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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Al: Good or Evil?

(Copyright 02-17-2025) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is often portrayed as a revolutionary advancement that may reshape the landscape of society, industry, and even human interaction! However, it is crucial to recognize that AI is not truly "artificial" in the sense of being independent or self-originating. Instead, AI is a product of human ingenuity and design. This leads to a profound realization: the intelligence exhibited by AI systems is indicative of a designer behind its creation—humans. Thus, one could argue that the existence of AI serves as a testament to the notion that intelligence inherently requires design,

meaning a greater intelligence or designer must be behind humanity itself.

When we examine AI, we find that it operates based on algorithms, data processing, and decision-making frameworks that are meticulously crafted by human developers. These systems learn from vast datasets, enabling them to perform tasks like language translation, image recognition, and even strategic planning. AI has incredible potential to help and serve humanity because of the speed and accuracy at which it can pull information and make it readily available. However, the intelligence that AI exhibits is not organic; it is a reflection of the parameters set by their creators: people.

This raises important questions about the nature of intelligence itself. For instance, as a person, my mind has the ability to think and reason; but more than that, Humanity has emotions and can understand moral positions. We reflect our ability to be in relationship with God. Our decisions are not based on pure logic because emotions and ethics are also at play.

Yet, AI, on the other hand, only reflects the vast amount of information algorithms can access. AI therefore poses significant dangers, particularly because it lacks human morality!

An article from *Scientific American* emphasizes that AI systems, regardless of whether they possess consciousness, can be extremely dangerous. It states, *"The danger isn't that AI will become conscious and turn against us. The danger is that it won't be conscious at all."*

So, think about it... the danger comes from their operational frameworks, which are devoid of ethical considerations and human empathy. Unlike humans, who navigate moral dilemmas through a complex interplay of emotions, values, and societal norms, AI systems operate purely on logic and predefined rules. The absence of a moral compass can lead to unintended consequences, especially if AI systems are deployed in high stakes environments like healthcare, law enforcement, or military applications!

For instance, AI algorithms used in predictive policing may reinforce existing biases in law enforcement, leading to discrimination that affects certain communities. What about autonomous weapons systems? They could make life and death decisions without the thoughtful ethical considerations that a human would typically engage in.

As AI continues to "evolve" or rather, work more expediently, the potential for misuse or unintended consequence increases. That raises critical questions about accountability. Who is responsible when an AI system makes a harmful decision? The developers? The users? The technology itself? Perhaps, we all need to take some responsibility? Or should the AI take full responsibility? The duality of AI as a product of human design and a potential threat underscores the need for responsible development and ethical considerations when we deploy it. It is essential for policymakers, technology experts, and ethical advisors to work together in establishing guidelines for certain uses of AI. But if we try to make sure that AI doesn't corrupt morality, whose morality do we use as a guide?

That's why it's important for Bible believing Christians to be aware and stand for the truth of God's word in the midst of this new technological revolution. What does moral responsibility look like in the age of Artificial Intelligence? Well, if we as humans are the ones who have morality and relationship with God, then we must create frameworks that not only prioritize innovation but also ensure that ethical considerations are integrated into the design process and based upon the Word of God.

Al serves as a powerful reminder that intelligence requires design, clearly pointing to the existence of a greater Designer behind humanity's intelligence. However, this recognition brings with it a responsibility to address the potential dangers posed by Al, particularly its lack of human morality.

As we navigate this complex landscape, it is imperative to foster ethical considerations with a Biblical worldview alongside technological advancement, ensuring that the intelligence we create serves humanity positively and responsibly because we ultimately must answer to our Creator. But where is all of the AI leading? Are the creators of AI trying to ascend to the heavens and create a utopia? Can they live forever through machines? Or is this the next Tower of Babel that will divide the world? I'm cautious... but optimistic that it can be used for good.

Stand with me on these important issues to ensure that there remains a clear distinction between right and wrong.

Hundreds of thousands more are joining us in this stand, and I urge you to support this absolutely crucial cause.

I'm David Rives, Truly, the heavens declare the glory of God.

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How Evolution Took Over Science – The Evolution to Evolution

(Copyright 02-17-2025) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)

Every time you turn on the TV, watch the news, or read a science magazine you will more than likely find evolutionary content, so much so that you would think that science and evolution go hand-in-hand.

The scene was set for the acceptance of Darwin's evolutionary ideas long before Darwin ever visited the Galapagos Islands. In the 1600s the science of geology was born as people began collecting rock samples and theorizing about the rocks as well as the fossils inside them. Many of these early geologists saw the rock layers and fossils as evidence of the Flood of Noah's day.

But soon geologists came on the scene who suggested the earth was incredibly old, and nature had just "taken its course" over millions of years. They said that perhaps the slow erosion we see today is responsible for all geological features, such as rock layers, canyons, and valleys.

When Darwin entered the scene, this idea slowly took over science and became the predominant view.

But peer pressure had a lot to do with it. All it takes is a few well-respected leaders for a "movement" as you might call it, to take shape. We've seen it many times – occasionally from a positive perspective. But in this case, leaders, with an intention to explain away life as pure accident, left such a bold impression on some of the scientific minds of the day, that people took notice. If they could teach their theories in enough Universities, and sell enough books, then other scientists would have to go along, or risk being accused of teaching "old" or "outdated" science.

