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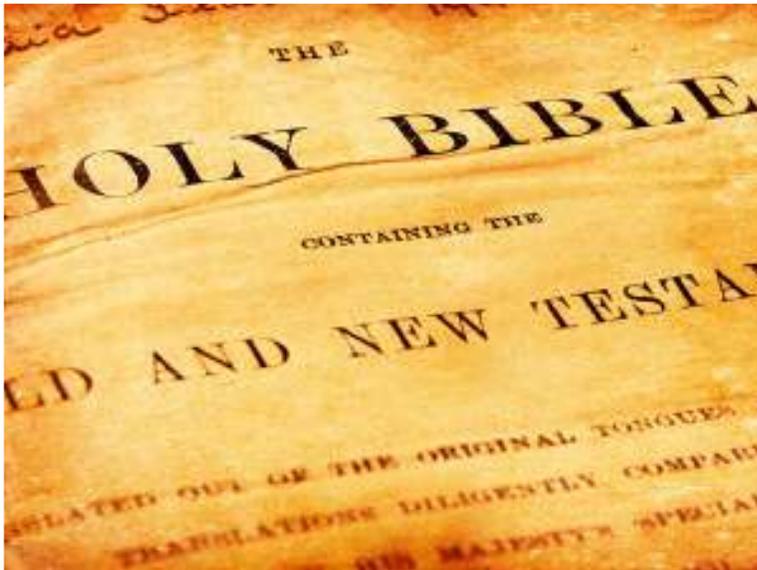
**Publisher:** Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

**Contributors:** Ray Daly, William P. Goff, Laura Lee, John Leitch, James McBride, Zac Poonen, John Reiss, David Rives, David Rives Ministries

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## Article

### Do We Need the Old Testament? (Copyright) by John Reiss (Charlotte, North Carolina)



**“. . . the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (II Timothy 3:15)**

An Amazon television series called *The Man in the High Castle* is an alternative history story based on the Axis powers prevailing in WWII. One of its most intriguing sub-plots centered on the Nazis seeking to erase the vanquished Americans' history by rewriting it and obliterating any evidence of it. They even blew up the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor, replacing it with a different statue that fit their twisted ideology's version of truth.

The ancient Assyrians did something like this to their vanquished enemies. They would uproot what remained of their foes from their lands and established cultures and resettle them in far-off regions of their empire, often on its frontiers, to act as a buffer. Some they scattered and assimilated into new communities. To pour salt on their subjugated enemies' wounds, the Assyrians would repopulate the emptied territories with other peoples. Scattered in this way, the defeated nations lost their foundations and, ultimately, their identities. The Assyrians treated the Israelites in this manner after defeating them in the early eighth century BC (see II Kings 17:5-24). To history, they soon became "the lost ten tribes."

Something similar to this, but on a spiritual level, happens when people say that Jesus Christ's coming to establish the New Covenant has done away with the church's need to study the Old Testament with all of its history, prophecies, laws, and rituals. The Old, they claim, is obsolete because Christ has established a new and living way. Such people fail to understand that, without the Old Testament, we cannot possibly understand the New. The apostle Paul tells us explicitly that the church has been "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20; emphasis ours throughout).

By breaking the continuity of God's Word, these "New Testament only" advocates can mold their own version of truth. For instance, they use this ploy to sideline the Ten Commandments, specifically the Sabbath, writing:

Christians were never under the Law. . . . Christians aren't under the Mosaic Law, but that doesn't mean we have

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no law at all. . . . We have commandments, but they come from Jesus, and not from the Law. . . . There is no command in the New Testament to observe any sabbath days. All of the other commandments are repeated, but not that one. Why? Because, unlike the others, there is no longer any need for a sabbath. (“[The 10 Commandments in the New Testament](#),” GodWords: Theology and Other Good Stuff)

Andy Stanley, Senior Pastor of North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Georgia, near Atlanta, claimed in a 2018 sermon series called “Aftermath: Not Difficult”:

[First Century] Church leaders unhitched the church from the worldview, value system, and regulations of the Jewish scriptures. Peter, James, Paul elected to unhitch the Christian faith from their Jewish scriptures, and my friends, we must as well.

Although he later tried to walk some of his comments back, saying he believes that the Old Testament is “divinely inspired,” he emphasized that the Old Testament should not be “the go-to source regarding any behavior in the church.” He added:

Jesus’ new covenant, His covenant with the nations, His covenant with you, His covenant with us, can stand on its own two nail-scarred resurrection feet. It does not need propping up by the Jewish scriptures. . . . The Bible did not create Christianity. The resurrection of Jesus created and launched Christianity. Your whole house of Old Testament cards can come tumbling down. The question is did Jesus rise from the dead? And the eyewitnesses said he did. (“[Christians Must’ Unhitch’ Old Testament From Their Faith, Says Andy Stanley](#),” *The Christian Post*, May 9, 2018).

Stanley acknowledges that what he preaches may be considered “a little disturbing” to some churchgoers, but he adds that—striking at the rotten heart of the matter—for many, it is “liberating.”

### **Scriptures of the Early Church**

The Bible as we know it was divided into the Old and New Testaments in the late second century AD by theologian and pastor Melito of Sardis. Though Jewish by birth, Melito was a Hellenist who despised Judaism, and in an Easter sermon, given—not by coincidence—on Abib 14, he even accused the Jews of deicide, the murder of God. No wonder he wanted to separate the Old and the New Testaments!

