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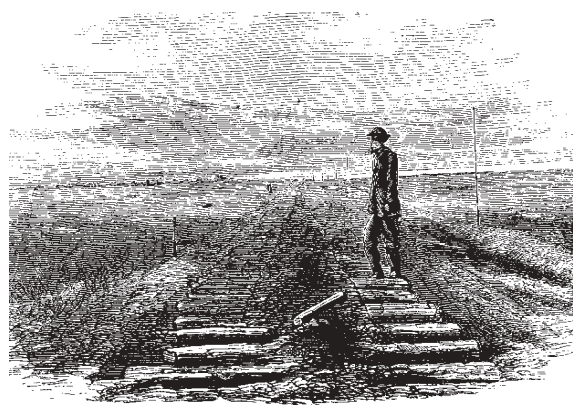
Whole Number 263

The Year 2000 in Review

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year" (Deut. 11:12).



The year 2000 was the year of recount. It was a year when Firestone tire owners stopped to recount their tires, hoping there were still four. The Justice Department demanded a recount of Microsoft, trying to turn one company into two. It was a year when

consumers did some recounts of their own at the gas pumps, wondering how the price of fuel could have risen so far, so fast. It was the year when Cuba recounted its citizenry, found

one Elian Gonzales missing, and demanded his return. It was a year that the USS Cole, a \$1-billion high tech missile war ship, counted a 40-by-40 foot hole and 17 dead sailors in Yemen from a bomb by two Arabs. It was the year when the presidential race

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How the First & Second Baptist Churches of New York City Were Organized

By Curtis Pugh

Mantachie, Mississippi

Historical facts with some appropriate remarks pertaining to the present departure from old Baptist practices.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A few years ago I purchased an old book because the title interested me. I never thought that the present attacks would be made as to the historicity and Scripturalness of new Baptist churches being formed by previously existing Baptist churches. So I laid the book aside for future reading. I left the little book in the Berea Baptist Library upon moving to Romania. Now, before returning to Romania, I offer the following as another testimony as to old Baptist practices which we believe are founded upon sound and Biblical principles. I have not used Scripture in this present piece as my purpose has been purely



Curtis Pugh

historical. However, the title page for this sermon has two texts as follows: "Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee" (Deut. 8:2) and "The Lord is good: a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him" (Nahum 1:7)

I believe the reader would do well to ask himself a few questions in consideration of the matter before us, viz: Where did these early American Bap-

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The Program of the Seventy Weeks

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times" (Dan. 9:25).

Most honest interpreters of God's Word admit that this is a very difficult portion of the Book of Daniel. Even an amillennialist like E. J. Young says, "The interpretation of these words is, to my mind, the most difficult point in this prophecy" (*The Prophecy of Daniel*, p. 204). Many amillennialists seek to avoid the difficulty here by spiritualizing the 490 years. Premillennialists contend for a literal fulfillment of the prophecy.

I believe that all would agree who hold to the literal view that before we can understand the Seventy Weeks

that we must establish the starting and ending point. When did the 490 years commence? What date is the terminus of the Seventy Weeks? These

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Abortion is Murder!

By John Osburn

Greensboro, North Carolina

Exodus 21:22 says: "If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the



Photo taken from: *The American Holocaust*

woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine." We see in this verse that if two men were fighting, and the

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The Two Intercessors

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25).

"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (Himself) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8:26).

We must never join together what God has separated. We must not join the world with true religion (Matt. 6:24; I John 2:15; Jas. 4:4). On the other hand, we must not separate what God has joined together (Matt. 19:9). We must not separate principles and practice, doctrine and duty, the Savior and the Sanctifier. There is a close connection between the work of Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.

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"THOU HAST GIVEN A BANNER TO THEM THAT FEAR THEE, THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH" (PSALMS 60:4).



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Abortion is Murder!

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pregnant woman's child was killed unintentionally, the man who was responsible for the death of this unborn child was to be punished. The man did not purposely kill the baby, and he was still to be punished!

AT CONCEPTION—IS IT A HUMAN OR NOT?

Did you read anywhere in Exodus 21:22 that the woman was so many months pregnant? Isn't that one of the main arguments that these "baby killers" have—is that at conception it is not a human. Do you know that these "baby killers" ignore the fact that after conception nothing is added to that conception! In other words, all that you and I are today, we got all of that at conception. The color of our eyes, hair, skin, our personality, size of fingers, hands, feet etc., all of that was taken care of a conception.

What is conception? It is equal to the Biblical term "begat." It is where life begins, whether it is physical life or spiritual life. Listen to Genesis 5:3: **"And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image;**

and called his name Seth." Likeness can only begat likeness! Do you not find it amazingly odd that in the past 300 years of closely documented science and history, that not one monkey or ape has ever produced one human? Don't you find it kind of odd that in today's world of science where we are cloning animals, (trying to conquer God), that there has been no word of trying to take "human seed" and planting it into a monkey or ape? I believe that if we are bold enough to try and clone animals, that the attempt has already been made to cross breed humans with monkeys and apes. Wouldn't you think that if we evolved from monkeys and apes that surely we could cross breed?

So why haven't we heard anything about this cross breeding? It's because it can not happen! The only thing that could have produced Seth (Gen. 5:3) was that which closely resembled Seth.

THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD (LEVITICUS 17:11)

This verse reads: **"For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."** This verse makes it very plain that the life of the sacrificial animal was in the blood. Sheep can only produce sheep. Monkeys can only produce monkeys; while at the same time it is impossible for them to produce one ape. Listen to I Corinthians 15:39 which reads: **"All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds."** Man, beasts, fishes, and birds all have different blood lines. In order to cross breed these four classes one to another, the blood itself would have to change while inside of the living creature.

When conception takes place that which did the conceiving is supplying the blood to the conception. That is why Seth was the likeness of Adam. In the spiritual realm of this subject, when God conceives or regenerates a lost soul, He is putting His bloodline in them. I John 3:9 reads: **"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."**

When God conceived Jesus Christ in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:31), He let it be known that Christ's conception was from Heaven (Matt. 1:20) which the last part reads: **". . .for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."** His blood came from God and not Mary! As we have already seen in Leviticus 17:11, the blood supplies the life of that creature

or individual. In order for Christ to have a perfect human nature and life, He would have to get His blood from some other source besides a depraved, lost sinner such as Mary.

WHAT DOES GOD BELIEVE ABOUT CONCEPTION?

Jeremiah 1:5 reads: **"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."** From this verse it is very plain to see that God is the one who creates or forms all of the individuals in the womb. Today we hear a lot from the women "baby killers" as they cry out: "It's my body, I can do with it as I please," or "No one should be able to tell me what to do with my body." There is just one main problem with this mentality; these women "baby killers" know without a doubt that when they find out they are pregnant, they are carrying another human being! They also know that the heart beat that the doctor hears down in the womb or belly (Jer. 1:5) is not their heart! But the heart of another person!

From Jeremiah 1:5 we also see that God knows the name of the pre-conceived person. Every time these women "baby killers" kill their baby, they are killing someone with a name. God also has a complete knowledge of their life as he did Jeremiah's. Look at the last part of Jeremiah 1:5 which reads: **". . .and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."** Every time these women "baby killers" have their babies murdered, they are wiping out complete lives and events that these murdered victims would have had (humanly speaking). Let us keep in mind that as Christ was offered by God at the cross, it was man that murdered Him (Acts 2:23). Why did these men murder Jesus? Was it not to cut His life short so they would not have to see or hear Him anymore?

The Psalmist wrote in Psalms 139:3: **"Thou compassedest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways."** Once again we see in the Scriptures where God is fully aware of the complete life of David. The question that needs to be asked is: When did God know all the ways of this individual? I suppose the best way to answer this question is to ask another one such as: Is there anything that God has ever been unaware of? There has never been a time that God had to learn anything! He has never experienced a new thought—ever. There are two things I like to tell people to remember about God: He has never experienced a new thought, or a new moment. He has always been aware of the Psalmist's ways.

Psalms 139:15-16 says: **"My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."** Did you notice the Psalmist wrote that God had all the members of his body written in His book before he was even born, (v. 15)? Before the Psalmist was even conceived, God saw a complete human being. At conception, God does a miraculous work by bringing life to the womb through the man; to start the life of this individual that He has always seen, and had written down in His book before the world ever began (Isa. 46:9-10).

MANY WOMEN CALL THIS TYPE OF MURDER—CHOICE

I hear all the time on news programs feminist leaders demanding that the politicians believe in "the woman's right to choose." I hear women in everyday life speaking as these feminists on TV that women are to have the right to choose. My question to these women I talk with is: The right to choose what? They generally just look at me and say nothing, then I will tell them what they are actually saying which is: **YOU BELIEVE A WOMAN OUGHT TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE TO MURDER THEIR BABY!**

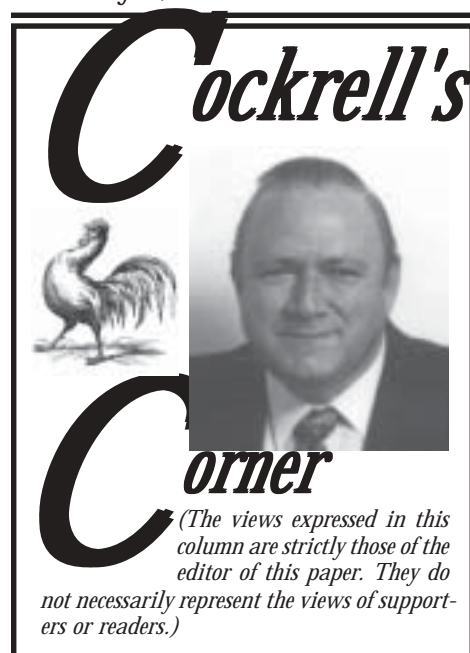
Do you remember the vice-presidential debate between Al Gore and Dan Quayle? Do you remember the very first words that came from Al Gore's mouth? They were: "I believe in the woman's right to choose." Al Gore did this because he believed that the majority of women in America supported the woman's right to murder her baby at will. He evidently believes that votes are more important than the murdering of innocent babies. Babies that have not committed one crime against society; who are totally dependent on others to take care of them.

I was watching a talk show one day and a young girl about 16-years-old stood up and said that if she became pregnant she would end her pregnancy. She had no remorse at all as she spoke those words; no concern for the baby that would be inside of her.

THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACE IN THE WORLD IS INSIDE THE WOMB

I have been in a lot of dangerous situations in the past 20 years—especially on the road as a delivery driver. Each time a person goes hunting he is in a dangerous position, for there

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Cockrell's
Corner

(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)

CHURCH INCORPORATION

We live in a time when there are strong feelings about churches being incorporated by the state. Some Baptists would unchurch any church which is incorporated by the state, and some ordain all church employees (both men and women) as church ministers to escape paying taxes to the government. But in 1857 Francis Wayland (1796-1865) indicated that some churches were incorporated by the state. He wrote: "They were frequently unwilling even to be incorporated by legislative act, lest they should thus, in some manner, lose their Christian liberty. If they were incorporated, they preferred to be incorporated as a church, and not as a society. The church thus held and controlled whatever property might be appropriated to the purposes of worship. In calling and dismissal of a pastor, they acknowledged no authority but their own; considering every thing that belonged to the church of Christ to be a purely religious concern. These principles were, to the best of my knowledge, always conceded to them and on this basis our meeting-houses were formerly erected. They greatly feared committing themselves to any arrangement by which those who were not by profession religious men, should acquire a control over religious things" (*Notes on Principles and Practices of Baptist Churches*, p. 167).

ORDINATION OF MINISTERS UNIMPORTANT

In these days of the apostasy of Baptist churches many brethren see no need of a Baptist preacher being ordained. Like Elder Charles Spurgeon, they think it is no more

than putting "empty hands on empty heads." We are also told this was the view of all the old Baptists by the spindoctors.

What did the Philadelphia Association say about this? In 1744 they received this query from the church at Bethlehem: "Suppose a person baptized by a man, who takes upon him to preach the gospel, and proceeds to administer the ordinances without a regular call or ordination from any church; whether the person so baptized may be admitted into any orderly church. Yea or nay?"

The association answered: "We cannot encourage such irregular proceedings; because it hath ill consequences every way attending it; it is also opposite to our discipline. We therefore give our sentiments that such administrations are irregular, invalid, and of no effect" (*Minutes of the Philadelphia Association*, p. 49).

In the minutes of 1768 I read again: "In answer to a query from New York, it was agreed that baptism, administered by a person not ordained, was invalid and disorderly" (*ibid.* p. 104).

In 1762 this is found: "Certificates of the ordination and good morals of Rev. David Thomas and Rev. David Sutton, were drawn up by Rev. Samuel Jones and Isaac Jones, Esq., and the city seal affixed thereto by the Recorder, Benjamin Chew., for which he took no fees" (*ibid.*, p. 86).

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are many people out in the woods with shotguns and high-powered rifles that do not know how to use them. I have delivered medical equipment at 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. in very dangerous parts of the city that I lived in. But none of those situations can even be compared to the danger that a baby is in while it is in the womb of its mother!

I heard on a radio news program that America has murdered more pre-born babies than Canada's population today! And we thought Adolf Hitler was a monster! As horrible as the Jewish Holocaust was, and we would do well to always remember that, we here in America are living in a Holocaust that makes the Jewish Holocaust look like a small thing. We have murdered way more than Hitler did. If Adolf Hitler were alive today, and was a citizen of America, I have no doubt that he could do with us as he did with the Germans in the 30's. This generation of Americans is the most gluttony, stupid, spiritually ignorant, selfish, and sensual generation that has ever lived in this great country. I believe this generation could be swayed by a

smooth talking socialist such as Hitler was. I believe that President Clinton and Al Gore, along with many in Washington would have made good "right hand people" for Hitler.

Why am I saying this? This Administration has not only put its approval on murdering pre-born babies, but to murder them in the most gruesome way. Here is an example: Partial birth abortion—have you ever heard of that? Partial birth abortion is the method that women will let abortion doctors (Killers) use to kill their baby. They will deliver the baby feet first, and leave just a little part of the head in the birth canal, and while the baby is living, they will take a pair of scissors and jam them into the lower back of the head of the baby until it penetrates the skull, then they will spread the scissors apart to make a hole, then they will put a suction tube in the hole and suck the brains out!!! I ask the question again—is Hitler any worse than we are today in America? Do you see why I believe that Bill Clinton, Al Gore and many more of those "fat cat" politicians would have made good soldiers for Hitler?

THE ELDERLY ARE NEXT

While I was in the home medical service I was able to read a lot of medical information. One of the things I read was that in about 30 years 1 in 3 people you will meet or see in public will be 55 years old or older. Today it is about 1 in 11-15. This is not good news! We are already having serious problems taking care of the elderly. As the population gets older, there will be less and less income to put into the system to take care of a lot of the elderly's needs. I have already heard on two news programs in the past 4-5 years the comment: "What are we going to do, put the elderly to sleep?" You say that will never happen, but I am here to say that if we will kill the most innocent and helpless of mankind, what makes you think we will not kill the oldest, and less productive? We are heading in that direction! What will open the door for this is when we accept assistant suicide. You would be surprised how many people support the assisted killing of the terminally ill. Hitlerism is very much alive and well! Did he not try and produce an "elite society"? Only the best of the best? Here in America, we will eventually come to the place where that any defects detected in the pre-born will be "just cause" to kill; while at the other end of this spectrum we will be "putting to sleep" those that are too old to work and make money. Then, only those who are able to contribute to society will be the ones spared.

HIRED ASSASSINS

These doctors who perform abor-

tions are killers for hire! They are the "hired guns" of the 20th and 21st centuries. They are cold-blooded killers that need to be tried as killers, and then executed by the law. The women who kill their babies need to be tried as well, and meet the same fate. We have executed people like Ted Bundy, the woman in Texas last year, and many others for murder, why not these abortionists? God will put all these unrepentant murderers in Hell (Rev. 21:8) which reads: "**But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**" In this verse we see God carrying out his death penalty upon these unrepentant people, and especially the murderers! These killers that live in their large houses and drive their high priced cars had better enjoy them now—for pay day is coming!

IT'S FOR THE MOTHER'S HEALTH

I have heard this feeble excuse till I am sick of it. I asked my wife, two sisters, and a brother-in-law if they have ever heard of a woman having her life threatened by her preborn baby, and all have said no. I'm sure in the past when technology was not as far as it is today many women died. You read of a mother dying in I Samuel 4:19-22 while giving birth, for she had heard that the ark of the Lord was taken, and she named her child Ichabod.

