything unpleasant. A person's whole existence consists of gratifying his senses. There are no wars because no one feels strongly about anything except pleasure, of which there is no shortage. And if anyone should ever have a sad thought or bad feeling, there is Soma, the wonder drug that holds it all togeth-

er. Distributed liberally and perpetually to people of all classes, no one could be unhappy when he's on Soma. It is the perfect, onedimensional society.

Almost 30 years later, in 1958, Huxley wrote Brave New World Revisited in which he considered whether the world had moved towards or away from his vision of the future. He believed when he wrote the original novel that it was a reasonable guess as to where the world might go in the future, but

in *Brave New World Revisited* he concluded that the world was becoming like Brave New World much faster than he had ever thought possible. Can you imagine what Huxley would say, were he alive today?

### A Striking Resemblance

Modern society bears a striking resemblance to Huxley's prophetic vision. One honest glance at the fast-food, pop culture of today and it is easy to make the connection. The strong family bonds that have held human society together for thousands of years are being severed. Without the context of families and neighborhoods , people hardly know how to relate to one another on anything other than a surface level. And as for speaking up and saying what you believe, the forces of political correctness are silencing the human voice. Repressed and oppressed, the others on a deep level, people are becoming increasingly isolated and lonely. A recent authoritative study in the American Sociological Review found that the average American had only two close friends in whom he would confide on important matters.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Sports and Entertainment**

Huxley imagined a world of people totally enamored with sports and entertainment. Keeping people occupied with these pursuits was one of the means by which the society of the Brave New World was kept stable. While all their enthusiasm and energies spent playing "obstacle golf" and going to "feelies" (movies that affect all of the senses), no one had anything left in their soul for friendships. It's not very hard to see the correlation between Huxley's vision and our reality. The sports industry is one of the largest and fastest growing industries in the United States. An annual survey estimated the size of the industry at 213 billion, twice the size of the auto industry and seven times the size of the movie industry.<sup>2</sup> People are in love with their sports teams. In one year, fans spent 26 billon dollars at sporting events. Another 10 billion was spent on official merchandise.<sup>3</sup> Youngsters dream of growing up to be like their sports heroes.

By the time a child grows up to reach age 70, he will have watched between seven and ten years worth of television. The single activity today's children spend most of them time doing, other than sleeping, is television watching. The average child spends almost an entire day per week in front of the television set.<sup>4</sup> This, combined with technological advances such as the Internet, iPods, and cell phones, is transforming the modern household. Adults and children are increasingly preoccupied with these devices, leaving very little time for social interaction with each other.

A study by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 2005 found 3rd graders through 12th graders devoted, on the average, nearly  $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours per day to TV and videos, music, video games and computers.<sup>5</sup> This inundation of electronic stimulus is crippling their ability to

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<sup>4</sup> "Do Our Kids Watch Too Much TV?" Dr. Robert Steele, MD; *iVillage: Pregnancy and* 

# The Desire to be Rich

**N THE EAST,** the sun rises from its slumber. As it slowly climbs into the sky, it begins to splash vibrant color on the thousands of hardwoods that clothe the mountainside. The landscape becomes a canvas. The vista is flooded with radiant yellows, majestic violets, and fiery reds and oranges, combining to form imagery the artist dreams to mimic. The cool autumn air

blows softly, caressing each branch of every tree, adding movement to this natural wonderland. Above, Canadian geese form a giant black V in

**N THE EAST,** the sun rises from In their hearts they imagine that its slumber. As it slowly climbs into the sky, it begins to splash surely they would be satisfied.

A short time ago, the headlines on Reuters read, "Death of Samsung heiress put down to suicide." Lee Yoon-hyung, the youngest daughter of one of the wealthiest families in South Korea, had been discovered dangling lifeless from an electrical-cord noose in her Man-

"Make the most amount of money with the least amount of physical labor, and above all, enjoy yourself."

There is something deep in most of us, an inner drive to make it, but if we do, at what cost will it come? At the end of Mr. Vanderbilt's life, what good was his wealth? Had he given it all, it couldn't have bought him another breath. All he was left

with were the choices he had made. Had he been honest? Had he been fair? Had he helped others in need while he had an abundance? These are eternal questions, asked by each person's conscience, if his personal wealth hasn't silenced its still, small voice. Being rich isn't the root of the problem, however. It is the desire to be rich. Many people are motivated

the sky, honking as they pass by, performing their annual migration like so many generations before. In the background, a mountain stream burbles as it me-

anders toward the great Atlantic. Here, the air is crisp and clean.

They call this place "the land of the sky." Nestled on this fertile plateau between the Great Smoky and Blue Ridge Mountains, you find the thriving town of Asheville, North Carolina. For generations, the rich and powerful have come here to make their homes. Today, people travel from all over the world to see how they lived.

A few miles from downtown is the most famous of those homes, the Biltmore Estate, home of the mega-wealthy George Washington Vanderbilt II. There you can see Napoleon Bonaparte's chess set, the personal guest room of the King of England, a private bowling alley, the remaining 8,000 of the once 125,000 acres of private gardens, farms, vineyards, and forest with equestrian trails, complete with its own railroad. The chateaulike mansion boasts four acres of interior floor space, 250 rooms, 43 bathrooms, 65 fireplaces, with an indoor swimming pool and gymnasium in the basement. Decorated with opulent antiques and artistic treasures from the most distant times and exotic places on planet Earth, it remains to this day the largest home in North America, and the number one tourist attraction in North Carolina, hosting some 900,000 visitors annually.

On this luxurious estate you will find almost anything your heart could desire. The one thing you will not find, however, is the charming Mr. Vanderbilt. He is dead.

People's infatuation with the wealthy is nothing new. From the royalty of England to the Hollywood stars of America, people love to see how the rich live, and they dream of someday enjoying the same luxuries as these powerful elite, though most never will.



hattan apartment. She was 26. At the time of her death, Miss Lee was worth some 174 million dollars. She had more financial security in her youth than most people could dream of having in a lifetime. She didn't, however, have enough hope to live one more day.

Most people, upon hearing things like this, can't image how someone with such great wealth could end it all. But this happens all the time. While some are clawing their way to the top, others are trapped in a self-inflicted prison of loneliness due to their great wealth.

Make no mistake about it, we Americans live in the richest society in the history of the world. Even people who wouldn't consider themselves wealthy are better off than almost everyone else in the world. Although some 7.5 million households in America have a net worth of at least one million dollars, the desire for more is still the most powerful force driving our modern culture. It has produced an ethnography<sup>1</sup> of excess. Americans spend more on trash bags than 90 other countries spend on everything — that is, our waste costs more than all the goods consumed by nearly one half the world's nations.<sup>2</sup>

From a very early age, our public and private schools foster a desire in us to be somebody. From there, television, the printed media, and the Internet pick up the mantra and capitalize on our ever-increasing desire to be rich. From *Lifestyles* of the Rich and Famous to The Apprentice, the message is the same:

to get rich, but never will be. However, their desire drives them to make choices that hurt other people in their ruthless quest to get ahead. In their battle to reach the top, they don't care what they have to do to get there, and have little regard for who gets in their way.

In New York City there are some 36,000 millionaires. Ironically, in the very same city, there are around 36,000 homeless poor. Regardless of why or how those people became poor or rich, it is striking that so many live in extreme luxury while the same number scavenge the streets in poverty.

Being rich simply means having more than one needs. If someone has more than he needs to live, then he ought to share, not hoard it. For some to live extravagantly while others scratch for survival, walls must be built. Outwardly, they take the form of gated communities and high-rise luxury condos towering above guarded lobbies. Inwardly, a hardening takes place in the heart of someone who chooses to indulge himself regardless of another's plight. He has to silence his nagging conscience. It is uncomfortable to see poverty, to see those with little or nothing, or to see the frightened, anxious stare on the faces of children who have no security. Perhaps tonight their mother's boyfriend will beat them again. Perhaps tomorrow they won't eat. Who cares? It's not your problem.

Even moderate wealth in today's society can buy great comfort. Kings and Pharaohs didn't live as well as most middle-class Americans. Mr. Vanderbilt had the ability to indulge in every desire that time would allow him. While he lived, he received his comfort — more than most could imagine. So what about the comfort that comes after

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human spirit is being locked in a prison of perpetual self-gratification. Unable to connect with

Parenting: parenting.ivillage.com <sup>5</sup> "Too many distractions get in way of learning", Associated Press, July 24, 2006, *MSNBC*, msn.com

### "Who do you think you are, anyway?"

How small and insignificant the mustard seed is! It's so small that even a bug or a bird wouldn't notice it. And that little seed doesn't have faith in itself when it goes into the ground. Surely it doesn't think, "I may look small now, but you watch, in a few years I'm going to be really big." It just goes into the ground and does what it's supposed to do, and it becomes a huge tree.

As a seed, it didn't feel a lot of worth in its own greatness. It probably sat down there on the ground, looking at the huge things around it, and felt really small. But our Master said that the Kingdom of Heaven is going to be like that. He was comparing something as vast as the Kingdom of Heaven to something as tiny as the tiniest seed.

He must have felt as small as a mustard seed Himself at times. And His followers were just a little rag-tag bunch of men that were barely making it. They had not gone to any fancy schools, or even studied much at all. Yet our Master had the sense that the whole universe was resting upon His shoulders, and upon those who would follow Him. And who was He? He was just nothing but a mustard seed.

Maybe one of those little seeds just happened to have been caught in a gust of wind that blew by our Master as He sat there, considering these deep things. And He picked it up on His finger and examined its smallness. He may have thought, "Oh, this little insignificant seed..." And then came that horrible, depressing doubt from the evil one, "So, who do you think you are, anyway? What high hopes do you have? You are as insignificant as that lit-

tle mustard seed! Give up now; you'll never become a tree. You talk about the universe and the stars, righteousness and ruling, many awesome things, but who do you think you are? You're just nothing!"

But somehow that little seed just does what little seeds do. and ends up turning into a great and mighty tree. One plants, another one waters, but it's our Father who makes it grow. So all the little seed has to do is be obedient and fall into the ground and die. That's all. There is no way he could get organized enough to plan out how he's going to become the huge tree that he wants to be. He just has to die. And then our Father makes him into what he's destined to be.

It is so encouraging that our Master compared the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed. I'm sure He looked around at His rag-tag bunch of followers and wondered sometimes... It got very hard for them, and He saw Peter puzzling, and John struggling, and people falling away, and at one point He said to them, "Are you going to leave Me, too?" But they said, "Where would we go? You are the only one who has the words of eternal life."

And so there they were... just a little, tiny mustard seed... 🏶

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> CNN.com, Sunday, August 6, 2006 <sup>2</sup> Street and Smith's Sport Business Journal;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Street and Smith's Sport Business Journal; 2006 Street and Smith's Sports Group <sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *ethnography* — the scientific description of the customs of individual peoples and cultures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Polly LaBarre, "How To Lead a Rich Life," *Fast Company*, Issue 68, March 2003: http://pf.fastcompany.com/ magazine/68/richlife.html

# Earth, the Crucible

isolated, disapproved of. Some-

tle or no self control. You needed

help. Maybe you had parents, or

maybe your mom and dad split

up. Maybe you were an orphan.

Being a child, you had very lit-

thing in you knew it was wrong.

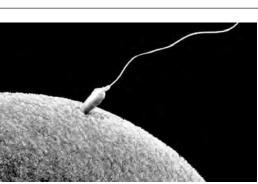
"What is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you care for him?" (Psalm 8:4)

**HY WERE YOU,** coming from one out of a billion sperm cells,

born? Have you ever thought about it? Why you? Why not one of the other billion? Was it random selection or is there a specific purpose for your life? Such biological knowledge should lead a man to ask, "Why am I here? Why was I born?"

Deep in the soul of every person there is a longing to understand the reason for his existence. It's instinctive. It must mean something to be alive. Everyone is

born with this knowledge, an innate sense that it matters which path in life you choose. You know that some choices are good and some are evil. You sensed it the first time you snatched a toy away from another child. You were young and didn't understand much, but you felt it — lonely,



**One in a billion** You, one in a billion, were conceived for an eternal purpose beyond this brief lifetime. Your life is very significant and very precious in the eyes of the Creator .

Maybe you had parents who cared enough to spank you. Maybe they let you do whatever you wanted. Whatever the case, as you grew up, you continued to make choices that set your life on a course to somewhere. Many times you felt torn between temporary self gratification and what you knew deep inside was right. Your conscience either confirmed or condemned the choices that you made. How you responded to this inner voice is critically important.

An ancient prophet once wrote:

"As for man, his days are like grass. As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more." (Psalm 103:15)

Indeed, our time on this planet is brief. In the scope of eternity, it is a mere blink of the eye, like the flower of the field that blooms and is gone. What does our fleeting existence mean? Why are we here? What's really going on? Is there something far more significant being determined by the choices we make than we might think? Is there more to life than meets the eye?

For thousands of years men have groped with these questions. But what are the answers? As a famous man once asked, "What is truth?" What a profound question! So much about the plight of man is revealed in this question. Why is it so hard to understand? Why is truth not easily perceived? Why is doing what is right such a struggle? What is the truth of human existence?

What if I told you that you were God's highest thought, His highest creation? Would you believe it? Even though you may have never thought about it, your soul will live forever. You, one in a billion, were conceived for an eternal purpose beyond this brief lifetime. Your life is very significant and very precious in the eyes of the Creator - so significant that every act, word, and thought is being recorded. But, you might ask, "Who am I that my life would mean so much?" This is an important question and it is vital that you would know the answer. King David knew the answer 3,000 years ago:

"You made man ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: All flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas." (Psalm 8:6-8)

Have you ever wondered why the earth seems to be the only planet in the universe that is inhabitable? Through the forces of nature, mankind's existence has been confined to the earth, and for a particular reason. The earth is God's testing ground for mankind. The test is to determine his worthiness to rule over all that He created. Every human being is born with great potential, the potential to cultivate life, and the potential to bring death and destruction. Which will he choose?

The earth was created to be a garden, and man its gardener. Made in the image of his Creator, he was to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with life. If this is true, what happened? Obviously man is filling the earth, but what is he filling it with? A look at the daily headlines would seem to indicate that man is filling the earth with greed and violence. If man was created to care for and cultivate the earth, how did it get to the state it is in today? The answer goes back to the very beginning of human history, back to the Garden. Man was created with a free will. He could trust His Creator or trust himself. Man made a fatal decision and set the human race on a tragic course.

### **The Crucible**

There is an unseen war being waged. It is an ancient struggle, between good and evil, and the outcome of this contest has eternal consequences. You may not be able to see it, but deep within your soul you can feel the conflict. Every human being is born into this struggle. The earth is the crucible by which a person's eternal destiny will be determined. Man is created in such a way that he is totally dependent on the earth. All of its aspects - plant life, growing seasons, climate, landscape, animal life, family re-

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### One night I ate a box of Cheerios

Because I liked the cheery name. I ate all the peanut butter cups For their dark velvety chocolate taste. Then I ate a plate of spaghetti bolognaise Because I liked that feeling of being full. I wanted to forget about being me And be someone wonderful — Kind and noble and beautiful. But I was fat and lazy And as irritable as fifty cats Lashing out at what got in my way, Chasing my elusive dream, together — with a simple joy no longer known today. They had enough character to do that, too.

I wonder if my dad was naïve<sup>4</sup> to think that the childhood I had would shape my character to that degree of uprightness, but actually, all society was unsuspecting. Momentous things were happening in far-away places, and in far-away intellectual circles, prophetic voices were full of warning. But, in our little town no one saw the danger coming, and we swallowed all the innovations that came our way.

The economy took off after the war, and along came the motor car that everyone could afford. Gone were the horses, bikes, and walking. People moved into town and everyone got indoor plumbing and electricity. Everything went electric: fridges, stoves, lights, vacuum cleaners, water heaters, toasters. No more kerosene and no more chopping wood. We had electric radiators for the winter, and for the summer, fans, air-conditioners, and freezers with ice. No more enduring the weather.

Advances in photography and printing turned the trickle of information into a steady stream of magazines, books, encyclopedias. TV arrived late in our town, but when man walked on the moon everyone got a set and kept it to watch it every night thereafter. Dancing died out, along with singing songs around the piano, playing checkers, and writing letters. Both my parents were working so we didn't have a vegetable garden, and my brother would not mow the patch of lawn on Saturday without a huge scene first. All we ever did after school was watch TV, read magazines, and play ball. Why was Dad surprised that we weren't diligent? There wasn't much to be diligent about. And we weren't spanked. I don't think either of my parents read any of the parenting books that abounded in time of my childhood, but they took on the culture around them, which was moving towards new ways of parenting, such as treating your child as an individual, appealing to his value system, reasoning with him, and redirecting his attention and will. Although they spoke about the rightness of a good spanking, I only remember being spanked once by my father, and a handful of times by my mother and grandmother. I think the old proverb came true: They spared the rod and they spoiled the child. Somehow spanking went out of fashion, and the common definition of spoiling a child was indulging his whims. In that respect, we were not indulged in all our wants, and compared to the kids at school we were on a pretty strict routine. But the things I did against my conscience weighed me down and I had no spankings to set me upright again. I knew inside that I shouldn't provoke my brothers, hit them, and pinch what wasn't mine. But if my brothers told on me, I covered my tracks with more lies. Justice wasn't dealt out and I kept going on with more lying and more things I shouldn't have been doing.

You can say, "Children will be children," and it's true. It's all in there, and it becomes who you are if there is no way to get it out. You can say that spanking damages a child, but I remember vividly the day I lied to my mother and got away with it. I felt so far away from her, and I never got close again. Even back then, I wished that I had gotten the spanking.

I got away with too much. My closet was getting filled with deeds that got darker as I got older. But as a teenager I was the bright shining student, studying for a career yet to be defined. I read a lot of books and watched a lot of movies, so I thought I knew everything. My mother called it the arrogance of youth. There was such a gulf between us. It had widened from just a crack when I was a little girl.

As I left high school, I dreamed of being successful, glamorous, executive, and brilliant, but I flunked college. I thought I could be witty, attractive and hospitable, but no one liked me. It was like fantasizing about who I could be without seeing who I really was. My life was caving in and I was only 19. The poems I wrote at this time are filled with the darkness of my soul. My parents were in despair as they saw their daughter become a foul-mouthed heavy smoker and drinker — someone who didn't give a damn. My brothers were going down the same road. My father could only beg God that the school of hard knocks could knock some sense into us. He didn't know what else to do. It was too late for him to do anything. We didn't really listen to him anyway. Like other teenagers, I toyed with the idea of suicide. Life seemed so bleak and dark inside my head. One of the girls in my school jumped off the roof of a high-rise and it wasn't so shocking to me. What saved me from taking my own life was joining the Army. At the time, no one could understand why I would do such a thing. I understand now that I was looking for authority and discipline — what better place to go? My sergeants were absolute authoritarians, without one speck of negotiation, compromise, or mercy. They understood that in a battle the enemy would not say, "Oh, you're tired right now? We can come back tomorrow." They understood that a battle is 'til the end, and if you can't endure, you won't make it. They knew that strong discipline can correct many a fault. They corrected many of mine and gave me the will to live. I started to straighten up, but the hope I had in the Army being what I did for the rest of my life was disappointed. Just before I was due to re-enlist, I realized that they couldn't give me a quiet and peaceful life. (I guess I was naïve to even think they could.) While we were on duty there was order and a strong sense of camaraderie, but off duty there was gossip and strife, and husbands and wives were cheating on each other. It was no life, after all. So there I was, out of the army and with no direction for my life, writing my poems, hoping that I could be as famous as Sylvia Plath,<sup>5</sup> but dreading having a life such as hers. It seemed to me that I was sliding somewhere dark and final,

and I felt such a sense of impotence and resignation that I could hardly lift my hand to stop it. I think doctors call this depression, but I didn't want to go near any of them to find out. I was afraid that if anyone knew the dark things I was thinking, they would put me on medication or into a place you don't get out of.

My parents were distressed by how down I looked, and said they really needed me to work for them. I went home because I had nothing better to do, but the challenges of their little business brought me back from the dead. Now my thoughts were occupied with the needs of my customers, and working with my parents was encouraging. They really did need me, and I simply didn't have time to be depressed. It should have been a happy ending right there, but after a few years of being very happy, I started to realize that somehow it wasn't enough. You would have thought a rewarding career, living in the beautiful countryside, and enjoying the good things of life in a peaceful home would be completely satisfying. What more could I want? I didn't know.

Driving up into the mountains, getting away from the rat race, being alone in all the beauty of nature was not enough. I thought guilt was an archaic concept and I never used that word, or even thought it, and so I couldn't explain why I felt so cut off from creation, why I wanted to cry every time I went into the forest or I saw the clouds reflecting the sunset. Why did I feel so alone and drifting when my life was on track again? If even being happy is not enough, what more is there? Why did I still have persistent memories of situations where I had been a coward and hurt people? Why don't those painful memories go away? Does shame ever come to an end? Deep inside, I wanted a greater peace than a quiet and fulfilling life. I wanted the peace that comes from a good conscience.

### Resentful that life was so hard, Despairing that it was so meaningless.

**HIS WAS THE** story of my life. There are many more verses, but none of them were headed to a happy ending. At my funeral (if anyone had come besides my parents) the only eulogy<sup>1</sup> that could have been made would have been: "She wanted to be kind, noble,<sup>2</sup> and beautiful. It's too bad she never made it, but at least she had high ideals."

It was all the more frustrating<sup>3</sup> because my parents were the kind of good citizens that governments want the nation to be made up of: honest, hard-working, respectable, respectful, trustworthy, reliable, and with a certain selflessness that makes up a strong society. Yet, they and others of their generation have produced children who are selfish and self-centered, unheeding, and disrespectful. Oh, you could see us in the family photo album and we looked like a nice family, probably pretty much like yours or anyone else's. We weren't just given over to outand-out evil; we weren't in trouble with the police. But if you looked at how we affected other people in our relationships, you would see that we were pretty messed up. We were not producing anything worthwhile in our own lives or the lives of those we were in relationships with. You couldn't say that we were steadfast and true and of good character. In the crisis we were (in subtle but telling ways) arrogant, reckless, deceitful, and calculating.

Mom and Dad say that we turned out alright, because they don't want to just put us down,

<sup>3</sup> *Frustrating* — discouraging by hindering; depriving of confidence or hope or enthusiasm and hence often deterring action; preventing realization or attainment of a desire; thwarting, tending to prevent or hinder.



but my father, now in his old age, sits in his great-grandfather's chair that he salvaged from what remained of the old family homestead, and turns this question over and over in his mind: What went wrong? I always wanted to know, too.

I don't know that I could lay all the blame at my father's feet, and I want to preserve his dignity as much as I can, but even he would say that apples don't fall far from the tree. Although he is deeply ashamed of his own shortcomings, written large in his children, I have come to see that there are spiritual forces at work greater than my father can see.