Since the gospels and epistles of the New Testament were not yet written, the only scriptures the fledgling church possessed were the books that had been written centuries earlier in Hebrew and later translated into Greek (the Septuagint). To those pioneer Christians, they were “the Holy Scriptures” (II Timothy 3:15). When the prospective members in Berea “searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether [the things Paul and Silas taught them] were so” (Acts 17:10-11), they studied what we call the “Old Testament.”

It is not surprising, then, that the New Testament directly quotes the Old Testament about 250 times. Including indirect or partial quotations, the New Testament makes more than a thousand allusions to Old Testament passages. By referring to it so often, the New Testament writers clearly desired to show the continuity between God’s revelation to Israel and the gospel Jesus preached.

Researcher Roger Nicole, citing biblical scholar Carl F.H. Henry in his “[New Testament Use of the Old Testament](#),” claims that, if we include New Testament passages that allude to or are reminiscent of the Old Testament, every Old Testament book is represented in the New. In all, more than ten percent of the New Testament is comprised of either direct quotations or allusions to the Old Testament.

We can conclude that the apostles and evangelists were not trying to “unhitch” Christianity from its Hebrew beginnings. In fact, we can confidently say the opposite: They gave unqualified authority to Old Testament Scripture. In this light, this article will provide five significant reasons why we need the Old Testament.

### **Prophecies of the Messiah**

Without the Old Testament, how would we know who God would send as a Savior? If faith is so vital to salvation, who should the called look for so they can believe?

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Depending on the source, the Old Testament contains between 300 and 600 prophecies for Jesus Christ in the Old Testament. The difference in these numbers lies in how minutely each researcher divides various longer messianic passages into individual prophecies. For instance, Psalm 22 contains multiple prophecies concerning the crucifixion. Some researchers, however, treat it as a single prophecy.

The following are a few examples of the Old Testament’s messianic prophecies:

- Genesis 3:15: God alludes to a future Savior, who would be born of a woman (fulfilled in Matthew 1:18).
- Isaiah 7:14: The Savior would be born of a virgin (fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-23).
- Micah 5:2: The Savior would be born in Bethlehem (fulfilled in Matthew 2:6).
- Isaiah 53 is an extended prophecy regarding the Suffering Servant’s scourging, piercing, and crucifixion, as well as His bearing “the iniquity of us all” (verses 6, 11-12). These prophecies are fulfilled in Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 18-19; see also I Peter 2:21-25.

And there are many, many more.

Mathematically, the probability that Jesus is the Christ is astronomically high. The odds of any one man fulfilling even *eight* of these hundreds of prophecies is 1:10<sup>17</sup> or 1:100,000,000,000,000,000 (one in one hundred quadrillion)! Yet, Jesus fulfilled hundreds of them.

To visualize this, say we had 10<sup>17</sup> silver dollars and painted one of them red. Next, we randomly threw the red coin into the pile and laid all of them out over Texas (the second largest American state, covering 268,820 square miles). Our pile of coins would cover the state in a layer two feet deep. Finally, we blindfold a man and send him out with instructions to pick up that single red silver dollar. That is the probability of one in 10<sup>17</sup>!

More conservatively, bumping up the number of fulfilled prophecies to 48, the probability escalates to 1:1<sup>157</sup>—a 1 followed by 157 zeros! Biblical scholar Alfred Edersheim contends that Jesus fulfilled, not eight or 48, but 456 prophecies! God wanted to make absolutely sure that there would be no doubt about who He sent as our Savior, who His elect could place their faith in!

### **Defining Sin and Righteousness**

Without the Old Testament, which Jesus frequently quoted, how would people know what sin is? How would they know what God expected of them? Without the laws and examples in the Old Testament, people would be like the Israelites after the death of Joshua, everyone doing what was right in his own eyes (Judges 21:25).

God gave the nation of Israel the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17). The rest of the Pentateuch—as well as the historical sections, the writings, and the prophecies of the remainder of the Old Testament—expands on God’s laws through additional statutes, judgments, illustrations, songs, proverbs, and personal examples.

In Matthew 19:17, Jesus points to the Ten Commandments when He tells the rich young ruler to keep them if he wants to enter into eternal life. The following two verses remove all doubt about what commandments He means, citing five of the Ten Commandments. In a way, He is alluding to Ecclesiastes 12:13, where Solomon advises, “Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all.” Or, as the *Good News Translation* puts it, “. . . because this is all that we were created for.”

The apostle Paul, in I Corinthians 7:19, instructs Christians about the central place of those commandments: “Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.” He writes in Romans 7:7, “I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law has said, ‘You shall not covet.’” God’s law defines both righteousness—what we are to do—and sin—what we should not do.

Jesus teaches in Matthew 5:17-18:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. (*New International Version*)

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The word “fulfill” is *pleroo* (*Strong’s #4137*), which means “to make full, to fill up; to fill to the full.” It carries no implication of making something obsolete or unnecessary. Rather, Jesus fulfills the commandments by making their applications more encompassing by teaching and exemplifying how they are to be kept in the Spirit. He added the spirit of the law.

As the God of the Old Testament, the One who became Jesus—the Word, God who “became flesh and dwelt among us” (see John 1:1-4, 14)—issued all the commandments. The Bible emphasizes that God never changes (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8), which includes His approach to sin and righteousness. We need to obey Him and His law.