I have not so much as heard of a mother's life being in danger from anyone that I have worked with in the past 21 years, or in the communities that I have lived in as well. I am not saying that it does not happen, but I just do not believe it happens enough for it to be a just cause to base the amount of terminations of life we are doing in this country.

HITLER, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND AMERICA!!!

I know that I have used Hitler's name quite a bit in this article, but I want us in this country to connect the awfulness, and heart wrenching sight of the Jewish Holocaust, to the killing of the unborn people in this country since abortion was made legal. Are you aware that we have murdered about seven times the amount of people that Hitler did? Are you also aware that in some 25-28 years we have murdered almost as many people as the Catholic Church did in 800 - 1000 years? It is estimated that the Catholic Church murdered 50,000,000 people that would not conform to their beliefs (mainly Ana-

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Baptists), during the Dark Ages. Hitler will stand before God with Jewish blood dripping from his hands, as the Catholic Church will stand before God with the Lord's Virgin Bride's blood, as well as many of His other saints blood dripping from her hands; while America will stand with the blood of millions on her hands as well.

WHAT ABOUT RAPE!!!

Almost everybody I have talked to (including professing Christians), will tell me that if a woman is raped she ought to be allowed to have an abortion. I find it kind of odd that none of these people who support this never word it like this: "I think if a woman is raped she ought to be allowed to kill her baby." As horrible as rape is, why don't these people ever say that the rapist ought to die. Why kill the innocent person? These people do not stop and realize that a decent woman who is raped is going to have even more to deal with if she kills an innocent person. You never hear in the news of the many women who are suffering horribly in the mind and heart after they have killed their baby in abortion. They have found out the hard way that they have been lied to.

BABIES HAVE A WILL TO LIVE!!!

I was talking to my sister about this article I am writing and she told me she has a magazine that has a photo of a doctor operating on a 21 week old baby's spine because it had spina bifida. As the physician was making the opening of the pregnant woman's uterus larger so he could operate on the baby, the small hand of the baby who was 21 weeks old came out of nowhere and held on to one of the doctor's fingers!

The thought that we are killing little people like that is overwhelming. She sent me that picture and I can tell you from what I have seen myself that at 21 weeks old, the baby has fully developed hands and arms! I saw the little hand holding on to the doctor's finger!

We are now getting into genetic studies. They can detect whether the conceived person is going to be handicapped or not. If they decide that the child will be severely handicapped, guess what is going to happen? That's right! They will kill it. I wonder if any of these baby killers have ever been to The Special Olympics Games? Have you ever seen the competitive spirit that is in these people? They compete with the heart of any athlete you have seen on television. Try and tell them they have no right to live. Did not God tell Moses in Exodus 4:11: "**And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?**"

THE MORNING AFTER PILL

In closing, let me tell you that I saw in a newspaper headline that "The Morning After Pill" is going to be approved by the FDA in about a month. This pill is going to be used by many women who live like whores—having sex before marriage and becoming pregnant, as well as by some married women who do not want children. They will use this pill to kill their baby! Because of this pill, hundreds of thousands more babies will be murdered in this country. The number of murdered babies will possibly go unknown, because I doubt if they are going to keep count of how many times women at home use this pill. So with all the murders that we are keeping count of, along with all that will be killed by the pill, we will make Pharoah in Exodus 1:15-22 who ordered the Jewish midwives to kill all the Jewish boys and throw them into the river, look like a "grade school bully." We will make the Catholic Church with all her murders look innocent when we compare the multitudes that will die by this pill here in America. You remember Herod who murdered all the children 2 years old and younger? We will make him look harmless.

I shall be in Heaven and rejoicing when God will announce His eternal judgment on these baby killers. I will be rejoicing with all the other saints

in Heaven as they watch God bring His judgment on Babylon (Rev. 18:20). These baby killers will be cast into Hell to burn forever in body, soul and spirit.

I do believe the Bible makes it very clear that any time a life is in danger, you have the right to protect it. If a woman's life is truly threatened, she has a right to protect it. But before we defend the woman's life, lets get the opinion of a doctor who does not believe in abortion.

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dragged on through one recount after another, putting terms like "chad" and "butterfly ballot" into the national lexicon.

THE Y2K MESS

Some were not able to celebrate the good parties at the start of the new millennium on January 1, 2000, for they stayed home with their families, a portable generator, and a six-month supply of freeze-dried food in fear of the Y2K bug and the collapse of civilization.

The Y2K bug turned out to be no more than humbug. There were no major problems, and the TV networks were hard put to find even minor Y2K-related computer errors to report. The only damage caused by Y2K was to bookstore owners left with unsold alarmist books they couldn't return. There was a surprising lack of shamefaced apologies from Y2K prophets. In the Old Testament, false prophets were killed by stoning. Y2K made modern-day false prophets glad they now live under the dispensation of grace.

The year started out by counting the problems supposed to be caused by Y2K, and it ended with counting and recounting in the presidential election in Florida.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

No American will ever forget the presidential election of 2000. Few Americans were excited about any of the candidates, and most went to the polls and voted against Al Gore or George W. Bush.

On election night Gore was slightly ahead in the popular vote (before the absentee ballots were counted), but a nearly even split in electoral votes meant that the presidential race came down to who would win the State of Florida.

The networks decided that would be Gore, and they declared him the winner in Florida even before the polls had closed in the state's western precincts. When the voters rejected the network's predictions, the leftist

press was forced to retract their decision to "call" Florida for Gore (making some long once again for the simple beauty of the Old Testament's system of dealing with false prophets).

Behind by 35,000 votes with only a tiny percentage of precincts left to report, Gore called Bush to concede. But then something amazing happened. Voters (or somebody) in those remaining precincts began cranking out votes for Gore as fast as they could, closing the gap and forcing a recount.

The initial count hadn't gone for Gore, and neither did the machine recount. But Gore's supporters pressed on, urging hand recounts in heavily Democratic precincts (perhaps by heavily Democratic hands). Jesse Jackson, a race agitator and a Baptist preacher, was brought in to add to the confusion. Even those counts left Bush ahead, and Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris certified Bush the winner in Florida's electoral votes. (Harris, whose decision to follow Florida law led to her being demonized by Democratic activists, is active in Calvary Chapel in Tallahassee and is Christian musician Wes King's sister-in-law. She said she believes God chose her for such a time as this. Harris told an e-mail correspondent that she was looking to the Bible's story of Esther "for comfort and guidance.")

Unhappy with the results Harris had certified, Gore took to the courts, hoping to get judges to give him a victory the people of Florida had denied him. The solidly Democratic and liberal Supreme Court sided with Gore, but the U.S. Supreme Court asked them to reconsider, then told them to reconsider, then finally just stepped in and put a stop to all the fooling around with ballots.

Gore gave a concession speech that would have been considered gracious if he had delivered it five weeks earlier. Bush gave a victory speech in which he told the American people, "I ask for you to pray for this great nation. I ask your prayers for leaders from both parties. I thank you for your prayers for me and my family, and I ask you to pray for Vice President Gore and his family. I have faith that with God's help we as a nation will move forward together, as one nation, indivisible."

When the smoke cleared Gore was left without a job. Bush was left as president without a mandate, even though he got more popular votes than Clinton won in either election. The American voter was shocked to know that two million votes were invalidated nationwide. He also was left with questions about the fairness of

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Berea Baptist Broadcast

STATION	TIME	DIAL	WATTS
WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
WJOR, Saint Joseph, TN	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	101.5	1,000 FM
WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

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the electoral system and the role of courts in elections. The American voter also wondered if the Gore-Lieberman campaign might be establishing dangerous precedents of contesting and challenging electoral defeat, of creating chaos, of sowing discord, all of which diminish the American system.

The biggest scandal of all was how our soldiers were denied the right to vote for their commander-in-chief. Gore was often heard to say "every vote must be counted" (for me) with "hanging," "dimpled," and "pregnant" chads. But Gore did not want this rule applied to military votes in Florida. Of 3,726 overseas ballots received 1,527 (41 percent) were rejected. Of those accepted, George W. Bush garnered 63 percent of the vote and Al Gore 37 percent. In 15 counties, more ballots were rejected than accepted. In Democratic Broward County, 304 of 396 were thrown out, while in Dade, 209 of 312 were trashed. Gore strategists implemented a carefully structured scheme to achieve maximum rejection of overseas ballots. There was a five-page memo from attorney and Gore loyalist Mark Herron Democratic attorneys throughout Florida explaining in precise legalistic detail how lawyers could challenge absentee ballots from abroad. As the figures indicate, this project was very successful. The Gore people seem to view the military to be nothing more than the uninformed wing of the Republican Party. It is good that Bush won; otherwise, the American military might have declared Al Gore "the commander-in-cheat."

I do not marvel at the military vote. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of army divisions has been reduced from 18 to 9. The navy has shrunk from 600 ships to 300. The number of air wings has declined from 36 to 18. I could go on, but I will not.

Bush won 2,434 counties covering 2.4 million square miles, compared to Al Gore who won 677 counties covering a half a million square miles. Most Gore counties are in urban areas, while Bush counties are in rural or suburban areas. Average murder per 100,000 residents in counties won by Bush: 0.1, while the average murder in counties won by Gore: 13.2. Al Gore carried the regions with the highest percentage of sex movies in the home video market, and Bush carried the regions with the lowest percentage.

Religion played an important role in the election. Bush tended to attract

religious voters who attend church regularly, as well as those who think America is headed in the wrong direction morally. Seven out of ten people who think America is headed in the right direction voted for Gore, while 60 percent of those who think America is on the wrong track morally voted for Bush. Protestants and Baptists made up 54 percent of those voting on election day, and nearly six out of ten of them supported Bush. Although a majority of Catholics backed Gore 50-47 percent, 52 percent of white Catholics voted for Bush. Those who attend church once or more a week overwhelmingly supported Bush, while those who never or seldom attend church supported Gore.

The cultural war against the family was seen in this last election, like in most previous elections. Democrats attracted gays, single people, and people without children. Seven out of ten gay voters voted for Gore. Voters with children under 18 chose Bush rather than Gore by a seven percent margin, and married voters with children supported Bush by a 15 percent margin. Not surprisingly, 70 percent of those who think that abortion should always be legal supported Gore, while 75 percent of those who think abortion should always be illegal voted for Bush. Among voters who said they wanted an honest and trustworthy President, Bush won 80 percent to 15 percent.

Some readers have already called and asked me what I expect to happen in the years ahead. I sincerely hope my predictions are wrong, but here they are. I expect George W. Bush to repeat the sins of his father. Bush and Cheney will govern to the left of where the two men campaigned, losing their conservative base in their attempts to look bipartisan and to get things done. The Democrats will beat up on George W. Bush who will be a four-year-only president who will be able to cut taxes but not spending. Al Gore will not reappear as a candidate for president in 2004, but Hillary Clinton will run for president on the Democratic ticket as spokeswoman for leftwing liberalism and socialism.

THE BAUER-McCAIN AFFAIR

Gary Bauer of the Family Research Council, created a stir among Christian conservatives by running for president. Dan Savage, a homosexual sex columnist, made an effort to infect Bauer with the flu before the important New Hampshire primary. Bauer dropped out of the race Feb. 4, after barely registering in the New Hampshire Primary.

Bauer endorsed John McCain Feb. 16, calling him "the best shot we have

to end an era of Bill and Hillary and Al Gore." Bauer added, "I took the measure of the man, of his character and values. When I looked at that compared to Gov. Bush, it wasn't even close."

Bauer's endorsement of McCain shocked many Christians, since McCain is soft on abortion and homosexuality, has a violent temper, and has a history of sex and money scandals, while Bauer has been an uncompromising pro-lifer. McCain said Bauer would be a trusted advisor" and would help build relations with conservative Christians. (One of McCain's other trusted advisors was former Sen. Warren Rudman, who has dismissed pro-lifers as "imbeciles" and condemned conservative Christians as "abortion zealots, would-be censors, homophobes, bigots and latter-day Elmer Gantrys.")

The Bauer-McCain marriage lasted nearly two weeks, until on Feb. 28 McCain lashed out at leaders of the religious right, saying they had led the party in the wrong direction. Campaigning in the home state of Moral Majority founder Jerry Falwell and Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson, McCain insulted them both, launching a vicious attack on the "self-appointed leaders" of the Christian right, calling them "agents of intolerance" and describing the two men as the right wing equivalent to Louis Farrakhan and Al Sharpton. The next day McCain suffered major losses in Republican presidential contests in Washington State, Virginia and North Dakota. Exit polling showed that conservative Christians played a major role in McCain's defeats.

When the dust settled McCain was out of the race and Gary Bauer's credibility was gone.

GORE'S KOSHER KAMPAIGN

Al Gore made a pitch to Jewish voters on May 30th. Speaking at a Democratic National Committee fundraiser in Washington, D.C., Gore took a shot at both National Rifle Association President Charlton Heston and Texas Gov. George W. Bush when he said, "If I remember my Bible correctly, the last time Moses listened to a bush, his people wandered in a desert for 40 years."

Matthew Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition, wasn't laughing. He said, "It looks like the inventor of the Internet is trying to re-invent the Bible."

Brooks explained, "First of all, Moses didn't listen to a bush—he listened to the voice of God (from a burning bush). God commanded Moses to be the leader of his people, and from that encounter, Moses went on to fight against tyranny and free

his people from slavery. The Jewish people wandered in the desert 40 years because they fashioned an idol, the Golden Calf, and lost sight of their mission. Millions of Jews and Christians know the difference between fighting for truth and freedom, and losing the way and following after false gods. Apparently, Al Gore doesn't. It was a tasteless and offensive comment."

Gore did a monumental job of fence-mending when he chose Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) as his running mate, making Lieberman the first Jew on a U.S. presidential ticket. Though Lieberman had a very liberal voting record on abortion and gay rights, he openly talked about his faith and brought a new dimension to the campaign.

The selection of Lieberman didn't please all Jews. A rabbinical court in Brooklyn, N.Y., excommunicated Lieberman, saying he had caused "grave scandal" for the Jewish faith "by the fact that, while claiming to be an observant Jew, Lieberman has been misrepresenting and falsifying to the American people the teachings of the Torah against partial birth infanticide, against special privileges and preferential treatment for flaunting homosexuals, and against intermarriage of Jews."

Asked to name a thinker who had been influential in his own philosophy Bush chose Jesus, and he suffered abuse in the liberal press as a result. Gore also played the "God card." When asked how he made hard decisions, Gore said he asked himself "What would Jesus do?" Gore suffered no abuse from the liberal press for his remarks.

SUPREME DECISIONS AND DISASTERS

In one of the strangest judicial episodes of the year, peaceful pro-life demonstrators were handcuffed and arrested outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in late April while pro-abortion demonstrators looked on. The pro-life demonstrators were held for 12 hours before being released while pro-abortion demonstrators were not detained.

The pro-life activists assembled on the sidewalk in front of the Supreme Court building on Sunday, April 23rd, and maintained a prayer vigil there until the following Tuesday, when the Court was scheduled to hear arguments on partial-birth abortion. Protesters held four-foot-high drawings illustrating partial-birth abortions, and an eight-foot photo of a decapitated fetus.

The pro-lifers had permission for their signs from Supreme Court Police. But just after oral arguments on

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the partial-birth abortion case started, Supreme Court Police told protesters that their signs were no longer legal. Police cited "regulation six," which had been signed into effect just that day. The new regulation forbids signs larger than four feet. Police arrested 22 demonstrators under the brand new law. The new regulation was created under a little-known provision of federal law that allows the marshal of the Supreme Court, with the approval of the chief justice, to create new laws without the approval of Congress. Curiously, the Supreme Court had already struck down a statute which prohibited the use of protest signs on the same sidewalk.

On June 28th the Court voted to strike down a Nebraska law prohibiting partial-birth abortions. In another decision, the Court gave states more authority to restrict pro-life demonstrations outside abortion clinics. The Court ruled that the imposed restrictions are a legitimate way to protect the right of abortion patients to avoid unwanted speech.

(Pro-lifers got more bad news in October, when the Food and Drug Administration approved the so called abortion pill—RU486).

In a 6-3 decision the Court ruled against a Texas school district's pre-game prayer policy. The Texas school dropped their policy of permitting a student to speak briefly over the public address system before games. Then a new phenomenon happened. Group recitations of the Lord's Prayer by audience members before the games took place in Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and other southern states. In Hattisburg, Miss., a few students began saying the Lord's Prayer, and were joined by nearly all of the 4,500 fans in the stands before the final "Amen."

To the surprise of many Christians, the Court in a 5-4 decision said forcing the Boy Scouts to accept homosexuals as troop leaders would violate the organization's First Amendment rights to free expression and free association. This action reversed a New Jersey Supreme Court decision that found the Scouts are a "public accommodation" and as such much not discriminate against homosexuals.