When my parents were growing up, life took care of shaping your character. There were miles to walk to school, spankings to be had for being late, the garden to hoe, the chickens and horses to be cared for, the cow to be milked, the milk to be separated, the barn to be cleaned, and the wood to be chopped. The house was stifling hot in the summer and the stove still had to be stoked for baking. It was bitterly cold in the winter and someone had to be the first to get up to get the kitchen fire going. There was no getting around these realities, and no one shielded their children from the work, as it was a matter of survival. And, they would be parents themselves one day and would have to face the weight of making a living.

Men didn't quit a job that was irksome, and women didn't quit housework because it was boring. They had more character than to do that. And because often time life was just sheer drudgery, the people celebrated — feast days and harvests, get-togethers, fundraisers and any other reason to be

<sup>4</sup> *Naïve* — Lacking worldly experience and understanding; simple and guileless; unsuspecting or credulous; showing or characterized by a lack of sophistication and critical judgment; not previously subjected to experiments; not having previously taken or received a particular drug. The truth was that the foundation of my life was off.

More than the flaws in my character (which I think a few good spankings would have helped me with), there was a problem with the very nature of the foundation of my life: I was living for myself. Whether I did good or evil, I did it for me. Myself was the bottom line. I wanted to be kind and noble, but it was for myself, to be recognized, to feel good about myself. I wanted security for my life first, and your security was a distant second place.

All the world had to offer was just more of "what's in it for me?" I wanted the way out and I started looking for it. But, where in the world do you find the way out of the world? The only way out is for someone who has already found the way out to call you out. Everything we write in this paper is about that call. I met a people who had what I was looking for even though I would not have thought God could be the answer to my problem. My old selfish life has been washed away, and I am learning to have compassion and some backbone. In my new family, we are learning together to truly care for one another, learning together to be kind and noble. And I have a new name, too. My name is Shelem, which means the peace that comes from a good conscience. If you are looking for that peace, you can find it here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> *Eulogy* — formal speech of praise, often given at funerals.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>*Noble*—in the sense of excellent character; to be all that I dreamed to be: courageous, generous, patient, and so forth

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> An American poet and novelist who committed suicide in 1963, at 30 years of age.

## Gone with the Wind

*If the foundations are destroyed,* what can the righteous do? (*Psalm 11:3*)

UMAN BEINGS HAVE moral instincts, and the knowledge that "He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly,"<sup>1</sup> is one of them. That knowledge is in the Book of Proverbs, but it has also been part of the instinctive moral heritage of all mankind for thousands of years.<sup>2</sup> But many in our day are discarding this moral common sense.<sup>3</sup> Why?

God created man, male and female, in His own image.<sup>4</sup> Though fallen, man still retains His image in the ability to reason and the freedom to choose. His intention for fallen man is that reasoning and choice would be guided by His great gift to mankind — the conscience. This is the true source of our accountability, for it warns us before we do wrong. It is God's mercy to us that our conscience also has the power to condemn us if we go past that warning. The guilt that results is meant to soften the heart we had to harden in order to do what we knew was wrong. To continue to go against our conscience in spite of the increasing weight of guilt is to be on a path toward incurring eternal judgment.5

For those who step out on that slippery slope of going against conscience in one area of life, it becomes increasingly easy to go against it in other areas. Along that path such people become more prone to deception as their consciences become duller. Things that were once unthinkable become thinkable and finally even attractive options.6 This is what happens to people who become used to taking the easy path instead of doing what their consciences once demanded. This path ends in the Lake of Fire, which is the second death, a place of unending torment. But where did this path begin? What was the original state of the conscience and the way of life it was

5 For more about this, see: http://www. twelvetribes.com/publications/everlastingcovenant.html

<sup>6</sup> Romans 1:18-32

intended to thrive in? And by what steps have parents and their forbears strayed so far away from that original state and way of life that it would make sense to them to discard the wisdom of the ages and of their own hearts and hate their own children so much as to withhold the rod of discipline from them?

### **The Everlasting Covenant**

In the dawn of human history, God established an everlasting covenant with Adam and Eve after the Fall, giving them boundaries that would keep them and their offspring from the sins that would take them to the eternal second death<sup>7</sup>:

To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth; in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying:

'You shall not eat from it.' cursed is the ground because of you. In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen*esis 3:16-19*)

The life described above is the merciful provision and discipline of the Creator for fallen man. It is the way of life He intended for fallen people in which conscience can best thrive. In such a life, fallen men and women can best hold onto the image of God that remains in them, and successfully pass that righteousness on to their children. It assumes a life planted firmly in working the very earth that mankind's own selfishness had cursed.

Within the boundaries of this covenant, a man must labor long and hard to bring forth food from the earth. He must be diligent, and care for his animals. He must

<sup>7</sup> For more on the distinction between the first and second deaths, please read: http:// www.twelvetribes.com/publications/3ED/ how-can-i-believe.html

wife and bring her alongside him in everything if the family is to do well. She must stand and labor alongside him and help him in everything, and not hinder him, or they will not thrive. Such a couple earnestly de-

sire children, and genuinely need them. They must train their children diligently and teach them to labor alongside them wholeheartedly to keep up with the all the hard work involved in an agrarian life. He and his wife truly need their children's help and the children know that they are truly needed. But the man works the hardest, and they know his hard work and see it on a daily basis. They love and respect him for this and honor his God-given authority as husband, father, and provider.

In such a life, to "spare the rod and spoil the children" is to court starvation and disaster. There is no room for trying out fanciful social theories. An agrarian family must live connected to the rhythms of the earth and acknowledge their total dependence on the Creator. They know that no matter how hard they work, if He does not send the rain and deliver them from evil and give the increase, they cannot survive. They must stand in humility before creation and the Creator if they are doing to do well.

This was the way of life of 90% of Americans only one hundred and fifty years ago, yet in current Western culture it is almost extinct. So what happened to this agrarian way of life that is the God-ordained foundation of a family life lived according to the everlasting covenant? Where did this foundation go? It was destroyed during the century before Dr. Benjamin Spock came forth with his newfangled "fables" about how to raise children. It was blown away by the winds of the War Between the States, the Industrial Revolution, and people's desire to flee the hard life of farm work for an easier life in the towns and cities of America.

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In 1850, farmers still sowed by hand, cultivated with hoes, and reaped with sickles, but John Deere Company began manufacturing 10,000 iron plows a year. Iron plows cut plowing time in half. Mechanical reapers began to replace sickles, turning two weeks' harvesting into a day's work.

In 1862, President Lincoln signed legislation establishing the Department of Agriculture. He called it "The People's Department" since 90% of Americans at that time were still farmers. Lincoln also approved the Homestead Act of 1862, which granted full title of up to 160 acres of land to settlers after five years of residence. Although seemingly a good thing, the Act was corruptly administered. As a result, most land passed into the hands of large corporations through "dummy" homesteaders.

By 1870, the census showed that farmers, for the first time, were in the minority. Of all employed persons, only 47.7% were farmers. As farming became more mechanized, more farmers were forced to rely on bank loans for land and equipment.

The devastation of the agrarian Southern states by the North, the vastly increased industrialization of the North due to the war, and Lincoln's "Homestead Act" combined to accomplish the unthinkable. The percentage of Americans working the land was cut almost in half (from 90% to 47.7%) in a mere eight years. America's foundation as an agrarian society of hard-working subsistence farmers suffered a fatal blow. Most remaining farmers became debtors, a pattern that remains to this day. The much-lauded "Homestead Act" created great fortunes for large corporations as the actual

over the struggle, tear down the foun- lievers.<sup>4</sup> Even the judgments, in us, we feel dations, and pretend that evil which every man will stand beaowndoes not exist.

number of farmers plummeted. This is possibly the most rapid shift from an agrarian culture to an industrial, urban culture that has ever occurred in

human history. By 1880, the U.S. reached population 50,155,783, with the farm population estimated at 22,981,000. 49% of all employed persons were farmers, and of those, one in four was a "sharecropper" who did not own the land he labored on, despite the Homestead Act.

By 1920, farms were

still home to roughly 32 million Americans comprising 30% of the population. This would soon change. Migration, mostly of young people leaving the farms for the cities, escalated over the coming years.

From 1940 to 1980, the downward spiral continued. Farmers decreased to less than 3% of the population, completing the transformation from an agrarian society to an urban and industrial one. The biggest factor was this: people, especially the young, fled from the hard work of farming for an easier life in the cities.

But many righteous, hardworking families were forced off the land through larger factors beyond their control. Some tenants and sharecroppers were forced out, as owners with modern machinery were able to cultivate large areas without them. Other small farmers went broke or sold out to larger neighbors. Most small and poor farms were taken over by bigger operations. Drought, dust, debt and the Great Depression drove many righteous families off the land and into the cities seeking work. Once they got there, their character did not change. They remained righteous, hard-working people who did their best to raise righteous children. But where is the righteousness of their grandchildren and great-grandchildren? Many of us had such forebears, and we well know our character does not match up to theirs.

Today, less than 2% of Americans still work the land, and only 10% live in rural areas.8 The original American agrarian life of families laboring together in the soil

<sup>8</sup> United States Department of Agriculture Farm Facts: Hightinvectors. Raige 4 qlinks/extension.html

fore God, will be based on what a person has done, not on what he claims to believe.<sup>5</sup> For it is by a man's deeds that his true heart is made known. Any so-called belief that is not manifest in good work is a vain philosophy, which leads to a wasted life.





nature that helps us understand the workings of the evil ruler of this world, it is the fearsome spider. An awesome predator, the spider methodically weaves its web in the well-traveled pathways. Then it lies in wait for an unsuspecting traveler to get caught in its sticky snare. It takes the lead in a macabre predatorprey dance with breathtaking cunning and relentless efficiency and will do whatever it takes to see the union end in the grisly death of its victim.

A tiny winged creature carries out the duties of its life — seeking food, making a home, and generating offspring. Flitting along its way, it is suddenly caught. The frightened little creature, sensing the danger, struggles to free itself from the sticky bonds of the spider's web. Like the bloodthirsty Great White shark or the marauding lion, the spider senses its advantage over its struggling prey and moves in for the kill. The spider sinks its venomous fangs into its prey, injecting a powerful neurotoxin, which effectively paralyzes the little creature. Gradually

THERE IS anything in the spider's victim gives up the struggle. Then the spider returns to spin a silky death chamber around the little creature.

Once its prey is hopelessly bound, the spider once again sinks its deadly fangs into it. This time the spider injects powerful digestive enzymes into the tiny creature, which turns its insides to jelly. Then the spider will gradually suck the insides out of its prey until all that is left is a hollow shell, as a gruesome memorial of what was once a life.

#### Worldwide Web

Like a spider's web, the world we live in is full of snares and pitfalls, carefully arranged by the greatest predator of all time. Using the powerful lures of wealth, prestige, fame and instant gratification, Satan and his angels draw the unsuspecting into further and further peril. Modern technology, mass media, and the proliferation of the worldwide web have spread Satan's snare over the whole earth. So many today are oblivious to the purpose of life and the value of the struggle. As the paralyzing venom of Satan's subtle persuasion is pumped into our spiritual bloodstream, and feelings of hopelessness and worthlessness

this wisdom has been all but lost, and this instinctive knowledge of God is being gradually replaced by "modern thought." The new way is to play now and pay later, living for the moment as if tomorrow will never come. This is even being put forth as a great spiritual path, as with the million selling book, "The Power of Now." This is a powerfully alluring and deceptive road to travel, for it promises happiness and bliss and freedom from all liability for your actions, yet it leads one well down the road of selfishness, far beyond the boundaries of conscience. This road is strewn with broken relationships, unwanted children and ruined lives.

These new-age prophets of "now-ness" and "self-realization" proclaim that there are no absolutes, and that the only righteous standard is that there are no standards of righteousness and justice. There is no more accountability, for all that has happened in the past is the "old now," which must be left behind in order to fully live in the "new now." In order to fully come into this "enlightened consciousness" one must give up

<sup>1</sup> Ecclesiastes 3:11 <sup>2</sup> Job 14:14

### The Greatest Deception

to give up the struggle. Thankfully there is still enough of the image of God in man on "Just relax, go with it. the earth where most will still acknowledge that there are stan-It will all be dards of justice and righteousness over soon." that we must all recognize and you heard conform our lives to if we are to voice live in peace with one another. It would seem that many are losing speaking to significant ground in their strugyou inside? The wisgle and resolve to walk in the way dom of the of conscience. But at least there is ancient ones still something in mankind that

can be convicted of his need to tells us that eternity is set change for the good. in the heart The greatest web of deception of all time is the "modern relievery and gion" of Christianity, which bears no resemblance to its amazing bethere is a reward for our hard struggle.<sup>2</sup> Yet

ginnings. What was once a rich vibrant life where all the believers lived together in Community and shared all things, has become a stifling religious form of rote and ritual. This religion, which has captivated a third of mankind, acknowledges the righteous standards of our Creator, while denigrating<sup>3</sup> any effort made to keep those standards.

According to mainstream Christian thought, all men are born destined to hell, regardless of good done or resistance of evil in their life. And for those who are Christians, any effort to please God through doing good is regarded as "works salvation" - a great evil, which supposedly takes away from the glory of what Christ did on the cross. It is taught that man is inherently an evil sinner who will not overcome his sin in this lifetime, but at the return of Christ the believer will be transformed — body, soul and spirit. His human will, which was formerly inclined towards sin will be changed by God to be totally conformed to the image of God.

This is not only unrealistic, but is quite contrary to the very Bible they claim to follow. According to the Word of God, every man will reap what he sows, including be-

<sup>3</sup> Denigrate — To attack the character or reputation of; speak ill of; defame; to disparage; belittle.

### The Value of the Struggle

Where is all this taking us as we are wrapped in this warm, silky blanket of self-life? What is the world coming to when every manner of evil can be called, "a beautiful thing" by those who claim to be God's messengers?

We can learn a lot from the spider, but in nature we also see the butterfly breaking free from its cocoon, and little chick struggling to break out of its little shell, and the salmon zealously rushing upstream to spawn. The struggle is vitally important to their survival and the continuance of their species. So too the little creature who is able to break free from the web before the spider is able to inject its venom, has renewed hope, another chance to live.

Yahshua, the true Son of God was sent to deliver man from Satan's efforts to destroy him. The struggle is a necessary part of the process, which strengthens man's will to do the will of God and resist the temptations of the evil one. There is a set apart (holy) nation of people on earth today who are being disentangled from Satan's web of deceit. We are being purified from our wrong ways, in this lifetime. Heaven holds Yahshua until He has a people, who have overcome the evil that rules this world. Those who give themselves to this purification will be totally His in eternity. They will rule with Him over the good people of the nations who endured through the struggle of this life, obeying their conscience and keeping themselves free of the spider's web. They will not lose their reward either. Come and join us in the struggle! 🏶

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Proverbs 13:24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Romans 2:14-16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> 2 Timothy 4:3,4 <sup>4</sup> Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Proverbs 22:8; 24:10-12; Romans 2:6-8; Galatians 6:7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Revelation 20:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 19:7,8

# **Common Sense Corner**

# Truth and Yogurt

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. (1 Corin*thians* 14:33)

Many times and places have brought about short bursts of truth. Men at various times have stumbled across obvious truths in the Scriptures and taken them on as emblems, waving them proudly like a flag. The Seventh Day Adventists came across many such truths, being men given to much study. They came to understand the history of the church and found the change of the Sabbath day to Sunday by the Pope. They were shocked and amended their ways and then began to tell everyone about keeping the Sab- of warm milk and then introbath. What they said was correct. duce the good starter, mixing

problem is: They, like so past, did not have the medium to introduce this truth into... not the proper medium for it to bring about the desired effect.

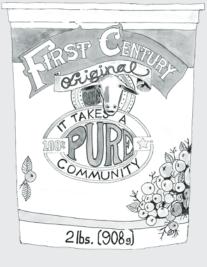
In the following allegory truth is compared to the "starter" that is

used in the process of making yogurt. For those who know how to make yogurt, this will be a very clear allegory.

When making yogurt, a good culture is inserted into the proper medium and it will in a matter of several hours turn the entire medium into yogurt of the exactly same nature as the starter. But no matter how good the starter is, if the medium is defiled with bacteria or is not the proper temperature it will not turn into yogurt. On the contrary, it will turn into the yogurt "yoged" or not. If we every sort of runny, sour milk, often not fit for human consumption.

We make up a large batch

But here is where the well. Then several hours later, we go to the yogurt jars which many movements in the are wrapped in blankets keeping them just the right temperature, and we open one to see if the process has gone as planned. It is immediately evident whether



see the smooth, rich texture of yogurt filling the jar, we say, "It yoged." Or we might say, "The yogurt didn't yog" if we saw a runny mess, and smelled the foul odor of defiled milk.

There are many, many truths that men have run across throughout history, but history bears out the fact that when a truth is isolated and put into an unfit environment, it does not produce the "yogurt" that it should.

We see and hear elements of "truth" on many sides, within Christianity and all the other religions. Even in the society at large, the wisdom gained from common sense is evident in many places. Yet, if not inserted into the proper medium of the functioning Body of Messiah, then it does not "yog." Thus, there have been groups like the Jesus movement, the shepherding movement, the wilderness preparation movement, the Sabbath movement, and the charismatic movement... but in the end it becomes only a divided mess, and it does not "yog."

When you taste good yogurt, you know it.

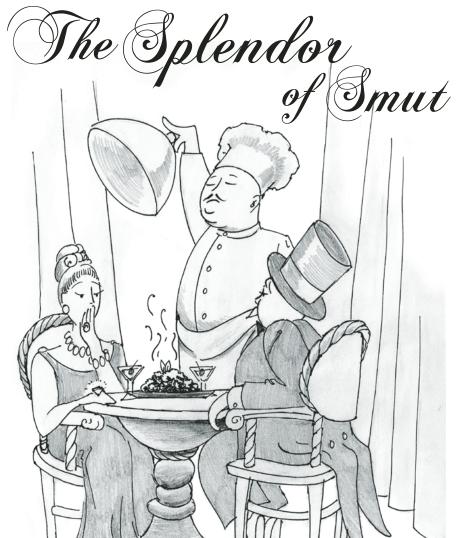
The culture of yogurt is native to a certain part of the Middle East. There the special culture is active in the open air. If milk is religion, the culture is killed imleft out in its natural state, and mediately.

It is the same with the truth. is just the right temperature, it will become yogurt on its own. This is the natural way yogurt is made. We have captured that yogurt culture and imported it to all parts of the world. The culture desires to permeate the milk, but if all the factors are not right, it will not be free to fill the environment.

The Body of Messiah is the perfect environment for the commands and the "hard sayings" of Messiah to flourish. Though someone may grasp a certain aspect of the good news and try to put it into practice, if all the proper factors are not there, it will not "yog."

Within a heart of total surrender the love of God (the culture) could once again be introduced. He was always there desiring a place to pour his Spirit. Once the heart came into the correct temperature without the defilement of destructive bacteria, His love came in. Now that same culture has spread to all those who are in that same environment.

Within the ranks of organized



was coming about, for when asked by the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God was going to come, He answered:

"... The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." (Luke 17:20-21)

The life of the Kingdom of God was in their midst in a comprehensive and observable way.<sup>5</sup> All of those who believed were together sharing all that they had, living in unity with one another, for they had been cleansed from their sins, and the love of God had been poured out into their hearts.<sup>6</sup> This was no accident. No, the prophets had spoken long ago of such a movement:

This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "I myself will take a shoot from the very top of a cedar and plant it; I will break off a tender sprig from its topmost shoots and plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it; it will produce branches and bear fruit and become a splendid cedar. Birds of every kind will nest *in it; they will find shelter in the* shade of its branches." (Ezekiel

### (2 Corinthians 11:2-4,13-15)

The true light of Messiah was being supplanted by the false light of Satan's messengers, accelerating the cycle of decay that had already lodged itself in some of the communities, perverting the healthy growth the church had started out with.8 With time, though, the alarms were sounded less frequently. The original apostles started dying off, and smut infected the entire crop. The church stopped obeying even the most fundamental commands they had been taught. They stopped caring for the orphans in their midst, nor did they make sure the widows had what they needed, nor did they welcome strangers. A deadly fungus had gripped this oncemajestic tree and was starting to transform it into something completely different from what it had been in the beginning.

A man named James, writing early in the second century AD, penned a desperate plea to the churches, which by that time had already become divided and dispersed all over the known world.9 He hoped that perhaps, through his earnest pleas, he could somehow get the attention of any true disciples that might be left. We still have his letter today. Here is

save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! ...

But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 1:26-27; 2:1-4,14-19,26)

The smut had set in and was now beginning to take over.

### A Modern-Day Delicacy

Sadly, the passionate appeals of James were not enough to arrest the disease that was spreading lethally throughout the entire church. The pustules of division grew into councils, factions, and denominations that multiplied and mutated into varied malformations. The spores spread from one city to the next, and down through the centuries, infecting entire nations of people and almost exterminating others. Though many people over the centuries lamented the destruction of this once-pure growth, others in more learned and scholarly circles came to appreciate the variety of newer forms, and even began celebrating the mystical oneness of the many-splintered diversity as if it were a delicacy. Like corn smut, this new growth was heralded by the theologically elite as a better, more glorious and mature form than the simple common life of love and unity described so vividly in the book of Acts. So, today we find ourselves living in a society that values things like huitlacoche, which is really a lifeless fungus, void of any nutritional value. Sadly, like this fungus, many take delight in the lifeless husk of a religion that has grown accustomed to the things that James so aggressively warned against. Though most will read this and find little wrong with a religion that boasts 37,000 denominations worldwide, there will be a few (perhaps you are one of them) in whom it will awaken a longing for something real, something that gives life and doesn't leech it away. It is for those few that we write this paper, in hopes that something will stir in their hearts, for we have found the One who satisfies and doesn't disappoint. While much of the world is being dazzled by the flashy facades of Christianity, there is a little sprout bursting forth



EELING Pick up any fine dining magazine these days, and you are barraged with all manner of exotic foods to tantalize your taste buds. As Americans, we just don't seem to be satisfied with the "same ole, same ole" anymore. We're always looking for something new and exciting. Well lately, the rage has been none other than huitlacoche (pronounced, wheat-la-CO-chay). This South American delicacy has been popping up in all the upper-echelon restaurants. The rich, nutty flavor, sautéed with garlic, wild onions, and chives, set steaming on a bed of fresh, wild-crafted, mixed greens, has brought forth scrumptious reviews from food critics in all the major metro areas.

More commonly known to farmers as corn smut, this onetime nuisance to the agri-business has now become a big-time moneymaker for growers. In fact, many farmers have decided to intentionally inject the spores of this fungus into their crops to ensure they get the large, bluish, pustule-like masses that have become so en vogue. At a popular Madison, Wisconsin farmers' market one infected ear will go for around \$5.