### **The Types of the Temple and the High Priest**

Without the Old Testament, how could we understand the New Testament’s meaning when it speaks of the church as the Temple of God and Jesus Christ as our great High Priest? Without the descriptions of the types, readers of the New Testament could not grasp the fullness of these antitypes.

Moses provides details about the Tabernacle and its furnishings in Exodus 25-27 (see also chapters 36-40). The word for “tabernacle” in Hebrew is *mishkān* (*Strong’s #4908*), which means “dwelling place; tent.” Exodus 40:34 describes how the “glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.” That glory (*kābōd*) was the “presence” of God dwelling in it. In Solomon’s day, the same glory filled the Temple (I Kings 8:9-11).

In I Corinthians 3:16, Paul informs the church that its members are the spiritual fulfillment of God’s Temple: “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” This knowledge would make little sense if we could not refer to the physical Tabernacle and Temple in the Old Testament. The apostle teaches that, just as God’s glory filled the sanctuary of Israel, God dwells in us individually and collectively through His Spirit. How much insight would we lack if we could not turn to descriptions of the ancient type?

Similarly, Hebrews 5-8 repeatedly refers to the Levitical priesthood, particularly the office and activities of the high priest. The author teaches the superiority of Jesus as High Priest over any of the earlier human high priests of the line of Aaron. Understanding the function of the Old Testament priesthood from the history of Israel provides the necessary background to Jesus and His role as our High Priest. In addition, he speaks of Jesus as High Priest “according to the order of Melchizedek” (Hebrews 5:5-6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 16-17, 20-22). Without the book of Genesis, where the mysterious figure of Melchizedek is mentioned, we would lack the source material for what the author meant.

Hebrews overflows with comparisons between the weakness of the Old Covenant system (note: not the weakness of the Old *Testament*) and the better, more glorious New Covenant. For instance, all the priests, including the high priest—even the good ones—died, and their influence could not continue. However, Christ, raised from the grave after three days, lives forever as our High Priest (Hebrews 7:24-25). As the author says, “God . . . provided something better for us” (Hebrews 11:40).

### **Worship and Service**

Without the Old Testament, how would we know how to worship God and serve others in the best ways? While the New Testament includes instructions on these matters, the Old provides many more types and examples than the much shorter church writings. The offerings in Leviticus show us how to worship God and serve other people within and out of the church. In particular, beyond instructing us of the need for a Savior, they teach us how to conduct our lives sacrificially.

While many Bible readers skip the instructions found in Leviticus 1-7, they provide the intricate details of each sacrifice and offering God required to be given at the Tabernacle/Temple. Many of these details have added spiritual meanings when understood in light of Christ’s sacrifice and our response to it. The focus of these sacrifices was not on the animal’s death but on the giving of a life, helping us to understand that the essence of love is sacrifice, as Jesus exemplified.

The burnt offering was wholly consumed on the altar, teaching us about Christ’s total dedication to God—“the first and great commandment” (Matthew 22:37-38)—and how we should emulate it. The grain offering, placed atop the burnt offering, represents the fulfillment of the second great commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39).

The peace offering pictures the blessings of living God’s way of life, particularly the fact that, in it, God, the priest, and the offerer are shown in satisfying fellowship, enjoying His providence together. Finally, in the sin and the trespass

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offerings, we realize that our benevolent Father has covered sin completely through the selfless sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

How much is missed when one neglects the teaching God provides through these Old Testament examples!

**The Gospel of the Kingdom**

Without the Old Testament, how could we know the breadth of the gospel of the Kingdom of God? The first sentence of Genesis 1:26 reads, “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.’” This early statement is the foundation for understanding that God is in the process of creating man to become like Him, not just physically but spiritually too.

In I Corinthians 15:49, Paul teaches, “And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.” The apostle John expands on this idea in I John 3:2, writing:

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been [fully] revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed [at His second coming, the time of the first resurrection], we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

In his article, “[What Hope Did the Old Testament Give for Death?](#)” Don Stewart writes:

From the very beginning, the Old Testament has given humanity hope for something better beyond this life. . . . The entire Old Testament looked forward to the time when the Lord would come, raise the dead, judge the world righteously, and then set up His kingdom.

He cites several Old Testament examples of its faithful heroes looking forward to life in God’s Kingdom. King David expresses his hope in Psalm 17:15, writing, “As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I will be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.” Job says, “If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, till my change comes. You shall call, and I will answer You; You shall desire the work of Your hands” (Job 14:14-15). In Psalm 49:15, the sons of Korah write, “But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me.”

Isaiah and Ezekiel prophesy about the second resurrection. For instance, the prophet writes in Isaiah 26:19, “Your dead shall live; together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in the dust; for your dew is like the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.” In the well-known “Valley of Dry Bones” chapter, Ezekiel prophesies, quoting God, “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 37:12).

**Christianity’s Roots in the Old Testament**

Those God called before Christ knew the rudiments of many of what we call “New Testament” doctrines, and they left a record that provides background, depth, and amazing detail to enhance our understanding of Christianity. Old Testament teachings touch on every area of a person’s life, instructing Christians about how they can live moral lives. We cannot “unhitch” our Christian faith from the Old Testament.