Peer pressure isn't healthy within the Scientific community, because it holds back true progress. Today, we're afraid to question the current theories of biological evolution. We're afraid to discuss the possibility of an ancient catastrophic flood because it sounds too "biblical." Yet, we're perfectly fine with claiming that a meteor extinction took out the dinosaurs and that the species it didn't kill became birds, mammals, and eventually us! I mean, it seems that we've replaced logic and observation with wild speculation and pseudo-science.

Let's not hold back scientific discovery because we are afraid to buck the system. Sometimes, "the system" needs a reboot.

I'm David Rives. Truly...the heavens declare the glory of God.

Video: How Evolution Took Over Science – The Evolution to Evolution | David Rives – The Creation Club | A Place for Biblical Creationists to Share and Learn

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What is a Christian? (Copyright 02-19-2025) by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Just what and who is a Christian? Some would say a Christian is someone who confesses that Jesus is their Lord and Savior. Confessing that their sins have been bought and paid for by Jesus, gave His life in death that they can live eternal at the resurrection.

Certainly, that is a prerequisite to acknowledge that as an absolute necessity. Accepting His broken body and Jesus' shedding of His blood for payment of sins death penalty in our stead. That faith and personal belief is the only hope for payment of our sins incurred, amen.

But I ask does that make you a Christian? You believe that most important fact as just stated, does that somehow make you a Christian? You certainly need to deeply believe that Jesus died in your stead. I contend that does not a Christian make.

There, are millions of people that identify themselves as Christians. Some are just what one would call "fair-weather Christians", in name only. They believe in the fact that Jesus did die for them but rarely do much that sets them different than those who don't profess to be Christian.

From "fair- weather" to maybe even considering themselves, "devout". Again, I contend that does not make a Christian. By now, I'm pretty sure that many reading to this point have concluded that I'm teaching false doctrine here.

Let's see if some few scriptures shed a proper light on just what and who is a Christian. Consider what the Bible, Jesus, God have to say on that matter.

Mt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Lu 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

Joh 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

Paul says this, 1Co 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

I contend the true gauge of who and what a Christian is, is one that Jesus says to do what he says even as Paul followed Jesus and his word. Paul taught obedience to the law.

Ro 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Ro 7:12 Wherefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

Re 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

Friends, these are those who are Christs "called Christians"-followers of Jesus. Doing what Jesus commands us to walk in the way. What way? The way of righteousness.

Re 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Believing that Jesus died in our stead, does not a Christian make.

The "New" Church of God Messenger https://the-new-church-of-god-messenger.com/

Free Chicken Little

(Copyright 02-20-2025) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

"The sky is falling! The sky is falling!"

Head for the nearest bomb shelter before all hell breaks loose! Human extinction is imminent. Life on planet earth may come to an abrupt end through various means: Nuclear war, asteroid impact, and the most feared calamity of all—Climate Change!

In the name of Climate Change, our God-given liberties are being taken away from us, little by little. Tyranny and oppression are on the rise. Vice President Vance [standing in for Chicken Little] spoke against censorship of free speech in his recent address at the Munich Security Conference. See Vance stands up for free speech against European censorship | Opinion. It's a wonder that the ICC didn't issue an arrest warrant before the vice president could return home in the USA for ruffling the feathers of European leaders.

Some of the stories of people being arrested for posting their opinions online which are considered racists or misogynistic or anti-science if it questions climate change are horrifying. In some locations, offering a silent prayer in public can get you arrested or cited.

Why has all of this fear-mongering and oppression by government agencies become so prevalent in democratic nations? Why are governments restricting more and more any means that may allow average citizens to live independent lives?

Anything which may allow us to be free of corporate or government CONTROL is required to be registered or licensed if not outright banned. They want our guns or our animals to be registered so that if the government tyrants ever decide to ban or confiscate them, they will already know who has what. This was all foretold by God:

"As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err and destroy the way of your paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

"The conspiracy of the princes [leaders] in her midst is like a roaring lion [I Peter 5:8] tearing its prey. They devour the people, seize the treasures and precious things, and multiply the widows within her. Her priests do violence to My law and profane My holy things. They make no distinction between the holy and the common, and they fail to distinguish between the clean and unclean. They disregard My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey, shedding blood, and destroying lives for dishonest gain" (Ezekiel 22:25-27).

By suppressing free speech, any preaching of the gospel can also be suppressed. Jesus commanded us to go to all nations to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). How can any followers of Jesus reach new disciples outside of the walls of their church building if free speech is prohibited or greatly restricted?

The church of Jesus Christ is commissioned to warn of coming calamities precipitated by wicked leaders yet also provide the Good News of God's coming kingdom of righteousness.

"Behold, the days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and He will reign wisely as King and will administer justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is His name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness'" (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Good News! Chicken Little has been located. For the latest update, watch the video linked below. And remember, don't count your chickens before they have hatched!