So how is it that a disease that used to be so vigilantly fought against has become accepted and even sought-after? To the common man, this deformed, mushroom-like growth might seem repulsive. Poor fellow! While he may look on and scratch his head in amazement, blinded by his lack of culture, the trained palates of the intellectually astute will continue their chitter chatter about the splendor of smut.

### The Disease Cycle

Though the concept may sound strange, it's not the first time something obviously bad has later come to be seen as something desirable. One of the most profound examples of this phenomenon wasn't with a vegetable, but with

ADVENTUROUS? the church. Although it began centuries ago, this odd transformation continues to this day.

> So often, Yahshua used simple analogies from nature to communicate a deep message to His hearers. In fact, on numerous occasions, both He and the prophets compared Israel, and later the first-century church, to a plant.<sup>1</sup> Plants are dependent on the sun for growth and reproduction, and if the light is hindered from reaching them, fungi and decay set in.<sup>2</sup>

> The first-century church began like a healthy and vibrant vine, bearing its fruit in clusters. You can read about it in the following passages:

All who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need... Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35)

Like a healthy crop, the church started off full of the necessary nutrients and oriented properly toward the "Sun," from which all of its life came. Continued reliance upon the nutrients of the Master's commands and the apostles' teaching would ensure strong, healthy growth.<sup>3</sup> The fulfillment of the words of Yahshua<sup>4</sup>

### 22-23)

And Yahshua had echoed this when He said:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

Slowly, however, spores from other fields began to drift into the branches of this healthy tree and lodge themselves there. Though the apostles warned of this danger, those who tended the field let their guard down.<sup>7</sup> Foreign agents crept in unnoticed, injecting their deadly fungus into the once-pure tree. The Apostle Paul lamented this process of decay, using a different metaphor:

I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him. But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the

serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it easily enough... For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of

Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

<sup>6</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Timothy 2:8; Romans 5:5; John 17:21-23 7 Galatians 1:6-7

a part of it, showing the decayed condition of the church:

If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless. Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world...

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ...

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith



### Huitlacoche (corn smut)

Recent interest in devloping huitlacoche as a cash crop has come from increasing acceptance by the North American public, who prize it as a new delicacy.

<sup>8</sup> Isaiah 50:11

<sup>9</sup> James 1:1 — This is not to be confused with the brother of Christ, or even James the apostle, since this letter was written during the second century AD. Though many Christian scholars believe that the letter was written around 40-45 AD, it would have been impossible for the communities to have fallen that far in such a short amount of time. See The Insurgent, on our web site.

from the "mustard seed" to spread its branches and make a home for those who desire life.

*A father of the fatherless and a* judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation. God makes a home for the lonely; He leads out the prisoners into prosperity; Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land. (Psalm 68:5-6)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Ezekiel 17:22-24; Matthew 13:31-32 <sup>2</sup> See The Colors of Life and Death, on our web site <sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15 <sup>4</sup> See Name above all Names, p. 10

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> 1 Peter 2:12



### **True Bread** A Common Sense Look at White vs. Whole Grain

done concerning the difference between white and whole grain bread. In 1970, Roger Williams, a biochemist at the University of Texas, fed "enriched" white bread to rats, and within 90 days, two thirds of them were dead, the others quite sick.

### The Experiment

The scientist had a group of test rats in a cage. The rats were

all hungry as rats usually are. The scientist began feeding them with a steady diet of only white bread, every day and every night. The

rats seemed to like the bread very much, but before long all of those little test rats were dead! Somehow, the white bread was not able to sustain their life. Then the scientist did the same experiment again, but this time he used only real whole grain bread (bread made from the whole kernel of wheat, leaving no part out). The results of this test were quite different! The little creatures seemed to thrive.

So, within this dark bread it seems there was a life-sustaining factor that was missing from the white bread.

Then the scientist again made the experiment. But this time he put both white and whole grain bread in the cage every morning and every night to feed the rats.

Which one do you think the maining). rats all went for?

T HAS BEEN reported to us that other dusty brown. White bread an authentic experiment was is only white because something important has been removed from the flour that the bread is made with. For when the wheat from which the flour was made was grown in the field, it was not white, but rather it was a golden brown color. When the wheat kernels were harvested they were taken to a mill and ground into flour. When the flour came out of the mill, it was a light brown color. The brown color came from

the outer shell of the wheat kernel which is called the bran, and the heart of the kernel called the germ. But

man was not content to leave the flour in its natural state. He then took this light brown flour and put it through a sifting process, removing the bran and the germ. This was a very unwise thing to do. For in its whole state, the wheat kernel is a complete food. The bran is essential as roughage for the cleansing of the body, and the germ is the very life source of the kernel, full of vitamins which ensure good health.

After the sifting process, the flour was no longer its natural brown color, but instead it was white. In some parts of the world the sifting process is followed by a bleaching process which makes the flour a nice, clean, bright white (a process which kills whatever nutrition may have been re-

### Well, if it had been men in the **A Peculiar Preference**

anyone choose lifeless white bread if they could have the real thing? What does it reveal about the condition of man's soul when he would disdain good whole grain bread that is the very staff of life? Why would he, instead, choose to gulp down the empty husk of white bread? Is society's choice to eat white bread an indication of a deeper problem?

### The Whole World is White Bread

We are living in a society in which people are trying to sustain themselves both physically and spiritually by many various means. Yet, in both body and soul, their lives reveal the hunger pangs of insufficient nourishment. People try to nourish their starving souls with pleasure, travel, education, drugs, philosophy, and the arts. They also shop around for a religion that suits their taste. They try to fill themselves through a system, both social and religious, which gives them no longlasting, satisfying relationships or purpose. They try to feed their souls with religious experiences which culminate in a once-aweek observance of a "thin white wafer" ceremony.

All those things people seek for are as incomplete as the bread most of them eat, for these pursuits are lacking the essential ingredients that can assure an individual of eternal life. Their ways and their diet may seem right and profitable, but as a wise man once said, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof is the way of death." (King Solomon, Proverbs 16:25) Yes, death — just like those poor little undernourished rats in the first experiment. Yet, man seems so hopelessly trapped in all this and, like those rats, is only eating what is handed to him, ignorant of his fate — enjoying his white bread!

ENDOSPERM OR

STARCHY PART

### The Hazards

But some seem to be waking up to the hazards of the "white bread" offered by this society. They see men all around them dying from eating it, and they sense that something is wrong. They want to be healthier and begin to seek

Not only have they robbed the sembles the simple life of the first, life source of the bread, they have also altered the genes to make the product even more long-lasting. The outcome of eating these genetically modified products has never been tested, and one can only cringe to think of the results of a nation who feeds upon such folly.

### **Health Seekers and** Religion

These health seekers may turn to the "alternative lifestyle," looking toward "New Age" philosophies or Eastern religions to satisfy their deep spiritual hunger. Many have become disgusted with the "white bread religion" offered by the Western Christian religion. But wait! Isn't that very Savior of the Christians the one who said, "I am the bread of life, the living, true bread, and he who eats of this bread will never die?" Surely this cannot be white bread He was speaking of. White bread could never make such a claim!

What is commonly called the "gospel" today, the message of salvation, is just like that genetically modified white bread. It is made from a substance which can't sustain life. For if a man were given only white wafers to physically live, he would eventually be bloated from the empty calories and total lack of vitamins and minerals. Also, his insides would be clogged from lack of the proper cleansing effect from the roughage in whole grains. It takes no effort to chew a white wafer — it just melts in your mouth. So it is with this white-bread Savior. It seems that His message has been stripped of its life-sustaining effects. Though a person may temporarily prosper from the empty message, as your physical body may seem to prosper from a diet of white bread, we must remember the little rats in the experiment. In the long term, the devastating effects will become evident, as deep inside the accumulated sludge of guilt and perversion

> takes its toll. But the True Bread of pure still religion remains unchanged from original its pure, whole state. The primitive state of the Savior's message from 2000 years ago still has the power to give life and health

to the body

primitive church. It was whole when it was picked, but man has tampered with the message to the point that its vital, life-sustaining properties have been lost. So, we are left with... a "White Bread" Jesus.

Even the name "Jesus" is only a product of man's tampering. In its original (whole) state 2000 years ago, His name was Yahshua, the Hebrew name given by the angel Gabriel. A person used to be named for his outstanding quality. His name meant "Yahweh's Salvation," which is very significant because that very salvation was this Man's whole mission.

The genetically modified white-bread religion of today is everywhere, just like white bread that lines the shelves of every supermarket. In its refined state it is easier to chew, softer, and more appealing to the fleshly appetite. The life of obedience called for in "whole grain religion" will only appeal to those who are wise enough to see that men around them are slowly withering from lack of life.

The only hope for man today is that he would eat the only Bread that can satisfy his hunger, whole Bread for both the body and the soul. It is the only true food that will nourish, feed, and fill every starving, empty cell in his being.

### "O Taste and See..."

Through this example of whole grain versus white bread, you can clearly see how man's physical body craves the nourishment found in the whole grain kernel. But of course, even if you eat good whole grain bread every day of your life, you will still ultimately die.

Yet, there is a Living Bread, the Bread of Life, that will give eternal life in the soul. Yahshua said, "If you eat of the Bread of Life you will never die, but will live forever." He could not have been talking about mere physical bread. There remains a whole grain bread that will actually save you from eternal death! This good news that Yahshua taught is the only message that gives man the whole truth. Nothing is lacking. Nothing has been sifted out to make it softer. His message has many hard sayings, but it is the only way to true life.

The Bible says, "O taste and see, that God is good."

### And So...

What have we learned from wholesome those little rats in the experiment? Surely the death of those who were fed only white bread has shown us something of great



cage, perhaps they would have gone for the white bread — but have preferred white bread over these little creatures knew better! They knew which one would sustain their life and which one would not. All the rats ate the whole grain bread!

#### The Bread

So what was it in the whole grain bread that made the difference? We must understand the difference between these two types of bread. For there is a far greater difference between them than just

For years now, most Americans whole grain. Slick advertising and the convenience of mass production have convinced the masses that white bread is better, even though it is virtually tasteless, has no nutritional value and as the experiment concluded, cannot sustain life, even in a rat. Now more and more scientific research confirms that nutritional deficiencies in the normal American diet cause many of the cancers and digestive disorders that plague this society. their color — one pure white, the So the question is, why would

for things that might have more nourishment. In hope, they pick up a loaf of "whole grain bread" at their local supermarket, but unfortunately, they fail to read the small print on the label which tells the true ingredients. If they had checked this they would have found that this bread really only contains a small fraction of whole grain flour, just enough so that they can trick their customers into thinking that they are getting the real thing. And many people are oblivious when they see on the label GM (meaning genetically modified).

and the soul. The pure gospel is not genetically modified by mankind's tampering to make it "easier to swallow" and more acceptable in today's society. It works to heal and purify. For He said, "If anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever."

BRAN

GERM OR

EMBRYO

THE WHEAT KERNEL

Unfortunately, the message of this Savior who called Himself the "Bread of Life" has undergone the same devitalization as that little wheat kernel we spoke of earlier. Genetically modified to find a more prominent place in the world of easy pleasure, it barely re-

value.

And really, whole grain bread does taste better than white bread. Just try eating it for a few days, and see how bland and lifeless the white bread tastes in comparison. But it is not very easy to find real whole grain bread these days. Whole grain breads, non-genetically modified, are available at our Common Ground Café & Bakeries, Common Sense Wholesome Food Markets, and Common Loaf Bakeries. As for the message of a whole life in the soul, just ask them! 🏶

### **The Heart of a Baker**



In our bakery here in England we meet thousands of people every week. We build relation-

Yochanan Bekor

ships with so many people and our customers learn to trust us. We tell them we are part of God's people and invite them to come come work with us, bake with us, have dinner with us, stay with us, but most of all to trust us.

We live in a world where trust is becoming a rarity, something that's almost alien to most. Many of us were like that. I know that personally, I didn't trust any man, and no man could trust me. Why? Because I didn't have trustworthy character — righteousness was not even in my vocabulary. Even though I worked with food all my life, and knew what my body needs and doesn't need, still I didn't live by that knowledge. Years ago as a chef, I made food for people that wasn't good for them. Sure, sometimes I did make food that was good for them, or appeared good for them, but I always gave people what they asked for. I could have told them the truth about how this wasn't good for them, or that

in the business of making money off of food. I could make things that were bad for you look so good you'd want seconds. I was a fallen human being in a dogeat-dog world. But now I am so thankful that I can look people in the eyes as we sell our bread, maté tea, salt, and other things knowing without a shadow of a doubt that what we have is good for them.

Our customers trust us, telling us things such as, "I love the taste of the bread, but not only does it taste good, it's good for me, too - no synthetics, no additives or chemicals or improvers. I really appreciate how you don't compromise on ingredients. Ever since I've stopped eating white bread (and in many cases, wheat) ,I feel much better, my digestion has improved, and **I feel educated.**" We tell them about how we make the breads and don't cut corners. We want to make bread that's good for you. People really appreciate the labor of love that it takes to produce good bread. They even say, "You can taste the love in the bread – you can see and taste the difference. It keeps for a long ers. Here is a quote from a bakwasn't good for them, but I was time, longer even than other ery journalist that I thought was

yeasted breads keep."

I love telling people how we make the bread with spring water, unrefined sea salt that we import from our brothers in France, unrefined Mascavo sugar and organic honey, and maté that we import through our brothers in Brazil. We tell them how we use organic spelt and rye flour that's grown in Germany and stoneground on real stones - milled locally in Tetbury, UK. We tell how our brothers in Germany and Bellows Falls, Vermont are growing their own spelt to be milled into flour. People love hearing about it. They see we are a people who care, and it makes me feel proud to be a part of a people who care. This is the standard that shows that God cares — by how His people care.

Even the national papers talk about how we are a religious community and have spiritual values. This speaks to people, even people who say they don't believe in God respect our values, since in today's society values are few and far between. We are listed as one of the top 60 bakeries in the United Kingdom and are even recommended to people by the Association of Master Bak-

nice. "Baking good bread for others is akin to a kind of thoughtful affection, and an integral part of many communities. Down at the Twelve Tribes community at Stentwood Farm, spiritual values are as important to the process of baking as mixing and kneading – a view I support, believe in and encourage you to follow. Many leaven based (sourdough) breads are baked, as well as more playful flocci and flavoured loaves."

We make every effort not to use ingredients that we know are bad for people's health (such as vital wheat gluten and white flour) in our breads. It's common knowledge that those ingredients aren't good for you. I know that's how I lived my life: Things weren't good for me, but I did them anyway. But I have learned that we reap what we sow. It's not easy to change people's taste preferences, but people love to be educated, and can start to trust us more and more because we don't use junk — we care. When we first started, we used more wheat and white flour than spelt flour. As time went by, we were more and more convinced that we should use only the best ingredients. We gradually changed over one variety of loaf at a time. As a result, our bread demand increased enormously. Our bakers are learning to apply their convictions, and not just do what's practical or requires the least ef-

fort.

Surely, people should be able to trust that God's people would give them what's good for them. I want people to know that our God knows what's good. It shouldn't be that people need to read the small print on our labels to find out whether God's people are using healthy ingredients. People shouldn't even have to read our labels, they should know we would only use good ingredients. That's why we wanted to have a standard, a symbol, a guarantee. We want to produce only food that people can trust.

Ónce bread was commonly known as "the staff of life," but people know most modern breads can't even sustain a rat, let alone a man. It might take a little more effort and care to use 100% stone-ground whole grain flour, but the end result is good for you. Using sponge and dough and sourdoughs is becoming a forgotten practice; yet for generations, this was once a normal practice. Extended fermentation not only tastes good, but you can look people in the eye when they buy our products, and know that there is no compromise. We are not trying to compete with white flour breads or "white bread" gospels. Believe me, it's the most satisfying thing when people say, "I trust you people" People can have the real thing — something they can trust. 🏶



REMEMBER JUNE 1987. I was driving south on Highway 59 into my future. Somewhere in the trunk of the '76 Ford Granada, buried under piles of clothes and books, was the golden ticket: my college diploma. That was my ticket to freedom, and I couldn't wait to finally get on with having a life of my own! It was the opportunity I had been waiting for, the chance to live just as I pleased and become who I would become without the binding shackles of accountability!

Driving past the Bechtel Tower, I wondered at the thousands of people I saw gathered on the grassy mall. I later heard that this was the New Age Harmonic Convergence — coinciding with my arrival in Houston! I was sure there must be some deep significance. For someone who had just embarked on "the rest of my life," I was groping for meaning and encouragement. Years of struggling under the authority and expectations of my parents, an oppressive and confusing Catholic upbringing, and four difficult years of "higher education" left me ready to throw off the heavy burden imposed on my freedom.

Somewhere in my early teens, I had begun to squirm against my parents' rule over me. I told myself they did not understand me, and even that they did not have my best (i.e., selfish) interests in mind. Like a deformed foot struggling in a corrective shoe, I began to develop calluses and scars as a consequence of my rebellion. Of course, not seeing that I was actually responsible for my own discomfort, I blamed my mother and father and their unreasonable rules and regulations. The real problem was that I was impatient, offended, and ungrateful. I wanted to do things my way. I did not want to see that my unceasing resistance to their authority was causing me to be unable to stand upright. Since I didn't believe my parents really knew me or cared what I wanted, I would not trust them. Foolishly I would often shun the good advice and wisdom offered to me because I believed it was intended to prevent me from finding out "the truth." I thought most of the restrictions put upon my behavior were a way of keeping me from experiencing life. In fact, I remember saying that I would rather make my own mistakes because I wanted to fully experience life. Needless to say, I also had many conflicting thoughts about God. I had known since I was very small that God was good and that He loved me and that He created everything and was wonderful beyond our comprehension. When I was very small I would even be good when my parents were not around because I believed He was



watching me and I wanted to please Him. But how could this wonderful, loving Creator be the same as the one they were talking about in church? Perhaps there was a misunderstanding. I knew I needed to know the truth.

In the meantime, to pacify my

conscience. I began to form an idea that years later would sprout into a philosophy, and later still would become my outlook on life as an adult. To put it quite simply, the idea was that anarchy is freedom. Without the oppression imposed by authority, one would be able to be who he was really meant to be! Children left to explore and learn on their own would find their "true selves." It was harmonious with the New Age trend, and for this reason I felt right at home in Houston where this

way of thinking found approval. At age 22, in my new world of freedom, I set out to undo all the "damage" of parental restraint and make up for lost time. My intent was to fully develop the burgeoning seed springing forth from the same thing that had caused me not to submit to my parents. Before long, I was on my way to "self-

actualizing" — a course of self-im-provement that would culminate in my enlightenment, becoming the person I was meant to be. I wanted to be open-minded because I felt the judgment of those whom I considered closed-minded. It was so sad to me that they were stuck in their narrow views while I was seeing the whole world for the first time. Too bad people were so strict with their children, squelching their magical creativity, imposing order on the beautiful untamed chaos of their fresh, uncharted minds. Truthfully, I had gone so far off course that I was calling good "evil" and evil "good." I was convinced that lawlessness was freedom and that its fruit of unruliness was beautiful (good). I thought of discipline and responsibility as boring (bad). I did not see that it was love for parents to train and guide their children with care, nor could I imagine how dangerous it was for children to be left to their own devices to "do their own thing.'

since then. In that time, I gained a different kind of education. Somewhere in there I had children of my own and a chance to raise them according to my own principles. As a good friend told me, "Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment." My poor judgment took me through a valley of consequences too numerous to recount. Some were funny, sad, amazing, tragic, permanent, irreversible, heartbreaking, shameful, desperate, regrettable, unnecessary, and necessary. Some people might say that my sins tend to go before me. If there was a wrong or hard way to do something, I would find that way. And unfortunately, the effects of my decisions and ideas were not limited to my self. When I finally began to realize that I had been going the wrong way, I had made so many mistakes that I didn't trust myself anymore. It was confusing to think about how following what was "in my heart" could have led me to this ugly result.

Somehow through those years I never forgot that the real God the one I had believed in as child - understood me, and I had hope that He had not forgotten me. He would know that I was looking for the truth, however foolishly. Even though I was just beginning to



I thought without the oppression imposed by authority one would be able to be who one was really meant to be! Children left to explore and learn on their own would find their "true selves."

see the magnitude of my sin, I believed that if God was who I hoped He was, He would have mercy on even someone as hardheaded as me. I knew that only that real God had the power to redeem the pile of rubble that was now my life. If God was not good, I would not have a reason to continue.

Sitting in the middle of all the shattered pieces, the realization came to me that I had been someone who insisted on doing all the right and wrong things for the was with my reasoning. I often had come out of the most seemingly hopeless circumstances, to start again, hopefully smarter. But if the root of the flaw was not destroyed, I was doomed to eventually make the same mistakes until I caught on. As I waded through those dark years, I would hungrily look for anything different from what I had seen. There had to be some wisdom, some way to salvage all of the wasted time, setbacks, and disappointments — something that could make it all have been worth it, some truth that would make it all make sense. It was obvious that I had not yet found that truth. The groping for who I was supposed to be hadn't ended. I realized that I had still not become that actualized wonderful person I was "meant" to be. Neither had any of my New Age friends. Where was this person I was going to "evolve"

into — the product of living freely, unfettered by the expectations of some authority outside or above me?

Then I saw myself. There I was. My self, sitting in the fallout of the past years spent tearing through life, trying to taste every morsel of experience I could get my hands on. Now I gazed on all the unfinished projects, half-hearted friendships (some charred and burned out), guilt, compromised goals and standards, bitterness about disappointing outcomes, frustrated dreams — the list goes on and on.

Like a wild garden overgrown by weeds, my life had not become the beautiful exquisite masterpiece I had dreamed of. It was not nurtured with care and order, something delightful to behold, drawing sensitive visitors to walk in it and enjoy its carefully tended and thoughtfully designed paths. It was a discouraging and uninviting bramble. It was not bearing the sweet fruit of a disciplined upbringing. It needed a lot of work.

If only I had welcomed and submitted to pruning back when I was much younger, allowing myself to be trained into a vine bearing sweet fruit instead of sour grapes! Now that I was much older, not only had so many years been wasted that could have borne fruit, but also the pruning necessary

now would be radical. The many branches that were overgrown would have to be cut off, cleared out, and burned. The unpruned vine allowed to grow wild produces bitter fruit, if any at all. Its tendrils grab hold even of its own self, twisting and tangling into confusion and disorder.

In thinking I was being open-minded, progressive, evolving, I actually made my intended goal of "being free" an impossibility. It brings to mind something I heard growing up: "Some people are so open-minded that

their brains fall out!"