In the Bible, God has provided a complete package of knowledge to bring us to salvation, which we must use without alteration. God commands in Deuteronomy 4:2, “You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” In the last chapter of the Bible, a similar warning appears:

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:18-19)

Perhaps Andy Stanley should pay more attention to these warnings.

Jamaican author and activist Marcus Garvey writes, “A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and

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culture is like a tree without roots.” A Christian’s roots are sunk deeply in the Old Testament. We need the Old Testament because it tells us who we are, how to live, what God is doing in the church and the world, and where He is leading us. It is the sure foundation of the New Covenant with its better promises. We ignore it at our peril.

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**Freedom Under Law**  
**(Copyright) by James McBride (United Kingdom)**

A walk in the park. A trip to the shopping mall, A cheery smile from a friend. A hug. All valued—but for how much longer?

*Or is this our future:* Cameras on lamp-posts, mounted on trees, in shops, in every open public space. Microphones (and cameras?) in your smart TV, in Alexa or Siri, in your fridge. Your I-phone and computer constantly monitored officially or by big business. Your finances at risk *via* hackers or being plundered by Inland Revenue. And all linked to an array of screens in a government or Council or superstore or bunker or in ‘the cloud’.

**Basic Right**

Fundamental to life is our God-given right of freedom of choice. It’s part of our psyche as beings created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). But faced with a choice—God’s way of *freedom* or ‘self-realization’ and *serfdom*—Adam chose the latter, enslaved by the destructive way planned for him by the Devil.

Given the level of surveillance we now experience that basic right is being fast eroded. Every imposition of a restriction tears a hole in the fabric of freedom: social distancing, wearing of masks, lockdowns, enforced vaccination, the ‘woke’ culture, the move to impose a cashless society.

The technological age that is enveloping us may indeed be misguided attempts by world leadership to improve the lot of mankind, to erase inequality and all for the common good. But it does imply a degree of coercion and loss of our freedom.

As part of the Family of God it is our responsibility to be guided by His word. To that end we are subject to the laws imposed by our appointed government—but only as it complies with *His* law. Where there is conflict, we must choose wisely.

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**Holy Days 2023**

**Passover – April 6, 2023 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)**  
**Unleavened Bread – April 6-12, 2023**  
**Pentecost – May 26, 2023**  
**Trumpets - September 16, 2023**  
**Atonement – September 25, 2023**  
**Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023**  
**Last Great Day – October 7, 2023**

## Evolution and Pop Culture

(Copyright) by David Rives (Lewisburg, Tennessee)



If you pay attention while you're watching TV shows and movies, you might be surprised by the amount of evolutionary content the writers and producers work into the finished product. Everything from kids' movies about the Ice Age, to Flintstones cartoons, to sci-fi movies have subtle (or not-so-subtle) messages of evolution or millions of years.

This is especially common within the science fiction genre of films. Many of them feature back stories that dip into the far distant past or alien civilizations that have evolved elsewhere in the universe. Indeed, this genre started to become popular with the widespread acceptance of evolutionary ideas and one of the "fathers of sci-fi" was ardently anti-Christian and a committed evolutionist.

Actually, the whole idea of alien civilizations or finding extraterrestrial life comes from an evolutionary worldview. If life evolved here on earth, then it simply must have evolved somewhere else in the universe because we can't be special. There must be other life somewhere! And yet, in the real world, this other life that's supposedly out there remains elusive.

But from a biblical perspective, God created earth to be inhabited so it isn't likely we'll find intelligent life on distant planets. Also, Adam's sin effected the entire universe and yet Jesus came to earth as God and man to save descendants of Adam. So, if there are other intelligent beings, they aren't descendants of Adam and yet they are suffering from the Curse but can't be saved. This is a major theological problem. Starting from God's Word we don't expect to find alien life. Also, I don't think this standpoint precludes the idea of the claimed "alien encounters and abductions" because I do believe that the spiritual realm is very real. But these "beings" don't originate from distant galaxies.

It seems movies and TV shows have been a great way of promoting evolutionary ideas. This is just another way evolution has become increasingly popular with the public. But when we study God's Word, we find that it provides the true history of the universe. Let's spend just 10 fewer minutes each day on television and unwind with a good Book. You know the one I mean.

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

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## **Questionable Article**

**Tell us why you believe this is a true or false doctrine and Why?**

**(Be sure to tell us if you want your name on your comments or not.)**

**Learn to Give an Answer!**

## **The Return of Christ**

**(Copyright) by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)**

Note what follows, and ask yourself what will happen, when the following event takes place.

In Rev. 6:16, all nations on the earth will see the sign of the Messiah in heaven. The sign being the "Lamb". Then ask yourself how said nations will view said vision.

First consider that some 1.2 billion or so Christians believe in the return of Christ, the "Lamb". How will they react when they see said "Lamb"? Will they prepare to war against him, or will they prepare for his coming in peace?

But secondly, did you know that another 1+ billion Islamists also expect the coming of their Messiah, the "Lamb"? How will they react when they see his sign in heaven?

But wait. Did you know as well that both the Hindu and Buddhist religions expect the coming of their Messiah, the "Lamb"? That's another 2-3 billion citizens of the earth. Perhaps many more than 2-3 billion. For even Japan is heavily into Buddhism. Will they prepare to war against him when he sets down on earth? Or will they also prepare for his coming ahead of time?