Video links:

Chicken Coop News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRbym3qz01I

Foghorn Leghorn: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AY-ODC3oxNY

An Elderly Native Chief Prophesies the Destiny of George Washington and America

(Copyright 02-20-2025) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



He cannot die in battle. The Great Spirit protects that man and guides his destinies. He will become chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him the founder of a mighty nation (Hyatt, *America's Revival Heritage-Second Edition*, 73).

According to historian, George Bancroft, these words were spoken by an old Native American chief concerning George Washington several years before the Declaration of Independence. He spoke these words as he reminisced with Washington and others about a battle, 15 years previous, when they were on opposite sides during the French and Indian Wars.

The Chief Saw God's Hand on Washington

It was the Battle of Fort Duquesne in July 1755 when 1,459 British soldiers were ambushed by a large contingent of Native American warriors who had joined the French in their fight with the British for control of the North American continent.

It proved to be one of the bloodiest days in Anglo American history with 977 British soldiers killed or wounded. It was a day, however, when Washington's reputation for bravery began to spread throughout the land.

Washington, in his early 20s, had been recruited by the British because of his knowledge of the ways of the wilderness and the American Indians. He had acquired this knowledge in his work as a surveyor of wilderness territory.

Assigned to travel with the British General Braddock to take Fort Duquesne (present day Pittsburgh), Washington found his advice for traveling through the wilderness and dealing with the Indians ignored by Braddock who considered him a young, upstart colonist.



But when the ambush occurred and Braddock himself was wounded, Washington took charge and organized an orderly retreat while at the same time putting his own life at risk, rescuing the many wounded and placing them in wagons. During this time, two horses were shot out from under him and his clothes were shredded with bullets. He emerged unscathed and gave glory to God, saying, "I was saved by the miraculous care of Providence that saved me beyond human expectation." From that day, his reputation for bravery and leadership spread among both the English and the Native Americans.

The Prophecy Comes Forth

Years later, according to Bancroft, Washington and a friend were exploring an area along the Ohio River when they encountered a group of Native Americans. Recognizing Washington, the natives invited the men back to their camp to meet with their chief, whom it turned out had fought on the side of the French in the Battle of Duquesne. They had a cordial visit and then the old chief, motioning toward Washington, spoke these amazing words. He said,

I am chief and ruler over all my tribes. My influence extends to the waters of the Great Lakes, and to the far blue mountains. I have traveled a long and weary path that I might see the young warrior of the great battle. It was on the day when the white man's blood mixed with the streams of our forest that I first beheld this chief. I called to my young men and said, 'Mark yon tall and daring warrior? He is not of the redcoat tribe—he hath an Indian's wisdom, and his warriors fight as we do—himself alone is exposed. Quick, let your aim be certain, and he dies.' Our rifles were leveled—rifles which, but for him, knew not how to miss. Twas all in vain; a power far mightier than we shielded him from harm. He cannot die in battle. The Great Spirit protects that man and guides his destinies. He will become chief of nations, and a people yet unborn will hail him the founder of a mighty nation (Hyatt, *America's Revival Heritage-Second Edition*, 73).

The prophecy came to pass. Several years later the colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. Washington was appointed commander in chief of the colonial army and led his outnumbered, outgunned troops to an amazing victory over the British through numerous providential events. He later presided over the Constitutional Convention, was unanimously elected the first president of the United States and became known as "the father of his country."

What We Must Learn from Washington



Washington was devout in his Christian faith and respectful toward the Native people and culture, but he never allowed the two to be in conflict. He was always clear in his belief in Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and that only Christianity offered the moral and intellectual underpinnings for a successful nation.

He clearly expressed this in a 1779 meeting with chiefs from the Delaware tribe who had expressed a desire for their children to be trained in American schools. Washington responded cordially, calling them "Brothers," and assured the chiefs the new nation would look upon their children as their own. He then commended the chiefs for their decision and said,

You do well to wish to learn our arts and our ways of life **and above all, the religion of Jesus Christ**. These will make you a greater and happier people than you are. Congress will do everything they can to assist you in this wise intention (Hyatt, 1726: *The Year that Defined America*, 172).

For Washington, sharing the gospel was like sharing bread with a starving man. It was the just and righteous thing to do. This is why, in his Farewell Address after serving two terms as the nation's first president, he exhorted the fledgling nation to cling to "religion [Christianity] and morality," which he called "indispensable" supports for a free and prosperous nation.

In our world of multiculturalism and religious pluralism, we need to take a lesson from Washington in this regard. Neither Islam, Marxism, nor secularism offer the moral and intellectual belief system for a peaceful, civil and free society. This is obvious from merely observing the nations where those doctrines hold sway.

We, therefore, must never be shy or apologetic about our Christian faith. It is what made America great in the first place; and only a revival of Biblical Christianity will make America great and peaceful again.

Like Washington, we can be tolerant and respectful of those of different religions and cultures, but we do an injustice to them and ourselves when we do not stand for the truth that is in Jesus. In the words of the Old Testament prophet, we *forsake our own mercies* (Jonah 2:8) when we compromise our faith for political or cultural convenience.

Washington was very clear in his belief that only a Christian worldview would sustain America. In his first Inaugural Address, he warned the fledgling nation,

The propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the external rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained (Hyatt, *Pilgrims and Patriots-Second Edition*, 173).