BOY SCOUT BASHING

On the federal level, the Justice Department was caught exploring ways to ban the Scouts from federal property because of their policy on homosexuality. Justices backed down only when it became clear that the resulting publicity would be damag-

ing in an election year. In Congress a few members tried to strip the Boy Scouts of their federal charter and the benefits it provides. On a municipal level, the Los Angeles City Council severed the city's ties with the Scouts, and other cities around the nation followed suit.

The United Way announced a new policy permitting donors to "opt out: of giving to particular groups." For years the United Way has been funding groups that many Christians find objectionable, such as homosexual and abortion advocacy groups, but no opt-out policy was offered. Now that the policy is available, guess what group is being targeted? A number of politically correct companies quickly announced that they would be excluding the Scouts from their corporate giving.

In the opinion of the Justice Department, the United Way, and some American companies, parents should be forced to send their young boys into the woods with an adult who is sexually attracted to males and has demonstrated a willingness to violate the sexual norms of society.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

The institution of marriage came under attack from homosexual activists during the year 2000. Vermont's Gov. Howard Dean signed a bill into law April 26 making his state the first to give homosexual couples the right and benefits of married couples.

The unions will not be recognized as marriages by the federal government. A "Defense of Marriage Act" passed into federal law requires the government to recognize only heterosexual marriage. Some 30 states passed similar laws, so same-sex unions in Vermont are not likely to be recognized elsewhere.

Operation Rescue Founder Randall Terry was disciplined by his former church for his separation from his wife of 18 years and for his intention to divorce her. A letter of censure from the church accused Terry of a "pattern of repeated sinful relationship and conversations" with married and single women.

Charles Stanley, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention stunned his congregation May 21st by announcing that he and his wife of 44 years had divorced. Church members gave the 67-year-old Stanley a standing ovation when he said he would stay on as pastor. That decision was a little surprising, since in 1985 Stanley said that he would resign if a long-threatened divorce ever became final.

DEATHS DURING THE YEAR

"Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz, the world's best-known cartoonist, died in his sleep Feb. 12 at age 77. Schulz, who grew up in a Lutheran

home and joined the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) as an adult, communicated biblical truths through his strip, referring to parables and quoting Scripture at times.

Former Pennsylvania Gov. Robert P. Casey, a Democrat who made headlines for his strong stand against his party's position on abortion, died May 30 at 68. Casey was a vocal critic of the Democratic Party's alliance with an abortion-on-demand philosophy. "My party, the Democratic Party, should be the protector—and claims to be the protector—of the powerless," he said. "It's time to get back to what this country is all about, protecting all of the powerless. . . And that includes unborn children."

Bro. Charles Halff, founder of The Christian Jew Foundation and beloved friend of the editor, passed away near the end of this year. According to his own words to the editor, he was converted as a young Jew and baptized by Elder Bill Crider, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bro. Halff was the first man on the radio I ever remember hearing who had the courage to preach on predestination and against Christmas. Bro. Halff always had me to send the BBB to his home.

Our ranks suffered the loss of five able Baptist preachers. Elder Bill DeRossitt, Georgetown, Ky., departed this life on Jan. 13th. Elder Earl Smith, Plumerville, Ark., died June 19th. Elder Harold Harvey, Olmstead, Ky., expired July 12th. Elder George Sherman, South Point, Ohio, succumbed Sept. 8th. Elder C. L. Curtis, Rives Junction, Mich., was removed on Oct. 31st.

WORLDWIDE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

German statistician David B. Barrett estimated that approximately 165,000 Christians died during the year because of their faith in Christ—a figure that, sadly, is not subject to recount.

A major survey of religious freedom by Freedom House, a democracy and human rights watchdog group, found only 25 percent of the world's population lives under conditions of broad religious freedom. The survey concluded that 39 percent live under partly free conditions, where the ability to practice one's faith is constrained, while the balance, 36 percent, live in conditions in which religious freedoms are fundamentally violated.

China has increased its already severe persecution of Buddhists, Christians and Muslims who refuse to submit to state control. In India there is rapidly escalating violence and propaganda against Christians and other minorities, often with the acquiescence of the government. Islamic mili-

tants in the Moluccan Islands of Indonesia gave Christians there an ultimatum—convert to Islam by Dec. 31, 2000 or die. In Sudan, the Islamic government of the north continued its genocidal attacks against the Christian and animist population of the south, bombing hospitals, schools, and relief efforts, and enslaving Sudanese Christians. A U.N. report found that Sudanese government military planes bombed civilian and humanitarian targets at least 113 times during the year.

In China a government crackdown led to the destruction of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of religious buildings in and around the southeastern town of Wenzhou. On Dec. 13, a spokesman for China's Foreign Affairs Office who identified himself as Zhou, told the Associated Press that the government began in early December to stifle "rampant religious superstition" in rural areas by destroying "illegal buildings." According to the Communist government, over 450 buildings have been destroyed in and around Wenzhou, but a human rights group based in Hong Kong told AP that the number of buildings destroyed surpassed 1,200.

THINGS AT OUR CHURCH

Elder Curtis Pugh and his wife, Janet, were busy learning the Romanian language until medical problems forced them to return to the U.S. in July. Before leaving he had translated and distributed *The Bible Doctrine of Election* by C. D. Cole and his tract *Brick Walls for Arminians*. Also there was *Preaching: the True and the False* by A. W. Pink and *Baptism of Little Children*. Translated but not yet published is *Ekklesia* by B. H. Carroll, *Is God a Failure* by Curtis Pugh, *Christ's Church and Baptism* by Rosco Brong, *Free Will A Slave* by C. H. Spurgeon, *Baptist Principles Propagated* by B. H. Carroll, and *Resetting An Old Landmark* by Tom Ross. Bro. Pugh expects to publish these sometime after he returns to Romania.

Many good things have happened in the Philippines. More missions have been organized into churches, and new mission points established. For more details on this see the bulletins of Berea Baptist Church, Stonington, Illinois, and Heritage Landmark Baptist Church, Given, W. Va.,

The Berea Baptist Broadcast added some new stations in the year 2000. In March we added WVSA in Vernon, Ala., and in April KORE, Springfield, Oregon. WEPA in Eupora, Miss., was changed to WLZA, Starkville, Miss. We will drop WYWY in Barbourville, Ky., as of January 2001, but it will be replaced

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with WCTT in Corbin, Ky. The station we get the most response from, as a rule, is KARI, Blaine, Wash., although most of this is from Canadian listeners.

As to our publication work, two tracts were printed: *The Gate to Glory* by the editor (this tract has now surpassed the 10,000 mark, having been printed many times), and *A Charged Battery, or a Living Connection* by Bro. Curtis Pugh. There was also a limited number of the booklets of *Studies in Jonah* by the editor. Two small booklets by the editor were published: *The Tithe is the Lord's* and *Why Be a Church Member*. As the year came to a close, a number of my outlines on books of the Bible came out in very limited number: the books of *Ecclesiastes*, *Esther*, *Habakkuk*, *Micah*, and *Philemon*. Much thanks for this goes to my son, Christopher, and the proofreading of Sister Cyd James (she proofreads them by means of the internet while in Papua, New Guinea).

The BBB has experienced a good year, adding some new subscribers and losing a few. In 2001 I expect to lose some more subscribers. This will be due to the increase of liberalism, Calvinianism, and rejection of church authority. The views of the BBB have not changed, but there are many changes taking place among our readers. However, I see no cut backs to the publication of the BBB in 2001. We will enter 2001 with a zeal to reach new readers who are strong Baptists. A number of such people can now be found in the ranks of Southern Baptists, Baptist Bible Fellowship, etc.

The Berea Baptist Library has added many new and old books. We welcome old association minutes, Baptist history books, theological books, etc. As the year ended, we added a new 4601 Microfilm reader purchased by our church. We have almost filled our library room with books. Much work remains to be done. Our biggest problem is limited funds on which to operate. Our library receives very few donations. Many local preachers are now using our library for study.

On Wednesday night, Dec. 27, 2000, our church voted to open the Berea School of the Bible. This will be a correspondence school for young and old preachers as well as ordinary church members. For more on this see a separate article in this paper. There are plans already for schools in Romania and the Philippines.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

I claim no prophetic gift, but I do

watch trends, and I make predictions based on these trends. I see a rough road ahead for our nation and the nations of the world. There will be bumpy roads for our new president. Various crises will come, maybe war with some Arab nation or China.

Neo-Landmarkism has about reached its apex. With some of its leaders affirming sebastism (self-baptism) and branding the need of one church starting another church as heresy, it is plain to all that they are clearly moving in the direction of hardshellism. But some neo-Landmarkers have gone far beyond what some of the Primitive Baptists believe. The sad news is that by means of the internet, it is now spreading worldwide.

Two alarming trends are developing, and I am deeply grieved by both of these. First, as an old sound Baptist pastor dies he is replaced by a more liberal man. This results in the church splitting, either with the liberals or conservatives keeping the old church building. Second, pastors who have been married for many years are forsaking the wife of their youth, or the wife of their youth is forsaking them. Brethren, pray earnestly for our churches and our pastors, for they need it more than ever in the history of our people.

Welcome to 2001.

(Much of the material in this article came from Doug Trouten Year in Review in EP Press, various other publications, and even items submitted by our readers to the editor).

First and Second Baptist

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tists obtain their doctrine and church-organization practice? Is it likely that at so early a time in American history they had originated these ideas? Dare we think they had abandoned former practices? Or is it not most probable that they were continuing the practices learned from their spiritual forefathers in Wales? When one considers their historic and direct connection with the Welsh Baptist churches, churches that were of apostolic origin, we are surely safe in saying that they were following the precepts and pattern of ancient Baptists.

But more importantly, we believe these old Baptist practices to be according to the precepts and pattern of the New Testament. After all, is it not an axiom among sound and historic Baptists that they must have "*chapter and verse*" for both doctrine and practice? It was a maxim then among Baptists, even more so than now, for it is evident that today there

are many liberals who bear the name "Baptist" and even the name "landmarker." It is a mark of religious liberalism when men are ever ready to throw off sound, ancient, and Biblical Baptist practices, replacing them with radical innovations that are based on contrived arguments and new interpretations of the Bible – interpretations our spiritual forefathers never considered or even heard about.

One old Bible college professor of mine lectured us thusly: "If it is true it is not new and if it is new it is not true." Truth may be new to the individual, but it is as old as the revealed Word of God. Are we so prideful as to think that we know basic truths no devout and scholarly Baptist of previous generations knew? In once sense we ought not to delight in "ever learning" (2 Tim. 3:7) if it causes us to be ever coming to new views that are divergent from the "old paths" of God's Word. Truth may be new to an individual, but others who have walked this way before us have known and followed the truth of God long before we "discovered" it. It follows that we ought to walk humbly before God and consider the wisdom of those who have walked before us in the "old paths." May God ever teach us such Biblical humility!

Printed on the cover of the book are these words: **TWO SERMONS BY W.PARKINSON**. The sermon of present interest has quite a lengthy title. I provide it in full for the reader. It is this: **A JUBILEE SERMON,**

Containing A HISTORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW-YORK, And Its Progress During The First Fifty Years Since Its Constitution. Further the title page tells us the following: "**Delivered in the Meeting-house of said Church, Jan. 1, 1813. By WM. PARKINSON, A.M., Pastor.**" Please note the early date: A.D. 1813. All the material cited in this present effort long predates Graves, Pendleton, and others who are wrongly credited as being the founders of our position. This material was "Re-published By A Friend, New-York: John Gray, Printer. 1846." The book contains another sermon on the subject of war. The following is taken from Brother Parkinson's sermon as titled above. I have taken the liberty of emphasizing in **bold type** some phrases of Elder Parkinson's that relate to the present controversy.

"The present church in this place, originated in the manner following: About the year 1745, Mr. Jeremiah Dodge, a member of the Baptist church at Fish-Kill, settled in this city, and opened a prayer meeting in his own house: at this meeting some of those who had been members of the former church, attended, and occasionally officiated; but as they were Arminians, and **Mr. Dodge a strict adherent to the doctrines of grace**, they enjoyed but little satisfaction together. Some time in the same year, 1745, Elder Benjamin Miller of the

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Funnybone

"... A time to laugh..." (Eccl. 3:4).

Deacon Jones was touched by an appeal to reduce the mortgage and signed a card that he would give \$50 toward it.

On the following Sunday he was shocked to hear Pastor Brown name him as one who promised to give \$500. He sought out the pastor and made it clear he meant to give only \$50.

"OK," said Pastor Brown, "I will tell the church you've changed your mind and will not give the \$500.

"Oh, no," replied the deacon, "I'll give the \$500 to prevent that being said. May I ask you to quote for me my favorite, somewhat-changed Scripture?"

"Certainly," agreed Pastor Brown. "What is it?"

The deacon said, "I was a stranger, and you took me in."

Pastor Brown advised Joe Doe, a young minister, that if he ever forgot

the marriage ceremony to start quoting Scriptures until he remembered.

The second wedding, sure enough, Joe forgot, and the only Scripture he could remember was, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**"

There was a wedding dinner after the ceremony a few weeks ago at the Possumtrot Baptist Church. When the people had finished eating they called on the bridegroom for a speech. He had never made a speech in his life and didn't know what to say. By now he was scared and thought he had said too much already. But the people kept insisting, "Speech, speech."

Finally, he realized his friends weren't going to let up. He stood up and stepped behind his bride's chair. Unconsciously he placed a hand on her head, and blurted out, "I'll tell you right now, folks, this thing has been forced upon me."

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Scotch Plains, visited the city (probably at the invitation of Mr. Dodge) and baptized Mr. Joseph Meeks. Thenceforward the prayer meeting was held at the house of Mr. Meeks and that of Mr. Dodge alternately; and these two brethren and Mr. Robert North (formerly of the Arminian church) united in giving an invitation to **Mr. John Pine (a licentiate in the church at Fishkill)** to come and preach to them. His labors were rendered useful; partly in reconciling some of the former church to the **doctrines of grace**, and partly, in the conversion of others. His place of preaching appears to have been, chiefly, the dwelling house of Mr. Meeks. In 1750 Mr. Pine died: after which they were visited by Elder James Carman (of Cranberry) who baptized at different times, until there number was increased to thirteen: when **they were advised to join themselves to the church at the Scotch Plains, so as to be considered a branch of that church, and to have their pastor (Elder Benjamin Miller) to preach and administer the Lord's supper to them once a quarter.** This was effected in 1753. Mr. Miller had visited them but a few times, when the congregation became too large to be accommodated in any private house, that was at their service, and therefore they hired, as the best and most commodious place their circumstances enabled them to procure, a rigging loft in Cart and Horse-street, which they fitted up for public worship. Here they stately assembled for three or four years; when, this place being otherwise disposed of by the owner, they (such of them as could be accommodated) returned to the dwelling house of Mr. Joseph Meeks; where they continued to hold their meetings for about one year. Then they purchased a part of the ground on which the house we now occupy stands, and erected upon it a small meeting house, which was opened on the 14th of March, 1760.

Having then a place for public worship, and their number being increased to twenty-seven, **they solicited and obtained from the church at the Scotch Plains, a letter of dismission, bearing date the 12th of June, 1762; and on the 19th of the same month they were constituted a church, by the assistance of Elders Benjamin Miller and John Gano.**

Bro. Parkinson tells of the purchase of land that was first held in trust by certain individuals and then later by the church herself after she was incor-

porated according to the laws of New York. A complete list of the names of those believers who were organized into the church is also furnished. Further, Brother Parkinson cites his sources. They included associational records, records belonging to the church, and other accounts. Only one charter member of the original church was still living when Bro. Parkinson preached this sermon from which we have quoted.

Further, it should be pointed out that this church was active in the old Philadelphia Baptist Association, the oldest in America, and later instrumental in founding an association in New York. This indicates that in her doctrine and practices, this church was in agreement with mainline Baptists in North America at that time. Reading THE MINUTES OF THE PHILADELPHIA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FROM 1707 TO 1807 gives irrefutable proof of the consistent and universal practice of those Baptists in the matter of the founding of new churches. It was done in connection to a previously existing Baptist church as shall be shown farther along in this article.

THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH

Brother Parkinson continues in his sermon with some information about the founding of the church then known as the "Second Baptist Church in New-York" as follows:

"Soon after (a disturbance in the church created by certain men), the church (First Baptist Church of New York) was considerably agitated by a difference of opinion about the management of psalmody. It had been the usage of the church to have the lines parceled out; but a large majority becoming in favor of singing from books, as we now do, a resolution was past (sic) to adopt this mode; where upon the minority, consisting of fourteen, **took dismissions, and having obtained the approbation of the church they had left, on June 5th, 1790, they were constituted under the name of the *Second Baptist Church in New-York, by Elders Miller and Gano.***" (parenthetical information supplied by C.A.P.)

What a lesson for us modern Baptists! Today, it seems, if there is a disagreement among members of a church, there is little or no likelihood that the parting of the ways will be amicable. In our day departing groups too often refuse to respect the constituted authority their church. In some instances it looks as if they have been quick to obtain membership in a church whose pastor possesses a great desire for additional members and few scruples about church truth.

But in New York City in the above instance, it seems there was an "agreement to disagree." The minority understood and respected the authority of the existing church. They sought and received her approval for the organization of a new one. Indeed, the same two elders who organized the original church also organized this, the Second Baptist Church in New York! Thus the Second Baptist Church was organized out of the First Baptist Church - with whom there was disagreement! Surely Baptists of our own day would be wise to follow this example of peaceableness, decency, and order. What a testimony this was to the grace of God before those "without" who were looking on.

Some Brethren today will adamantly disagree, of course, and say that they missed the proper thing. They will say that these New York Brethren ought to have simply departed and, being baptized persons, formed themselves into a church according to the "spontaneous generation theory." They insist that the approval ("approbation") of a previously existing church is neither proper nor necessary for new church organization. Evidently these New York Brethren had not heard of the new "spontaneous generation theory" of church organization. Or if they had heard of it, they rejected it as an unscriptural innovation. We rather think such a thing was unheard of in that day, as we think its origin can be traced to more recent times and to the influence of loose interdenominationalism.

It is noteworthy that these Baptists believed that distant groups not yet organized as independent churches ought to have a connection with an established Baptist church. In that day they were referred to as **"a branch"** of another church. Probably today such would be called "a mission" of another church. While neither the word "branch" nor "mission" is used in the New Testament in this manner, the principle these Brethren sought to follow certainly is. Surely the principle is that which matters and not the exact terminology. It was in this manner that many churches have been founded. For instance we read concerning the Church at Great Valley, PA: "...being few and destitute of ministerial helps, they made application to the church at the Welsh Tract; and **as a branch of that church** were supplied by their ministers...." Concerning the Church at Philadelphia we read, "Philadelphia and Pennepek, or Lower Dublin, having continued **one church** from the first settlement thereof, **though they had their respective places of meeting**, they held their respective times of communion in the town and in the coun-

try, **their minister, Mr. Jenkin Jones**, administering the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, in both the city and the country, every month. In April, Anno Domini 1746, the members residing in the city of Philadelphia **did make their request to their brethren at Pennepek, as being of the two the elder branch, for a dismission order to be settled a distinct church by themselves;** which was accordingly **granted....**" The foregoing quotes are from the minutes of the Philadelphia Association. By these and other instances of history we see that early American Baptist churches practiced in principle exactly the view we hold - that is this: churches start churches and that until such a time as new churches are organized, those meeting in other places have a membership connection with the older church. This connection is for purposes of authority, discipline, guidance, and supply of spiritual assistance.

No one can doubt that these early American Baptists believed and practiced the concept of previously existing churches issuing letters of dismission. The evidence is too plain for that. The evidence is also irrefutable that they believed it proper and necessary for ordained Baptist elders to be involved in organizing new churches. This was their practice. The New York account continues to tell of other churches organized out of the First Baptist Church of New York in a manner consistent with what some call unscriptural "horizontal authority" principles.

Those who hold to the new "spontaneous generation theory" are on the horns of a dilemma. If these "horizontal church authority methods" which we espouse are indeed unscriptural and therefore anti-scriptural as they insist, then the usage of these methods has necessarily given birth to unscriptural organizations falsely called churches. Logic demands these Brethren conclude all churches unscripturally organized are unscriptural organizations. Can unscriptural methods produce Scriptural results? Let these Brethren answer that. According to these Brethren, many of their churches were wrongly organized because they were organized out of previously existing churches - a practice they repudiate as unnecessary, unscriptural, and therefore necessarily anti-scriptural. They must, if consistent, conclude that all churches organized by "horizontal church authority methods" ought to be disbanded - even perhaps their very own. Afterward these baptized individuals can form themselves together after the new fashion apart

Continued on page 29

THE BEREA BIBLE SCHOOL

Our church feels led of the Lord to start "The Berea School of the Bible." It will be just what it claims to be "a Bible school." It will be mostly a correspondence school so as to serve our many scattered churches and preachers. It will begin with a very few subjects taught by our church in Mantachie. As time passes, more courses will be added and other teachers, if interest picks up.

Cost: Our goal is to keep costs very low on all courses. Many of those who need these are young preachers with young families and low funds. All teachers will serve without pay. I even pray that some day all courses can be offered free of charge, especially to young preachers in our churches. There will be no registration fee nor graduation fee.

Goals: To aid young preachers to be the best Bible scholars and preachers possible and to educate interested church members in the Bible. We have no plans to be anything but a Bible school, and we seek no state accreditation or affiliation. Over the years I have observed that when state accreditation comes in the truth generally goes out the door of the school. Those who finish a course will be given a certificate of accomplishment. Students in our school will have to work hard. Unless you are willing to do this, I suggest you look elsewhere. To put it simple, our goal is education, not accreditation.

Courses: The first course to be offered is "A Survey of the Old Testament." This will consist of introductory material on each book prepared by the teacher. Each book of the Old Testament must be read and questions answered at the end of each book. These questions and answers will be sent to the teacher for correction, grade, and comments. This will be followed by a "Survey of the New Testament" on the same order. When a person finishes the two courses he/she will have read the entire Bible. He/she will have learned about each book such things as title, authorship, date and place of writing, theme, division, contents, and special features of each book. This will be a real Bible course. These two courses are now ready. The Old Testament and New Testament are \$30. The Bible on tape is not required in the course, but the tapes might be helpful to the student. If you want the whole Bible on tapes to go with the course by Scourby (KJV), please add \$59.97 to this price, making \$89.97. If you want to take the Old Testament, it is \$20. If you want to take only the New Testament, it is



\$20. If you want the New Testament on tapes by Scourby (KJV), please add \$15.97, making \$35.97. If you want the tapes, you may have the regular tapes or the dramatized edition at the prices quoted above for a limited time. The above prices include shipping. There are no hidden costs.

Another course to follow is "Methods in Sermonizing," using the book which bears this title by A. J. Kirkland. Students will have to read the book and answer questions. Students will also be required to make their own outlines on some of these methods and submit them to the teacher for examination, correction, and comment. This course is a must for young preachers and Sunday school teachers. It will be ready soon.

Some will say the editor has gone crazy (critics will say he did not have far to go). Our school will be founded upon three great doctrinal truths: the doctrines of grace, the Old Landmark view of the church, and pre-trib premillennialism. Those who do not believe these things should seek out other schools.

Over the years some of us have become weary of sending young preachers off to sovereign grace schools which turn out to be Arminian schools. Some of us are equally weary of having young preachers go off to school and come home confused on the church and prophecy.

First and Second Baptist

Continued from page 28

from the presence of any ordained Baptist elder and certainly without any assistance from a previously existing Baptist church. This is their view: let them practice what they are preaching.

There is no consistent way around it. Either churches organized with some kind of authority from previously existing churches are scriptural or they are not. If they are, then they must have been properly organized. If they have been properly organized, then it follows that the "horizontal church authority methods" are Scriptural. Organizations fashioned another way, based on other principles, are then necessarily unscriptural.

If, on the other hand, the "church authority method" is unscriptural and improper, churches so organized are unscriptural. If they are unscriptural no Brother can be consistent in his Christian life and remain a part of one. All those men who hold to the "spontaneous generation theory" of churches will, if consistent, disband their churches that were organized according to "church authority." Those whose churches were not so organized, but who have in the past given the impression that they were, should come clean and proudly state that their churches were indeed formed after the new fashion - that is, apart from the authority of a previously existing church. Consistency demands these actions if men will be honest. Which horn shall they prefer? - or shall they continue to attempt to "go between the horns?" They cannot with consistency maintain that both "spontaneously generated" churches and those organized in the old fashion are both Scriptural churches. This is the dilemma into which they have put themselves by espousing their new view that is so diverse from the practice of the New York Baptists in A.D. 1762 - and other early American Baptists.

Today's innovative "spontaneous generation" Brethren can no doubt pick these words of mine to pieces, twist them and use them against my

position. But they simply cannot argue with the facts of history, let them try as they may. Sufficient details are given in the above account to cut off all their silence-based arguments - their favorite type of argument, it seems. I believe old Bro. Parkinson has done the cause of Christ a great service and given a black eye to those who try to argue that the "horizontal church authority method" of church organization is something new. It was the practice in A.D. 1762 and undeniably had been common practice among Baptists for generations. We believe their practices were based on Scriptural principles, precepts and patterns and are therefore apostolic and Biblical.

What these New York City churches may have become due to recent liberalism is beside the point, for many formerly sound churches are no longer sound today. But it is our contention that these two old Baptist churches were formed correctly and after New Testament principles. We believe we are in good company when we walk the basic paths of church organization that they followed as above. We believe we are walking in the paths of the apostles and other first century Christians. And until someone can show us by the Scriptures that they have either Divine authority or New Testament pattern for two or more baptized believers forming themselves into a church apart from some connection with a previously existing church, we shall deny the Scripturalness of it. In fact we shall maintain it is anti-scriptural and anti-church. We demand precept and pattern - not the novel conjectures of men based on the silence of the Scriptures as to particular details in some Biblical instances.

It is not our purpose to claim that documentation determines the Scripturalness of any church. Besides our ignorance of the Welsh language in which many records exist, much documentation has been forever lost to us. But we believe this is according to the sovereign plan of God. Our faith rests not on human records, but on the everlasting Word and promises of God our Savior. We do believe that, were the records available to us, "an unbroken line" (to quote Mr. Spurgeon) could be traced back to the apostles. We believe in church perpetuity and to quote one Brother, "Perpetuity cannot exist apart from succession."

A Biblical Gospel, Scriptural ordinances, and Biblical practice are also required as well as a valid claim to having originated in succession to the first church. That for which we contend it this: basic Bible principles dic-

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The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39

Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Will we still have the same features when we get to Heaven, or will we look totally different? --- Alabama



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This is a subject that most people who know the Lord have considered often when meditating upon that wonderful place the Bible calls Heaven. It is also a subject upon which diverse opinions are expressed, some having biblical support, and some without any degree of scriptural foundation.

It is sure that none of us can know anything about the subject apart from the revelation given in God's Word. The things that are most satisfying to my mind upon the subject are set forth by the apostle in I Corinthians 15. Although Paul does not fully define the event of resurrection, he does indicate that it is a transformation. He writes of the difference between the "physical body" and the "spiritual body," while contending that something of the image of the physical will endure through the transformation, taking place at the resurrection. He suggests that some image of the physical is retained although he states "**flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**" (I Cor. 15:50). The same thought is presented in records of Christ's resurrection. The risen one is the crucified one, yet somehow different (Matt. 28:9, Luke 24:13-43).

The appearance of Elijah and Moses at the transfiguration of Jesus provides the proof of a "physical image" in a resurrected state (Matt. 17:1-4). Moses and Elias talked with Christ (v. 3). Evidently Peter and the other brethren recognized Moses and Elias (v. 4).

None of us fully understand all the distinctions between the "physical body" and the "spiritual body," but we can find great solace and peace in knowing that God will give a body that pleases Him (I Cor. 15:38). Also, we must never forget that when we see Him we shall be like Him (I John 3:2). I firmly believe that we shall have a glorified and recognizable body as did Jesus after His resurrection. I believe our resurrected bodies will have similar features, but without any of the

imperfections we have been burdened with in the physical bodies.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



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Philippians 3:21 declares: "**Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.**"

It is obvious from this verse that the natural bodies of the elect are to undergo a radical change in the process of glorification. Our natural bodies will be fashioned like unto the glorious body of the Lord Jesus. The glorious body of Jesus Christ is described in Revelation 1:13-17 where all the features of His humanity are clearly retained. Christ's glorified body is clothed with a garment, He has hair on His head, He has eyes, feet, hands, and a mouth that speaks. Thus, we will retain our human features even as Jesus retained His. However, I believe that the glorified bodies of the elect will be different in some respects from our natural bodies. They will not be subject to decay, pain, or blemish. I Corinthians 15:42-53 describes the glorified, resurrection body of the elect as being incorruptible (42); spiritual (44-46); heavenly (48-49); without a carnal nature of flesh or blood (50); and immortal (53). Each of these descriptions of the resurrection body are quite a contrast from our earthly, corruptible; natural bodies. This great change is referred to as a wonderful mystery (51).

Like Paul, I long for the day when I shall forever put off this earthly tabernacle to be clothed with the glorious immortal house, which is from Heaven (II Cor. 5:1-4). Even though our bodies will go through a supernatural, spiritual change, we will still be able to recognize one another in glory. I Corinthians 13:12 states: "**For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I**

know even as also I am known." In the Millennial kingdom the saints will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matt. 8:11) and will recognize who they are.

TOM ROSS



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I believe speaking in general terms that we will have the same features in Heaven we have here on earth. Our composition will certainly be different but our physical features the same. There are scriptural reasons for me believing this. In Matthew 17:1-4 at the transfiguration the apostles recognized Moses and Elijah. In Luke 16:19-23 the rich man saw and recognized Abraham and Lazarus in Paradise. I Corinthians 13:12 may have reference to how we will know each other in Heaven when we have perfect knowledge.

The Bible tells us in I John 3:2 that when the Lord comes for His people, we will be like Him. I take this to mean that we will have a glorified body like He did after His death and resurrection with all His wounds from the crucifixion (John 21:19-28). There is that possibility that I John 3:2 may mean that all in Heaven may be at the age of Christ, thirty-three years old with no signs of the result of age.

I believe that we will look about the same in Heaven as we do here as far as our physical features are concerned without any missing or crippled features that would hinder the joy of Heaven and worship of the Lord.

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"Beloved, now are we the sons

of God, and it doth no yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

We will be like Him, conformed to the image of God's Son (Rom. 8:29). We will have a spiritual nature and a perfect, glorious resurrected body (Phil. 3:21). I John 3:2 also states that we shall see Him as He is. No longer shall we see by the eye of faith, but we will see Him in His human nature with our eyes—the eyes of a glorified body. Paul speaks of this body taking on a spiritual form, but he does not indicate that its features will be changed. "**For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality**" (I Cor. 15:53).

Peter, James, and John were with the Lord on the mountain of transfiguration and were witnesses of that great scene. They were able to recognize Elias and Moses who appeared with the Lord. If they could recognize these who were not yet in a glorified body, surely when we receive a new body we will be able to recognize each other. I do not believe that there will be babies, old men and old women, or any deformity that is a result of the curse that God placed on man because of sin, but I do believe that we will be able to recognize each other. There is so much that we are not told about Heaven, but one of the great joys that we will experience will be the many new things that we will see and learn. In this life we know each other by the features of this body. Surely we will know more when we get to Heaven than we know now.

DAVID O'NEAL

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Yearly Financial Report for 2000

Beginning Balance	\$3,922.58
RECEIPTS:	13,761.22
Total	17,683.80

EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	12,001.85
Postage	168.50
Dividing Checks	1,850.00
Tape Duplication	320.00
Order of Checks	53.10
.....	3,290.35
Bank Charge	-61.19
ENDING BALANCE	3,229.16

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Yearly Financial Report for 2000

Beginning Balance	\$3,017.04
RECEIPTS:	49,377.53
Total	52,394.57

EXPENDITURES:	
Printing	6,138.00
Postage	9,105.00
Supplies	4,315.54
Wages	26,349.00
FICA taxes	1,973.96
Dividing Checks	1,999.21
PO Box Rent	44.00
Order of Checks	72.12
Total Expenditures	50,121.20
.....	2,273.37
chk#1734	+10
chk#1741	-34
chk#182	+07
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,273.20

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

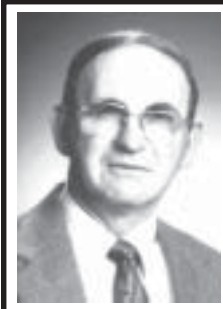
Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

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In Revelation 21 the new Jerusalem has twelve gates named for the twelve tribes of Israel. Will these have the names of Jacob's sons, or will Joseph and Levi still be left out and Ephraim and Manasseh in their places? -- Missouri



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Revelation 21 gives an elaborate description of the new Jerusalem. The symbols we see are used to reveal its completeness and perfection, including its measurements. The measurements given are multiples of twelve, as shown in vs. 12,16-17. Verse 12 reveals that the great and high wall about the new Jerusalem will have 12 gates with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel. It should be emphasized that the concept of the new Jerusalem has been a great encouragement to Christians for two thousand years.