An honest look at my life revealed a deep alienation from family, friends, and even potential relationships due to the guilt I had from living so selfishly and foolishly. I had no idea how damaged a person could become simply by trying to ennoble oneself. But my own life was *proof* that chasing after all the things I had hoped would fulfill me had done exactly the opposite.

wrong and right reasons. The flaw clean and start over again! There ready to abandon our own goals. was no way to undo all I had done, no way to go back in time and do things over. I wished I could somehow be clean and unstained by all the wrong things I had been involved in and given myself to over the years. I regretted the rebellion toward my parents, not only because of the consequences, but also because I could not receive the good intended for me through their discipline and guidance. Instead I received and believed a lie intended for my destruction. I did not even know for certain how I would do things differently, because I realized that my goal — my cause — was itself flawed. In reality, I had no cause, but my goal had been to be the best "me" I could be. In doing that, I had shoved everyone else out of my way. Then it dawned on me that if every person's goal was to make his own "self" the best it could be, and each one was as selfish as

I had been, what a horrible world it would be. This could not have been the plan of the One who created us! There had to be a bigger plan, something greater than the disastrous one I had come up with on my own. What could God have had in mind? I knew that even if I could start over I wouldn't know what to do. There was nothing worthy to give my life and energy to. If God had a purpose and plan for mankind, I needed to know what it was.

One day I was talking to an acquaintance about the state of the world today, and she mentioned something about being brought into "God's people." I blinked. This was a term I had never even heard. Did God have "a people"? I had been so busy with "me" that the idea of "a people" wasn't even a concept. I was so surprised by this, and I began to feel an unexplainable excitement growing deep within me, but also a vague fear. I knew that if God actually had a people, I wanted to part of it, but could someone like me, as filthy as I saw myself, even be a part of something holy? In desperation and with all the sincerity I could muster, I cried out, "God, if you really have a people, please show me where they are!"

A few weeks later, as I was leaving a concert, someone asked me if I would like a freepaper. I had no idea what a "freepaper" was, but I read it on the way home, and something inside of me sprang to life. I realized I was reading about His people and their life today on this earth! God had heard my prayer! What could I do but call the number on the back page? After hearing that there were communities all over the world, what could I do but go and visit a community?

I was crying all the way there. "What if this isn't what I hope it will be?" It would have been such a disappointment. I am not sure what I would have done. My heart was opening to an incredible possibility. Even though my brain told me I could get hurt, the thing inside of me wanted so badly to find something real. When I heard for the first time what God really had in mind for His creation, and saw with my own eyes this plan being lived out by real people, I could hardly contain my excitement all the way back home. I saw the futility of all my own goals in the light of God's plan.

I made up my mind to join myself to this people. I was washed of all the things that made me filthy. I was given a new beginning, a cause and a purpose!

God loves us and has a purpose If only there was a way to be that we can be part of when we are When we recognize and repent of the things that have divided us from others and from Him, then His purpose and all the things He has prepared for us are waiting. I encourage you to find the hope that I have found! Something in you knows that there has to be more to your time on earth than just improving your "self" and having a nice life until it is over. It took so long for me to admit that the only true fulfillment I could ever attain to would be the confidence that my pursuits, energy, and efforts are pleasing to God, producing a result that is everlasting, one that will not pass away. You are warmly invited to come, see, and join with the people who are making this possibility a reality.

It has been almost 20 years

#### Love, Tikvah

(my new name, which means "hope")

### Gone with Wind

continued from page 3

and depending on the Creator for increase that is at the foundation of the Everlasting Covenant is virtually gone with the wind.9

Has the destruction and abandonment of this simple agrarian family life of hard work set the stage for the dulling of conscience that followed? Is it an accident that righteous Lot's willingness to embrace the soft life in Sodom bore the fruit that it bore in his wife and children? What has been the present result of abandoning the way of life that is at the foundation of the Everlasting Covenant?

Cut off from the land, and now living in cities, men generally have to find work out of sight of their wives and children. Away from the hard work of farm life, the greater physical strength and endurance of men is much less important. Women have become independent. Children no longer

<sup>9</sup> adapted from "Timeline of Farming in the United States ", found at: www.pbs.org/ wgbh/amex/trouble/timeline/index.html

are raised in God's intended context for them to learn obedience and the discipline of hard physical labor. Instead of learning what they need to learn from working alongside their father and mother, they are generally sent off to school where they are trained to go to hell by the school and their peers.

People live in an unreal environment, where it is easy to imagine that God is irrelevant. Conscience has been dulled to the point that it now makes sense to many parents to neglect disciplining their children. Indeed, no longer living the intended way of life for raising righteous children, they have an



This was the way of life of 90% of Americans only one hundred and fifty years ago, yet in current Western culture it is almost extinct. So what happened to this agrarian way of life that is the God-ordained foundation of a family life lived according to the everlasting covenant?

uphill battle in every way. As the ited from their forebears gradually residual righteousness they inher- erodes through the generations, the world is being engulfed in a flood of darkness that is sweeping away even the most basic foundations of conscience.

The children of the '60s threw out much of the moral common sense of their grandparents. Generation X threw off more, and many of the children of Generation Y do not even know that there ever was such a thing as moral common sense and the Natural Law of conscience. They know the Natural Law of their great-grandparents by new names: Racism, Sexism, Homophobia, Child Abuse, Child Labor. For many of them, evil is now good, and good evil. What will their grandchildren be like?

The earth mourns and

fades away, the world languishes and fades away; the haughty people of the

earth languish. The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, c hanged the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the eart  $\check{h}$ ...<sup>10</sup>

Is there a way out of this bleak future? Yes! There is an Ark being built in the midst of this flood of darkness. Here a life can be found that is *set apart*, that floats above the present and coming darkness. This life is *real*, and exists in *places* every bit as real as the actual Ark in the days of Noah. This life is a light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, a beacon of hope calling to all who yearn for a *real way out*. We lift up our voices to you in love! Leave where you are, and come and see the life our Master Yahshua is giving us! This life is a common life of love and unity where the foundations of our Father's original intent for human beings are being restored. The addresses and contact information of many of our communities are on the back of this paper. Please come for a day or to stay!

<sup>10</sup> Isaiah 24:4-6

### Brave New World continued from page 3

form real and meaningful social relationships. It is also drastically changing their social values. By age 18, a young person will have witnessed 200,000 violent acts on television.<sup>6</sup> "Entertainment" of this kind is creating a generation that is strangely indifferent to human suffering. At the same time, the deluge of sexual content is destroying the innocence of children and crippling their ability to enter into lifelong marriage covenants.

### Mass Consumption

Like his Huxleyan counterpart, modern man is consumed with consumption. If we had eyes to see the connection, we would see that as relationships become more and more superficial, the retail market is soaring. The advertising industry has convinced the citizens of America that, contrary to ancient wisdom, you can buy happiness. And people are gobbling it up as fast as they can get their hands on it. It is estimated that by the time the average teenager graduates high school, he or she will have been exposed to 360,000 advertisements.7 Marketing geniuses have discovered how to bypass the parents and go straight for the children, and with phenomenal success. In 1989, 93% of teenage girls surveyed named "store hopping" as their favorite pastime.8 Consumer spending is at an all-time high. Pushed along by advertising, children's demands and the emptiness inside, people go shopping. However the search is endless, because accumulation of material goods can never satisfy the basic human need for friendship and love.

### The Ties that Bind

Vital social relationships, such as marriage between a man and a woman, are disintegrating at a rate that should be alarming. In the USA 50% of all marriages end in divorce.9 The institution of marriage between a man and a woman is one of the most essential threads that hold the fabric of society together. "Throughout the centuries in any culture, marriage and the family have formed the foundation of morality, loyalty, respect and hospitality." The sexual revolution of the '60s and '70s has forever altered American society, not just sexually, but in far-reaching ways. In the mid 1960s only 5% of single women had lived with a man before marriage. By the mid 1990s 70% had.<sup>10</sup> Increasingly, men and women today are opting for non-committal relationships. And in many marriages, the "for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, till death do us part" marriage cov-

<sup>6</sup> "How TV Affects Your Kids", Kids Health, Nemours Foundation Updated and reviewed by: Mary L. Gavin, MD,

enant is being replaced by "Who gets the house?" prenuptial agreements. In Brave New World, there was no marriage because people were too shallow and selfish to even consider it. It was an outdated impractical institution from the old, tired world. Instead of boring commitment, all the relationships were temporary and totally sensual. Contemporary society is beginning to mirror this prophetic vision and the social fabric of our "Brave New World" is beginning to unravel.

### A World without Parents

No one can deny that the generation gap between parents and children is becoming wider and wider. The breakdown can be traced to the early 1900s when the responsibility for education of children was transferred from the family unit to the State. By 1918, all of the States had enacted compulsory education laws. Progressive education gradually overtook the school system and began to emphasize practical concrete experience over theoretical knowledge. This method of teaching arrests the cognitive development of the children. They lose their ability to grasp abstract concepts such as justice, liberty, friendship, love. Truth becomes relative to each one's own particular experience. This type of education directly undermines the law of conscience and sets the stage for a generation who will call good, evil, and evil, good.

This progressive "conditioning," combined with the inundation of mindless entertainment and abundance of playtime, has produced the most self-centered and spoiled children the world has ever seen. At the same time, the authority of the parents and teachers has been almost completely destroyed. Authority is despised today more than at any other time in history. Psychotherapists and psychologists are actually beginning to teach that the most basic parental responsibilities are harmful to children — things like giving moral advice and spending time with your children.<sup>11</sup>

The breakdown in the family is not unique to America. A recent study discovered that most British children are likely to come from broken homes. It also found that many children in Britain are barely on speaking terms with their parents. Just 60% spoke to their parents several times a week, and not surprisingly, were more likely than children in any other European nation to engage in such "risky behaviors" as promiscuity, binge drinking, and drug use.12 Huxley's vision of a world without parents is rapidly becoming a reality and that reality is not pretty.

### **Social Instability**

The breakdown in the family structures of the United States is beginning to show itself in major social problems.

tered lifestyles are failing to satisfy their souls' profound need for deep, loving relationships. Stunted in their social development, many are emotionally and mentally unable to form the family bonds that foster security. The integrity of their grandparents' generation is sadly lacking in them. Most have little to no moral backbone at all. They tolerate all manner of aberrant behavior in their children, who are totally out of their control. The repercussions are terrifying. Each year in America, an average of 5,000 teenagers kill themselves.<sup>14</sup> From 1997 to 2001, 473,000 (118,000/year) violent crimes against teachers were reported.<sup>15</sup> In 2003, a Columbia University report stated that 17% of high school girls have been abused physically; twelve percent of high school girls have been abused sexually.<sup>16</sup> America is in turmoil. There is no authoritative voice to call them back to a righteous standard. It is too late to turn back. Society is on an unalterable course.

#### Soma to the Rescue

Government officials are groping to deal with the emerging crisis. In 2002, President George Bush issued an executive order creating the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. This commission has plans to conduct mental-health screenings on all children and adults in the United States.<sup>17</sup> According to the American Psychiatric Association, one fifth of Americans suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder during any given year.18 Increasingly, doctors are prescribing antidepressants to deal with a growing array of "mental disorders." Pharmaceutical companies are putting tremendous amounts of money into marketing these wonder drugs to the medical profession, and it is paying off.

In 2002, approximately 120 million prescriptions for antidepressants such as Prozac, Paxil, and Zoloft were written. Ten million of these prescriptions were written for patients under 18. In 2004, the Center for Disease Control reported that 4.5 million children 3-17 years of age had Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).<sup>19</sup> Parents who refuse to put their children on the prescribed drugs such as Ritalin have been accused of child abuse by the public school system.<sup>20</sup> Doctors are diagnosing mental illness in children at younger ages than ever, including in those barely out of diapers. A recent report has indicated that children under 5 are the fastest growing group being prescribed antidepressants.<sup>21</sup> Some doc-

<sup>14</sup> "Rising Number of Teen Suicides", by Peter S. Jensen, MD, 2001. <sup>15</sup> Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2003, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice, 2003 <sup>16</sup> The Formative Years: Pathwavs to Substance Abuse Among Girls and Young Women Ages 8-22, The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at

tors and researchers have warned that these drugs can permanently alter the way the brain functions.

The real problem with society lies in the way people are living. What was once called a bad conscience is now called mental illness. There is no longer an authoritative voice to call people to take accountability for their actions. Modern psychology tells people what they want to hear: "It's not your fault. You're just sick, and modern medicine has the cure." The "cure" offered does not bring healing to the root of the problem, but just a dulling of the pain and controlling of the unwanted behavior. Relying on medical intervention is social engineering through psychotropic (mood-altering) drugs. Read Brave New World again and replace Soma with Zoloft, Ritalin, and Prozac. It's not hard to see that the controlled society of Brave New World is becoming a frightening reality.

### **Brave New World Revisited**

I'm not one to go chasing conspiracy theories, but I do believe that there is a mass conspiracy that has been directing human society towards a destination for thousands of years. This conspiracy is being orchestrated by a spirit, and is only human in the sense that human beings are swayed by this spirit to work towards its goal. The goal of this spirit is total world domination. Ultimately it desires to become embodied in a one-world government that will exercise authority over the entire earth. At no time in history has the stage been set for such an event like this as it is today. World leaders are increasingly working together to create an economically stable world. Terrorism and local conflicts that threaten to become global conflicts are propelling the nations of the world to work together in a way that is unprecedented in human history. Social instability is causing the world population to look increasingly towards more governmental control as the solution for world peace.

As the World Controller in Brave New World explained:

"People still went on talking about truth and beauty as though they were the sovereign goods. Right up to the time of the Nine Years' War. That made them change their tune all right. What's the point of truth or beauty or knowledge when the anthrax bombs are popping all around you? That was when science first began to be controlled — after the Nine Years' War. People were ready to have even their appetites controlled then. Anything for a quiet life. We've gone on controlling ever since."22

### My Brave New World

Of all the aspects of the Brave New World in which we find ourselves today, the most tragic is the breakdown of the family. The spirit driving the world has effectively separated the children from the parents like a hungry lion separating the baby calves from the safety of the herd. Beginning in the '50s, teenagers have become their own segment of society, a subculture within the larger culture. I was one of those teenagers who threw off the advice and wisdom of my parents in order to "chart my own course" and "find my own way" in life. My friends and I had our own world that our parents knew nothing about, nor did they seem very inter-

ested in discovering. Of course, on Sunday morning, we were all good little Christian boys and girls, but on our own time we were a completely different culture. We were a pop culture. We were everything the merchants of "cool" told us we should be. I took in and received all the conditioning that popular culture had to give me. I was told that I needed an education so that I wouldn't "have to dig ditches for a living." I really thought that the only purpose of work was to make lots of money so that I could have material comfort and gratifying leisure time. I lived to feel good: music, TV, movies, sports, video games, girls, parties, drugs. These were all the paths to happiness and self-fulfillment.

I married one of my contemporaries after a couple of years of living together. She was a beautiful girl, a cheerleader who had cheered for me as I played high school football. We finished college together and settled into a nice little house back in our home town. I had a good job as an accountant for a company that manufactured microchips. She was an artist and produced a local television talk show. Ah, the American dream... only we didn't ride off into the sunset together. In our private life we were destroying each other.

Popular culture had taken a terrible toll on our souls. We had never stopped to learn from our parents how marriages work. Spoiled and selfcentered, all of our philosophies were illusions. Though we talked about being deep and real, it was merely talk. In reality, we thought that love meant "you make me happy." We were not mentally or emotionally equipped to cultivate true love. We were mass consumers. not farmers. We took and took until the soil of our marriage was dry and sterile. The only reason we hung on was because our parents had stayed married and disapproved of divorce. This was all that was left of the foundation for us to stand on, and we were teetering on the edge.

Just in the nick of time, we met a people who had seen through the Brave New World and had escaped it. They had rejected popular culture with all of its selfishness and self gratification. They weren't into TV or sports or shopping or rock and roll or video games or the Internet. They were into taking care of each other. In fact, they lived together and shared everything they had together. They believed in marriage and establishing deep bonds between parents and children. They told us the truth about the man that the world called Jesus. They said that His real purpose on earth had been to establish a new social order. He was a radical and His teaching was revolutionary, and through Him we could be saved from the destruction that the world was headed for.

So we gave it all up, everything

ebruary 2005

<sup>7</sup> Alan Thein Durning, How Much is Enough? The Consumer Society and the Fu*ture of the Earth* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co, Inc, 1992), p 23.

<sup>8</sup> Lawrence Shames, *The Hunger for More* (New York: Times Books, 1989), p. 43 9 Dr. Larry Bumpass, an emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin's Center for Demography and Ecology, has long held that divorce rates will eventually reach or exceed 50 percent. In an interview, he said that it was "probably right" that the official divorce statistics might fall below 50 percent, but that the rate would still be close. About half is still a "very sensible statement," he said. (http://www.divorcereform. org/nyt05.html)

<sup>10</sup> Haskey, J., "Trends in marriage and cohabitation: The decline in marriage and the changing pattern of living in partnerships," Population Trends, Vol. 80, 1995, pp. 421-29.

The Dr. Spock generation is all grown up now, and is proving to be emotionally unstable. Over-stimulated, cognitively retarded, and spoiled rotten, many are unable to cope with the realities of life. Since 2001, each year over 30.000 Americans commit suicide.13 This is almost twice the homicide rate. For many, their materialistic, self-cen-

<sup>11</sup> *The Assault on Parenthood,* by Dana Mack; Simon and Schuster, New York, NY, 1997; pp. 29-31

<sup>12</sup> "British children 'among Europe's unhappiest and unhealthiest'," by Laura Clark, Daily Mail, 6 August 2006: The British government "will study why toys, technology, and other material trappings do not bring happiness."

<sup>13</sup> The American Association of Suicidology: U.S.A. SUICIDE: 2003 OFFICIAL FINAL DATA

Columbia University, 2003 <sup>17</sup> President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, "Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America:" Final Report: Goal 4 <sup>18</sup> "What is Mental Illness," American Psychiatric Association, 2005 <sup>19</sup> Center for Disease Control (CDC):

"Summary Health Statistics for U.S. Children:" National Health Interview Survey, 2004

<sup>20</sup> "Pills vs. Talking: When It Comes to Mental Illness, Parents Face Dilemmas Over Medication, Talk Therapy," Bryan Robinson, ABCNEWS.com, June 7, 2004 <sup>21</sup> The latest evidence of the growing use of antidepressants among the very young comes from a report by Express Scripts, a healthcare management firm in St. Louis. It studied 2 million children in the US between 1998 and 2002. It found that the number of children younger than five prescribed antidepressants doubled during that time. "Debate grows over

antidepressant use among preschoolers," by Elizabeth Armstrong, The Christian Science Monitor, April 8, 2004. <sup>22</sup> Brave New World, Aldous Huxley, 1932: Chapter 16

the world had to offer. We gave our lives to the Son of God. We joined the revolution, a new social order of love and unity. Now we are learning to not live for ourselves, but for each other. We are learning what real love is. Healing has come to our broken hearts, and as a result, our marriage is being restored. We now have two precious children whom we love deeply.

Those of us who write this freepaper desire that all who are not satisfied with modern society would have a place of refuge — all who are hurting and alone and longing for a life that is real. We have a place for you to belong, a place with real family and friends. Please come and visit us. and see for yourself. We eagerly await your arrival. You are welcome anytime.

Patrick

### **Abort or Abandon**

continued from page 2

have let him come to birth and then raise him to go to hell? Abortion is definitely a great sin, but could it be worse to have a child? Today, so many are being born and so many are being aborted. What happens to both? The wages of sin is death.4 Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.<sup>5</sup> But what seeds does a fetus sow? Or what wages must be paid by an aborted baby?

For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born. (Mark 14:21)

The Son of God Himself said that it would have been better for Judas if he had never been born.6 It would have been better for him if his mother had aborted him, rather than to be raised to be the one who would betray the Son of God. Surely, the same could have been said of those who yelled, "Crucify Him! Let His blood be upon us and our children."7 Where will they spend eternity? And where will their children spend eternity, if they inherit the same hatred?

So what did Yahshua mean when He said it would have been better for Judas if he had never been born? How would it have been better? Sure-

7 Matthew 27:22-25

ly He was thinking of the judgment that awaited Judas, once he had made the choice to betray Him. An unborn child would fare better in the judgment than a person who had lived to make the kinds of choices Judas had made. There would be mercy for the unborn child, but no mercy for the one whose choices in life brought ruin to the lives of others.8

But what is the hope of one who is born in this day of unrestrained selfishness, when goodis called evil, and evil is called good?<sup>9</sup> What will become of someone who is morally abandoned, growing up without parents who train him up in the way he should go?<sup>10</sup> What does the Bible call someone who is not disciplined as a child? The good old King James Version doesn't mince words:

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all [in a healthy society] are

<sup>8</sup> We do not believe the classic Christian teaching that there are only two possible eternal destinies for man - heaven for Christians and hell for everyone else, including unborn babies. We do not believe that babies are doomed to hell, as Augustine taught. There is a third eternal destiny for those whose sin was not of the kind or degree that would make them worthy of eternal damnation (Revelation 21:8; 22:15). Please see http://www. *twelvetribes.org/publications/-3ED.html* for more about The Three Eternal Destinies of Man.

partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. (Hebrews 12:7-8)

Who is guilty here? Yes, it is true that a child will die for his own sin,<sup>11</sup> but what about the so-called father who failed to discipline him?

Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? (Hebrews 12:9)

Does this not concern one's eternal destiny, in speaking of the Father of spirits? The natural fathers are compared to our heavenly Father, who desires that we would have eternal life, not eternal death.

So who is the biggest bastard, the child or the father who does not discipline him? If one's child that was not aborted is then not disciplined (which all true sons are, that is, sons who are not morally abandoned so as to become bastards), what will become of him? Such a son is obviously hated, and not loved:

Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. (Pr 13:24)

So what if one's child is not aborted, but is then not disciplined?

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death. (Proverbs 16:25)

These days, it seems right not to spank children. They say they love their child too much to spank him, but the Bible says that kind of permissive "love" is really hatred, as the parent dooms the child to continue in his folly. So these unloved children will end up in hell (death), along with both the parents and the society that agrees with this mode of raising children.12

So are the Proverbs false? What then is "the way he should go"? Whose standard should mankind adhere to? The Apostle John said, "The whole world lies in the power of the evil one,"13 and that the evil one's chief occupation is to lead mankind astray.14 Do you think for one minute that you are not being led astray? So the Word of God is mankind's only hope of deliverance from the evil one's strategy.15

So what is the way a child should go? The way of the world, or the way of God? How many children today are not being raised to go to hell?