Concluding Prayer

As we remember George Washington on his birthday (Feb. 22), let us remember the prophecy of the old chief, and let it be a reminder that we are not here by accident or coincidence. God raised up George Washington and America for a Divine purpose, and I am certain that purpose is not yet fulfilled.

Some years ago, I thought, perhaps, that God was finished with America as a nation. But then I experienced an unusual visitation of God, such as I had not known before or since. Over several hours, He renewed my hope that America "could" see another Great Awakening, and I clearly saw for the first time that America was birthed out of a Great Awakening and Providential acts of God.

So, I ask you to join me in praying the prayer of the Psalmist in Psalm 85:6-7. He prayed, "Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in you? Show us Your mercy LORD and grant us Your salvation." Yes, do it once again in America, O Lord!

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The Powerful Prayers of George Washington (Copyright 02-20-2025) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)

George Washington's father died when he was 11, which forced him to become a person of responsibility very early in life. He was profoundly influenced by his mother who was a devout Christian and when he was leaving home as a young soldier, she exhorted him, "Remember that God is our only sure trust." She also urged him, "My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer."

It is now obvious that Washington took his mother's admonition to heart. The evidence has accumulated that Washington was a man of prayer both publicly and privately. This should not be surprising for the Great Awakening, which transformed colonial America and was characterized by fervent prayer, was at its height when Washington was a lad.

That the Awakening had a peculiar impact on Virginia was confirmed by the Princeton scholar, Charles Hodge, who in 1839 said of the Great Awakening, "In no part of our country was the revival more interesting, and in very few was it so pure as in Virginia" (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 131).



Washington's Prayer Journal

In April of 1891, several of Washington's descendants, including Lawrence Washington, Bushrod Washington, and Thomas B. Washington, sold a collection of his personal items at auction in Philadelphia. Among the items was a little book filled with daily prayers in Washington's handwriting when he was in his twenties. Entitled, *Daily Sacrifice*, these prayers are deeply devotional and evangelical in nature. For example, the first entry reads, in part,

Let my heart, therefore, gracious God, be so affected with the glory and majesty of Thine honor that I may not do my own works, but wait on Thee, and discharge those duties which Thou requirest of me (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 132).

The following Monday morning, his prayer reads,

Direct my thoughts, words and work, wash away my sins in the immaculate blood of the Lamb, and purge my heart by Thy Holy Spirit . . . daily frame me more and more in the likeness of Thy Son Jesus Christ.

Also, of note is his prayer, "Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind, and let the world be filled with the knowledge of Thee and Thy Son, Jesus Christ."

Commenting on this prayer book, Professor S. F. Upham, of Drew Theological Seminary, wrote,

The "Daily Prayers" of George Washington abound in earnest thought, expressed in simple, beautiful, fervent and evangelical language. They reveal to us the real life of the great patriot and attest his piety. None can read these petitions, which bore his desires to God, and often brought answers of peace, without having a grander conception of Washington's character. The prayers are characterized by a deep consciousness of sin and by a need for forgiveness, and by a recognition of dependence upon the merits and mercies of our Lord (Hyatt, *1726:The Year that Defined America*, 132-33).

Providentially Spared by God

During the time he was keeping this prayer journal, Washington was recruited by the British General Braddock to be a guide for the British in their trek through the wilderness to take Fort Duquesne from the French and Indians. Braddock recruited him because of his knowledge of the ways of the wilderness and the American Indians.

Washington had acquired this knowledge in his work as a surveyor of wilderness territory. However, he found his advice for traveling through the wilderness and dealing with the Indians ignored by Braddock who considered him a young,

upstart colonist.

But when an ambush occurred and Braddock himself was wounded, Washington took charge and organized an orderly retreat while at the same time putting his own life at risk, rescuing the many wounded and placing them in wagons. During this time, two horses were shot out from under him and his clothes were shredded with bullets. He emerged unscathed and gave glory to God, saying, "I was saved by the miraculous care of Providence that saved me beyond human expectation." From that day, his reputation for bravery and leadership spread among both the English and the Native Americans.

He Forms a Praying Army

On May 10, 1775, the Continental Congress asked Washington to become commander-in-chief of the ragtag colonial militias and to transform them into an army that could face the mighty British war machine. Washington accepted the call and immediately began to instill in the colonial troops a sense of the importance of prayer and faith in God

Washington issued an order stating that each day was to begin with prayer led by the officers of each unit. He also ordered that, unless their duties required them to be elsewhere, every soldier was to observe "a punctual attendance of Divine services, to implore the blessing of heaven upon the means used for our safety and public defense."

He also forbade profanity, swearing, gambling and drunkenness and expressed his desire that, "Every officer and man will endeavor so as to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier" (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 114).

At one point, during a particularly difficult part of the war, Washington and his men were quartering at Valley Forge. Rev. Henry Muhlenberg (1711–1787), pastor of a nearby Lutheran Church, observed Washington's activities. He wrote, "Washington rode around among his army yesterday and admonished each one to fear God." Muhlenberg went on to say,

This gentleman does not belong to the so-called world of society, for he respects God's word, believes in atonement through Christ, and bears himself in humility and gentleness. It appears that the Lord God has singularly, yea marvelously, preserved him from harm in the midst of countless perils . . . and hath hitherto graciously held him in His hand as His chosen vessel (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 115).