Revelation 21:12 does not give a list of the names found on the gates when reference is made to the twelve tribes of Israel. Therefore, it must be considered a personal opinion on my part as I give the names, which I believe will be upon the gates.

Perhaps the most familiar lists of the tribes of Israel include the blessing of Jacob (Gen. 49), the blessing of Moses (Deut. 33), and the Song of Deborah (Judg. 5). The list of names in these references is similar, but the number is different. Genesis 49 has twelve names. Deuteronomy 33 has eleven and Judges 5 has ten. The blessing of Jacob includes Joseph rather than separating Joseph into Manasseh and Ephraim. The blessing of Moses omits Simeon, but in the end has twelve names by listing Ephraim and Manasseh, as well as Joseph. The Song of Deborah omits Judah, Simeon, and Levi.

I base what I believe concerning the names appearing on the gates of the new Jerusalem upon God's promise of the royal grant of land which He promised to Abraham. I am convinced of a great connection between the royal grant to Abraham and the promise of a new earth. I personally believe that the following names will appear on the twelve gates: Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben, Judah, Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, and Gad.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS

This is a difficult question to answer because the passage in Revelation 21 does not specifically state the names. In the list of Ezekiel 48:30-35, which reveals the gates going into the city of Jerusalem and the Millennial Temple, the original sons of Jacob are listed with no mention of Ephraim or Manasseh. Immediately following the 1000 year reign of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment all things will be made new, signaling the commencement of the eternal ages. I would assume that the same names that were on the gates of the Millennial Jerusalem will be the very same ones inscribed on the gates of the New Jerusalem. Thus, I believe the original sons of Jacob would be listed without Ephraim or Manasseh.

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A list of the tribes of Israel can be found in the Scriptures about 30 times and there is always twelve. At times both of the sons of Joseph are numbered as separate tribes and others are omitted. Levi is omitted more often than the others; but in the book of Revelation 7:5-8, Dan and Ephraim are omitted. Some believe that it was because both tribes were involved with idolatry that God removed their names.

During the millennial reign of Christ the nation of Israel will be given the land that God promised them in the covenant. The land will be divided between each of the tribes and the gates of the millennial city will be named after these tribes; Reuben,

Judah, Levi, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun, Gad, Asher, and Naphtali (Ezek. 48:31-34). This is the same list given in Genesis chapter 49 when Jacob gathered his sons to tell them what was to befall them in the last days. These are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, and I believe they will be on the gates of the New Jerusalem as well.

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I realize that some Bible scholars have differed as to the degree this scriptural description should be taken literally. To me such a view is inconsistent with the context and of the passage of scripture and will not harmonize with the specific details explained in this context. I am always a literalist in dealing with scripture unless the context, grammar, or lack of harmony dictates otherwise.

There does not seem to be any solid reason not to believe that this will be a literal city as described here even though we may not understand the full spiritual significance of the description.

Believing these details and description to be literal I then must accept the fact that the twelve gates must bear the name of the literal twelve sons of Israel. Not only is this true but it seems to me that these names correspond with the names given by Ezekiel in 48:31-34 of the millennial temple. I cannot see why there would be any change in the names from the millennial temple to the eternal city.

I believe this represents that the New Jerusalem will be the abode of true Israel, the wife of God the Father along with the twelve foundations named after the apostles representing the true church or bride of Christ dwelling with Israel in this special place (I Cor. 12:28) as promised by the Lord to His apostles in John 14:1-3.

GARNER SMITH

**BEREA BAPTIST BANNER
Financial Report
11-30-2000 to 12-31-2000**

Beginning Balance	\$2,850.02
RECEIPTS:	
Big Creek B. C., Wayne WV	300.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	125.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	200.00
Berea B. C., Stoning, IL	60.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	50.00
Berea M. B. C., Mansfield, OH	50.00
Bethel B. C., Pasadena, TX	20.00
Central Avenue B. C., Tampa, FL	25.00
Charlene Redding, Tucson, AZ	250.00
Citrus M. B. C., Inverness, FL	20.00
Faith M. B. C., Clarksville, TN	100.00
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	60.00
Grace B. C., Georgetown, KY	35.00
Grace M. B. C., Tulsa, OK	45.00
Grace M. B. Mission, Marion, IL	25.00
Indore B. C., Indore, WV	100.00
Landmark M. B. C., Monck's Corner, SC	25.00
Larry J. Mollette, Texarkana, TX	5.00
LeRoy Bullard, Albuquerque, NM	75.00
Lord's Church, Goose Creek, SC (2 months)	100.00
Meadow Branch B. C., Millport, AL	100.00
Morris St B. C., Hobbs, NM (2 months)	600.00
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New Testament B. C., Bristol, TN	10.00
New Testament B. C., Goshen, IN	50.00
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Philadelphia B. C., Aztec, NM	25.00
Philadelphia B. C., Decatur, AL	50.00
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Sovereign Grace B. C., Bathgate, ND	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Columbus, MS	50.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Fulton, MS	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Raleigh, NC	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Northport, AL	100.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Silsbee, TX	30.00
Sovereign Grace B. C., Westerville, OH	50.00
South Park M. B. C., Seattle, WA	25.00
Temple B. Mission, Johnson City, TN	25.00
Victory B. C., Courtland, VA	100.00
Subscriptions	188.62
Anonymous	18.12
Dividing Check	275.00
Sub Total	\$3,806.74
TOTAL	\$6,656.76
EXPENDITURES:	
Wages	2,525.00
Printing	521.00
Postage	680.67
FICA taxes	188.58
Supplies	115.38
PO Box Rent	44.00
Total Expenditures	4,349.63
.....	2,307.13
Bank charge	-33.93
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,273.20



**BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST
Financial Report
11-30-2000 to 12-31-2000**

Beginning Balance	\$1,707.70
RECEIPTS	
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	2100.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	100.00
Livingstone B. C., Barboursville, V	306.06
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	165.00
Briar Creek B. C., Williamsburg, KY	75.00
Parkway Landmark B. C., Springfield, OR	25.00
Calvary Ind. B. C., Everson, WA	150.00
Dividing Check	225.00
.....	3,146.06
TOTAL RECEIPTS	4,053.76
EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	1,297.00
Tape Duplication	70.00
Postage	32.60
Dividing Checks	225.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,624.60
BALANCE	\$3,229.16
CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT	
Beginning Balance	\$208.32
RECEIPTS	
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	2,000.00
Total	2,208.32
EXPENDITURES:	
WYWY	175.00
Total Expenditures	175.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,033.32

First and Second Baptist

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tate that in order for a new church to be properly and Scripturally constituted, there must be a legitimate connection with a previously existing Baptist church. It is in this orderly and regular way that God has ordained that new Baptist churches come into existence. To claim that direct "vertical authority" exists and is alone sufficient for church organization and entrance into the Baptist ministry is, we believe, a novelty among Baptists. Such things smack of what it will ultimately produce anti-missionary results and more confusion among the churches. Let us be genuine missionary Baptists and be busy preaching the Gospel at home and abroad, baptizing converts and teaching them to obey in churches organized in connection with previously existing Baptist churches according to the New Testament and time-honored Baptist way. Amen.

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questions and their answers are vital to understanding the fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel.

THE THREEFOLD DIVISION

In the passage itself there is indicated a threefold division: "**seven weeks**" (49 years), "**threescore and two weeks**" (434 years), and "**one week**" (7 years). There must be two gaps in this time; otherwise, there is no need for this threefold division. There is to be 49 years and a gap. Then a period of 434 years and a gap, and finally a seven year period which ends the prophecy and brings to pass the sixfold purpose stated in Daniel 9:24.

THE STARTING POINT

The initial date of the 490 year period is "**from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem.**" But when was this decree issued for the restoration of the Jewish people to their homeland? This is a difficult question as there were four different decrees given in the Old Testament following the time of Daniel 9. Let us briefly look at all four of these.

THE FIRST DECREE

The first decree was given by Cyrus in 536 B.C. The Biblical account is found in II Chronicles 36:22-23: "**Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made**

a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up." The same time is under consideration in Ezra 1:1-4.

There is no mention here of rebuilding Jerusalem but only of the temple. But in Isaiah 44:28 the prophet says: "**That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.**" This indicates that Cyrus did issue an edict to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.

This decree of Cyrus is given in Josephus' book of *Antiquities of the Jews* as follows: "I have given leave to as many of the Jews that dwell in my country to return to their own country, and to rebuild their city, and to build the temple of God at Jerusalem on the same place where it was before" (Book XI, Chap. I, Sec. 3). It would appear from Ezra 4:7, 11-16 that the Jews did repair the walls, but the work was brought to a standstill by the intervention of their enemies (Ezra 4:7-22). The work was hindered from going on till the time of the reign of Darius.

This decree has much to commend itself to us. First, the whole tenor of Daniel 9 would have led Daniel to assume that upon the completion of the Babylonian Captivity the 490 years would commence. The Babylonian Captivity ended in 536 B.C. when Cyrus permitted the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Second, the Bible suggests that the decree of Cyrus was a special act of God (II Chron. 36:22; Ezra 1:1-4; Isa. 44:28; 45:13). No such statements are recorded of the other decrees, although we can be sure that God was responsible for the other three (Prov. 21:1).

The great problem presented in this decree is that it is too far back to end at any point in the life of Jesus Christ. If it be the correct beginning point, then there is a grave error in our modern system of chronology. This may well be as we shall see later.

THE SECOND DECREE

The second decree was given in 519 B.C. by King Darius and is recorded in Ezra 6:1-12. This is a reaffirmation of the decree of Cyrus with penalties added to prevent interferences (Ezra 6:11-12). It concerned the rebuilding of the temple. Nothing is said of the rebuilding of the city.

THE THIRD DECREE

The third decree was that of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, given in 458 B.C. and recorded in Ezra 7:1-22. It consisted of a letter giving Ezra permission to go up to Jerusalem and take with him some of the Levites. It also granted him authority to collect gold and silver to purchase animals for sacrifice in the temple and to draw on the king's treasures up to a stated amount. There is nothing in this decree which had any thing to do with the restoration of the city of Jerusalem.

THE FOURTH DECREE

This decree was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus in 445 B.C. in the twentieth year of his reign. Hanani and certain men from Jerusalem told Nehemiah, the king's cupbearer, this message: "**The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire**" (Neh. 1:3). This drove the king's cupbearer to prayer and confession (Neh. 1:4-11).

The occasion of the decree is given in Nehemiah: "**And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king. Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. Wherefore the king said unto me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, And said unto the king, Let the king live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the CITY of the place of my fathers' sepulchers, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the God of heaven. And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant have found favor in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the CITY of my fathers' sepulchers, that I may BUILD IT**" (Neh. 2:1-5).

This decree primarily concerned the rebuilding of the city, not the temple. This command permitted the re-establishment of the Jewish nation, and its capital city. Josephus relates that Nehemiah called together the people of Jerusalem and made a speech to them upon his arrival. A part of the speech contains the following words: "You know, O Jews, that God hath kept our fathers, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in mind continually, and for the sake of their righteousness hath not left of the care of

you. Indeed he hath assisted me in gaining this authority of the king to raise up our WALL, and finish what is wanting in the temple" (Book XI, Chap. V, Sec. 7).

WHICH DECREE

To which decree does Daniel 9:25 have reference? It seems to me that Daniel himself gives the answer. Daniel's commandment concerns the rebuilding of Jerusalem, not the temple. This excludes the second and third decrees. The first decree primarily concerns the rebuilding of the temple with some rebuilding of the city, while in the fourth decree the primary stress is on rebuilding the city with little said of the temple. Therefore, it would appear that the fourth decree is the probable one to fit Daniel's prophecy.

Other facts tend to corroborate this date of 445 B.C. Daniel reveals that the command concerns the "**streets**" and "**the wall.**" While there is mention of a wall in Ezra (Ch. 4:12-16; 5:3,8-9; 9:9), there are 31 references to the walls of Jerusalem in the Book of Nehemiah. Also in the book it is written: "**So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days**" (Neh. 6:15). Still again: "**Now it came to pass, when the wall was BUILT. . .**" (Neh. 7:1). The word "**street**" is mentioned 1 time in Ezra (Ch. 10:9) and 4 times in Nehemiah (Ch. 8:1,3,16).

The prophetic statesman mentions the city is to be rebuilt "**in troublous times.**" The Jews experienced much through out all four of these decrees, but none as great as in the case of Nehemiah. Josephus says of this: "But now when the Ammonites, and Moabites, and Samaritans, and all that inhabited Celesyria, heard that the building went on apace, they took it heinously, and proceeded to lay snares for them, and to hinder their intentions. They also slew many of the Jews, and sought how they might destroy Nehemiah himself. . . And this TROUBLE he underwent for two years and four months; for in so long a time was the WALL BUILT, in the twenty-eighth year of the reign of Xerxes, in the ninth month" (Book XI, Chap. 5, Sec. 8).

The most probable beginning point of the Seventy Weeks is the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus given in the presence of Nehemiah in 445 B.C. The *Encyclopedia Britannica* makes Artaxerxes accession to the throne as 465 B.C. and the 20th year would be 445 B.C. This seems to be a well-established historical date.

THE TERMINUS OF THE 483 YEARS

The prophecy of Daniel 9 makes

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the 69 weeks to reach **"unto the Messiah the Prince."** But what period is this in the life of Christ? Is it His birth, or His baptism, or His triumphal entry, or His death, or His resurrection? Not all scholars can agree on the terminus of the 69th week.

There is a clue given in Daniel 9:25 which indicates the time referred to by the prophet. Note the words **"unto Messiah the Prince."** This is surely a reference to the time Christ manifested Himself to Israel as their Messiah and King. By the pen of Zechariah, Israel was told: **"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon the ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass"** (Zech. 9:9). The Messiah and King would ride into Jerusalem on a colt. This was a sure sign to them of the identity of the glorious Messiah and King of Israel.

The fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy is recorded in John's Gospel: **"On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. And Jesus, when he had found a young ass, sat thereon; as it is written, Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt"** (John 12:12-15).

The fact that Jesus Christ at this time not only consented, but He also took steps to bring about His triumphal entry by commanding them to bring an ass (Matt. 21:1-3) strongly indicates this was a special day. Before He had requested that His Messiahship be kept quiet (Matt. 9:30; 12:16; 17:9). The Saviour on the occasion of the triumphal entry went so far as to say if the

multitude ceased declaring His kingship the stones would cry out (Luke 19:39-40). Then this whole event must have been a very special day in the history of Christ's ministry on earth.

Luke gives this account with some additional details: **And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen: Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. . . . And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes"** (Luke 19:35-38, 41-42).

Especially do we need to notice what He said in verse 42: **"If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things that be-**

long to thy peace!" Joseph Rotherham, Kenneth Wuest, George Berry, and J. P. Green give **"this thy day"** as **"in this day."** The New English Bible has it **"on this great day."** What made this day so great was that Christ offered Himself to the Jews in Jerusalem as **"the Messiah the Prince."** This day was important because it marked the end of the 483 years of Daniel's prophecy.

The decree of King Artaxerxes was given in the month of Nisan (Neh. 2:1) and when Christ rode into Jerusalem it was the month of Nisan near the Passover (John 12:1). Since I believe in the verbal inspiration of the Bible, I contend that from Nehemiah 2:1-8 unto Luke 19:35-45 was exactly 483 years to the day. I will for ever believe this even if all historical records speak to the contrary. God's Word is true for it is the words of Him Whom cannot lie. The 483 years foretold by Daniel proves that our God has indeed declared **"the end from the beginning"** (Isa. 46:10).

CAN WE COUNT THE TIME?

The time space between the dates should be 483 years to the day, unless man has erred in his system of reckoning time. But this is the problem. Man's chronology of this period has never been accurately determined. The almost universally received chronology of this time is dependent on

the list of the kings and the number of years assigned to them in Ptolemy's Canon (A.D. 70-161). Ptolemy is the only authority that some appeal to for the chronology of this period.

But Ptolemy is contradicted (1) by the national traditions of Persia preserved in "Firdusi," (2) by the national tradition of the Jews preserved in the "Sedar Olam," (3) by the testimony of Josephus, (4) and by the conflicting evidences of such well-authenticated events as the Conference of Solon with Croesus. There seems to be good reason not to depend too much on Ptolemy's Canon.