The question is, how will they prepare? After all, Scripture is very clear that Christ, the "Lamb" will indeed return to the earth before the official end times end. This is shown in Acts 1:11. For Peter says that Jesus will "so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven." Note also what it says of Jesus future coming in Zech. 9:9. "...Your King comes to you. He is just and having salvation. Lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt [mule] the foal of an ass." And note when said coming will take place. Rev. 14:1. "I looked and behold. A Lamb stood on the mount of Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand...!"

Lastly, the present-day Edomite Israeli Jews also expect their Messiah, the "Lamb" to return. Will they give up Jerusalem and Judea because all of the Gentiles that expect their "Lamb" will want to have a part in Jerusalem and Judea to greet him when he arrives? No, they will refuse to allow them to come and be there. Thus, those nations are going to go to war against the Jews (likely around 2037), which was is shown in Lk. 21:20. "When you see Jerusalem surrounded with [Gentile] armies, then know that the desolation is nigh."

We know from prophecy that the Gentiles will be in charge of Jerusalem when Christ comes. Thus, it is evident that said battles will take place. The book of Zechariah Ch. 1 shows the forming of the Gentile unity, and also shows that they will war against the Israeli Jews. In Ch. 2 it describes how the LORD will return to Jerusalem, and that he will see to it that a "temple" will be built in it, by the Gentiles, using the newly arrived tribes of Judah and Benjamin to aid them in its construction.

Enough on this. Just what do you feel is the Truth?

**Thank You to Everyone Who Contributes!**

**Iron Sharpening Iron**  
(Agree or Disagree with Something Printed)  
New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)  
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

**In regard to: The Return of Christ**  
Article by Ray Daly  
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

**Ray's Article:**

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In Rev. 6:16, all nations on the earth will see the sign of the Messiah in heaven. The sign being the "Lamb". Then ask yourself how said nations will view said vision.

**Laura Writes:**

[Rev 6:16](#) And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

Using this verse apparently, they all want rocks to fall on them. In other words, they want to die.

**Ray's Article:**

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**Laura Writes:**

The Islamists, Hindus, Buddhists and even most people calling themselves Christian are not interested in Christ returning to earth or they would all be keeping God's Law now.

**Ray's Article:**

The question is, how will they prepare? After all, Scripture is very clear that Christ, the "Lamb" will indeed return to the earth before the official end times end. This is shown in Acts 1:11. For Peter says that Jesus will "so come in like manner as you have seen him go into heaven." Note also what it says of Jesus future coming in Zech. 9:9. "...Your King comes to you. He is just and having salvation. Lowly and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt [mule] the foal of an ass." And note when said coming will take place. Rev. 14:1. "I looked and behold. A Lamb stood on the mount of Zion, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand...!"

**Laura Writes:**

[Act 1:11](#) Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:11 is a past event and Revelation 1:7 is a future event. Revelation 1:7 is most likely after the last trump when he comes for the elect:

[Rev 1:7](#) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds

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of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

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**Zec 9:9** 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 an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Zechariah 9:9 Already happened, See Luke 19:35-37 below:

**Luk 19:35** And they brought him to Jesus: and they cast their garments upon the colt, and they set Jesus thereon. **Luk 19:36** And as he went, they spread their clothes in the way. **Luk 19:37** 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;

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**Rev 14:1** And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Revelation 14:1 takes place after the wedding supper of the Lamb. The 144,000 are the resurrected and changed elect of God.

**Ray's Article:**

Lastly, the present-day Edomite Israeli Jews also expect their Messiah, the "Lamb" to return. Will they give up Jerusalem and Judea because all of the Gentiles that expect their "Lamb" will want to have a part in Jerusalem and Judea to greet him when he arrives? No, they will refuse to allow them to come and be there. Thus, those nations are going to go to war against the Jews (likely around 2037), which was is shown in Lk. 21:20. "When you see Jerusalem surrounded with [Gentile] armies, then know that the desolation is nigh."

**Laura Writes:**

**Luk 21:20** And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh. **Luk 21:21** Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto. **Luk 21:22** For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. **Luk 21:23** But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. **Luk 21:24** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

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**Robertson's Word Pictures**

**Luke 21:20**

**Compassed with armies** (*kukloumenēn hupo stratopedōn*). Present passive participle of *kukloō*, to circle, encircle, from *kuklos*, circle. Old verb, but only four times in N.T. The point of this warning is the present tense, being encircled. It will be too late after the city is surrounded. It is objected by some that Jesus, not to say Luke, could not have spoken (or written) these words before the Roman armies came. One may ask why not, if such a thing as predictive prophecy can exist and especially in the case of the Lord Jesus. The word *stratopedōn* (*stratos*, army, *pedon*, plain) is a military camp and then an army in camp. Old word, but only here in the N.T.

**Then know** (*tote gnōte*). Second aorist active imperative of *ginōskō*. Christians did flee from Jerusalem to Pella before it was too late as directed in [Luk 21:21](#); [Mar 13:14](#).; [Mat 24:16](#).

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**Jamieson, Faucet and Brown**

**Luke 21:20-21**

**by armies** — encamped armies, that is, besieged: "the abomination of desolation" (meaning the Roman ensigns, as the symbols of an idolatrous, pagan, unclean power) "spoken of by Daniel the prophet" ([Dan 9:27](#)) "standing where it ought not" ([Mar 13:14](#)). "Whoso readeth [that prophecy] let him understand" ([Mat 24:15](#)).