Although it was a grueling seven years of war, numerous answers to prayer occurred protecting Washington and his troops and giving them victory when victory seemed impossible. For example, in the early part of the war, Washington and his 12,000 troops were trapped on Long Island by a British army at least twice that size. With their backs against the East River, it seemed there was no way to escape.

During the night the Americans prayed and scoured the area for boats of any kind that would take them and their armaments across the East River to Manhattan. As dawn approached, it was obvious they had not achieved their goal. However, at that point a heavy fog rolled in and remained until the army and all its cannon had been moved across the river to Manhattan.

As soon as they were safely across the river in Manhattan, the fog lifted. At this point, the British were amazed to see that the colonial army had disappeared, as if into thin air. This was just one of the many "signal interventions" of which Washington and the author of Federalist 57 made mention (Hyatt, *Pilgrims and Patriots (Second Edition)*, 132-33).

His "Earnest Prayer" for America

That Washington was a devout person of prayer was confirmed by Isaac Potts (1750 – 1803), a Quaker who lived near Valley Forge where the Continental Army, under Washington's command, was wintering. One day, during this—one of the bleakest periods of the war—Potts was riding through the woods when he came upon Washington during a time of private prayer. For Potts, this was a life-changing experience. As a Quaker, he was a pacifist, but his encounter of Washington in prayer caused him to rethink his view. He said,

I heard a plaintive sound as of a man at prayer. I tied my horse to a sapling and went quietly into the woods and to my astonishment I saw the great George Washington on his knees alone, with his sword on one side and his cocked hat on the other. He was at Prayer to the God of the Armies, beseeching to interpose with his Divine aid,



as it was ye Crisis, and the cause of the country, of humanity and of the world. Such a prayer I never heard from the lips of man. I left him alone praying. I went home and told my wife I saw a sight and heard today what I never saw or heard before and just related to her what I had seen and heard and observed. We never thought a man could be a soldier and a Christian, but if there is one in the world, it is Washington (Hyatt, *1726: The Yearthat Defined America*, 115-16).

Along with Washington's prayers, the Continental Congress issued no less than fifteen calls for days of prayer, fasting, and repentance during the war. Their prayers were answered, and to the astonishment of the entire world, the British General Cornwallis surrendered his entire British force to Washington on October 19, 1781.

With the war now over, Washington issued a letter of resignation as Commander-In-Chief to the Continental Congress. He then wrote what could be described as a pastoral letter, dated June 14, 1783, to the governors of the various states. The letter included his "earnest prayer" for the governors and their people and his desire that all Americans would follow the example of Jesus Christ. He wrote,

I now make it my earnest prayer that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the citizens . . . to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another . . . and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of His example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 120).

Because of his sacrificial service, humility, piety and strong, unwavering leadership, Washington won the hearts of Americans as no one before or after. He is the only president to receive every electoral vote, not once, but twice. When he died on December 14, 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte ordered ten days of mourning throughout France. In America, thousands wore mourning clothes for months.

"First in war; first in peace; and first in the hearts of his countrymen" was the adage ascribed to Washington by his generation.

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Kenya Update February 20, 2025

(Copyright 02-20-2025) by William P. Goff (Tuckerton, New Jersey)

Greetings Brethren,

The February 20, 2025, Kenya Update is now posted at:

http://www.khofh.org

Thank You. Bill Goff

Website: https://khofh.com/ E-mail: goffb50@aol.com Donate: https://khofh.com/support-us/

Kenya Hands of Hope, a 5013c charity founded in 2006 by William P. Goff

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NATO Is Dead

(Copyright 02-22-2025) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed in April, 1949, in response to the Soviet Union's threat of expansion into Western European countries after obtaining an "iron grip" on Eastern Europe at the end of World War II.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Cold War came to an end. Yet Russia was still looked upon as an evil enemy by Neocons in America. Keeping Russia in the category of a war-mongering boogeyman also helped to keep money flowing to the coffers of the military-industrial complex which also kept certain Neocons in positions of power and influence.

As a result, despite promises made to Russia, NATO continued to expand eastward into nations of the former Warsaw Pact created in 1955 as a Soviet counter measure to NATO. Russia tolerated NATO's eastward expansion but drew the line with Ukraine. The Biden Administration and European leaders ignored Putin's warning not to expand NATO membership to Ukraine. Putin's warning went unheeded which forced Putin's hand to either "put up or shut up."

As you know, Russia invaded Ukraine three years ago in February 2022. There has been great loss of life on both sides which could have been avoided. The fear-mongering of Russia wanting to invade all of Europe has kept false narratives flowing from the Western Media of "fake news" in order to keep billions of U.S. tax dollars flowing to another "endless war." These endless wars have aided in racking up over 36 TRILLION dollars of national debt with the interest on this debt greater than our military budget. This is total MADNESS!!!