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol ["hell," the abode of death]. (Proverbs 23:13-14)

If one curses [slights, shows disrespect or contempt for] his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness. (Proverbs 20:20)

The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother. (Proverbs 29:15)

Discipline your son, and he will give

<sup>14</sup> Revelation 12:9 and 20:3 <sup>15</sup> Matthew 6:13; John 17:15 you rest; he will give delight to your heart. (Proverbs 29:17)

When the spanking stopped, all hell broke loose, "therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure"16 to receive all who go down to the pit.<sup>17</sup>

Abortion would normally be considered the height of pagan barbarity, but the only moral sense that can be made out of not aborting a child is that the parents would actually raise him up in the way that he should go, so as not to go to hell:

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die. If you strike him with the rod, you will save his soul from Sheol. (Proverbs 23:13-14)

We write these things for your consideration and not as a political stance either for or against abortion. The abortion issue is one of the most polarizing of our time. It is a complicated matter with many facets. We are grateful that Yahshua gave His life to bring about a brand new culture where children can grow up with a purpose, nurtured by parents who love one another. Yahshua once said, "Wisdom is vindicated by all her children."18 We take our stand with the wisdom of God, which is contrary to the teachings of Dr. Benjamin Spock.

<sup>16</sup> Isaiah 5:14 17 Ezekiel 31:16 <sup>18</sup> Luke 7:35

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Romans 6:23

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Galatians 6:7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Mark 14:21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Isaiah 5:20

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Proverbs 22:6

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Romans 1:32

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> 1 John 5:19

### **Death: Long-Awaited Relief** or Never-Ending Regret?

AVE YOU EVER wondered what will happen after you die? What will happen to your soul once it passes from life into death? What became of all those people you knew so well — the older man next door, the woman up the street, that favorite singer you used to listen to? Where did they all go? What is happening to them right now? Are they experiencing the heavenly bliss we hear about — a peace that is beyond this material world? And what about John Lennon? Was his soul awakened unexpectedly to something he really didn't imagine?

What if there is a place on the other side of life where your soul (the real you that looks out through your eyeballs) awaits judgment? How much regret would you experience as a result of the accumulated guilt you have acquired during the short span of your life on this earth? Regret is such a terrible thing to experience. It is the wearing weight of guilt that never goes away. Like a smoldering fire within your conscience, your long-hidden secrets and nagging thoughts are awakened and you are forced to face the agonizing reality of the choices you have made in life.<sup>1</sup> Fear seizes you as you recognize that you have no means of undoing any of the wrongs, the painful wounds you inflicted upon others. The realization that you may have to experience this unbearable anguish as payment for all the evil you have done is summed up in one word — regret.

Regret is the deep, inner turmoil of unresolved grief for a hurtful past action or inaction — a turmoil which haunts you relentlessly. Recorded perfectly upon your now awakened conscience, it is the source of excruciating mental torment and wrenching emotional turmoil that cannot be quenched.<sup>2</sup> Regret is the irrepressible longing to make things right towards someone or something that is no longer there.

Death is a fearful mystery for most, especially, for those who say they are not afraid of it. So, what will happen to your soul once you take that last parting breath of life?

### What is Death?

Yahshua, the Son of God, spoke of these things to the religious leaders of His day who thought themselves eternally secure on the basis of their religious zeal. These Pharisees had just finished deriding Him for His teaching concerning the impossibility of serving both God and Mammon. The Pharisees were lovers of money, yet they were also the pious teachers of the Law.<sup>3</sup> Money was indeed a weighty matter to the Jews, rich and poor alike. The well-to-do religious leaders had contempt for the poor, at whose expense they enjoyed their comfort. Since they justified themselves before men and God, Yahshua told them a parable:

clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame."

But Abraham said, "Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and *Lazarus in like manner bad things;* but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us."

And he said, "Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment." (Luke 16:19-29)

According to the Son of God, when a person dies his soul is immediately taken to the realm of death (Sheol in Hebrew, or Hades in Greek), and in this immaterial world the departed spirits of mankind remain until the final judgment is made to determine their eternal destinies.4

### The Place of Torment

Four times in this parable Yahshua emphatically states that death is a place of torment. What did He mean by the word torment? Whatever it is, the parable compares it metaphorically to the flames of a burning inferno in which the rich man is inescapably engulfed. In that place called death, there is no rest, no time out, and no comfort to relieve his torment of conscience. He is in continual anguish, awaiting the final judgment.

Contrary to the rich man's confidence in life, his soul was not saved, but bound under an unalterable, irreversible contract with death.<sup>5</sup> And although in death he seemed full of regret and remorse, it was too late, for he could not free himself from the divine powers authorizing his sentence. He would have to pay the wages of his sins in this first death,<sup>6</sup> if he could, while awaiting the final judgment of Revelation 20:12-15. (There is a second death for those who are unable to pay, for their sins incurred the infinite guilt of destroying other people's lives.<sup>7</sup> All men sin, but all do not abandon themselves to degradation. Those who are restrained by the voice of

There was a rich man who was their conscience have the hope, as Job did, of receiving mercy in the judgment, leading to a second life rather than a second death.<sup>8</sup>)

> The rich man was waiting to serve yet another sentence of unending torment and punishment which he so richly deserved. During his lifetime on earth, he chose to indulge himself at the expense of other human lives. Rather than willfully living according to the voice of his conscience by doing what was right, he had willfully chosen to do the evil over the good, thus forfeiting any opportunity he might have had for a second life after death.9 The rich man's conscience held the judicial power from God to sentence his soul accordingly.

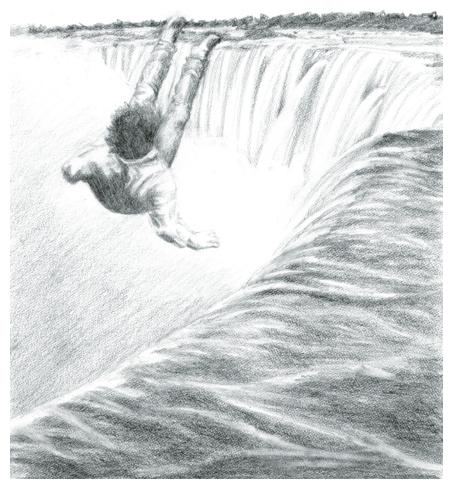
> While Lazarus was comforted by the hope of a second life after death, the rich man writhed anxiously in fearful expectation of the eternal judgment of a second death. That is why the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers who were yet living. But the righteous answer from Abraham was unyielding:

"If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead." (Luke 16:31)

What agony he was in! His love of wealth and indulgence was at the expense of his own soul!<sup>10</sup> His conscience had persistently warned him of the consequences of his decisions until he silenced it completely, as shown by how he could ignore his poor Jewish brother Lazarus dying on his very doorstep. He had sealed his own eternal destiny of sharing a part with Satan in the second death.

### **Escaping the Sentence of** Death

If there is a means of escaping that torment in death, clearly it must be done during one's lifetime, not after. All are under the sentence of death — some are facing only the first death sentence, and some, like the rich man in this story, are worthy of a second and eternal death. But both are alike in that their only hope of escaping death is to find someone who is not himself under the sentence of death, and who is willing to take their place — to pay sin's wages for them. That is why,



in death.<sup>12</sup> Acts 2:23,24,27,31 again confirm that "this Yahshua, whom you have taken by lawless hands and crucified, putting Him to death, God raised up, having loosed Him from the pangs of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it any longer."

Yahshua's soul and spirit went into death.13 Isaiah clearly states that "the LORD laid on Him the iniquity of us all" and that Messiah became a guilt offering for sin.14 Certainly, on the cross Yahshua suffered extreme physical pain and torture for our sins, but it was His three days and three nights in death where He made full payment for our iniquities, taking our place in the judgment.<sup>15</sup> In death's torture chamber He experienced the greatest intensity of suffering for three days and three nights.<sup>16</sup> He did that in order to acquit all who would follow and obey Him as a result of hearing the good news of salvation.17

God created human beings with eternal souls. The soul is comprised of three aspects: the intellect, emotions, and will. When Messiah died, His body was dead, but not His soul. It was acutely alive when He descended into death, and there in that place He made the full payment for every hateful word, every lie, every selfish act, every crime, every perversion, receiving in Himself the due consequence and retribution righteously deserved by each one of us. Intellectually, emotionally, and willfully, Messiah took our place in death, and in His

soul suffered the anguish to atone for all the accumulated guilt of the sins of the world.

### **He Became Sin For Us**

Messiah became the object of our sin — our sin-bearer.<sup>18</sup> The word became implies transition.19 Messiah Yahshua became sin for us. Therefore, in taking our sins upon Himself in death He became, as it were, the thief, the prostitute, the heroin addict, the unjust judge, the slick lawyer, the corrupt politician, the coward, the sexually immoral, the sorcerer, the liar, the extortionist, the crooked loan officers, the deceitful real estate agent, all who are abominable, rebellious, disrespectful, those full of envy, adulterers, slanderers, murderers, the covetous, greedy, malicious, those full of strife, arrogance and deceit, the evil-minded, backbiters, the violent, fornicators, proud, boasters, inventors of evil, those disobedient to parents, the unforgiving, the bitter, fools, gossips and whisperers, haters of God, and all those who love and practice lying. He became sin for all.<sup>20</sup> All is all.

There is only one sin Messiah could not atone for, and that is the sin of disbelief —hearing the true gospel from one of His true disciples, but willfully refusing to obey it. That is the greatest of all sins.<sup>21</sup> Ironically, it is also the only other way to escape the first death sentence. The Bible savs that those who reject the gospel have no need to go to the first death to await judgment, for they are judged already.22 They will escape the first death — by going straight into the second death: eternity in the lake of fire.

<sup>1</sup> Romans 2:14-16; Mark 4:22; Luke 8:17; 1 Corinthians 4:5 <sup>2</sup> Mark 9:43-45; Luke 16:23-28 <sup>3</sup> Luke 16:13-15; 2 Timothy 3:2

<sup>4</sup> Revelation 20:11-14; Hebrews 9:27 <sup>5</sup> Luke 9:25; Genesis 2:17; See *Voiding the* Contract with Death on our web site <sup>6</sup> Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27 7 Revelation 21:8; 22:15

at the appointed time, Messiah appeared to take away the sins of the whole world.11

The prophet Isaiah is quoted three times in Isaiah 53:10-12 as saying that after the Messiah was crucified, His soul was in anguish

<sup>8</sup> Job 14:14; John 5:28; Revelation 20:12-15. According to the Second Covenant given to fallen Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:16-19 (and affirmed with Noah in Genesis 9:1-7) a good and upright person who lives by the laws of conscience can pay for his sins, thus fulfilling the requirements of this contract by serving the first death sentence of Genesis 2:17. <sup>9</sup> Hebrews 9:27; John 5:28-29; Revelation 21:3,4,24,26; 22:2,11 10 Matthew 16:27; Mark 8:37 <sup>11</sup> John 1:29; 3:16-17; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

<sup>12</sup> Isaiah 53:11-12 (KJV – travail is toil, trouble, misery, sorrow, grief, pain); Acts 2:23,24,27,31; Romans 4:24; Acts 2:24 -'God raised Him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it" (The Holman Christian Standard Bible). <sup>13</sup> Psalm 16:10; Ephesians 4:8-10; 1 Peter 3:18-20; 4:6; Isaiah 53:11-12; Acts 2:23,24,27,31; Hebrews 2:14; 13:20; Acts 13:30,34,35 14 Isaiah 53:6,10; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:14,21 <sup>15</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21 <sup>16</sup> Hosea 6:2; Matthew 12:40 (heart or center of the earth); Matthew 26:61; Luke 24:46; John 2:19; Ephesians 4:9; 1

<sup>18</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:10-12 <sup>19</sup> Transition – a process or period in which something undergoes a change and passes from one state (status or condition), stage, form, or activity to another.

<sup>20</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:15,21

<sup>21</sup> Revelation 21:8 puts "cowardly and unbelieving" at the head of the list of those sins that make one worthy of the second death, even as those in Capernaum who would not believe in spite of all Yahshua said and did there will fare worse in the judgment than the wicked men of Sodom (Matthew 11:23-24). 22 John 3:18,36

### **THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES**

Baptist and the Son of God, brew. So, when the angel Ga- ple from their sins." briel brought the good news would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or Joseph in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — Yahshua.

probably reads, "...and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name Jesus is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, Iesous, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name Yahshua. The name Jesus or Jesous has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name Yahshua literally means Yahweh's Salvation,<sup>1</sup> which makes sense

**N** THE DAYS of John the out of the angel's message in Greek manuscript, the name in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call the preserved language His name Yahshua [Yahweh's Salof the devout Jews was He-vation], for He shall save His peo*vation*], for He shall save His peo- mon English transliteration<sup>2</sup>

If you look in an old King to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam James Bible, you will find the (or Mary in English), that she name Jesus in these two passages:

> Which also our fathers that came after brought in with Jesus into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, KJV)

For if **Jesus** had given them In Matthew 1:21, your Bible rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, KJV)

> However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James Version, you will find that in place of the name Jesus, the translators use the name Josh*ua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the underlying

both of these verses is — *Iesous*.

You see, Joshua is the comof the Hebrew name Yahshua. Joshua of the Old Testament had the same name as the One called Jesus in the New Testament, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Son of God, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as Joshua in these two verses, and as Jesus everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament like the original even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: "Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua."

The fact is, the name of

God's Son could not even be to accompany the different pronounced as "Jesus" in Eng- way of writing the initial "I" in lish until late in the 16<sup>th</sup> cen- the name. tury, simply because there was

Chrift is tempted.

no "J" sound or letter in English until then.<sup>3</sup> The modern letter "J" developed from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a capitalized word. So in old English the name now written as Jesus was actually written and pronounced much Greek Iesous. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language

Corinthians 15:4

<sup>17</sup> John 8:51-52

a mide vnto him, If of God, command 4 And Icsus answered him, say-ing, It is written, that man shall not liue by bread alone, but by every word of God. , Satar: for wonkip the ordy shalt 24 And hee said, Verely I say wate yee, no \* Prophet is accepted in his I tought line a House low, as 'Prophe is anopued in his works 14 C And I cause returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. The movering, said vate the show any per maps of deal had ended all Naman the Syrian. co deparatof from was deal they in the Synapogoe, when they head bless things, were fil-mer retarned in the 10 Mar And row yp, and them this out of 29 And row yp, and them this out of for a season. 14 4 And Icous returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and 1.4 forme of him through A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a J in the Savior's name.

S.Luke

He preacheth.

You may also find it inter-

esting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that apostle the Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, Yahshua.4

<sup>1</sup> Yah is the personal name of God, and shua is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as YAH (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4, KJV ("...by his name Jah"), and as most familiar in the word Hallelujah ("Praise Yah"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, Yahshua says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, Yahshua.<sup>2</sup> transliteration — expressing words of a language by using the characters of another alphabet 3 Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507 <sup>4</sup> Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12

## Yahshua The Sacrifice

"Behold, the Man!" The Roman ruler of the Jewish people cried these words out to the Jews assembled before him. Pilate saw a value in this man that His own people did not see. Here was a man worthy of respect. It was obvious that His own priests had delivered Him up out of envy. What was it that was so compelling about Him? There, beaten and bloody as He was, stood a man, the man, as Pilate intuitively knew.

If only His people could have understood what those stripes on His back meant. The prophet Isaiah could have told them. He could have given meaning to the appalling sight of Yahshua's beardless and bloody face if words could have come from his griefstricken heart. But for the generation that crucified the Son of God, Isaiah's words were safely entombed along with his body. They saw Him as a beaten man, but not as the Lamb of God.

No one would ever forget what He looked like that day, least of all those who were closest to Him. His death agony burned itself into their memory, and all the more keenly as they remembered the admirable life He had led, the acts of compassion and love that had filled His days. He was innocent, yet there He hung — where the guilty should have been. They touched the pain that was written on every aspect of His being the tortured breathing, the blood dripping from his wounds. One of His friends, Yohannan, stood there next to Miriam, the crucified man's mother. There were only a few like them, unafraid of the consequences. Being there

with Him was more important to them than life.

They endured the agony of watching the life being torn from Him. How they longed to satisfy His thirst when He asked, but they could not go to Him. When

He finally bowed His head after speaking His last words, they knew it was finished. The life of the man who had meant so much to them had ended. What thoughts Miriam must have had! Her child, who had come from her womb and nursed at her breasts, for whom she had sewn and cooked and cared, was limp and lifeless. Down that lonely hill she walked with Yohannan to whatever life awaited them after such a death.

What pain they felt! What misery they knew! Where was the resurrection He had spoken of? Where was He now? It seemed as though the power of evil had triumphed over the most noble and kind life that had ever existed. Was death then the victor?

### O death, where is your sting?

What thanksgiving welled out of them when their grief was ended and they beheld the risen Christ, radiant with life! Uncontrollable joy burst forth from them, and worship filled their souls. He was alive! They could touch Him. He even ate with them. He was altogether real. In Him the power of death had been broken. There was hope for all men now. Surely one day all grief would come to an end. God's people would at last be set free from all their enemies and all the sins that had led them astray.

They devoted their lives to sharing the hope they had. They possessed something precious in their hearts which no one could take away, and oh, how they longed to share it with others. They wanted everyone to experi-



They slaughtered a lamb as the sin offering in order to be restored to the right relationship with God that their sin had destroyed. The sincere knew they deserved to die for their sins, not the innocent lamb.

ence the same deliverance from the finality of death that they had, to know of the resurrection and all that it meant for them. It was such good news!

In His blood, shed so freely that day, was the most marvelous and complete forgiveness. At Calvary the innocent had taken the place of the guilty. The pure and spotless Lamb God required for sin had been offered and accepted. But never had it happened before that the lamb slain for the sins of the people had come back to life! God had made the sacrifice, just as Abraham had prophesied of Christ when he went to offer up his son, Isaac, "God will Himself provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son."

### Something of Greater Value

The disciples knew about sacrifice. Blood sacrifices had dominated their lives from childhood. A sacrifice was the destruction or surrender of something valuable to gain something of even greater value. They slaughtered a lamb as the sin offering in order to be restored to the right relationship with God that their sin had destroyed. The sincere knew they deserved to die for their sins, not the innocent lamb. They cried out to God to accept the substitute of the lamb's life instead of theirs. Unless the sacrifice was costly — a pure, unblemished lamb - its blood meant nothing to the God of Israel.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" — the true meaning of these words filled the disciples with inexpressible joy. God gave His only Son for what He wanted more — us. Our Master willingly sacrificed His own life (something a lamb could never do) to redeem our lives from death, for that was of greater value to Him than His own life. Because of His Son's sacrifice, God could make the great summons, "Gather my godly ones to me, those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."

### A Life for a Life

The purpose of His sacrifice was to set us free so that we could make a willing sacrifice like He did. Nothing else is worthy of Him; nothing else reaches the blood of the Master's atoning sacrifice. This is the faith that saves and compels you to wholly consecrate and devote your life to the merciful God who saved you. For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. (2Corinthians 5:14,15)

This is what the New Testament records about those who received the message of truth, the gospel of their salvation. The disciples wanted nothing more than to be just like their Master. Possessions, family, jobs, and a respected place in society were all cast aside for His sake and the sake of His gospel. This was the reality of their baptism and of the sacrifice of their lives, without which they could not have received His life. They had to give up what was lesser (their life) for what was greater (His life). It was His life or their life – they couldn't have both. Just as He had given up everything for them, they sacrificed everything they had for Him. It was the only response a grateful heart could give, the only one that saving faith called forth. Because of this obedient response, He came to dwell in their hearts, granting them His Holy Spirit. Anything less would have belittled His sacrifice on the cross. They loved Him too much to not give Him everything.

The spiritual sacrifice of our lives must be as real and true as was His physical sacrifice on the cross to Miriam, Yohannan, and the other disciples. If we don't die to sin and the world, we can never have the witness in our hearts that we are forgiven. He dispenses no cheap grace. It is life for life, a sacrifice.

If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. (Matt 16:24,25)

### Our Magnificent Obsession

**FALL THE** spiritual errors of our time, the one that towers most ominously over us is the joining together of the religious and political institutions.

The apostle John envisioned the coming union of church and state as a great prostitute riding on a hideous seven-headed beast. This reveals the sordid reality behind Christian politics. Though their motives seem most commendable --- world peace, preservation of the family, upholding moral values in the media — they cannot help but reproduce the same militant intolerance that must always accompany religious leaders who gain control of government It may start when eloquent men and women with stylish but carefully-conservative hairstyle and clothing make their well-

thought-out appeals to the country. They will condemn the conditions that we all hate and fear, yet feel powerless to remedy. They will present themselves as those who are bringing about the kingdom of God on the earth. They will gain all the power they need to put us under a moral tyranny, supposedly "for our own good." Never mind that many of them will secretly practice the things they condemn. Never mind that the rich and powerful will always be able to buy exemptions. Never mind that the poor and weak, least able to withstand the inevitable public penalties, will suffer the greatest oppression. Never mind that these Christian Crusaders will label as "cult" any group that lives outside the boundaries of their self-proclaimed righteousness

what is written, it would seem that a great deal of human blood will be shed for the sake of this unnatural union.<sup>1</sup> What will be called freedom, we will feel as bondage. This is nothing new. During the Middle Ages and the Reformation, human beings were arrested, brutalized, and executed in the name of the Son of God. The men who framed our Constitution precisely intended to prevent this sort of tyranny from ever taking root in the United States. The Christian apologists will tell it all differently; they will say that the United States has always been a Christian nation. They will say these horrors of religious violence in the name of Christ were aberrations. They'll say that it can never happen again. They'll say anything to gain the confidence of the many. But what they say is wrong. In every age, voices have been raised against this madness, just as we raise our warning now. The real Son of God wanted no one to act under compulsion. His interest in human affairs has always been the gathering together

of a people who, like Him, freely choose to obey God at all costs. They will be His kingdom, a nation that knows no persecution or revenge. Love will rule, and the justice of God.

Those who truly follow Him will have only one thing to say to an evil world:

Our message is that God was making all mankind His friends through Messiah, not keeping account of their sins, and He has given us the message which tells how He makes them His friends. We plead on Messiah's behalf let God His love controls them, they will no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.<sup>3</sup> Together our common life of love and unity will startle the world<sup>4</sup> and fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 49:6 — *I* will also make you a light to the nations, so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

When that common life of selfsacrificing love has endured on the earth, being refined and purified through several generations until every enemy of our souls has been trampled underfoot,<sup>5</sup> then it will joyfully be proclaimed in heaven: *Let us rejoice and be glad* 

How far will they go? From

<sup>1</sup> Revelation 17:4-6

#### Messiah's behalf, let God change you from enemies into His friends.<sup>2</sup>

They will have no political or social program for those who cannot receive the faith to believe their message.

We of the Community are not insensitive to the pain all around us. Still, we do not seek to make the world a better place for individuals to live in during this age. Instead, we seek to establish in places all over the world a foretaste of the life of the age to come, a demonstration of the love and care of our Master Yahshua. We believe that the light that is shed by lifting Him up in our midst will draw all who truly belong to Him to give up their independent lives in the world for His sake. When

<sup>2</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:19-20 (TEV)

### **False Advertising**

continued from page 2

in a stadium with so many others to again persuade you something is going on in your life. But every Sunday afternoon you go home and every Monday morning you go to work and the mountaintops seem so far away down in the valleys. And the only difference between you and your friends at work is you go to church and they don't. Maybe you could work up the courage to invite them to go to the show, too.