I have not seen anyone who has been honest with the accepted chronology and made the time of the decree to some period in the life of Christ be exactly 483 years. Amillennialists evade the whole matter by making the number symbolical, which leaves room for much vain speculation. Premillennialists stick to the literal fulfillment, but they have a problem with the time element, using the accepted chronology.

Sir Robert Anderson counts this time from B.C. 445 to A. D. 32 as the 483 years. But his ending date is not according to the accepted chronology. Most would end according to modern scholarship at 30 A.D. A. C. Gaebelain and Alva McClain concur with Anderson. Clarence Larkin slightly disagrees with Anderson, claiming he is about 1 year and 5 days short of the 483 years. However, Larkin still comes out short of the 483 years, adding that there is an error in profane history.

David L. Cooper believes the starting point is the decree of Cyrus and the ending the crucifixion of Christ, but he has quite a problem in making his timetable work as it is about 90 years too long. He says the problem is an error in profane history. But perhaps the whole problem would be solved if he could show a 90 year time gap between the 49 years and the 434 years.

HOW WOULD WE COUNT THE TIME?

If we were going to try and count this time would we use the solar year or the Jewish year? Which calendar does God use in the Bible? The flood began on the seventeenth day of the second month (Gen. 7:11) and ended on the 17th day of the seventh month (Gen. 8:4). This is five months of 150 days (Gen. 7:24; 8:3), or 30 days to a month, or 360 days to a year. In Revelation there is mention of 42 months (Rev. 11:2) and the next verse counts it 1260 days

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"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city" Hebrews 11:16

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(Rev. 11:3). The number 42 will go into 1260 30 times. This gives us a 30 day month. Thus in the Bible God uses the Jewish calendar which consists of 360 days. We would expect as much since the time in Daniel 9 concerns the Jews in Jerusalem.

The decree of King Artaxerxes was given in 445 B.C. Christ made His triumphal entry in A. D. 30. This is according to modern chronology. This is 475 solar years of 365 days. We must convert this to the Jewish years. When we multiply 475 years by 365 days, the number of days in a solar year, plus 115 days for leap years, we have 173,485 days. Then when we divide these days by 360, the number of days in the Jewish calendar, we have 481 years and 325 days. This is within two years of the time needed.

How do we account for this error? First, there are the best of reasons to believe that Ptolemy's Canon is inaccurate. Second, it may be due to my limited ability to count the time. Third, it may well be that in the next few years modern scholarship will uncover evidence which will show the time to be exactly 483 years. On this point more serious study is greatly needed.

I am convinced that this prophecy has a literal fulfillment as does all Bible prophecy. There are no errors in the Bible, not even in chronology. The believer has no choice but to be assured that it was exactly 483 years between the going forth of the decree and the triumphal entry of Christ. God's Word is true even when human histories are in error.

Two Intercessors

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Christ works for us; the Holy Spirit works in us. Every believer has two Intercessors or two Advocates.

I. THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST

In council and covenant of grace Christ assumed the office of an Intercessor as our great High Priest. An intercessor is a person who intercedes, or entreats, or prays in favor of another. In the before-time covenant the Father said to the Son: **"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession"** (Ps. 2:8). The Son asked the Father for the elect. In response to the Son's request, the Father gave him a peculiar people. These were a love gift from His Father. Christ men-

tions these in His high priestly prayer in John 17. He spoke of them **"as many as thou hast given"** me (John 17:2). In John 17:6 Christ said: **"I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word."**

The redemptive work of Christ is equal to His intercessory work, and these cannot scripturally be separated. Note some Scriptures: **". . .and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"** (Isa. 53:12). **"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us"** (Rom. 8:34). Christ as our great High Priest **"appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself"** (Heb. 9:24), and now He appears in the presence of God for us (Heb. 9:24). The same ones for whom He is an atoning sacrifice are the same ones for whom He is an advocate (I John 2:1-2). Since His intercessory work is limited to those the Father gave Him, even so His redemption was for these same people.

Arminians separate between Christ's redemptive work and His intercessory work. They have Christ dying for all men without exception, but then they are forced to admit He died for a people for whom He refused to pray. I say this because Christ said in John 17:9: **"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."** Sovereign gracers, in line with Holy Scripture, are consistent. We have Jesus dying for the same people He prays for in Heaven.

When Christ finished His redemptive work on earth He ascended to Heaven to the right hand of God to do His intercessory work. **"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession"** (Heb. 4:14). The name **"Jesus"** speaks of Christ's humanity, and the name **"Son of God"** of His divinity. Christ is our eternal and all-sufficient High Priest in Heaven. Literal sacrifices are not now being offered up on earth because the God-man put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. The only sacrifices being offered on earth are the spiritual sacrifices of believer priests (I Pet. 2:9).

Honest students of Holy Scriptures must admit the Bible speaks sparingly of the intercessory work of Christ. However, as we search the Scriptures, we can glean certain things about His intercessory work. First, it is vocal.

Christ does not merely stand in Heaven as the slain Lamb with nothing to do. Our great High Priest does not stand before God the Father in absolute silence. Christ actually intercedes in our behalf. John 17 is a sample of Christ's intercessory work in behalf of His people. In John 17 Christ spoke real words to the Father.

Second, the entreaty work of Christ is real. Christ personally appears in the presence of God for us. He appears to claim the benefits arising from His sacrifice. **"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us"** (Heb. 9:24). The high priest in Israel appeared before the ark and mercy-seat which was but a type of God's presence (Lev. 16:2). Christ appears before the face of God, and He is there **"for us."** **"For us"** points back to **"holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling"** in Hebrews 3:1. Christ's appearance in Heaven as our Intercessor is as real as His appearance on earth over 1900 years ago as our Substitute and Surety.

Third, Christ's intercessory work is personal. He does not appear in God's presence for Himself. He appears as the representative of all the elect. He undertakes for all sorts of believers, high and low, rich and poor, strong and weak. Christ makes no exceptions, neither in respect to persons or sins. He entreats for the weakest believer as well as the strongest believer.

Fourth, His priestly work is always successful: **"Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always. . ."** (John 11:41-42). The Father always hears the prayers of Christ in behalf of His people. Christ never offers a prayer out of harmony with the will of the Father, and He never does anything contrary to His Father's Word (John 8:29). His oneness with the Father guarantees the Father will always hear His intercession. Christ and the Father have one essence, one nature, and one will.

If, as some Arminians teach, Christ is in Heaven praying for the whole world without exception to be saved, and if the Father hears the Son **"always,"** then the whole world must be saved without any exception. No one but a universalist believes every person on earth shall be saved. If Christ is praying for the whole world to be saved without exception, then the Father must not hear the prayer of Christ **"always"** as the Bible says. Let the Arminians give the answer to these things.

THE CONCERN OF CHRIST'S WORK

First, it pertains to our salvation:

"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John 17:20). Those for whom Christ prays in this verse are unconverted elect. These are not in danger of some final miscarriage. These unconverted elect are as sure of eternal salvation as the saints already in Heaven. But an unconverted person cannot make any conclusion for this, for he cannot know his position in atoning blood until he believes (Rom. 3:25).

Please note in John 17:20 that Christ's intercessory work concerns those who already believe and those who shall believe. It does not include those who die in unbelief (Mark 16:16). The prayers of Christ on earth and in Heaven explain the extent of His atoning sacrifice. Christ did not pray for Judas in John 17. Our Lord said in John 17:9: **"I pray not for the world,"** and Judas was a part of the world. Judas was lost and a son of perdition (John 17:12).

John 17:20 reveals that Christ prays the unconverted elect who shall believe on Him through the words and writings of the apostles: **"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word"** (John 17:20). The Word in the hands of the Holy Spirit is the instrumental means of faith. This is seen also in Romans 10:14-15: **"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"** Four facts are asserted here in the form of questions. First, there is no real prayer without genuine faith. Second, there is no faith unless one hears the Word of faith. Third, there can be no hearing of the Word of faith without a preacher of the gospel. Fourth, there can be no preacher of the gospel unless he is sent by God and the church. Where there is no gospel preaching there is no faith, and without faith there can be no salvation (Rev. 21:8) or even election, for election is unto faith (Acts 13:48; II Thess. 2:13; Tit. 1:1). The preached Word is **"the word of faith"** (Rom. 10:8), and so **"then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"** (Rom. 10:17).

One whole religious movement has been built upon the idea that God saves the elect without the gospel. They will ask you: "Don't you believe God could save the elect without the

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Two Intercessors

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gospel?" When you say, "Yes," then they quickly say: "Well, He does." I want to ask some questions. Can God enlighten the world without the sun? If they answer, "Yes," then I would ask: "Why does He not do it?" Can God save sinners apart from the death of Jesus Christ? If they answer, "Yes," then I would ask, "Why does He not do it then?" The Bible teaches that God saves His elect by the foolishness of preaching (I Cor. 1:21). It says the gospel is "**hid to them that are lost**" (II Cor. 4:3), and the Bible says those who do not obey the gospel are going to Hell (II Thess. 1:8-9).

For the sake of argument let us assume that they are right for a few moments. If God saves the elect without the preaching of the word of the apostles, then some are saved contrary to the high priestly prayer of Christ in John 17. Christ prayed: "**Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word**" (John 17:20). My opponents need to show me where Christ ever prayed that the elect would be saved without the Word. Where is one verse that says unbelievers are saved? Such a verse cannot be produced. I personally would not want to be guilty of saying that God saves sinners contrary to the prayer of our great High Priest.

Second, Christ prays for our faith: "**And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren**" (Luke 22:31-32). Here is an example where our Lord exercises His high priestly work before His ascension into Heaven. Christ prayed for Peter's faith that it fail not, although Peter did not sense his danger from the Devil. Our Lord did not pray that Peter might be spared from being put in Satan's sifter, but He prayed Peter's faith would persevere. The Greek word translated "**fail**" is the root of our English word "eclipse." The intercession of Christ prevailed before the throne of God, for Peter was turned again and used mightily of God (Acts 2).

The faith of a believer may eclipse for a time, but it never fails because Christ ever intercedes for the believer. Faith is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 1:29; Heb. 12:2), and faith is kept alive by Christ's continual intercession in Heaven for us (Rom. 5:10). How good to know that Christ prays for us personally: "**I have prayed for thee.**"

Third, our Lord mediates for our

preservation: "**Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou has given me. . .**" (John 17:11). The name and honor of God the Father are concerned in the preservation of Christ's sheep. Christ prays the Father may keep them through His own attributes of power and wisdom.

In John 17:15 Christ said: "**I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil**" (John 17:15). In these words Christ pleads with the Father to keep them from all evil that may assail them from the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

Fourth, our great High Priest interposes for our sanctification: "**Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth**" (John 17:17). Here Christ prays the truth of the written Word may bear powerfully on the inner man to bring believers to a higher degree of holiness and purity. The Bible is the ordinary means which God uses to sanctify His people. Those who think themselves above the Word have no holiness or salvation.

I John 2:1 declares: "**My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**" The term "**we**" indicates the supposed case is in the Christian ranks. Those Christians who sin "**have an advocate with the Father.**" Hebrews 4:14 says: ". . .we have a great high priest. . ." Our Advocate does not excuse our sins, nor does He try to justify our actions. He is righteous, and He deals righteously. Our Intercessor has a sacrifice as a righteous basis of His advocacy. This is why the Father regards His pleas. Our Pleader is on the side of the law in the high court of Heaven!

Fifth, our Intercessor intervenes in behalf of our glorification: "**Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am. . .**" (John 17:24). At death we go to be with Christ in Paradise (Luke 23:43), and at the Rapture we go to be "**for ever with the Lord**" (I Thess. 4:17). To be with Christ is to be like Christ (I John 3:1-2).

II. THE INTERCESSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Those born of the Spirit (John 3:6) should walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). We are weak, and we need the help of the Holy Spirit: "**Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which can-**

not be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Rom. 8:26-27). You will note that the intercessory work of the Spirit is limited to "**the saints.**" Also he always intercedes "**according to the will of God.**" There is harmony between the intercessory work of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

What a revelation we have of human depravity! If we cannot know how to do a simple act like praying without the Spirit, how can we do any act apart from the help of the Spirit? Enough depravity remains even in a converted man that he does not know how to pray properly (Jas. 4:3). Because of our ignorance the Spirit must teach us how to pray properly.

The Holy Spirit is another Intercessor for us: "**The Spirit itself (Himself) maketh intercession for us.**" John 14:16 reads: "**And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.**" The word "**other**" (*allos*) means another of the same kind, a Divine Helper. The name "Comforter" (*parakletos*) implies One sent alongside to help. This same Greek word is translated "advocate" in I John 2:1. Christ is our Advocate with the Father; the Holy Spirit is Christ's Advocate with us.

Prayer can be groanings which are not intelligible. Hezekiah said: "**Like a crane or a swallow, so did I chatter: I did mourn as a dove: mine eyes fail with looking upward: O LORD, I am oppressed; undertake for me**" (Isa. 38:14). Asaph declared: "**I am so troubled that I cannot speak**" (Ps. 77:4). "**Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. . .**" (I Sam. 1:13). We have much ignorance and inability. We do not know how to express ourselves in prayer to God. But God knows the meaning of the Spirit's groans, and He interprets the inarticulate aspirations of our hearts.

Left to ourselves, we would ask for scorpions instead of a fish. The Holy Spirit in our hearts enables us to engage in prevailing prayer. The Spirit intercedes in perfect harmony with the mind and will of God the Father. Hence we must "**pray with the Spirit**" (I Cor. 14:15). Paul said: "**Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit. . .**" (Eph. 6:18). The Spirit intercedes with God who loves us and who will answer us according to His will and our best interests.

THE RELATION TO EACH OTHER

Christ makes intercession in the

heavenly Temple; the Holy Spirit makes intercession in the earthly temple of our body. Christ is in the court of Heaven, while the Holy Spirit is in the court of our conscience. Christ makes intercession for us; the Holy Spirit makes intercession in us. Christ intercedes without us, in and by Himself. The Holy Spirit intercedes in and by us. Christ pleads His own merits, while the Holy Spirit pleads the merits of Christ.

If Christ did not make intercession for me as a sinner, the Holy Spirit would never make intercession for me as a saint. If we can know by our Christian experience the Holy Spirit is making intercession in us, we can be sure Jesus Christ is ever making intercession in Heaven for us. Christ represents us in Heaven; the Holy Spirit represents us on earth.

When it is said in Romans 8:26 the Spirit "**maketh intercession**" in the Greek language these words are very beautiful. They literally mean to go out to meet a helpless creature for the purpose of intercourse and consultation, then to intervene by taking up his cause and pleading on his behalf. The Spirit is not some influence, or impersonal force. He is a Divine Person who is ever present to help us when we pray before the throne of grace. The object of the Spirit's intercession is the laying bare of all the deep and hidden needs of the saints before God and Christ.

CONCLUSION

1. Christ pleads our cause before God's throne in Heaven. May we plead His cause on earth. "**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy**" (Ps. 107:2). "**And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again**" (II Cor. 5:15). "**But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light**" (I Pet. 2:9).

2. Let us as believers be thankful we have two Intercessors, two Advocates, two Helpers, instead of merely one. We have a Divine Friend in the high court of Heaven, Jesus Christ. We have a Divine Friend in our body, the Holy Spirit.

3. Some person may say, "These words are well and good for a person who is saved, but I am unsaved. Do you have any message for a poor sinner like me?" Your Christian friends are praying for you. But it could be that Jesus Christ is praying for you in Heaven that you may be brought to

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Two Intercessors

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faith through the Word. Remember the Bible says that Christ make intercession "for the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12). If for so many transgressors, then why not for you?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Roger T. Jones has resigned the pastorate of the Faith Baptist Church, Wauseon, Ohio, to accept the pastorate of the Olmstead Baptist Church, Olmstead, KY.



Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read. Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

CC

ANALYSIS: CORRUPTION OF CIVIL JUSTICE, AS LOS ANGELES ATTACKS THE SCOUTS

By Chuck Colson

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—A devastating earthquake has hit Los Angeles. Though it hasn't registered on the Richter Scale yet, the resulting chaos could, in time, shake that city's civilization to its roots.

What I'm talking about, in case you hadn't heard, is not a real earthquake, but an event that could be just as disastrous. It is the Los Angeles City Council's outrageous vote to punish thousands of boys and their families by breaking their ties with scouting. Their reason? The Scouts embrace of a moral code which bans homosexuals from leadership positions.

Even worse, the L.A. Police Department, which used to be an icon for every boy, is now being asked to dismantle its Explorers unit, a program affiliated with scouting to train young cadets.