President Trump wants to put an end to this economic drain on American resources which could better be used to replace aging infrastructure with updated construction. Trump has vowed to end the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. His efforts are certainly welcomed and cheered by most Americans. European leaders still under the sway of Biden's war policy have not yet awaken to the new reality despite the financial havoc that the Ukraine War has inflicted upon their economies. New elections in Europe will likely bring about a different mindset.

Vice President Vance put a "shot across the bow" of European leaders at the Munich Security Conference held February 14-16, 2025. Vance's speech was a "stinging blow" to most European leaders who have resorted to old Soviet style tactics of limiting free speech among their populace. Thus, they have become a greater threat to Europe than any feared invasion from Russia. Vance's speech marks a likely "divorce" between Europe and America if not halted by fresh European leadership more aligned with American values and policy.

If Trump is able to bring about a peace settlement with Putin to end the Ukraine War, then a new era will emerge from the ashes. European countries, particularly Germany, need Russian energy to keep their economies viable and German

industry competitive. Russia thinks of itself as part of Europe and is heavily influenced by European culture of old. This is particularly so in St. Peterburg where the Heritage Museum houses many European treasures of art and historical artifacts which I visited in 1994.

Consequently, a new era of trade and Russian influence may emerge after a settlement of the Ukraine War is reached. And with the possible withdrawal of America from NATO, a relic of the Cold War, the defunct military alliance will likely cease to exist. A future vacuum of power and security created by America's departure from NATO will likely allow the rise of a new economic and military alliance described in Revelation 13.

This future alliance is depicted as a Beast rising from the sea. It has the body of a **leopard** [Germany], the feet of a **bear** [Russia], and the mouth of a **lion** [Britain or the UK]. This new alliance will be a formidable power to be feared, especially, if America loses its economic and financial superiority of having the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency.

The greatest threat to America is the growing INTEREST payment on an ever-growing national debt. It will take more than the combined fortunes of Donald Trump and Elon Musk to bail us out. And if there is no gold in Fort Knox [just an IOU note left by Nixon who ended dollar convertibility to gold in 1971] then pandemonium may erupt sending out financial earthquakes around the world.

Only time will tell what is in store in the next few years under President Trump's second term. Everyone is hopeful that sanity and justice can be restored to the Federal government. And we see valiant efforts being made to restore our confidence in leaders who will not betray our trust. However, the Bible warns us not to put our trust in princes but only in God (Psalm 146:3). Sooner or later, men will disappoint and fail us despite their most noble efforts.

For some insightful comments from Scott Ritter, former weapons inspector, on Trump's efforts to reach a settlement with Putin, be sure to watch the short video linked below. Ritter believes that NATO will crumble and eventually dissolve. NATO's death will be a key factor in allowing the rise of the Beast described in Revelation 13.

Video link:

Scott Ritter: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Ze9XRvNBSI

Your Publication (Copyright 02-22-2025) by Helena Lehman (Email)

Thanks so much for your publication. I learn something new every time I take the time to read the featured articles.

Blessings in Christ, Helena Lehman

Response: Hi Helena, thank you for the nice note. We sincerely hope you will find articles to read and learn from every week. Thank you so much. Laura Lee

Was Jesus Married? (Copyright) by Mike Ford (Oxford, Georgia)

"... and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons ..." (Luke 8:2)

The sad news came out not long ago. It happens in all too many marriages: yet another celebrity divorce, this time between Jesus and Mary Magdalene! Before you cry, "Blasphemy!" some explanation is required.

For over four years, Dr. Karen L. King, a professor of early Christianity at Harvard Divinity School, proclaimed to the world that a tiny piece of papyrus proves Jesus Christ was married. She revealed this 1" x 3" scrap of paper at a huge conference in Rome on September 18, 2012. In her corner, a group of experts agreed that the fragment was authentic. However, immediately following her announcement, scholars and experts pointed out inconsistencies like its crude penmanship and weird phrasing. In addition, some of the words appeared to have been lifted from *The Gospel of Thomas*, an apocryphal book written in the second or third century AD.



The bit of paper Dr. King so grandly called "The Gospel of Jesus's Wife," contains 33 words across 14 incomplete lines. The key words, written in Coptic, an ancient Egyptian language, read, "Jesus said to them, 'My wife." It was obvious early on that King was being scammed by a forger, but she and her supporters doggedly hung on to their assertions.

King is the first woman to hold the oldest endowed chair in the United States, as the Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard. She has made it her mission to prove that the canonical texts of the New Testament are not divine revelation but a "myth of origins," and she adds a distinctly feminist spin to her work.

A writer named Ariel Sabar published a glowing piece in the *Smithsonian* about Karen King and her "find" at the same time as her announcement in Rome. The following month, he wrote a follow-up piece on the reaction to her little bombshell. Both articles were little more than puff pieces. Then, unlike most reporters, he began to do some investigating to find the truth.

Dubious Provenance

Sabar's article in the July/August 2016 *Atlantic Magazine*, "*The Unbelievable Tale of Jesus's Wife*," reads like a good piece of fiction—only it is true! Sabar went to great lengths and time to get the backstory of this document.