You make it through each week, and even give a little money to help keep the show going, yet if your life was the play and the sermon you heard each week the narration, you know there's a jarring disconnect between the two. No one would watch after the first act. It would make no sense. Why is the narrator saying things that have nothing to do with the play? Yet when you come back with all these other disconnected, hurting people to hear more of the narration, you forget for a while in the midst of the excitement that the play of your life was going to have nothing to do with it.

I didn't go to a mega-church, but I was part of the greatest spectacle on earth – the Christian religion. Jesus had come into my heart and neither my heart nor my life was any different or better, just cleaned up a little on the outside for the sake of appearances. I finally came to the and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."<sup>6</sup>

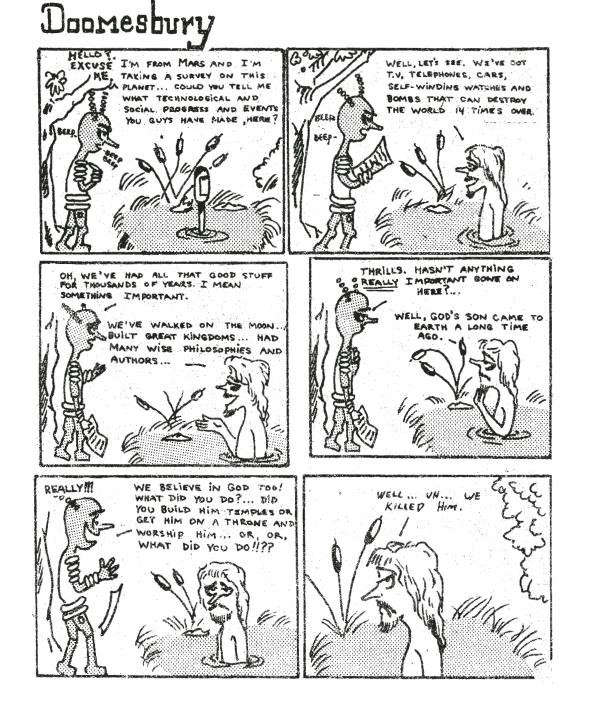
Then Yahshua, the Messiah, will return triumphantly for His bride, destroy all of His enemies, and establish His glorious reign of peace upon the earth, along with all of those who have loved His appearing. And that is the *only* way that peace and justice will ever come to this desperate planet. That is our magnificent obsession — to be made pure and spotless as a people, loving one another as He loved us, becoming His bride, so that He can righteously bring an end to this wicked age and a beginning to His millennial kingdom. 🏶

<sup>3</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:15
<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 52:15
<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 10:13
<sup>6</sup> Revelation 19:7

unavoidable conclusion, based on the play of my life, that the narration of the Scriptures was about somebody else, not me and the people I was a part of. It had to be about another people altogether.

A simple life of faith, one built on obedience to His commands, and one I hoped so much would be like the first church in Jerusalem was what I was looking for. The desire for it entered my heart when I was a child hearing Bible stories. Though in my life, hucksters bamboozled me and many things turned out to be much less than promised, in my heart there still burned a hope for the real thing. I just thought, if God were real, if He were alive, then the words true then - in the gospels and epistles, the words of a life lived together, where people loved one another – would be true today. If I never would have found it, I am sure I would have abandoned all religion, certainly the Christian one that was so disappointing. And I would have been better off if I had done so.

But better, far better, it was to find the true church where we live with and love each other, like Messiah loved us, gave up His life as a sacrifice for us, and so we give up everything for Him and His gospel's sake. It's the good news that saves. Nothing flashy, just a life of caring and serving one another, but something real to offer others – a hope that does not disappoint. That's what I was looking for, and that's what I found.



# THE RENAISSANCE OF MESSIAH

KNOWS MESSI-**AH?** Who has seen Him? Yahshua Himself said that there would be one way to tell who are His disciples. They would prove it by their love for one another. The ones who love just as He commanded are those who know Him.

Something remarkable needs to happen on this earth, something shocking and startling. Messiah needs to be "born again." He needs another Body to dwell in.

### The Word Came Into Flesh

In the first century, He grew up as a tender plant, a root out of the dry ground. The Word came into flesh and dwelt among them, and all could behold His glory, as He was full of grace and truth. In the twenty-first century, His Body will emerge in the same way — as a root out of dry ground. When the Word comes into flesh again on the earth, it will be the same.

Who can fathom this, and how can it be? Where is He?

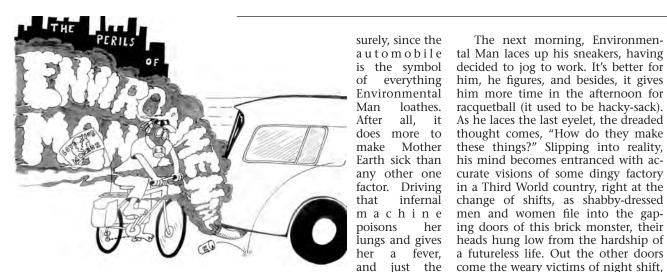
There is a secret hidden in the scriptures. Whoever has His commandments and keeps them, they are the ones who love Him, and they will be loved by His Father, and He will reveal Himself to them.1 This is the process of emergence. It is a simultaneous occurrence — as they keep His commandments, He reveals Himself. The Word is the carrier and expression of the essence of God. The Word is revealed to them as they keep it, actually doing the things He said to do. By this the Word is again becoming flesh.

The Word needs the yielding human heart that will respond and be led by that Word, it becoming the sole source of direction and guidance for all actions. This heart was found in Yahshua. He didn't take identity with anything other than His Father's Word. As the Word said, He did, and He didn't do anything other than what that Word said. This heart in Him united the Word with flesh, making the intent of the heart of God evident and manifest through the man Yahshua — by what He did and how He did it and what He said and how He said it.

#### What it Means To Be a Son

Even from a young age His heart was turned toward the One He called Father. The scriptures say He matured in wisdom and stature, or

<sup>1</sup> John 14:21



it could be said that as He grew, the But in Him the fullness of the deity, Word continued to become flesh. He was connected to His Source. He heard the same call come to Him that He later spoke to others. He heard from the Father, "Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me, and I will love him and reveal Myself to him."<sup>2</sup> Yahshua loved His Father's commandments and gave no room to anything that might hinder Him from keeping them. Because of this, the Spirit descended on Him like a dove, and remained on Him. He saw the goal ahead, which drove Him to overcome the temptations that would lead Him off of this difficult course.

The Word was fully "enfleshed" in the man Yahshua. They were completely one. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."<sup>3</sup> This sonship was of the very same nature as the sonship Yahshua had received, being the first-born son of God. Yahshua was sent out by his Father to accomplish what He had been trained for - to be the Messiah, the Savior of the world.

### True Authority

He spoke many things, all with authority, because the words He spoke were the same words that had been spoken to Him by the Father, which He had wholeheartedly taken on unto obedience. Whoever received the words that this Man spoke received the same words that the Father spoke, because that was all that was in Him. At the very core of His being was the Word. If at any time He had decided not to obey, He would not have been the Son that the Father was looking for, and He would not have been chosen to be the Messiah.

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."4 If He had chosen another way He would not have been able to say that He was the Way. If He listened to the temptation of another voice, He would not have been able to say that He was the Truth. If He had decided to live for any other cause, He would not have been able to say the He was the Life.

<sup>2</sup> John 14:21 <sup>3</sup> Galatians 4:4-5 <sup>4</sup> John 14:6

the very Word of God, was pleased to dwell. He became the image of the invisible God. When one of His disciples asked Him to be shown the Father and that would be sufficient for him, Yahshua replied, "Haven't I been with you long enough? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father."5

Before He was crucified, He said something that was truly amazing: "I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you, but if I depart I will send Him to you... When He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth."6 If anyone received that same Spirit, that very same essence and passion that the man Yahshua had received, the same Helper that helped Him, he would be led by that Spirit to do exactly what Yahshua had done — receive the Word. Those who truly received the Word just as He did, by obedience, would become the manifestation of the Word in flesh, just as He was. The outcome of fulfilling the commandments was made evident by the voice that came from heaven saying, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."7

### A Brief Candle

After His crucifixion, He was declared the Son of God with power upon His resurrection from the dead. This was verification that He had not wavered and His death had accomplished what He had been sent for. He had born witness to the truth. Those who had been with Him continued in His word. Whoever would receive them would receive Him, and whoever received Him, received the One who sent Him. They were the extension of Messiah. If they forgave anyone, their sins were forgiven. People were actually being saved from real and deep hurtful ways through them. The words they spoke had the power to transfer someone out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of the Son. They were healing many. Even greater, they were loving just as He had commanded them to, by laying down their lives for their friends. Although Yahshua, the firstborn from the dead, had ascended, the Word of God was still coming into flesh on

<sup>5</sup> John 14:9 <sup>6</sup> John 16:7,13 7 Mark 1:11

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But, sadly, the Spirit that burned so brightly in the heart of Yahshua began to fade as it was replaced with other desires. Another spirit was welcomed in, another way than the one pure way they had received from Him. The wholehearted determination to do nothing unless the Word said to was replaced by people seeking their own glory. They stopped seeking the glory of the One who had first called them, and they failed to be true by allowing unrighteousness to be among them. Over a short period of time, no one was left who had that same heart and Spirit of devotion that Yahshua had. They stopped revering His word.

They left their first love and smothered the emerging life of Messiah, the Word incarnate, and the very beginning of the kingdom of God ceased from the earth.8 Only an imposter continued, a false Messiah, the dead system of Christianity that mirrored the very system which Yahshua had so passionately declared as cut off. "The kingdom will be taken away from you and given to nation that produces the fruit of it."9 Or to put it another way, "The kingdom will be given to a nation that will receive His words and keep His commandments." They stopped having a true and fervent love for one another, which proved that they were not His disciples. So people were no longer being saved from their sins and they were no longer bringing about the kingdom of God. Because those who claimed to know Him no longer walked as He did, His Word was ineffectual to their deaf hearts and Messiah had no dwelling place. The Word no longer was to be found incarnate anywhere on the whole earth.

### Renaissance

So Messiah needed to be "born again." The first love of His disciples needed a renaissance, a rebirth. A reformation of the dead system that claimed His name could not accomplish it. It had to be fresh and new, as from a preserved seed. The Word needed the same manifestation and evidence of love that it had in the beginning when all who received His word were together and shared all things in common and no one claimed that anything that he had was his own. Gladness and sincer-

<sup>8</sup> Revelation 2:4-5 <sup>9</sup>Matthew 21:43

**Riches** continued from page 3 this life? Will he have any? Did Miss Lee's suicide give her the relief she so desperately desired? Although money can buy you almost anything you want while you are alive, no one has ever taken a dime into the grave. Though it would be comforting to think that all will be fine and dandy when we die, deep within each person the voice of his conscience whispers, "Not so." The torment or comfort one receives in death is according to the choices he made over the course of his life. Every person makes choices. The choices we make, whether right or wrong, determine our eternal destiny. Each person's conscience fully awakens in the place called death<sup>3</sup> to either accuse or give comfort to his soul.<sup>4</sup> There are no rich or poor in death, no privileges of class or rank. Much of our life is spent trying to escape the fact that one day our life will be required of us. From Bill Gates to the struggling farmer, death will knock on each person's door. Many have tried in vain to ignore the knock, or deadbolt the door shut, but eventually the dark specter of death enters into the house of your life and pulls your soul down into another realm. The grave is never satisfied.<sup>5</sup> It has an insatiable appetite for the souls of mankind. Yet, those who are wealthy build a walled city of false security around their lives. They think it unassailable by the forces of death.6 Even Walt Disney is said to have frozen his body in suspended animation in hopes that one day technology will resurrect him from the dead. Our bodies are mortal, but our souls are eternal. That part of us that peers out from behind our eyeballs — that feeling, thinking aspect of us, which is who we really are — never ceases to exist. Though our bodies rot in the ground, our souls go on to spend eternity somewhere, fully conscious of every moment. So with wealth comes accountability. Though religions like Christianity coax the rich, soothing their gnawing consciences, accommodating their extravagant lifestyles, they can only offer a false comfort. The words of

ity of heart marked their devotion. These signs always accompany the emergence of Messiah.

1 - 8 8 8 - T W E L V E - T

When the Word came into the world, He said, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body you have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure... Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God."10 So there has to be a body prepared for Him, through whom He can do the Father's will, but where is that body to accomplish His will? Who will make the kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven? Who is going to represent Messiah, the Savior, to man, since mankind is still in such a state of decay? Who is going to preach the gospel of the kingdom as a witness so that the end can come? Who is going to be the Word incarnate? Where is that heart?

It must be accomplished, but Yahshua can't do it Himself, for heaven holds Him till the time of the restoration of all things. He needs His words to find the good soil of a yielding hearts to sprout and grow. He needs those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth and believe in Him unto obedience, just as He believed in His Father.

The ones who actually leave behind everything for His sake and the gospel's sake11 become the members of the Body that He was looking for. The pattern of the first believers, which is a community, is the Body He needs. They are a people who are willing to do His will and be led by His Spirit. All who believe His words and the veritable truth of His life are together and share all things in common.12 They are the redeemed sons of God. The redeemed reveal the Redeemer just as the Son revealed the Father. They, like Him, are born and then grow in wisdom and stature, looking forward to the day when they have been fully trained and the dove remains on them.

This by no means will happen by might or by power, but by His Spirit alone. Yahshua was fully surrendered to His Father and fully received His Word. When this is fully accomplished by His Body, His same Father will say, "These are my beloved sons in whom I am well pleased." This will be the light to the nations. bringing His salvation to the ends of the earth.

<sup>10</sup> Hebrews 10:5-7 11 Mark 10:28-30; Luke 14:33 12 Acts 2:44

Yahshua<sup>7</sup> echo with crystal clarity:

"But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your comfort in full.

HE ANSWER TO living an environmentally friendly life is usually better technology replacing bad technology. Still, it'll take some pretty sophisticated industries to come up with something better than plastic to-go containers for hamburgers. Yes, Environmental Man looks to technology to win the day and save the earth. He faces the future with confidence that there are solid answers just waiting on the horizon to be implemented.

After all, it wasn't too many years ago that careless industries were spewing all sorts of suspended particulate into the air, as well as a host of other evils. Putting high-tech filters on the smokestacks cleaned up the air alright, but it still came out hot, contributing to global warming. Perhaps if we can come up with cheaper air-conditioning we can cool the smokestacks down. "Cheaper" can almost always be defined as "more polluting," though, and the chemicals involved work against the ozone layer. And Mother Earth's temperature is rising. What can you do for a planet when she has a fever?

Well, we can chuck modern technology altogether, and go back to a mule and a hoe. You know, basic sustainable agriculture, lots of fresh air, and sweat. But have you noticed that people already living at the bottom of the technological pile are trying to knock down our doors to escape such a life? Few people seriously envision a world of small farms run by hardworking, enlightened people who are content with just keeping terra firma tidy. There just aren't that many around who are ready to make such an extreme move. You're probably not one of them either.

But perhaps you have taken steps to remove yourself from the self-destructing rat race of a greedy polluting consumer society. Steps like getting rid of your car and bicycling to work. This is a significant step,

manufacturing of it creates toxins without number, shutting down her liver. Only someone pretending to be Environmental Man would ever be found owning one.

So you bite the bullet and buy a bike. Pedaling to work, you risk your fool neck in insane traffic as those despised automobiles full of environment-hating rednecks whiz by you without a care. Breathing deeply, you ponder the wisdom of your choice as you fight to not cough from the hydrocarbons pouring out the tailpipe of that last car. What good will it do Mother Earth if you wind up squashed like a bug on the asphalt? Who will take care of her then?

Slightly dizzy from the last diesel blast of a city bus, Environmental Man looks down to evaluate his contribution to saving the earth. After all, a truly efficient bicycle is quite a marvel. Of high-technology, that is. Do you have any idea what it takes to manufacture a graphite-composite frame, or even a metal alloy one? Well, what about the coating on your brake cable housings? Or more basic, just your tires? One guess, and it's spelled e-l-e-c-t-r-i-ci-t-y, and lots of it. And most of the world's electricity is generated by coal (ugh!) or worse, a good deal of it by nuclear power! How are you going to generate enough of it with solar panels and windmills to make bicycles for 6 billion people? (And who knows how to make solar panels and windmill generators without pollution? Or without electricity?)

But still, you gotta survive. No matter how noble his thinking, or how much he considers such lofty matters, Environmental Man must eat. Fortunately for him, he lives in the richest nation in the world. (Brought to him in part by immensely profitable and immensely polluting industries.) Never one to dwell on the negative, full of determination, he makes the decision to grit his environmental teeth and walk to work.

decided to jog to work. It's better for him, he figures, and besides, it gives him more time in the afternoon for racquetball (it used to be hacky-sack). As he laces the last eyelet, the dreaded thought comes, "How do they make these things?" Slipping into reality, his mind becomes entranced with accurate visions of some dingy factory in a Third World country, right at the change of shifts, as shabby-dressed men and women file into the gaping doors of this brick monster, their heads hung low from the hardship of a futureless life. Out the other doors come the weary victims of night shift, having produced another blue million high-tech sneakers with some basketball player's name emblazoned on the side in fluorescent letters. Above all of their heads the smokestacks chug out choking-black fumes, like a harlot blowing cigarette smoke in your face, mocking their hopes for a better life.

The next morning, Environmen-

Snapping back from reality, Environmental Man realizes he'll be late for work if he doesn't leave right away. His mind weighed down by the immense task of living environmentally friendly, he considers a possibility.

Mavbe he could import Guatemalan organic cotton hand-knitted shoelaces into the country for people like himself. That would help. And of course, it would have a better chance of catching on if some famous basketball star endorsed it.

He flings on his cape, opens the apartment door, and pauses, troubled by his recent vision. Making a few minor adjustments, Environmental Man hurls himself out the door – barefoot.

After three days of walking to work starting at 3 am, Environmental Man hobbled back one gloomy evening. A cloud as thick as bus smoke hung over his head. All the stress of being environmentally devout was getting to him. He'd snapped at his friends all day at work, and cut his foot on a piece of a broken beer bottle as he walked home.

He was perplexed as to what to do next. Adam may have left the Garden barefoot, but Environmental Man had his doubts that he could get back in the same way. The more he tried to live with a good conscience, the less joy he had in life. He felt the impact on his soul, as he was becoming so unkind to his friends, and loneliness was becoming the only one who understood him. All his environmental ideals were leaking out, making him feel as flat as the tire on the bike he had given away.

How, oh how, could Environmental Man get out of this genetically modified pickle? Can you help him? 🏶

<sup>6</sup> Proverbs 18:11

(Luke 6:24)

The Man that one third of the world claims to follow knew no riches. In fact, He described Himself as someone who had no place to rest His head.8 He commanded the rich of His day to leave their riches, give to the poor, and follow Him. Then He told them that if they did this, they would have riches in heaven. If they wanted to be disciples of His, they would have to walk away from their life of comfort and ease, and obey His commandments.9 Living a comfortable life of self-fulfillment in the world and being a disciple of His were incompatible goals. Today, it is no different.

The desire to be rich is a relentless urging on, regardless of how it hurts others. It is a diseased condition of the soul from which unimaginable lusts and desires spew forth. It is a torrent that plunges people into ruin and destruction. It is a pandemic that is overtaking the world, leaving few survivors.

But to those drowning in loneliness, to those who have plunged themselves into ruin due to their dark desires, to those who are trapped in a self-made prison, awaiting death — there is hope. If you hate your life in this world, there is a way out, but it will cost you everything.

"If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

There is a people who have all given up everything to follow the one true Savior and Messiah, Yahshua. Through His forgiveness, they have left their self-centered lives behind, and now have a life together - a life worth living. They are no longer lonely, but are surrounded by brothers and sisters who love them for who they really are. Sound impossible? Please, come and see for yourself.

See article Name above all Names on p. 10 <sup>8</sup> Luke 9.58 Matthew 8.20 9 Mark 8:36-37; 10:17-31, Luke 16:19-31; 14:25-33

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Luke 16:24,28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Romans 2:14-16

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Proverbs 30:15-16

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### **Testing Ground**

continued from page 1

him. Gazing into the night sky as he played his harp and sang to the God of his fathers, it was as if eternity opened up before him. In that moment, revelation filled his heart and mind. He suddenly realized the great love that God had for man, and the wonderful purpose He had in His heart for him. Even in David's day, man had fallen far short of what the psalmist understood that night. But somehow the truth was communicated to David, recorded and preserved for us, so we can understand what our Creator has planned for us.

Man is God's highest thought, the central figure in His eternal purpose. He doesn't think of anything else but redeeming man to be what He created him to be. But for now creation is on hold until that time comes when man can be crowned with glory and majesty, and be worthy to rule over all the works of His hands, even the moon and the stars.

### Earth is a Testing Ground

I wonder how many people today understand that the earth is God's testing ground? Our character is tried and proven by every aspect of what's been given us to care for and rule over - our marital relationships, our children, animal and plant life, how we use (or abuse) natural resources, how we relate to authority, etc. How we interact in our particular environment reveals the true condition of our heart. The choices we make in this life fashion our character and will ultimately determine our eternal destiny.

All men are born with the instinctive knowledge of God - know-

**Farmer Jones** 

continued from page 2

derful witness of creation supports the natural law in our conscience. <sup>2</sup> So it's not that God puts man under the most horrible strain making it impossible for him to live by his conscience. All men could pass the test. No matter how difficult your struggle, you will always

be able to find someone whose circumstances are more difficult than what yours, but are still able to persevere with great dignity and do good through great adversity. As the old saying goes, "I used to be sad that I had no shoes, until I met a man who had no feet."

### As a Man Sows, So Shall He Reap

how small is your strength! Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has *done?* (*Proverbs* 24:10-12)

Man was created to have dominion over the earth and to depend on it for his sustenance. The intention was that there would be a relationship whereby man would work hard to cultivate and care for the earth, which would yield to him its bounty.<sup>3</sup> But man born into modern society does not have the same opportunity he once had to

<sup>1</sup> Genesis 3:22; Romans 1:18-21 <sup>2</sup> Psalms 19:1-4 <sup>3</sup> Genesis 3:17-19

for eggplant parmigiana.)

I wonder how many people today understand that the earth is God's testing ground? Our character is tried and proven by every aspect of what's been given us to care for and rule over.

experience this fundamental relationship with the earth. God understands this and will certainly take it into account in the final analysis, for the judgment will take every fact and factor into consideration, including the thoughts and intentions of the heart.4 We are liv-

ing in the days when so many are exchanging what is natural and good for what is against nature.<sup>5</sup> Though they began life, knowing God instinctively in their conscience, they chose not to retain that knowledge,<sup>6</sup> but gave themselves to every imaginable evil pursuit. So God gave them over to a reprobate mind, like rep-

> cannot be purified. They have gone past the point of no return — over the waterfall, having brought about their own destruction. The reprobate, who are filled up<sup>7</sup> with all unrighteousness, will be rejected by God and man as unworthy to rule over the works of His hands in eternity.