Imagine the confusion in the minds of Boy Scouts in Los Angeles when they see the police department, which represents the pinnacle of the moral social order, turning its back on them. Teaching these boys to respect law enforcement has just become even harder.

Of course, the City Council couched its justification for this action in civil rights terminology. One councilman said the Boy Scouts cannot defend why discrimination based on color is wrong, while banning homosexuals from leadership is right. Well, it's actually easy to distinguish between the two. It all starts with a worldview which looks to the Bible for guidance. Biblical teachings prompted Christian ministers and lay people, you may recall, to fight the evil of segregation. But the same Scripture that denounces racial discrimination also denounces homosexuality. While God still loves homosexuals, He hates their sin, and so should we.

Because homosexuality is wrong in the sight of God, parents have a right—indeed

an obligation—to shield their kids from its influences by enforcing standards in private membership groups like the Boy Scouts. Even the Supreme Court, which has not been a friend to religion in recent years, recognizes the right of the Boy Scouts to determine the moral standards of leadership within their own ranks.

So why have Los Angeles and other cities across the country chosen to treat boy scouts like modern-day lepers? There are two answers.

First, the radical homosexual movement is a potent force that has co-opted Hollywood, much of the news media, academia, and many liberal politicians. They are noisy, while mainstream voters don't always make their voices heard. But there's another reason: Judeo-Christian values no longer influence politicians in Los Angeles—or many other places, for that matter.

Objective truth has been replaced by subjective speculation. That's why the city councilmen can't understand the difference between civil rights and the radical homosexual agenda. If there is no right or wrong, then all that matters is for the individual to do whatever he pleases.

Attacks like these are happening all across the country. So to the parents of scouts, I say, be faithful to your convictions. Explain to your kids why this is happening and help them to remain strong. And know that you're not alone. Polls show that a majority of Americans support the Scouts, and politicians in the misnamed City of Angels are the ones on the fringes of society.

Now is the time for the majority who do care to stand by the Scouts—by volunteering by financial contributions, and by prayer.

[Chuck Colson is the founder of Prison Fellowship. Copyright © 2000 Prison Fellowship Ministries. Reprinted with permission. "BreakPoint with Chuck Colson" is a radio ministry of Prison Fellowship Ministries.]

". . . haters of God. . ." (Rom. 1:30).

COMMENTARY: WHAT'S THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE 1996 CHURCH ARSON SCARE?

By Mark Tooley

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—Was the great church arson story of 1996 largely a scheme to prevent the financial collapse of the National Council of Churches (NCC)? There is evidence pointing in that direction.

In 1996, the NCC persuaded the media that black churches were burning all across the South, the apparent victims of a nationwide upsurge in racial hatred. The NCC's Burned Churches Fund collected millions of dollars ostensibly for church reconstruction.

We now know there never was any firm evidence of a black church arson epidemic and no evidence of a racist conspiracy aimed at black churches. And now we also know that a significant chunk of the millions of dollars raised for church reconstruction never actually went for bricks and mortar.

At the time of the church arson story's debut, the insurance industry estimated that 490 churches typically burn in an average year. Since an estimated 20 percent of all churches are predominately black, it would be expected that close to 100 black churches would burn annually. Nobody then, or ever since, has documented that anywhere near 100 black churches have burned in any single year.

This discrepancy did not deter the NCC, which raised over \$9.1 million in cash, along with nearly \$3.4 million more in in-kind assistance. But of the \$9.1 million, only \$6.4 million can be accounted for in grants for church construction. The NCC has not explained what happened to the remaining \$2.7 million in cash.

Last year, when the Burned Churches Fund was shut down, the NCC's own auditor questioned the NCC's transfer of the fund's remaining \$330,000 to the NCC's general administration. The NCC has been wracked by deficit spending for years. In 1997 the NCC suffered a \$1.6 million deficit and in 1998 it endured a \$1.5 million loss. Last year, when the Burned Churches Fund's fund-raising had virtually come to a halt, the NCC fell short nearly \$4 million, precipitating a major crisis and reorganization for America's oldest and largest ecumenical organization. In just a few years, NCC's reserves of \$15 million have been spent down to a now untouchable \$3 million in designated funds.

The NCC had originally claimed that 15 percent of the Burned Churches Fund would go towards administration programs to combat the "root causes" of racism. This provision set off fears by conservative critics of the NCC that church reconstruction money would fund left-wing political activities. Some did. But in the end, most of the rerouted money seems to have gone towards a far more banal activity: propping up the NCC's failing administrative infrastructure.

Counting in-kind assistance, mostly construction materials, the fund raised about \$12.5 million, 15 percent of which would be \$1.9 million. Of course, 15 percent of the \$9.1 million raised in cash would only be \$1.36 million. This contrasts with the \$2.6 million that appears to have been spent on non-construction purposes, which is about 28 percent of the cash raised for burned churches by the NCC.

Last year, NCC General Secretary Joan Brown Campbell, who had been the Burned Churches Fund's chief cheerleader, retired under a cloud of growing deficits and financial upheaval for the NCC. The NCC's largest member, the United Methodist Church, even briefly cut off its funding in an effort to compel the NCC to repair its tattered finances and conduct better book-keeping. Over the last year, several of the largest member denominations have been asked to help with the NCC's multimillion dollar bailout. Still trying to repair the damage, NCC General Secretary Bob Edgar is now cutting 17 positions from its staff of 64. And he has proposed dissolving the NCC in favor of a larger ecumenical umbrella that would include Evangelicals and Roman Catholics. Some NCC insiders have privately raised the possibility that the NCC will collapse in the next year or two. That collapse may have happened several years ago absent the intervention of the Burned Churches Fund.

Although money from the Burned Churches Fund not spent on church construction was to have been spent on both administration and anti-racism programs, the former appears to have received the bulk of the money. The NCC had promised a series of anti-racism conferences around the country. In fact, only a few were held, drawing small crowds. The NCC has refused to conduct an audit of the Burned Churches Fund. A final budget report on the fund was given to the NCC's General Assembly last year, but it accounted only for \$6.4 million in grants for church reconstruction. It made no mention of the \$3.4 million of in-kind gifts, nor of the \$2.6 million apparently spent on overhead and political action.

Meanwhile, the NCC's often incendiary claims about black church arsons continue to be undermined by more responsible documentation. In its annual report for the year 2000, the National Church Arson Task Force found that most churches suffering arson are white, not black. And only 10 percent or fewer of persons arrested for arson have shown enough evidence of racial motivation to merit prosecution for hate crimes.

But few people are examining the validity of the great church arson story's original exaggerated claims. The only consolation for those who believe in accurate history is this: The success of the Burned Churches Fund merely postponed what is probably inevitable—the complete or near-collapse of the NCC.

"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject" (Tit.

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3:10).

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

The Roman Catholic Church in Germany has agreed to set up a \$4.6 million fund to compensate for the church's use of Nazi-forced slave labor during World War II. Catholic leaders initially said there was no evidence laborers were used in church-run businesses, but German bishops recently acknowledged evidence. Critics say the church was offering only a partial apology and a "miserable sum" (*Challenger*, 12-00).

At the University of Connecticut, on October 15, 1995, Bill Clinton made the most intelligent—and most honest—statement of his presidency. Here are his words: "The road to tyranny, we must never forget, begins with the destruction of the truth" (*Straight Talk*, 12-21-00).

The Wall Street Journal has reported: U.S. non-financial corporations have increased corporate debt by 60 percent in the past five years so that it now stands at \$4.2 trillion. Meanwhile, household borrowing has jumped almost 50 percent in the past five years and now stands at \$6.3 trillion. "American prosperity"? (*ibid.* 11-12-00).

Last year, just two lawmakers—Reps. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., and Ron Paul, R-Texas—had voting records that would have cut federal spending, according to the conservative National Taxpayers Union Foundation. Over the past three years, the "Conservative" Republican-led Congress has increased Clinton's spending request by a total of \$27.5 billion (*ibid.* 11-9-00).

Thought Monica was President Clinton's only paramour? Think again. Dick Morris, who worked as a political adviser to Mr. Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas and then returned to Mr. Clinton's side at the White House from the end of 1994 through most of 1996, told an audience at Miami University in Ohio, "He's had hundreds of women since he's been in the White House." Mr. Morris' remark was reported in the *New York Post* (*The Washington Times*, 10-9-15-00).

The vast majority of Vermont's "civil union" certificates, bestowing marriage rights on same-sex couples, go to couples from out-of-state. Of more than 800 civil unions recorded by the state health department from July 1 through the week of Oct. 2, more than 600 went to same-sex couples who traveled to Vermont to have their partnerships officially recognized (*Western Recorder*, 10-10-00).

Charismatic Paul Crouch recently defended his Trinity Broadcasting Network's agreement with the communist Chinese government that allows TBN to broadcast

by satellite. Critics said this ignored human rights violations in China, but Crouch is apparently deceived on China's "new openness at the top." Crouch said to a Chinese ambassador who wanted to know more about Christianity: "If you will look just at the pure teachings of Christ and not what some religion teaches about Him, in some ways Jesus was a communist. He said, 'Feed the hungry, clothe the naked.'" Red China is glad to permit a "Jesus is a communist" message to be beamed to its enslaved masses (*Calvary Contender*, 11-1-00).

"We feel strongly, and we hope you would agree, that appealing along religious lines, or belief in God, is contrary to the American ideal" (Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Chairman Howard P. Berkowitz and ADL National Director Abraham H. Foxman, in an August 29th letter to Joseph Lieberman criticizing him for mentioning God on the campaign trail).

"Religion does not belong on the campaign trail. . . . It's a personal thing. It's a thing of conscience. And, in fact, the beauty of religious freedom in this country is that we've kept it apart from politics and we've kept it apart from government" (ADL President Abraham Foxman, to ABC News.com, August 29, 2000).

A Southern Baptist official has greeted reports of plans for the closure of more than 100 Walt Disney Co. stores as a sign that a boycott against the entertainment conglomerate has been successful. *The Wall Street Journal* recently reported that Disney plans to redesign about 600 of its stores and close the remaining 140 stores over the next several years as their leases expire. "I read this news as a sign that the boycott Southern Baptists called in 1997 against the Disney Company is working," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (*Western Recorder*, 10-24-00).

Sanford University's student directory has generated national attention after sharp-eyed students discovered the front cover was a mosaic of hundreds of tiny images featuring nude women and sex acts. The student who designed the directory will face disciplinary charges, but Richard Franklin, vice president and dean of students at the Alabama Baptist school, told Associated Press the book would not be recalled. Noted freshman Natalie Gavin, "They won't let us have MTV, but we've got pornography on the directory" (*ibid.*).

The number of gunshot wounds and death from all types of crimes dropped nearly 49 percent from 1993 through 1997, continuing a downward trend, according to the Justice Department's latest statistics. Gunshot wounds from any type of crime fell 39 percent, from 64,100 to 39,400, the department reported (*Straight Talk*, 11-23-00).

The nation's most popular drug education program is an enormous failure. Police serve as role models and confidants, and provide training to keep kids off drugs (11-20 *Chr. News*). Though widely used in schools, DARE has failed to significantly reduce drug, alcohol, or cigarette use and was recently called a fraud by a large-city mayor. Recently (1-25 *HTJ*), a local former DARE officer was accused of molesting seven youngsters he was supposed to be counseling about not using drugs (*Calvary Contender*, 12-15-00).

Alcohol is a major causative factor in traffic accidents, homelessness, crimes, divorces, suicides, etc. Yet our government goes after the tobacco industry big time but seemingly gives the liquor industry a free pass. This is selective outrage, pure hypocrisy! We do not defend the tobacco industry, though we feel safer on the highway meeting a smoking driver than a drinking driver (*ibid.*).

The presidential recount isn't the only voting controversy in Broward County, Fla. On Nov. 16, the Broward County school board voted unanimously to ban the Boy Scouts from its schools and buses because the organization bars homosexual leaders (*Washington Times*, Nov. 27-Dec. 3, 2000). Editor's comment: This was done without any call for recount!

Baptists in North Carolina voted narrowly to retain fraternal ties with Wake Forest University. messengers voted 60-40 percent to end a 166-year relationship with the school, falling short of the two-thirds majority needed to change the state convention constitution. The school has come under fire for allowing the sale of alcohol on campus and for not prohibiting Wake Forest Baptist Church from holding a same-sex union in the university chapel (*Western Recorder*, 11-21-00).

An effort is under way to drag the Marine Corps into the New Age Movement, complete with Eastern mysticism, Zen meditation, pop psychology, etc. The corps is developing a new Marine Martial Art (10-9 *Wall St. J.* via 11-4 *World*). A pilot program has been expanded and 15,000 Marines are now learning how to be ninjas. Plans are to make it mandatory for all Marines. But forcing Christians (also Jews and Muslims) to participate in pagan religious practices goes too far. All Marines are not forced to attend Christian church services and should not be forced to practice Eastern mysticism (*Calvary Contender*, 12-1-00).

Tax-exempt groups raised \$97.3 million and spent \$132.6 million since July 1, to influence the fall elections. Actress Jane Fonda, the largest single contributor on the list we saw, personally bankrolled an \$11.7 million campaign to inject the abortion issue in battleground states (11-4 *H. Times*). She shelled out the \$11.7 million of her own

money in two checks Sept. 15 and 26. Pro Choice Vote used her money to make large donations to abortion choice groups. Her impending divorce and "conversion" as a born-again Christian were widely reported last Jan. Something seems wrong, here! (*ibid.*).

Billionaire cult leader Sun Myung Moon, the self-proclaimed second coming of Christ, has become disappointed at the American public's refusal to worship him and is moving to Northern Brazil. His Family Federation for World Peace recently joined with Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam to sponsor a Million Family March on Washington, D.C. (*ibid.*).

Ala. Baptists recently affirmed the new Baptist Faith & Message, but some walked out of the meeting and formed a separate Mainstream Alabama Baptist group. The Bible and women pastors are two main issues. Frances Jones of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, said she worries that the new faith statement will stop her from being a deacon in her church (11-16 *Huntsville Times*). She said her worries began over two years ago when Baptist women were told to be submissive to their husbands. "I don't want to be submissive to my husband," said Jones (*ibid.*).

In the late 1960s while at Oxford Bill Clinton engaged in continuous antiwar activities. While our soldiers were facing death in Vietnam, Clinton and his fellow Rhodes Scholars shouted such verses as "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh/The NLF Are Gonna Win." When Mr. Clinton ran for president the pro-communist news media in America were as quiet as a church mouse about this. As we might expect, President Bill Clinton is the first president since the Vietnam War to visit Vietnam with a three-day trip on November 17th-19th. He met with Communist leaders in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) to promote greater cooperation (he means U.S. aid to prop up the Communist regime) between the two countries and to "honor the sacrifice and service of those who believed on both sides that what they were doing was right." Our Baptist president appeared in front of a larger-than-life-size bust of Ho, and he even went so far as to bow his head to the Communist flag. When he gently touched on the subject of human rights in his nationally televised address at Hanoi's National University, the translator hopelessly garbled the remark. Tran Due Cuong, who directs the Vietnam Institute of history, expressed the Communist Party line in remarks appearing in the November 15th *International Herald Tribune*: "The bad Americans were the ones who bombed our country. . . . The good Americans were the people who opposed the war and the crimes that were committed here. President Bill Clinton, because he protested against a war. . . he was a good American." In Communist eyes, the "bad-Americans"

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were the ones who bled and died in Vietnam trying to halt Communist aggression, which included not just war against armed combatants but the slaughter of innocent unarmed men, women, and children as part of a systematic effort to terrorize the population into submission. The "bad Americans" could not win the war because of the restrictions placed on our military. When these "bad Americans" were withdrawn over 500 were left behind in Communist prisons—and their betrayal was covered up by the U. S. government (compiled by MRC from an article in *The New America*, 12-18-00 and other sources).

Mikhail Gorbachev talked with "possibility thinker" Robert Schuller on the latter's Hour of Power broadcast, Oct. 22. The conversation was taped Oct. 15 before 4,500 people at the Crystal Cathedral (10-30 *C. News*). Gorbachev has become a hero in the West. Union University (SBC), Jackson, TN scheduled him to speak there Oct. 10 (see 10-1 *CC*). Gorbachev calls himself an atheist. Schuller pressed him to acknowledge that he is not an atheist, but the avowed Leninist-atheist Gorbachev would not do so (*Calvary Contender*, 11-15-00).

The Alliance of Baptists, a group formed in opposition to the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist convention, has become the 36th member communion of the National Council of Churches. Delegates to the NCC's General Assembly voted unanimously Nov. 17 to extend membership to the moderate ("liberal" MRC) Baptist group which was established in 1987 (*Western Recorder*, 11-28-00).