While King had allowed various labs to test the papyrus fragment and experts to examine the tiny paper, she had agreed to conceal where she got it and from whom. The "gospel" still belonged to its anonymous owner and was "on loan" to Harvard Divinity. When dealing in old documents, experts invariably ask for its provenance—its origins and chain of ownership. Where did the scrap first come from? Who found it? Who owned it? King, it appears, made little-to-no attempt to find out how the current owner came to possess it.

So, while the experts argued over syntax and penmanship, Sabar decided to find out where this business-card-sized paper originated. He writes:



The American Association of Museums' *Guide to Provenance Research* warns that an investigation of an object's origins "is not unlike detective work": "One may spend hours, days, or weeks following a trail that leads nowhere." When I started to dig, however, I uncovered more than I'd ever expected—a warren of secrets and lies that spanned from the industrial districts of Berlin to the swinger's scene of southwest Florida, and from the halls of Harvard and the Vatican to the headquarters of the East German Stasi.

King believes that early Christianity was a "hodgepodge of conflicting beliefs about Jesus" and that the early church was feminist in attitude. Eventually, the thinking goes, the male apostles won a political struggle for control of the church, and as the saying goes, the victors write the history books. So, when she received an email from a stranger dangling a tidbit of heresy in front of her, she bit. She wanted to believe it so badly that she failed to do even basic provenance research.

If she had, she might have learned, as Sabar did, that it was a forgery. The forger was a man named Walter Fritz who lived near Sarasota, Florida. The little he had told King was not true. Sabar tracked him down and pried the truth from him.

Fritz studied Egyptology at the Free University in West Berlin during the late 1980s, where he learned Coptic. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, he ran a museum of East German history then held executive positions in two failed auto parts businesses. Early this century, he wound up in Florida, where he ran several Internet pornography sites. His wife, a porn star, also wrote a self-published book of "universal truths" supposedly dictated by the archangel Michael.

These people have no credibility. Karen King fell for a con. After reading Sabar's article, she admitted, "It tips the balance towards forgery"!

Non-Canonical Gospels

What makes people so eager to believe that Jesus was married—and specifically to Mary Magdalene? Why do they so desperately want to bring apocryphal books into the biblical canon? Because people want to bring Christ down to their level, Satan has been able to influence the world to believe that God is not really God and that Jesus was just another man. Those beliefs, however, stand on shaky ground. We will find that it is not difficult to refute the idea that Jesus had a wife.

The non-canonical gospels, from which many of these heretical beliefs spring, are books written sometime well after the life of Christ that some promote as meriting inclusion in the New Testament. However, few, if any of them, received any authoritative support from the early church and its leaders. They were excluded from the canon for good reasons.

Nevertheless, what do they claim about Mary? In *The Gospel of Thomas*, probably the best known of this group, Mary has a small role. At the end of the book, this remarkable piece appears:

Simon Peter said to them, "Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of Life." Jesus said, "I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

It should be obvious why this spurious work is not part of the Bible!

The Gospel of Peter, from the second century AD, focuses on the last hours of Christ. In it, Mary Magdalene is called "a female disciple."

Another of these books from the second century is *The Dialogue of the Savior*. The "Savior" answers questions from disciples, including Mary, who is presented as central among the disciples but not as His wife. *The Sophia of Jesus Christ*, a supposedly post-resurrection discussion between the risen Christ and some of His followers, treats her similarly.

In the third century AD appeared *The Pistis Sophia*, a Gnostic gospel where Mary plays a prominent role, asking most of the questions. This book reveals a growing interest in her among the Gnostics, as they believe that she possesses hidden knowledge about Christ. In it, Jesus says that she is "blessed beyond all women upon the earth." However, even this Gnostic gospel does not claim that they were married.

The Gospel of Mary also portrays her as a source of unique knowledge because of her close relationship with Jesus. Still, nothing appears in this book to suggest a sexual or marital relationship between her and Jesus.

The Gospel of Philip

The last of the non-canonical gospels to mention Mary Magdalene, written in the latter part of the third century AD, is *The Gospel of Philip*. Two of its sections refer to Mary Magdalene. The first reads: "There were three who walked with the Lord: Mary his mother and her sister and Magdalene, the one who was called his companion."

Some have pounced on this word "companion," the Greek *koinonos,* which simply means a "partner." Paul refers to himself as Philemon's *koinonos,* "partner," in Philemon 1:17, where he was suggesting that Philemon work with him on Onesimus' behalf.

The second passage about Mary in *The Gospel of Philip* is the significant one:

And the companion of the Savior is Mary Magdalene. But Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him, Why do you love her more than all of us? The Savior answered and said to them, Why do I not love you like her? When a blind man and one who sees are both together in darkness, they are no different from one another. Then the light comes, then he who sees will see the light, and he who is blind will remain in darkness.

Remember, this was written two hundred years after the true gospels, and it is the only passage of its type. These two facts make its claims doubtful, at the very least.

Consider, if Christ was married to Mary Magdalene, why were the disciples offended when He kissed her? He could have answered their question by simply saying, "Mary is my wife." Instead, He explains His special affection for her by noting her ability to see the light, to know. This reply makes little sense unless it is invented Gnostic language. The best of the non-canonical evidence for Jesus' marriage is very thin indeed.