Yet, as amazing as it may seem (especially to Christians),<sup>8</sup> there are those among the nations who still suffer and struggle to keep the knowledge of God in their conscience.9 Through their perseverance in doing good, they seek for glory, honor, and immortality.10 There will be a second life for them after the great Judgment.<sup>11</sup> This kingdom is the eternal nations of those who are found worthy, after great testing, to fill the earth and the infinite universe with the image of God.

### The Earth Will Be

### Changed

Earth is the only planet that

<sup>4</sup> Hebrews 4:12 <sup>5</sup> Romans 1:26-27 <sup>6</sup> Romans 1:28 <sup>7</sup> Romans 1:29 <sup>8</sup> John 5:28-29 <sup>9</sup> Romans 2:7 <sup>10</sup> Romans 2:7,10,14-16 <sup>11</sup> Revelation 20:11-15

is habitable. Obviously, there is a purpose being played out here. Surely the infinite universe has a greater purpose than providing pretty lights for the night sky of our tiny planet. Once the testing of mankind is complete, the earth will have served its purpose. Then the heavens and the earth will be changed.

> Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end. The children of Your servants will continue, And their descendants will be established before You. (Psalm 102:25-28)

> Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (*Revelation 21:1-2*)

He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe. (Ephesians 4:10)

All the planets will be made habitable for man, who has been tested to be worthy to colonize the universe. The planets will be qualitatively changed. And through his great struggle, man will also be qualitatively changed. Never again will he choose evil. Man will forever use his will to do good and to love. And God, the Father, will have all authority forever and ever.

Then comes the end, when He [Christ] delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He [God, the Father] who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28) 🏶

Years go by. Her friends are backsliding, and dying, and she's afraid she might, too... Her marriage has ended now. She's left alone with a troubled teenage son. It all started out so nicely, and everything seemed okay. Friends, Bible studies, home prayer groups... but where was love? All the good feelings of being "slain in the spirit," "speaking in tongues," and exciting revivals were drastically turning into bad feelings and disappointments... She's now 35, confused, colder, and harder. She realizes something is wrong. No one is real, and life is just a compromise. Nothing has changed in all that time. The world is full of plastic, cold, hypocritical people... and now she realizes that she is one, too! She cries and cries, "Where, oh, where is love... real love?" She pleads one more time, "How, oh, how, dear God, do I get out of here?!" "Here" is wherever you are. and "love" is where your heart is. And just because it seems like everyone is doing something or thinking some way, it doesn't make it right. Compromise is the outcome, and yes, the world is full of it. But... There is a way out! There is an answer to all the crushed hopes, a real place where hope doesn't disappoint, a true purpose for your life.

If you falter in times of trouble,

robate silver, which

such, and that his vegetables sprouts the size of golf balls at never hurt him any. Of course, he the same price as Beanstalk Acres failed to mention that ever since Slam-dunk variety. Why shoot,

### How do I get out of here?



by Glenda

She is twelve years old and she realizes something is wrong. She wants out from such a cold, plastic, and hypocritical world. So she asks, "How do I get out of here?"

It is 1971, and she hears, "All you need is love ... "

"This is it," she thinks, "a purpose... Maybe this is the way to be real." Looking for love and a way out, she steps into a life of drugs.

As time goes on something is tugging at her conscience. She tries to ignore it. Pretend it's not there... Go with the flow... Just stay high... Everyone is doing it, so it must be all right...

Years go by. Her friends are dying, and she's becoming exhausted, paranoid, and depressed. She has an abusive husband and a lonely little son. It all started out so simple and everything seemed okay. Friends, parties, hangovers... but where was love? All the good feelings of being high and having fun were drastically turning into bad feelings and bummers.

Now she's 24, cold, hard, and realizing something is wrong... She wants out from this cold, plastic, hypocritical world. And she's asking herself with a desperate cry, "How, oh, how do Î get out of here?!"

It's 1983 and she hears, "All you need is Jesus! Praise the Lord!"

"This must be it! A purpose!" But she wonders, "Can He be real?" She's still looking for love... "He is Love, isn't He? And a way out?" She starts a life of being "saved."

As time goes on, something is tugging at her conscience. She tries to ignore it. Pretend all is well... Flow with the Spirit... Everyone is doing it, so it must be right...

"Oh, that's from the nuclear radiation in your tractor oil, Jones. Just watch for the leaks. You'll be okay." Farmer Jones promised he would be more careful in maintaining his tractor. There'd been a Model A meltdown last year over in Klein County. Farmer Jones even went to see what had happened, but was pretty disappointed. There wasn't anything left to see.

Oh, he'd be careful all right, Farmer Jones thought as he tightened the oil pan bolts. Careful to make sure he made more of them skyscraper broccoli plants, that is. Success was on the horizon in Jones' eyes, as he tightened all the bolts- well, almost all the bolts. One drip every so often wouldn't hurt.

As the forerunner of nuclearage agriculture in his area. Farmer Jones soon became sort of a hero. After a lot of trial & error to perfect his radioactive oil-dripping technique, his gigantic veggies began to run away with every blue ribbon they could give him at the county fair. But he was never happier than when he pulled up to the Farmer's Market in his truck loaded with Brussels sprouts. They were his biggest seller. He couldn't grow them fast enough, even though by now he could take them from seedlings to the size of basketballs in 3 1/2 days easy. Yep, life was good to Farmer Jones. And success was knocking hard.

Before long, our hero bought some choice bottom land and named it "Beanstalk Acres," after the fairy story of Jack and his amazing plant. Only this was no fairy tale- the cash was rolling in.

So time went on and it got to the point that customers at the Farmer's Market only wanted his special varieties of vegetables. Most of the other farmer's have gone out of business by this time, due in part to Jones' shrewd marketing strategies. After all, his varieties were sweeter and some cases even crisper (Jones had discovered that a few extra oil drippings over by the eggplants made them taste pre-fried. Now there wasn't

But better yet, people really enjoyed a candlelight dinner that needed no candles at all. Several plates of Beanstalk Acres special "Candle Light" brand vegetables on the table were all you needed to softly illuminate an entire dining room, providing a lovely atmosphere. Most people had never known how imaginative Farmer Jones could be, but at the scent of success in his nostrils his creative juices flowed. Need a night-light? One carrot was totally sufficient, shockproof, and would never burn out. Ĥey, it wouldn't even rot! The customers were even coming up with other added advantages,

too. A light bulb in your refrig-

state that would buy anything else

he'd divorced his wife he didn't have anybody to cook for him, so he only ate canned food. And too, Jones was so busy managing his radioactive kingdom that he hardly had time to pay attention to anything else. It was very time-consuming to get the drip just right on his tractor. So no, he hadn't noticed.

But had he bothered to, he might have seen a fairly disturbing sight. Holloway County, for all of its greenish glow, was looking downright pale these days. He had noticed that most folks were bigger, which he credited to cheap food; ever since the advent



erator was becoming as quaint a notion as whale-oil lamps, as the citizens of Holloway County grew to love that faint greenish glow of their favorite veggies in the fridge. Saved electricity, too. Yes, technology was on the move, and a man named Jones was determined to stay on the cutting edge of The Good Life.

Oh sure, there were problems. Like the other day at the Farmerdoes Market when Jake Whitwell showed up, obviously wanting to talk. "Jones," he stammered, "I don't know how to tell you this, but there's rumors going around. Some folks is thinking maybe it just ain't right to eat a 'tater big as a football. Now I ain't saying it, but there's even talk that maybe people are getting sick from eating your vegetables. I just thought you'd want to know, that's all."

Farmer Jones, trying hard to hide a little nervousness, replied an Italian restaurant in the whole that he'd never seen or heard

of the atomic age, everyone just ate more, that's all. After all, times were good, weren't they? Why, even the population of Holloway County had swollen.

Maybe if Jones had bothered to take a good look, he might have noticed that not only had the county swollen, but so had just about every individual, too. Not a man given to trifles, he took little notice. But had he done so, Jones might have noticed that some of the young children in town had developed such things as three arms; a good deal of baldness was going around, too. One child was even rumored to have x-ray vision.

"But hey," Jones reasoned, "There has to be some price to progress! What do people think we should do, go back to plowing with a mule?" And it was true. As strange as things had become in Holloway County, nobody wanted to go back to buying Brussels people could starve or go broke trying to feed themselves on that stuff. No, there was no turning back for the good citizens of the county, and nobody really wanted to, except maybe for a few troublemakers.

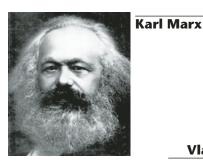
There'd been a small group of'em on a little farm over by the county line, and they actually did plow with a mule, don't ask me how. You could always tell who they were at the Farmer's Market, looking all skinny and a little too dark by modern county standards; and the vegetables they sold at the market, why a bird couldn't live off of'em. And unlike the folks in town, they didn't even have so much as a wart, let alone an extra arm or two. It got to the point where some folks didn't take too kindly to them, though, and ran'em off. Where they went is hard to say. Next county, maybe.

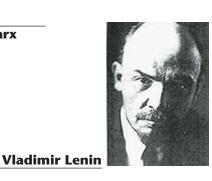
Speaking of the next county, somebody over there was wondering what that sound was they'd heard one day. It was a mighty pretty day, just great for plowing, and Farmer Jones had been up since the crack of dawn. He'd carefully checked his atomic tractor for just the right oil drippage for the corn field, and headed out for another productive day. Yep, Farmer Jones was a man of vision, and never looked back. He also didn't look down, either, but always forward to another day of progress. So it escaped his attention that his temperature gauge was slowly creeping up as he hit another row at 75 miles per hour. Like we'd said before, Farmer Jones was never one for trifles.

So when the folks in the next county over heard a dull thud from across the mountain, one of them remarked that he hadn't heard a sound quite like that since that day in Klein County when... when...well, he couldn't remember exactly what it had been. Memories weren't doing too good these days, I guess. So a friend of his had took off to see what had happened, but came back a little disappointed. Said there wasn't much to see. At least not anymore.

### "Where?" Here! Come and see! 🏶

And Jones? Well, the last anybody had seen of him he was sailing up pretty high. Some local wit had said just about as high as his imagination. Which was pretty high, I guess, at least high enough so that no one's ever seen him come down. At least not yet. Everybody's waitin', though, just about starved to death on them golf ball Brussels sprouts they have to make do with now that Beanstalk Acres has been fenced off by the government. But I guess, as Farmer Jones used to say, "That's progress!"





### "Destroy the family, and society will collapse without a shot."

"In the Communist Manifesto (1848) Marx proclaimed that communism abolishes all eternal truths, religions, morality, and the family. He called for compulsory schooling, a heavy graduated income tax, and abolishing the right of inheritance, among other things. These were three of the ten steps he advocated to revolutionize society, all of which have been adopted, in differing degrees, by virtually every nation in the world. Lenin's goal of abolishing the family was entirely in line with Marx's thinking." (see article Detonation of the Nuclear Family)

### **Nuclear Family**

continued from page 1

ined — woman.<sup>2</sup> Together they would rule over all that had been made, taking care of everything as a team, each complimenting the other. The love that was between them would bring forth happy and secure children, and eventually the entire earth would be filled up with these wonderful people. So what happened?

### The Garden of Testing

Though you may have heard stories of Adam and Eve, Hollywood and even religion have gone a long way in making the whole idea unreal. But in that garden paradise, a chain of events took place that would introduce a fatal flaw into the human race — division between man and woman.

God had provided a luscious garden, full of animals to care for and plants with fruits of every imaginable kind for the man and woman to eat. Yet there was a specific command that He gave them: "...of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die"3 This command was given to the man Adam, and afterward, he fell into a deep sleep, and the woman, his special helper, was brought forth from his side.4 Now he was no longer incomplete. Together they were called Man. He was to be the protector of her, caring for her, and she was to be his helper and support in all the work that was ahead of them in this new land. They had become one flesh.

But much like today, something crept into their loving and trusting relationship. Perhaps not completely trusting her husband and what he had told her about the tree of knowledge of good and evil, Eve ventured there, possibly many times. A desire was growing inside of her. Something began pulling her toward the tree in spite of the direction she had been given by her husband. Then one day it happened. While Eve was pondering the tree, a change took place inside of her, and then she heard a voice, "Has God indeed said. 'vou shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" Suddenly there was something pulling, tugging at the innermost

part of her soul. She was exposed to the voice of reason, and since her husband had been the one who told her which tree not to eat from, that question was leveled direction against him. Stunned, she began to converse with the voice

and slowly but surely, the tree that had been off limits took on a new appeal. She now craved it, and moved toward the tree with eager anticipation, her heart racing inside of her. These were feelings she had never known. As her fingers gently wrapped themselves around the fruit, she tugged, and the tree released it without struggle. As if time stood still, she bit down, sinking her teeth into the delicious fruit — and then it happened. A strange and horrible feeling began to wash over her entire body. It was chilling and frightening. She panicked.5 By the time her husband found his wayward wife, it was too late.

Where had he been? Why hadn't he been aware of her while she was aloof in the garden having dialog with that reasoning voice. He was supposed to protect and watch over her, making sure that she had everything she needed, and that no harm would

ever come to her. Why was it that these things took place without him knowing?

It seemed that when the realization of what had happened hit Adam, the sting of guilt followed with relentless strength. "What if," he wondered. "What if he had been more mindful of her? Would this have happened?" His beloved wife, the one whom God had formed from his side, was now

separated from him by sin. As he looked into her eyes, the future flashed before him in a moment's time. Could he live without her? Could he rule over and care for all that God had given to him without the woman by his side? What followed was quite possibly one of the greatest acts of personal sacrifice and self denial that the world has ever known. Fully aware that it would bring upon him the sentence of death, he took the fruit from his wife, put it to his lips, and ate.

History has blamed Eve for plunging the human race into the plight it has come to know as normal, but the Bible records that Man (both male and female together) was to blame.6 Adam could not fathom living life without her and seeing her face the rest of her life alone. In our day, with the marriage rate plummeting and the divorce rate sky-rocketing, it is hard to image this kind of self-sacrificing love.7

### **Earth the Crucible**

Though many have called what came next a curse on Man, a closer look reveals a merciful pro-



The Pandora's Box of permissive parenting has unleashed a ruthless, heartless, and severely Family Explodes depressed generational Frankenstein upon the

> vision for the entire human race. God said to them:

> > your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your

desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall re*turn." (Genesis 3:16-19)* 

Nowhere does it say that either man or woman was cursed. But rather pain was increased for the woman in child bearing, causing her to depend upon and trust in the loving care of her husband. Seeing the struggle that she went through to bring forth his children would certainly cause his love and respect for her to surge. On his part, he would no longer be able to enjoy the bountiful fruit of the Garden, but now, with great struggle, he would have to till the ground to bring forth food to feed

his family. It was going to be a struggle. Indeed, they were no longer in paradise, but if they would give themselves to these provisions then it would cause the bond between them to grow stronger than ever before. It was a provision for them to learn how to depend upon each other — the very aspect where they had failed in the Garden. Now they were in the crucible,8 designed to test and refine them during their lifetime. If they would embrace the hardships of life, not despising the difficulties that would come, their character would grow and their children would prosper, in turn passing on the same care and respect to their children. If they would not, then the entire human race was in

### The Nuclear

Through the centuries we trod on, until

we finally arrive at the 20th century. The Industrial Revolution brought with it massive changes the struggle he had engaged in during the previous 6,000 years. With the advent of greater technology came a more convenient life. Mass transportation emerged and quickly mapped out a global circulatory system for moving goods, including food, over large distances. To meet the growing demand for food, modern farm implements were introduced, along with pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides that could significantly increase yields. Farmers were able to grow much more

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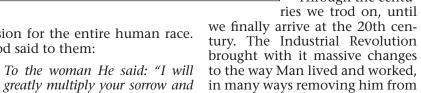
with less effort and fewer people. They were also able to ship their goods to places that had previously depended on local farms for resources — a dependency that for millennia had helped strengthen social ties and create strong local economies and communities.

With technology and mass transit came a higher standard of living and a growing social pressure to obtain and maintain that standard. In order to keep up with the Joneses, women left the home and joined the ranks of the workforce. Although the Americans who took part in the war effort during World War II have been dubbed the greatest generation, taking mothers and women from the home and placing them into the workforce would set something into motion that would later have titanic consequences. Children now had to be raised by day-care facilities and the public school system. The latch-key generation was born. The evolution of the Western world was taking a dramatic turn in a strange, new direction. The toll this would take on the husband-wife relationship, and in turn on the family, could not have been fully realized, but by the time the alarms started sounding, it would be too late to turn back.

### **A Bastard Nation**

In 1946, Dr. Benjamin Spock, a pediatrician and psychiatrist, wrote The Common Sense Book on Baby and Child Care, a work that would revolutionize forever the way parents raised their children. He taught that the key to healthy child rearing was to relinquish the traditional authoritarian approach to parenthood, which he said tended to oppress children. Rather, he insisted, parents should become sensitive mentors of their children's evolving psyches. For Spock and his disciples the "good" parent was no longer the parent who got his children to be obedient and behave through traditional corporal discipline, but rather the parent who understood why his children might not behave.9

Like a serpent slithering through the garden of the 20th Century, the fangs of permissive parenting sunk deep, injecting its venom first into minds of the intellectually elite. By the 1960s these so-called child experts expanded the mantra and infiltrated the universities. The students there would later become the leaders, and their higher notions about "good parenting" would thoroughly permeate all aspects of education, social work, and especially the mass media.10 Like Lenin, Spock and his successors



jeopardy.

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 2:8-25 3 Genesis 2:16-17 4 Genesis 2:21-22

### Earth: The Crucible

continued from page 2

lationships, neighbors, authority, etc. — are there to support and to test him.

A man is tested in his relationships. How will he care for his family? Will he work hard for them? Will husband and wife be faithful to one another? How will they raise their children? Will a child bring honor or shame to his parents? Will a man do good to his neighbor? Will he keep his word? Will a man value and be deeply thankful for these relationships, or will he take them for granted? A man's sense of his own mortality should cause him to cherish the lives of those around him.

A ruler is tested by the power he wields. Does he rule wisely, striving to make decisions that are best for his subjects? Does he use his power to oppress or protect? A business owner is tested. How will he treat his employees? Does he pay them a fair wage and ensure them a healthy work environment? What about an employee? Is he loyal, trustworthy, and diligent, or is he lazy and unreliable. A master will stand in judgment for how he treated his slaves. Did he care for them and protect them like his own family

5 Everyone remembers that terrifying feeling of going against their conscience for the first time. Adrenaline rushes through your body as you push past the internal boundary that has been set in place for your own good. As time goes on, it becomes less and less frightening to push past, until one day, it doesn't bother you any more. This is the point at which a person should be more scared than ever - when pushing past their conscience no longer hurts.

or did he cruelly mistreat them? A slave will be rewarded for his faithful and submissive service to his master, but what if he was lazy and rebellious?

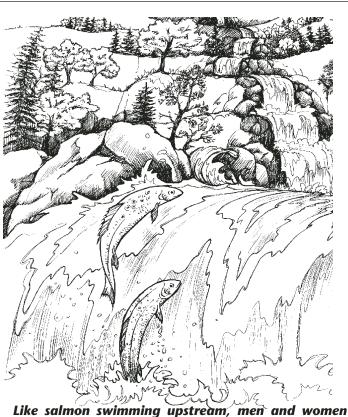
How does a farmer

manage the land that he owns? Is he a caretaker of the earth from which he sweats to make a living, or does he sterilize its soil and pollute its streams with chemical fertilizers and pesticides? Does he have regard for the life of his animals, or does he pack them in cramped quarters to maximize his profits? Does he respect his neighbor's boundary line? Does he let his animals' waste pollute the stream that runs through his neighbor's property? Is he thankful for the sun and the rain that cause his crops to flourish and for the bees that pollinate his orchards?

All are tested. How do you treat authority — husband, president, father, mother, policeman, or judge? Do you support author6 Romans 5:12 and 17 — *man* in both of these verses is #444 in the Strong's Concordance which includes both genders. In verse 12 sin entered the world through Eve (this was the first time sin was experienced by a human being), but in verse 19, by Adam's disobedience, many were made sinners (i.e. the entire human race). The blood comes from the male. 7 The number of divorced people

in the [U.S.] population more than quadrupled from 4.3 million in 1970 to 18.3 million in 1996: Arlene F. Saluter and Terry A. Lugaila, Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1996 (Census Bureau, P20-496 Issued Mach 1998).

ity or tear it down? Do you support parents' rights or children's rights, the death penalty or Amnesty International, marriage or free love? Are you a covenant



must struggle against that inborn selfishness in order to preserve their intrinsic worth as human beings.

8 Crucible — a ceramic or metal container in which metals or other substances may be melted or subjected to very high temperatures; a place or occasion of severe test or trial.

keeper or breaker?

Éveryone has a conscience an innate ability to discern good from evil. Everyone is accountable to live according to this intrinsic

knowledge. No one can do good perfectly. Everyone will sin, but a righteous person will sincerely regret any harm that he does to others. Your life is but a vapor and then you die. In your brief life on this planet you set your character for eternity. This is why the choices that a person makes are so significant.

The defense attorney who gets murderers off on technicalities, the used car salesman who sells secondrate cars at premium prices, the politician who will say anything to get elected, the judge who perverts justice, the publishing executive who gets rich selling filth to children, the environmentalist who

were not only out to revolutionize the relationship between parents and their children, but society itself, through the agency of the family.

During the sixties and seventies the results became evident. Physical discipline in schools was beginning to vanish. Those who had been raised under these new-and-improved methods of parenting began to bud and blossom into something quite different than well-behaved, peaceful young people. Rather, a full-scale culture of rebellion against any

9 Dana Mack, The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family (Simon & Schuster, 1997) p. 33 10 Ibid, p. 34

loves trees but hates people, the born-again Christian who misrepresents Christ, the Civil Rights advocate who extorts money from companies by threatening discrimination lawsuits, the dictator who tramples on human rights, the reporter who sensationalizes human tragedy, the terrorist who hides behind innocent civilians, the military commander who orders air strikes on civilian targets, the doctor who prescribes antidepressants to children, the dentist who fills phony cavities, the surgeon who performs unnecessary operations — all of these will have to give an account. None will escape judgment.

A wise man once said, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" There is an ancient story about a man named Job whose life became a battleground between good and evil. In this struggle, he lost everything except his soul. Despite great personal suffering, he would not "curse God and die." According to the story, his integrity before his Creator meant more to him than anything life on earth had to offer.