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**Then ... flee, etc.** — Eusebius says the Christians fled to *Pella*, at the north extremity of Perea, being "prophetically directed"; perhaps by some prophetic intimation still more explicit than this, which still would be their *chart*.

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*Luke 21:20 is talking about an event that has already taken place in 70 AD with the destruction of the temple. Some believe this was only a partial fulfillment of this prophecy and that the rest will happen at the time Christ returns. As far as the time of the Gentiles, that probably will not be fulfilled until Christ returns.*

*Setting specific dates for anything is probably not a good idea.*

**Ray's Article:**

We know from prophecy that the Gentiles will be in charge of Jerusalem when Christ comes. Thus, it is evident that said battles will take place. The book of Zechariah Ch. 1 shows the forming of the Gentile unity, and also shows that they will war against the Israeli Jews. In Ch. 2 it describes how the LORD will return to Jerusalem, and that he will see to it that a "temple" will be built in it, by the Gentiles, using the newly arrived tribes of Judah and Benjamin to aid them in its construction.

Enough on this. Just what do you feel is the Truth?

**Laura Writes:**

Not sure you can get all of that from the first 2 Chapters of Zechariah, so I would say some of this is your own opinion.

## In regard to: Was Our Savior Created?

Article by James Steinle  
Comments by John Leitch (Canada)

It seems to me, much of the problem people are having with Mr. Steinle's article is the word "created". I would ask the question, was Eve created or is she just a multiplication of Adam? In Matthew chapter 14 when Jesus fed the 5000 people, did the Messiah create more bread & fish, or did He just multiply what was provided? In 2 Kings chapter 4, was extra oil created, or was the oil that was already there, multiplied?

I believe to understand my Father and His Son (my brother), and all spiritual things, a person should look to the physical things of creation.

**Romans 1:20**

*"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"*

If we look to the beginnings of the human species (which are being transformed into the image & likeness of the two beings in Genesis 1:26), we will notice that the human species started with one individual (Adam) and then Eve came out of Adam (without the help of human hands). Did Eve always exist as a separate entity? Although Eve was only a separate entity after she came out of Adam, she pre-existed as part of Adam before this. This is how the human species started and multiplied.

**Daniel 2:34--Septuagint** (Does this help us understand the multiplication of the God species?)

*Thou sawest until a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands, and it smote the image upon its feet of iron and earthenware, and utterly reduced them to powder.* The question is; "who is this stone and who is this mountain who the stone came out of?" I personally see similarities between Adam & Eve and the Father & the one that was to become Jesus the Christ. Was Eve of the human species after she came out of Adam? Most would agree she was. Was Christ of the God kind (species) after He came out of the mountain (the Father)? I am of the opinion He was of the God kind in a similar way as Eve was of the humankind. This same cut out stone is mentioned in 1 Peter 2:6 and Matthew 21:42.

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**Luke 20:18** (does this not sound like the stone in Daniel 2:34)

*"Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."*

**At this point, my understanding is this.**

I believe this is the gospel message that we are to preach to the world.

All through eternity there was only **one** Being with no beginning (1 Timothy 6:16), and that Being decided to increase Himself into a large family of sons & daughters of His same "kind" (Genesis 1:26). My Father's "kind" will increase in a similar way as all other physical species increase. Every member of a species is in that species because they were born into that species. The God "kind" will increase in a similar way through a begettal and a rebirth (John 3:3). Today, people may be in the image of God but will not be in His likeness until their rebirth at resurrection. A photograph captures a person's image, but it is not their likeness. The photograph cannot think, cry or laugh, nor can it choose right from wrong. The Gospel message is that my Father is in a process of multiplying Himself through a begettal and rebirth into His image and likeness.

First of all, we know that Christ had to precede everything else, because God created everything that was created through Jesus the Christ.

---Ephesians 3:9--KJV (God created **all things, but** He did it through Jesus Christ)

*"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:"* There are also two other places that agree with this statement (John 1:3 & Hebrews 1:2).

Is there anywhere in Scripture that Christ claims He is the beginning of that creative process (as Daniel 2:34 implies) of the one supreme God that always existed? Well, yes there is.

**Revelation 3:14** (Is this referencing Daniel 2:34?)

*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

This same beginning of creation is also mentioned in John 1:1-2. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God".* Here we see the author is speaking of a **beginning, but the Father has no beginning.** So what beginning is the author referring to? Would it not be reasonable to conclude that he is referring to the Father's plan of multiplying Himself.

This same beginning of Christ and Christ being sent forth to create everything and to be the savior of mankind is mentioned in John 17:8 --KJV. *"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them and have known surely that I came out from thee, (Daniel 2:34) and they have believed that thou didst send me".*

Herbert Armstrong and many others believe there were always two Gods and they **both** had eternal life but does scripture back this up? Although there is scripture that does agree with everything starting with **one** God, I have not personally found any that agree with "Trinity" (three individual Gods) or "Twinity" (two ever living Gods).

**1 Timothy 6:14-16** (The reason Christ had immortality is because He came out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) and Christ gave up that immortality (Philippians 2:6-8) to be born of Mary and go through a begettal & rebirth process.) *"Which in his times he (Christ) shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen".*

Eve existed as long as Adam because she came out of Adam, but she did not exist as a separate entity until she came out. The Messiah existed as long as the Father because He came out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) but He did not exist as a separate entity until He came out.