Those supporting this Jesus-Mary theory would say, "Their marriage was a secret. That's why there are only these clues. The church [read, the Catholic church] has suppressed this truth." On the other hand, the canonical gospels frequently mention Jesus' family relationships, as it also openly identifies the women who followed Him. Yet, it never reveals a wife.

Against all logic, those who argue the point use the New Testament's very silence about a wife as proof there was one! They say that, as a matter of course, Jewish men of that time married, including rabbis, and it would have been highly unusual for a Jewish man to be single. To them, that closes the case!

But Jesus was not required by law to marry. As in every culture, not all Jewish men married. The historians Pliny the Elder, Philo, and Josephus all write of the Essenes, a sect of Jews extant from the second century BC to the end of the first century AD. The Essenes probably authored the Dead Sea Scrolls. Some of them married. Some did not. Jewish men remaining unmarried was not unheard of during Christ's time.

Moreover, He knew the job that lay ahead of Him. What kind of life would that be for a wife? How much concern would He be showing to a bride knowing He would soon die a horrible death?

Testimony in the Gospels

We do not know much about Jesus between age 12, when He astonished the teachers at the Temple (Luke 2:42-47), to about age 30, when He began His ministry (Luke 3:23). But we know a great deal about Him from then until His death, and not one of the gospel writers ever mentions a wife. Luke 8:1-3 would have been a good opportunity for Luke to insert the words "His wife." The New King James Version heads this section as, "Many Women Minister to Jesus":

Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

However, Luke does not indicate that any of these women were His wife.

In verse 19, he writes, "Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd." This passage is one of the numerous places the gospels mention His family, but again, Luke singles out no one as His wife. Karen King would have us believe that the writers never refer to Jesus' wife because the church, dominated by men, was headed toward priestly celibacy, and to make that happen, its male leaders had to scrub all mention of Jesus' wife.

There is a much simpler explanation: The Bible is mute on the subject because He was never married!

In Matthew 19:3, the Pharisees test Him with a question on divorce. His answer follows over the following six verses. Afterward, "His disciples said to Him, 'If such is the case of the man with his wife, it is better not to marry'" (Matthew 19:10). Notice His response:

All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it. (Matthew 19:11-12)

Jesus' focus was fixed on His mission, the most vital task God has ever given someone to accomplish. It took all His time, effort, and attention. It would not have been loving on His part to involve a wife to whom He could not devote His time and attention. He was one of those who "made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake" simply by choosing not to marry.

Like the other gospel writers, the apostle John includes the women who witnessed Jesus' agony and death:

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. (John 19:25-27)

Why did John not point out Mary Magdalene as His wife? Because she was not His wife! What is more, had He been married to Mary Magdalene, why would He ignore His wife in this kind of situation? Why would He not include her with His mother in arranging for her care? Could John not handle more than one extra woman in his house?

By pushing their feminist agenda, these scholars do Mary Magdalene a disservice by minimizing her role and ignoring her faith. She was the first to see and speak to Christ after His resurrection, which is quite an honor. She believed that Jesus lived again before most of the other disciples did. Jesus seems to have held her in high regard—but just not as His wife!

The Bible's silence on the matter of Jesus having a wife continues into the epistles. For instance, Paul writes in Ephesians 5:25, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it." Again, the subject matter provides the perfect opportunity for Paul, had Jesus been married, to use His example as the ideal, physical husband. The most logical reason why he did not is that Jesus never married.

Books like *The Lost Gospel* and *The Da Vinci Code* go even further and claim Jesus and Mary had children as well. Every bit of this nonsense is designed to make Jesus less than the true Son of God. People like Karen King want us to consider Him a mere man, not much different from us. But the Bible presents Him as our transcendent God and Savior who will return as King of kings and *then* marry His Bride, the resurrected saints (Revelation 19:7-9; see Ephesians 5:23-32).

No Biblical Faith

At least eight articles from an array of scholars have laid out the case against the authenticity of the fragment that contains the Gospel of Jesus' wife. The Harvard Divinity School, however, is not moved by this mountain of evidence. In 2015, it signed an agreement with the forger, Walter Fritz, to keep the papyrus on loan at Harvard for ten years "for purposes of

study and research." Here is a prime example of doubling down on one's mistakes!

Harvard Divinity still maintains an elaborate website called *Gospel of Jesus's Wife*. To their credit, at the height of the controversy (though it has since been removed), it ran a small paragraph at the top of the homepage about the fragment's contested nature, even quoting Dr. King conceding the point, albeit grudgingly. The Dean of Harvard Divinity then remarks that he appreciates all the scientists', scholars', and journalists' research and encourages them to continue to "treat the questions raised by them with all the seriousness they deserve." In other words, the dean of Harvard Divinity continues to put his faith in a forgery rather than the Bible, which is really no surprise.

But we know the truth. Jesus did not have a wife during His physical life on earth. As we understand it, He was already promised to another.

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New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17) As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Holy Days 2025

Passover – April 13, 2025 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before) Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 13-19, 2025 Pentecost – June 2, 2025 Trumpets – September 23, 2025 Atonement – October 2, 2025 Tabernacles –October 7, 2025, to October 13, 2025 Last Great Day – October 14, 2025

Notes