The story of the human race is one of triumph and tragedy, abundance and famine, rain and drought, life and death, kindness and cruelty, equity and injustice,

# **A Place to Belong**

be the light of the world — the light of life.. A fire of love was kindled among those sincere followers of Yahshua, the Messiah, (Hebrew for Jesus) which caused them to leave behind every other thing they thought was important, and give all their strength to caring for one another, and proclaiming the greatness of the One who brought them together. Tragically, their light was like a candle in the wind, which was snuffed out as the cold wind of self-life gradually overwhelmed them. Today all that remains is the imitation life of the fallen Christianity, which in no way compares to its blazing beginnings. The light of those early believers has captured the imagination of men ever since.

In every generation since there have been those who craved a life that produces love. During the counter-culture movement of the '60s and early '70s, a whole generation was infused with that desire and communes sprang up everywhere and in a brief explosion of hope, everyone shared everything, simply looking for love, wanting to escape the omens of books like 1984 and Brave New World. Yes, there was a sense that something radical, something as radical as love, needed to happen to change the world, but there was no prophetic light to guide that generation into a real, lasting alternative.

### Seeking the Truth

So where do we find that prophetic voice that can actually lead us? Is it time? Where do we find love anyway? And where is the power to actually do it? If only the Holy Spirit of God could be made real to us, like it was those early believers. Then with that good Spirit of love in our hearts we would have true life, true community, and true love. It would surely satisfy our craving for a real alternative to the rat race and the plastic smile society. If we could just find that place where the life of unity described in the ancient manuscripts of Acts 2 and 4 was practiced, what hope we would have!

The boast of Christianity is that they have the Son and they have that life, but can the longing in our hearts to live together in peace ever be satisfied? Is there such a place? Or is it just as utopia, (which means "no place")? Haight-Ashbury seemed like a valid alternative to Christianity forty years ago. We'd grown up hearing the preachers' talk and promises (smooth as any politician), but we were left without hope. It seems they are proclaiming a different gospel, another Jesus, a different spirit than the One who said, "Anyone who wishes to come after Me must deny himself, pick up his cross and follow Me." Thousands of people actually did what He said and lived the life He promised they would have. But it seemed the message we heard in Church on Sunday morning didn't cause

**HE COMMUNITIES OF** the anyone to do anything more rad- beyond redemption. early church were meant to ical than go back down the aisle one more time to "recommit their life to Christ."

> You can look in the churches, but you can't find a trace of that vibrant community life and since then, every generation has had to strike out on its own, seeking

the truth. If only we could find truth, some light in our spirits, it would pave the way for all our other needs as human beings to be met. But every generation until now has eventually been left disappointed and very hurt. Even the '60s generation, which was ablaze with vision, now stands with their children and grandchildren with no hope to offer in any

and Christianity, promised, yea, boasted of that hope, but did not and could not deliver the goods. Riddled with greed and selfishness, the Movement failed to bring about a brotherhood of man and Christianity is divided

So where can we go? The hope and dream of human beings is that men and women from every race, the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor, the educated and the illiterate, could live together in true unity, loving one another and striving for justice in

There was a sense that something radical, something as radical as love, needed to happen to change the world, but there was no prophetic light to guide that generation into a real, lasting alternative.

alternative. Both the Movement their midst. But if it is not happening, where can we go? Where can we look? Who put this deep desire in our hearts?

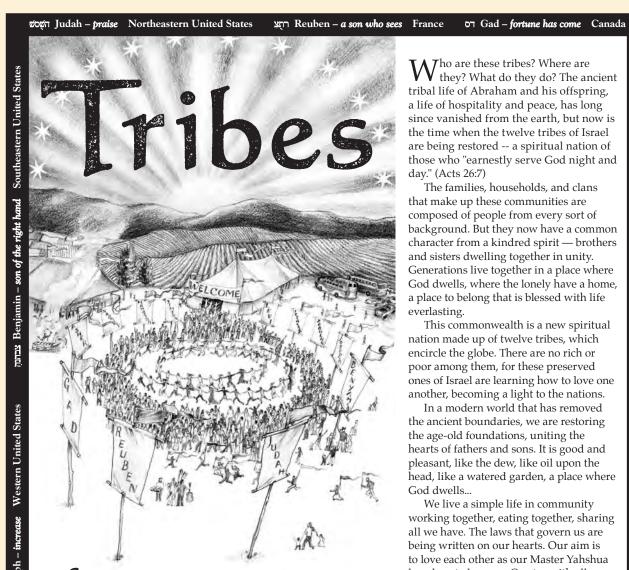
The Movement's gone, except for some memories. So should we go back to the lifeless churches we left? Are we to wonder if per-

haps Dad was right after all, and that making a living and being comfortable is all there is to life? We could just kick off our shoes and settle into the sofa and on Sundays, find our comfortable pew (if there is not a big game that day). But wouldn't that be like claiming to see while blind? This is exactly why the Messiah told those of a dead religion similar to Christianity: "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin, but since you claim to see, \_\_\_\_\_ your guilt remains." The end times will be marked by

the presence of this religion called by the Scriptures a house for demons and a haunt for every evil spirit, claiming to have the life of the Son, while the children are still without hope.

### The Last Days?

Ask yourself this question: Are we living in the last days spoken of by the ancient prophets, when evil is called good and good is called evil? Then ask yourself whether you want to have a place to belong in this decaying society or a place to belong in a new social order, a life of community being prepared by the God of Heaven



heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to Ę The appointed time has come. love our neighbors as we love ourselves. No longer strangers, no longer rootless, a people is being gathered. The prophetic voice of a new millennium can be faintly heard. No longer separated, no longer alienated, come visit. 24 A commonwealth is being formed ... In the USA and Canada: www.TwelveTribes.org ☎ 1-888-TWELVE-T (English Español Français Deutsch Português) (1-888-893-5838) Tevi – attached Germany ADRAR I Issachar – wages Argentina

tribal life of Abraham and his offspring, a life of hospitality and peace, has long since vanished from the earth, but now is the time when the twelve tribes of Israel are being restored -- a spiritual nation of those who "earnestly serve God night and

that make up these communities are composed of people from every sort of background. But they now have a common character from a kindred spirit — brothers and sisters dwelling together in unity. Generations live together in a place where God dwells, where the lonely have a home, a place to belong that is blessed with life

Australi

This commonwealth is a new spiritual nation made up of twelve tribes, which encircle the globe. There are no rich or poor among them, for these preserved ones of Israel are learning how to love one another, becoming a light to the nations.

In a modern world that has removed the ancient boundaries, we are restoring the age-old foundations, uniting the hearts of fathers and sons. It is good and pleasant, like the dew, like oil upon the head, like a watered garden, a place where

We live a simple life in community working together, eating together, sharing all we have. The laws that govern us are being written on our hearts. Our aim is to love each other as our Master Yahshua SOMETHING VERY OLD is being borr loved us, to love our Creator with all our Daily we gather in our households with singing and dancing to give thanks to the One who has saved us from an empty and hopeless existence. We have moved from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of his marvelous light... You are invited to ₡₥₡*₥₡₥₡₥₡₥₡₥₡₥₡₥*₡₥ legutrof bas nied? Spain and Portugal

to one day fill the whole earth with love.

It was no mistake that when His Holy Spirit came down to Earth that He gave those early believers the power to live together in peace and unity, for that is what He created us for. It's in a people who live this way that God (who is spirit) will have His eternal dwelling place. The power of His love being actually lived out by human beings will be the catalyst that will bring the end of this age, and end of the old social order that mankind has been enslaved to for 6,000 years.

He is preparing a new social order (not a new philosophy or something mystical, but a society of actual communities) that will have the greatest social impact in history. Many have proclaimed this social order where love is king, but it cannot exist unless all the things that divide the human race can be rendered powerless. Then people would be able to live together in community — actual community. Actual community is real community, one that exists in reality at the present time, where all the people share a common life together.

This only happened one time before, for a brief moment, in those first actual communities established by the disciples of Yahshua 2,000 years ago. These men and women had life. They were forgiven people in whom all the barriers of sin that forever divide people had been knocked down by Yahshua's death on the cross. They experienced a real common life together. This was the life of love that shook the foundation of the old social order. A radically new way of relating to one another had broken into this age. Love was its essence, the kind of love that Yahshua demonstrated for us — one of giving yourself up and laying down your life for each other every day.

When actual community ceases to exist, the new social order is held in abeyance, regardless of what you claim to believe, hold to be true, or otherwise hope in. When we see people being real, being able to share a common life together, then we will know that this new social order is being restored here on earth. It is the seed of eternal life, the foothold of the light of the world.

As the prophet Daniel foretold 2,600 years ago, this new social order must be restored on the earth without human hands. It must be done by the hand of God. Its emergence is what will bring the old social order to its final end. Then the new social order will become a great mountain that will fill the whole earth. It is the only hope for the world. We have witnessed this miraculous life grow in our midst for the last 35 years. We have become His set apart nation through trusting in His Spirit to heal us and redeem us from the corruption that has overtaken the race of man. Our only boast is that we know Yahshua, the One who is powerful to save. You can know where He is when you see the life of the ages coming forth. Come and taste its fruit. You will find a place to belong... to be long... to be for a long, long time...\*

HE ENTRANCE OF the Morning Star Ranch is lined with palm trees, leading you through the persimmon orchard where the cows graze, past the goats and chickens to our red barn-shaped houses where you will find us busily cleaning, cooking, sewing, teaching our children and watching the little ones, and washing the dishes. The road continues up the steep hill, past the pottery shop into the avocado grove where you will find the men working together under the trees or in the packinghouse sorting fruit for the market.

There are many different nationalities here sharing our home — American, French-Canadian, gether to accomplish His

Spanish, Germans, Mexican, Argentinean, all serving the same God with the same faith, in lasting friendships. In this new life the cultural barriers are being broken down. As the long-established cultures of the earth are being left behind for the self-grati-fication of "Western culture," a brand new culture is emerging. Our common faith in the God of Abraham has brought us to-

work of

restoration. The restoration of all things begins with this restoration of human relationships.

What relationships are more important than those between men and women, parents and children? We see the breakdown of these fundamental re-

# Featured CommunityThe Morníng Star Ranchmans, Mexi-<br/>ean, all serv-Valley Center, Calíforníain peace, lear<br/>of our Cre



lationships at the root of what is causing the societies of the earth to crumble. We are beginning to understand how selfishness is the cause of these breakdowns. So we are learning that the key to living with one another in harmony is in putting our focus on the needs of others over our own needs. When we all live that way it creates community.

Here on the Morning Star Ranch, our children are growing up with us, giving their strength to help us build a life where people are cared for and can live to forbear, to forgive

in peace, learning the ways of our Creator. Sounds idyllic? It's true that many have had the concept of wonderful community life where no one is left out and everyone does his share, but oh, how hard to realize the dream. We are not writing about visions and concepts, but about the reality of our daily life — the life we've been living for decades. You could say we have the "conceptual reality" of what many have dreamed of.

There are 70 of us living here (the families and single women and see us!

in two rambling houses and the single men in two yurts) and while our life is a joy to us, it's not as if our problems are swept away by a magic wand. It's sometimes painful and difficult, as it takes courage to be a human being, especially one who cares. We are learning

and to be real. And after all these years we're not tired or worn out, but we're increasing. It's a miracle that we can live together. We need our Master Yahshua (known by some as "Jesus Christ") to do it, as His love is what makes it possible.

We would love to share our life with you. You can drop by for Friday night when we end our working week by bringing in the Sabbath with a festive meal, Israeli folk dancing and singing with our whole hearts to the One who made us. Or come as a willing worker (a W.W.O.O.F.er). The gates of Morning Star Ranch are always open. The hardworking farmers there would love to share their insights into this abundant life we have found. Please come



# Have You Heard What's Going On? death. The movement is aimed at disappoint them. This same hope is on

Have you heard about the radical new movement that's going on? People of different backgrounds and races from all over the world are leaving everything behind to form tight-knit communities. The work is shared, the money is shared, and possessions are shared, all for the sake of the movement. In this environment there is healing. Lives that seemed damaged beyond repair are being restored in every aspect. This movement is a full-time life. It's not some fly-by-night organization. In fact, it's been building for over 30 years, gaining momentum. It is a rich, new, emerging culture built on an ancient spiritual foundation.

The manifesto is this: God is real and is serious about making a radical change in our lives. But He needs devoted people who will abandon everything to follow His lead. We who write this paper have done just that. We are peaceful, yet powerfully united, but not without a struggle. Together we are working to undermine the evil spiritual attack on the

soul of mankind on this planet. Spiritual enemies such as selfishness and greed lead to conditions such as loneliness, fear, ultimately and

reversing these effects and bringing great healing to people. Our Creator has the power to reach deep within our souls and make real changes, but not without our wholehearted participation in the movement He is starting.

The power to change comes from Yahshua,\* the one called Jesus in the scriptures. To join the movement means following Him. It's life for life. He died and went into the agony of death for us. There He received the full wages our sins deserved. To follow Him means we must likewise give everything for Him. Not once or twice a week, but 24/7 for the rest of our life.

Yahshua didn't come to establish some milk-toast religion. He caused an earthquake that shook the status quo. Those who loved their own selfish pursuits more than the truth were threatened by Him. But those who were seeking the truth found the hope they were looking for — a hope that did not

Humanity is currently being swept downstream. It's heading for the waterfall of no return. The moral foundations that support a good society are rapidly being destroyed. Most people seem strangely unaware of the consequences that result from such breakdowns. Mindlessly they follow along, mesmerized by the siren song of prosperity, ease, and pleasure. Don't be lulled to sleep! Don't be fooled by the politically correct propaganda that is flooding society. The destruction of the moral foundations in peoples' lives is destroying society, the earth, and God's very image in mankind. Something

must be done. We who write this paper have found the way out. If you dare to read it, be warned that this paper may cause deep thoughts that could change your life. Our addresses are on the inside back cover. Come and see for yourself what's going on!

הודה' Judah – praise Northeastern United States

ראובן Reuben – a son who sees France

□ Gad – fortune has come Canada

**EDAH** — The word for community in Hebrew is edah, which also means beehive. This word portrays the way a group of people or hive of bees live and work together with a common identity. Bees live a selfless life of devotion to the bee kingdom. They have no concern for themselves but only for the hive and the constant production of honey. So it is with those who are in the communities of God.

### **Some of Our Communities Worldwide**

\*\*\*\*\*



Vista, California

**UNITED STATES (1-888-893-5838)** 

Community in Island Pond, P. O. Box 449, Island Pond, VT 05846 🕿 (802) 723-9708

Basin Farm, P. O. Box 108, Bellows Falls, VT 05101 2 (802) 463-9264

Community in Rutland, 134 Church Street. Rutland, VT 05701 🕿 (802) 773-3764 Community in Boston, 92 Melville Ave,

Dorchester, MA 02124 🕿 (617) 282-9876

Community in Hyannis, 14 Main Street. Hyannis, MA 02601 🕿 (508) 790-0555

Community in Plymouth, 35 Warren Ave,

Community on the Lake of the Ozarks, 1140 Lay Ave, Warsaw, MO 65355 🕿 (660) 438-4481

Stepping Stone Farm, Rt. 2, Box 55, Weaubleau, MO 65774 🕿 (417) 428-3251

Community in Manitou Springs, 41 Lincoln Ave, Manitou Springs, CO 80829 **a** (719) 573-1907

Community in Vista, 2683 Foothill Drive, Vista, CA 92084 🕿 (760) 295-3852

Morning Star Ranch, 12458 Keys Creek Rd, Valley Center, CA 92082 🕿 (760) 742-8953

**CANADA** (1-888-893-5838) Community in Winnipeg, 89 East Gate, Winnipeg,

### **Like a Beehive**

Have you ever watched a beehive? It is fascinating seeing thousands of little bees working together to produce honey. As you come near the hive, you can hear an exciting buzz as they go about the many tasks necessary to keep the hive alive. The workers are responsible to collect nectar and guard the hive. The young bees keep the hive in good condition, feed the larvae, and support in other household chores. There is never a dull moment in the busy life of a little bee.

This is much like the life that we have. No matter what we do, we love to do it together. Daily we gather to thank our Master for His salvation, and to hear Him speak to us through one another. This gathering keeps alive a genuine love and care for each other. As we work, we take advantage of the daily situations, guarding ourselves from the selfishness and pride that would come in to separate us and take away our love. Our children are a vital part of our life. We not only educate them, but we work with them to accomplish the simple tasks necessary to maintain a family life. Our life is not a dull routine of chores, but is full of the warmth that comes from the sweet fellowship of friends speaking their hearts to one another, celebrating the Sabbath every week, and participating in weddings and festivals.

But there are a few things that differ in our life from that of a beehive. One is that we are not driven by instinct or controlled by something separate from our own will. Each of us is here because we chose to leave behind our own separate lives to increase the life of this hive. Our life is not enclosed like the hive of a bee, nor do we have a stinger to harm any uninvited guests. We welcome anyone to experience our life with us. Please come and see what it is like to be part of a beehive of people expressing the warmth and love of our Creator.



Sus, France





Sydney, Australia

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For more information, or to request more literature or a complete list of community addresses, please call:

**1-888-TWELVE-T** 1-888-893-5838 or visit our web site at:

www.twelvetribes.org

**Common Ground Café** 2243 Dorchester Avenue Lower Mills, MA 02124 (617) 298-1020 Café

#### The Maté Factor Café 420 Main Street Hyannis, MA 02601 (508) 778-8390

**Common Sense** Wholesome Food Market 53 Main Street Plymouth, MA 02360 (508) 732-0427

Oak Hill Kitchen 7771 State Route 81 Oak Hill, NY 12460 (518) 239-4240

The Maté Factor Café 143 East State Street Ithaca, NY 14850 (607) 256-2056

**Common Ground Café** 10 East Main Street Cambridge, NY 12816 (518) 677-2360

Plymouth, MA 02360 🕿 (508) 747-5338

Community in Lancaster, 12 High Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 🕿 (603) 788-4376

Community in Coxsackie, 5 Mansion St., Coxsackie, NY 12051 🕿 (518) 731-7711

Oak Hill Plantation, P.O. Box 32, 7871 SR 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460 🕿 (518) 239-8148

Common Sense Farm, 41 N. Union Street, Cambridge, NY 12816 🕿 (518) 677-5880

Community in Oneonta, 81 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 🕿 (607) 267-4062

Community in Ithaca, 119 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 🕿 (607) 272-6915

Community in Hamburg, 2051 North Creek Rd, Lakeview, NY 14085 🕿 (716) 627-2532

Community in Hillsboro (Washington, DC area) 15255 Ashbury Church Rd, Hillsboro, VA 20132 **a** (540) 668-7123

Community in Asheville, 9 Lora Lane, Asheville, NC 28803 🕿 (828) 274-8747

Community Conference Center [between Statesville and Taylorsville, NC], 471 Sulphur Springs Road, Hiddenite, NC 28636 🕿 (828) 352-9200

Community in Chattanooga, 316 N. Seminole Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37411 🕿 (423) 698-6591

Community in Pulaski, 219 S. Third Street, Pulaski, TN 38478 🕿 (931) 363-8586

Community in Brunswick, 927 Union Street, Brunswick, GA 31520 267-4700

Community in Savannah, 223 E. Gwinnett St, Savannah, GA 31401 🕿 (912) 232-1165

Community in Arcadia, 601 W. Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266 🕿 (863) 494-3305

### **Cafés** & Stores

**Common Ground Café** 327 Buffalo Street Hamburg, NY 14075 (716) 649-4967

Manitou Springs, CO 80829 (719) 685-3235 The Back Home Again **Common Ground Bakery** 801 Egmont St.

with Maté Factor Brunswick, GA 31520 23 Center Street Rutland, VT 05701 (912) 264-5116 (802) 775-9800 **Common Ground Café** 

Simon the Tanner Outfitters & Common Ground Café Outfit-

(603)788-4729 Café

Café & Hostel

**Common Ground Café** 100 W Hwy 54 Weaubleau, MO 65774 (417) 428-0248

> Little Flock Café Balcón de Europa 5 B Nerja, Malaga, Spain 34-952-52-70-54

The Maté Factor

966 Manitou Avenue

79 Sherbrook Street

(204) 453-5156

202 Vernon Street

(250) 352-0325

Teahouse

Winnipeg, MB R3C2B2, Canada

Nelson, BC V1L4E2, Canada

Maté Factor — Preserved Seed

(a Common Ground café)

Manitoba R3C2C2, Canada 🕿 (204) 786-8787

Mount Sentinel Farm, 2915 Highway 3a, South Slocan, (Nelson), British Columbia V1L4E2, Canada 🕿 (250) 352-0325

Community in Courtenay, 596 Fifth Street, Courtenay, British Columbia V9N1K3, Canada æ (250) 897-1111

### GERMANY

Gemeinschaft in Klosterzimmern, Klosterzimmern 1, 86738 Deiningen, Germany **a** (49) 9081-290-1062

ENGLAND (0800-0743267) Stentwood Farm, Dunkeswell, Honiton, Devon EX14 4RW, England **a** (44) 1823-681155

### SPAIN

Comunidad de San Sebastián, Paseo de Ulia 375, 20013 San Sebastián, Spain 🕿 (34) 943-32-79-83

FRANCE Communauté de Sus, 11, route du Haut Béarn, 64190 Sus/Navarrenx, France 🕿 (33) 5-59-66-14-28

#### ARGENTINA

Comunidad de Buenos Aires, Batallón Norte y Mansilla 120, 1748 General Rodriguez, Buenos Aires, Argentina 🕿 (54) 237- 484-3409

#### BRAZIL

**Comunidade de Londrina,** Rua Jayme Americano 420, Jardim California, 86040-030 Londrina, Paraná, Brazil 🕿 (55) 43-3025-2066

Comunidade de Curitiba, Rua Jornalista Caio Machado 291, 80310-430 Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil æ (55) 41-3274-8636

#### **AUSTRALIA**

Community in Sydney, 3 Calderwood Road, Galston, NSW 2159, Australia 🕿 (61) 2 9653 3953

Peppercorn Creek Farm, 1375 Remembrance Drive, Picton, NSW 2571, Australia 🕿 (61) 2 4677 2668

Community in the Mountains, 45 Waratah St, Katoomba, NSW 2780, Australia 🕿 (61) 2 4782 9744

#### Sentido Común General Etxague n°6 20013 San Sebastian, Spain 34-943-43-31-03

Prinz & Bettler (a Common Ground Café) Reimlinger Straße 9 86720 Nördlingen, Germany (49) 9081-275-0440

Café Chão Comum Rodovia do Café BR 376 KM 297 86828-000 Mauá da Serra Paraná, Brazil

**Common Ground Café** & Bakery 586 Darling Street

Rozelle 2039 NSW, Australia (61) 2 9555 6369



Naphtali – my wrestlings

Brazil

מנששה Manasseh – cause to forget

**Central United States** 

161X

Asher -

happy

**British Isles** 

Zebulun – to honor

ゴゴイ

<sup>\*</sup> See page 15 for an explanation of the name Yahshua