**Hebrews 7:3** (Melchisedec (aka--Christ) has the same personal history as the Father because he came out of the

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Father (Daniel 2:34) the same as Eve came out of Adam.) *"Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."*

What Mr. Steinle and I are presenting, is exactly what got the Messiah crucified. The Jewish religion views coming out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) or being begotten & born of God is blasphemy and worthy of a death sentence. The Jewish religion believes God is a species of one and it will always be that way. It seems that many believe my Father is incapable of multiplying Himself through a begettal and birth process.

**The gospel message is that the humankind through a metamorphosis (so-to-speak) is capable of becoming the God kind through a begettal of the Father and a rebirth.** The wonderful fantastic message the New Testament authors brought (Luke 16:16) was, people, although being born into the "kingdom of humans" have the potential of being reborn into the "God Kingdom" (John 3:3).

**Farmer logic** (If the ever living God (1 Timothy 6:16) begets a person, what does that person think they will be when born?)

--When my bull begot something; when it is born, it was always a cattle beast.

--When my ram begot something; when it was born, it was always a sheep.

--When the tomcat begot something; when it was born, it was always a bunch of cats.

--When a Maple tree drops its seed, farmer logic tells me, when it sprouts from the ground, it will become another maple tree. I can't recall it ever being a spruce, oak, cedar, or apple tree.

My brothers and sisters, one of the foundational teachings of the bible is that "kind" begets "kind".

That's it for what it is worth.

## In regard to: Was Our Savior Created?

Article by James Steinle

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

**John Leitch said:**

It seems to me, much of the problem people are having with Mr. Steinle's article is the word "created". I would ask the question, was Eve created or is she just a multiplication of Adam? In Matthew chapter 14 when Jesus fed the 5000 people, did the Messiah create more bread & fish, or did He just multiply what was provided? In 2 Kings chapter 4, was extra oil created, or was the oil that was already there, multiplied?

**Laura Lee says:**

Personally, I believe you are playing games with words in order to make up a false doctrine. See 1 Timothy 2:13 where Eve was "formed". In 1 Corinthians 11:9 Eve was created and in Genesis 2:22 She was made. Made, created, and formed are all interchangeable and mean the same thing.

1Ti 2:13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

1Co 11:9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

Gen 2:22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

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**Bread and the Fish**

Mat 14:19 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to *his* disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. Mat

14:20 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. Mat

14:21 And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children.

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**Elisha and the Oil**

2Ki 4:1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2Ki 4:2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 2Ki 4:3 Then he said, Go, borrow three vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, *even* empty vessels; borrow not a few. 2Ki 4:4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 2Ki 4:5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought *the vessels* to her; and she poured out. 2Ki 4:6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, *There is* not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 2Ki 4:7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

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Both of these are considered miracles. Wait until you are down to your last morsel of food and pray to God for food and see what happens. All of the sudden you may find food in your house that you didn't even know you had. If this happens to you some day you will consider it a miracle for you will know there was no food in your house before you prayed to God.

Angel Sighting at: [Angel Sighting : Church of God, Bismarck, The "New" Church of God Messenger \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

When this miracle happened to me, I was not a Sabbath Keeper, I did not even go to any church at this time. Did God just multiply my money or was it a miracle? I had \$30.00 cash on me. I told the guy in the garage that I needed money for food. It cost \$25.00 to fix my car a low price even for the eighty's. I had \$5.00 left for food. To me this was a miracle. For one thing, most people have probably stopped at truck stops numerous times and know they are very busy no matter what time of the day you are there. This was a truck stop during daylight hours and there were only three people there besides myself. At the garage, the guy behind the counter that took my money and the mechanic that fixed my car. When I went to the restaurant a few feet away, there were cars parked there and the truck that the truck driver was in that helped me was there but when I went into the restaurant which was quite large there was only one woman there and no one else. In case you are unaware, miracles are happenings which cannot be explained because they fall within a spiritual realm and are believed by faith by those who experience them. There is a purpose to a miracle, and I believe that when you use it in the manner that you did you do God a disservice by not believing that such miracles can even take place.

**John Leitch said:**

I believe to understand my Father and His Son (my brother), and all spiritual things, a person should look to the physical things of creation.

**Romans 1:20**

*"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."*

If we look to the beginnings of the human species (which are being transformed into the image & likeness of the two beings in Genesis 1:26), we will notice that the human species started with one individual (Adam) and then Eve came out of Adam (without the help of human hands). Did Eve always exist as a separate entity? Although Eve was only a separate entity after she came out of Adam, she pre-existed as part of Adam before this. This is how the human species started and multiplied.

**Laura Lee says:**

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

People are without excuse when they are unable to see God through the things he has made. Instead of worshipping the

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true God they want to make stuff up in their foolish heart similar to what you are doing here.

**Gen 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

So, when your parents got married and had you, you are saying that you preexisted in your parents. Here is the problem with this theory. If your parents had married two different people, you would not even be a blimp on the radar screen. You never would have been born. And to carry that one step further you would never even know that you did not exist.

So, let's get back to Adam and Eve now. I am pretty sure that God the Father and Christ our brother had the entire creation mapped out from the foundation of the world. So yes, God knew that Christ was going to create both Adam and Eve. However, Adam did not exist in the dirt any more than Eve existed in Adam before Christ created them. Once God breathed into Adam, he became a man and the same happened to Eve. Before God created them, they did not exist.