PARIS, (RNS) – What do you do when your finances are shaky, your popularity is sliding and your boss faces charges of influence peddling? If you're the French Communist Party, you turn to Jesus. In a move that may send Karl Marx spinning in his grave, the embattled party recently launched an extravagant art show featuring French paintings and sculptures with Jesus as the theme. . . . These days, the French Communist Party needs all the support it can muster. Over the past few years, the party's ranks have plummeted from 500,000 to fewer than 200,000 members, and it is struggling to remain in the black. During the 1997 legislative elections, Communists secured only 9.9 percent of the vote (via *Western Recorder*, 11-28-00).

"We have trusted our politicians, and we have played by the rules but those folks we elected have played us for fools" (Tom Anderson).

Petty Officer 3rd Class William J. Downes was discharged from the Navy when he protested the military's pro-abortion policy.

Downes said: "I can't support any government that sanctions the killing of unborn children and which performs abortions at its military medical facilities" (*Straight Talk*, P. O. Box 960, Pigeon Forge, TN 37868).

The recent Army-Navy football game discarded a pre-game ceremony conducted at virtually every game for 100 years: a prayer given by a service academy chaplain for cadets, midshipmen and the crowd. West Point and the Naval Academy bowed instead to a Supreme Court ruling that outlawed official prayer at high school football games, citing the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of religion (*The Washington Times*, 11-17-00).

In response to the incredible surge of student registration for his Fall 2000 course, English 317: "How to Be Gay: Male Homosexuality and Initiation," University professor David Halperin has announced plans to add a Fall 2001 English course titled "How to Be a Child Molester." . . . Course "texts" will include the memoirs of convicted child-molesters, and a screening of the ABC after school special, "Anna's Secret." Additionally a four-hour weekly "lab" will be held in conjunction with Miss Wilson's third grade class from Eisenhower Elementary School in Ann Arbor (*Today's Topic & Trends*, 12-00).

According to Public Agenda, a non-partisan public policy group in New York City, 80 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 29 would rather stay home and take care of their young children than work full time. Furthermore, the survey reported that 81 percent of parents with children 5 and younger believe a stay-at-home parent is best able to give children the "affection and attention they need" (Washington, D.C. *Capital Comments*, 12-00).

Bethlehem, West Bank – Taking his Holy Land pilgrimage in Palestinian territory, Pope John Paul II prayed Wednesday at Jesus' birthplace and then bestowed a ringing endorsement on Yasser Arafat's quest for an independent homeland (*The Sun*, 3-00). (TBC: There never was a Palestinian people, nation, language, culture or homeland. They are Arabs who immigrated into the land of Israel with no more right to make a "homeland therein than German, French, Dutch or other immigrants to carve up America to make "homelands" for themselves (*The Berean Call*, 11-00).

Pope John Paul II has stated that Heaven is not "a physical place among the clouds" (*Daily Mail*, July 24, 1999). He claims that Heaven, rather, is a "living and personal relationship with the Holy Trinity" (*O Timothy*, 11-10-00).

NEW MILFORD, Conn.(EP)—A Connecticut couple is suing after being ordered to stop hosting prayer meetings in their home. Robert and Mary Murphy say the

town of New Milford violated their rights to freedom of assembly and freedom of religion. Since 1995 the Murphys have invited family and friends to their home for Bible study and prayer. The meetings don't usually exceed 25 people, but after neighbors complained the zoning commission ruled the meetings illegal because participants use the Murphy's' back yard for parking. Attorney Vincent McCarthy of the American Center for Law and Justice, who is representing the Murphys, says, banning a family from using their own home for prayer is "a direct assault on our client's constitutional rights."

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—The number of medical schools training doctors to perform abortions is increasing, according to a study by the National Abortion Federation. The number of schools routinely offering training in first-trimester abortions nearly quadrupled from 1992 to 1998, according to the study. Abortion training is routine in 46 percent of medical training programs, and is offered as an elective in another 34 percent of programs. Routine training in second-trimester abortion techniques increased from 7 percent in 1992 to 44 percent in 1998. The number of abortion training programs had fallen sharply until only 12 percent of schools were offering abortion training routinely, but that changed when the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education adopted guidelines in 1996 urging all obstetrics and gynecology residency programs to include abortion training.

ORLANDO, Fla. (EP)—The American Medical Association voted Dec. 5 to urge the Food and Drug Administration to make the "morning after pill" available without a prescription. Pro-life activists oppose use of the drug because it can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the womb. The AMA's House of Delegates approved the resolution without discussion. The Vatican recently condemned the morning-after pill, and Wal-Mart, the nation's largest retailer, refuses to carry it in its 2,400 pharmacies.

WENZHOU, China (EP)—A recent crackdown by Chinese officials has led to the destruction of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of religious buildings in and around the southeastern town of Wenzhou. On Dec. 13, a spokesman for China's Foreign Affairs

Office who identified himself as Zhou told the Associated Press that the government began in early December to stifle "rampant religious superstition" in rural areas by destroying "illegal buildings." According to the government, over 450 buildings have been destroyed in and around Wenzhou, but a human rights group based in Hong Kong told AP that the number of buildings destroyed surpassed 1,200. Wenzhou, known to some as the "Jerusalem of China," is unprecedented period of spiritual growth in the past. It is not clear whether the crackdown is part of a larger, national campaign against "illegal" churches or just an isolated incident. Zhou told AP, "This could be a good example for other cities."

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (EP)—Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who played a central role in the presidential election controversy, is active in Calvary Chapel in Tallahassee, according to *World* magazine. Her pastor, Kent Nottingham, said Harris is a "quiet, unassuming, non-grandstander." Harris has received some 400,000 e-mail messages from people around the world who are upholding her in prayer. Harris told Nottingham she "felt the presence of the Lord as a result, and didn't feel stressed or strained at all." Harris attended L'Abri International Fellowship after graduating from college about 20 years ago; L'Abri was founded in 1955 by evangelical theologian Francis Schaeffer.

ELSMERE, Ky. (EP)—A teenage girl reached an out-of-court settlement with a Christian school that expelled her after she admitted being sexually active. The girl and her mother sued Orchard Street Christian School last year, alleging harassment. An attorney representing the family called the settlement "adequate" and added, "This does show that churches and church schools are not above the law." The lawsuit said that while the girl was expelled for being sexually active, boys were not.

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (EP)—A bronze plaque listing the Ten Commandments has hung outside Allegheny County Courthouse in Pittsburgh since the end of World War I. Suddenly, however, the plaque is an object of controversy. The Washington-based group Americans United for Separation of Church and State is threatening a lawsuit unless the plaque is removed. Allegheny County Chief Executive Jim Roddey is seeking free legal help to defend the plaque. Roddey said he doesn't want to spend public funds defending against a lawsuit he is likely to lose, but doesn't want to simply give in. "It is sort of irritating that somebody in another city is coming in and telling us we should take that down," he said. Ten Pittsburgh law firms have reportedly offered their services.

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (EP)—Henry J. Lyons, former leader of the National Bap-

MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 2-01, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of greenbacks. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.

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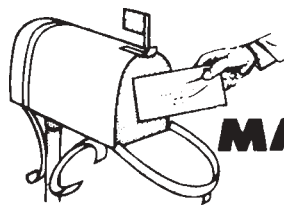
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FROM THE MAILBOX

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

A few weeks ago I put an article in this paper asking anyone who might be interested in taking a pastorate in the Detroit area of Michigan. I did not receive many offers to take over as pastor here but I did receive several answers from different people giving the sympathy and concern over a church of Jesus closing and support over such a sad event taking place. I wish to thank you all for your kind words and your prayers. In God's own providence we did find a pastor. Not through the ad which was in the BBB, but a person God had put aside temporarily in retirement then called from retirement to take over our church. All in God's plan that we knew nothing about until it happened!!! Typical of how God works isn't it?

I think how this near closer and the canceling of the closer of this church was played out this way in God's plan of things to show us all these things:

Closing one of the Lord's churches should not be taken lightly. After all a Lord's Church is not a local corner store which you can close down at the owner's whim if it does not make the profit he thinks it should.

God will close His church down when He

sees fit, not by an individual or individuals in the church. And if it is closed down by God the church will probably have its 'candle' blown out before hand. So even if the church may continue to operate it may not do so as a true church.

That our church (Gethsemane Baptist Church) is still a church of Jesus Christ and hence not ready for God to close it down. And it wasn't—by God's own interference. Praise the Lord!

I also would like to acknowledge that another good thing has come out of this. For some time I have been sort of depressed because I find so few people in this world that I many times think I am the only one who believes as I do, and that I was going crazy because some of my beliefs were so different from others. But thanks to the article several people answered and gave me encouragement. From this I think I have found several new friends who believe as I do and I have found out that I am not going crazy at all. That there are others out there that believe as I do. These people have answered from all over North America. From the West and even Canada, not too far from me, although too far to join as a church. So, like many things God sees some good comes out of bad.

—Michigan, David Shortt

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

First let me say how much I enjoy your paper. I am always a month behind as I get it from my daughter and son-in-law, who get it through their church.

—Ohio

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

Please use this donation as you wish to help further your mission effort through the *Berea Baptist Banner*.

May the Lord continue to bless you in this effort.

Dear Brother Cockrell,

Greetings in the name of our precious Savior Jesus Christ. I trust that you and your family and church are all doing well.

Please forgive me for not writing sooner and thanking you for the book you sent me—*Here Comes the Bride*. It was great and such a blessing to me!

I'm enclosing a list of names to whom I would like the *Berea Baptist Banner* sent. It has been such a blessing to me and I would like to share it with others.

God bless you and your family and church. I pray that all of you will have a happy and blessed new year.

—Virginia

Pastor Cockrell:

Enclosed is a check for \$9.00. Please renew my subscription for another year and send a one year subscription to my brother and my nephew.

Pastor, I want to tell you how much we enjoy your paper. It is a blessing to read it and see that somewhere there are

people and churches that we can agree with. Here in central Ohio there is a total lack of true independent Baptist churches. Many call themselves that but they have strayed from the foundations laid down in the Scriptures. The recent articles on church authority, church succession and duties of the membership should be required reading in every church, every seminary and Bible college and should be in every pastor's library. If it frightening how many pastors don't know what you are talking about when you question them on the basic foundations of church truth.

Sadly, after twenty-five years in one church, we had to leave because we cannot abide the liberal stance that it is going to. We have not yet found a Baptist church in our area that can be called a Baptist church, let alone a church that stands for the right way. Your paper is the only relief we get.

—Ohio

Dear Bro. Cockrell,

I am enjoying "Here Comes The Bride", and truly look forward to the literal end. If the Pugh's are with you give them our best—we received a note from Sis. Janet, and did enjoy hearing that their health is improving. Love and prayers in the Lord.

—Florida



The Bible & Newspaper

Continued from page 38

tist Convention USA, has been removed as pastor of his church. Lyons is currently serving a prison sentence for grand theft and racketeering in connection with a scheme that deprived his denomination of millions of dollars. Members of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., removed him as pastor by a 200-49 vote Dec. 1. Ironically, his successor, Joaquin Marvin, also has a criminal past; in 1990 he wrote some bad checks, but has since made restitution.

MEXICO CITY, Mexico (EP)—After more than 70 years of control by the Institutional Revolutionary Party, the government of Mexico is transitioning to new leadership. On Dec. 1, President-elect Vincente Fox was sworn in as Mexico's new president. Fox emerged victorious in Mexico's presidential election held in July. Human rights groups are hoping that Fox's new administration will address long-standing issues of religious freedom and persecution in that country.



WORLD SCENE

By G. Russell Evans - Norfolk, Virginia

Helms-Biden Bill Could Sober Up the UN



We owe profound thanks to Senators Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Joseph R. Biden (D-DE) for teaming up with their Helms-Biden UN Reform Bill that should sober up the United Nations revelers with their grandiose schemes for "a new form of global governance" and redistribution of assets for "a better world balance"—all heralded in their UN Charter for Global Democracy and already signed by almost half of the UN members, but *not* the United States. That's the rub!

NEW UN CHARTER

This bold new UN charter would replace the 50-year old original UN Charter. It was engineered by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and celebrated with great fanfare at the UN Millennium in New York last September. Lately, Big Media have virtually ignored UN doings that grew: unchallenged, unchecked and unreported!

But now, along come those spoilsports Helms and Biden with their nasty UN Reform Bill to protect US sovereignty and the American taxpayers' pocketbooks.

These senators and their staffs have been fine-tuning their UN sobering-up legislation since early 1999 and saw it become law in early November 2000. This bill is a beaut; it covers the waterfront!

SURPRISE SOCKDOLAGER

The ambassadors and other elitists of the United Nations should have seen this sockdolager coming, because last Jan. 20th, Senator Helms told the Security Council, in person, that the United States is sole judge of its affairs and that the UN cannot restrict the rights of US citizens or control deployment of US troops, adding: "A United Nations that imposes its presumed authority on the American people without their consent begs for confrontation and. . .eventual withdrawal."

Senator Helms got no standing ovation for his impudence—only stoical silence, followed by complaints by representatives of China, Russia, England and France that we hadn't paid our dues. This, after Helms had documented US payments of \$10 billion in UN peacekeeping ventures for 1999—far more than any other nation.

'SILLY WASTE'

Senator Helms, in his Nov. 6th letter to me, called the UN Millennium "silly and a waste of time and money," adding, "It will not result in the end

of the United States." He then wrote: 'In November, the Congress passed the Helms-Biden UN reform legislation. Under the Helms-Biden law, the UN is given a simple choice: If the UN wants US funds, it must adhere to common-sense reforms that will make the UN more efficient and protect American sovereignty. For example, under this law, the UN must recognize the supremacy of the US Constitution. It is also prohibited from taxing Americans directly, controlling US lands, or in any way superceding US sovereignty.'

Our Constitution should stand alone to guarantee our sovereignty and freedoms; but in these days of meddling for "global democracy" by such as Henry Kissinger, Zbigniew Brzezinski and Walter Cronkite, the Helms-Biden Bill is strong reaffirmation of sovereignty and rights.

UN EXTREMES PROPOSED

Among the 12 "principles" proposed in the UN Charter for Global Democracy are the following—most of them in violation of the US Constitution and all of them shot down by the Helms-Biden Bill:

- A standing UN army that includes US troops.
- UN courts to prosecute US citizens before foreign judges.
- A global IRS to collect taxes for the UN.
- UN approval for US citizens to keep and bear arms.
- UN courts to enforce environmental treaties inimical to US industries.
- No more US veto or permanent US member status on the Security Council.

HELMS-BIDEN REFORMS

The UN reforms, mandated by the Helms-Biden Bill require specific certification of UN compliance by the US Secretary of State, who can no longer say, as Madeleine Albright said after the Helms speech to the UN, "This is not the position of the US government."

Consequently, both the Secretary of State and the United Nations are reined in by the following requirements of the Helms-Biden Bill. This bill is comprehensive; only a few of the main requirements are listed:

- No UN action can cause violation of the US Constitution.
- No UN action can require the US to cede any sovereignty.
- No US law can give the UN authority to tax the American people.
- No UN action can develop a standing army under Art. 43 of UN Charter.
- No UN interest fees levied on US for any alleged US dues.
- No UN authority or control over public or private US property.
- No UN external borrowing and no US interest paid on UN borrowing.
- No curtailment of US voting rights because of contested US dues.
- No UN member peacekeeping share above 25% of budget.
- No member share of UN regular budget above 22%.
- No UN over-spending of the agreed-to UN budget.
- No exclusion of US on UN Advisory Committee, the budget committee.
- Assure US General Accounting Office reviews all UN operations.

REWARDS FOR REFORM

Of course, the internationalists and Third World will continue their agenda for "world governance" and sharing the wealth. Even so, UN reforms can be rewarded by US payments of specified US dues. That's the law—and now, even the President

must get an OK from the Congress to fund UN peacekeeping efforts. Will it work?

"Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"—John P. Curran.

These senators deserve praise for their patriotism and statesmanship. Their address is: United States Senate, Washington D.C. 20510.

(Capt. Evans's columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League.)

NEW HYMNAL

We continue to work on *The Berea Baptist Hymnal* (No. 3) We are going to reproduce Number 1 as it was with the other songs which are different in Number 2, plus some new songs by our people as well as a few others which are no longer under copyright. Number 3 will be the largest hymnal yet with more songs than in either of the first two. We now have orders for over 500, and we hope to go to 1,000 in order to get the best price. Send no money at present. Please do tell us how many books you may want. By next month I hope to have a price on the book. It will have a good cover.

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