This can be proven, and you should understand it being a farmer and all. If a farmer builds a barn, he first gets the materials together so he can build it. So now you have a pile of building materials together in your field. Is your barn in the materials or could you take those same materials and build something else, for example two sheds, one for goats and one for sheep. The thing is none of those materials are anything except materials until you build something out of it. In other words, the barn, the goat shed, the sheep shed, none of it exists until you build it. I build cat condos, so I know. My pile of material is nothing until I make it into a cat condo.

**John Leitch said:**

**Daniel 2:34--Septuagint** (Does this help us understand the multiplication of the God species?)

*Thou sawest until a stone was cut out of a mountain without hands, and it smote the image upon its feet of iron and earthenware, and utterly reduced them to powder.* The question is; "who is this stone and who is this mountain who the stone came out of"? I personally see similarities between Adam & Eve and the Father & the one that was to become Jesus the Christ. Was Eve of the human species after she came out of Adam? Most would agree she was. Was Christ of the God kind (species) after He came out of the mountain (the Father)? I am of the opinion He was of the God kind in a similar way as Eve was of the humankind. This same cut out stone is mentioned in 1 Peter 2:6 and Matthew 21:42.

**Luke 20:18** (does this not sound like the stone in Daniel 2:34)

*"Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."*

**Laura Lee says:**

**Dan 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of iron and clay and brake them to pieces.

The Bible is not a code book. If a person has God's Holy Spirit, they will be able to understand what the Bible says. The below scriptures tell you that the stone represents Christ, but the mountain here does not represent God. This whole thing is about a dream that Nebuchadnezzar had, and Daniel interpreted for him. By the way Daniel was even promoted because of knowing both the dream and the interpretation of the dream.

#### **God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**

**Dan 2:17** Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

**Dan 2:18** That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. **Dan 2:19** Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.

Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **Dan 2:20** Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: **Dan 2:21** And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: **Dan 2:22** He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what *is* in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. **Dan 2:23** I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter. **Dan 2:24** Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto

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him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. **Dan 2:25** Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. **Dan 2:26** The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? **Dan 2:27** Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; **Dan 2:28** But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar **what shall be in the latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; **Dan 2:29** As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. **Dan 2:30** But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for *any* wisdom that I have more than any living, but for *their* sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

### **Daniel Interprets the Dream**

**Dan 2:31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible. **Dan 2:32** This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, **Dan 2:33** His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. **Dan 2:34** **Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.** **Dan 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: **and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.** **Dan 2:36** This *is* the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. **Dan 2:37** Thou, O king, *art* a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. **Dan 2:38** And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou *art* this head of gold. **Dan 2:39** And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. **Dan 2:40** And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things*: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. **Dan 2:41** And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. **Dan 2:42** And *as* the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, *so* the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. **Dan 2:43** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. **Dan 2:44** **And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.** **Dan 2:45** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream *is* certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

This is a prophecy for the end times about the Kingdom of God. In case someone does not understand what is being said here. The stone represents Christ, and both Mountains represent the Kingdom of God. The stone, Christ will bust the statue which represents all the kingdoms of the earth and Christ will by extension become a mountain which represents the Kingdom of God. This is an allegory/metaphor, a parable and a prophecy all rolled into one. Christ is not really a stone or a mountain or even a Kingdom. In this set of scripture, the stone represents Christ, and the mountain represents both Christ and His Kingdom, because Kingdoms were identified with their Kings.

What John is trying to tell everyone here is that the Mountain represents God, and the stone represents Christ. In keeping with John's multiplication theory, he is trying to tell everyone that this is how God created Christ. John's theory is God being represented as the mountain took a little piece of himself from His person which is represented by the stone here and that is how Christ came to be. In other words, Christ is a multiplication of God. The problem with that theory is that both mountains here represent the Kingdom of God, one present and one future.

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**Luk 20:18** Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

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1Pe 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Mat 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?**

All of the above scriptures are talking about Christ being the chief cornerstone that the builders rejected. Again, Christ is represented as a stone. If you read each of these scriptures in context of what is actually being said you will find that Christ is the chief cornerstone when it is talking about falling upon the stone and being broken it is talking about people who come to believe in Christ are broken people, and when it talks about being crushed to powder it is talking about crushing those who don't believe. This is both an allegory/metaphor and a parable in all three places.

John has chosen these verses because similar wording is used in these sets of scripture as the wording in Daniel 2:34. He is trying to prove that God the Father took a part of Himself and made Christ. God the Father is not the creator God. God the Father created nothing. Christ is the creator God and Christ cannot create Himself. Christ was not created.

**Difference between an allegory and a metaphor:**

In general, a metaphor is a short phrase or paragraph that compares two seemingly unrelated things to make a point, while an allegory is a long narrative that uses a seemingly unrelated story to teach a lesson or prove a point.

**From: [Allegory Vs Metaphor: What's The Difference? \(becomeawritertoday.com\)](http://becomeawritertoday.com)**

**John Leitch said:**

**At this point, my understanding is this.**

I believe this is the gospel message that we are to preach to the world.

All through eternity there was only **one** Being with no beginning (1 Timothy 6:16), and that Being decided to increase Himself into a large family of sons & daughters of His same “kind” (Genesis 1:26). My Father's "kind" will increase in a similar way as all other physical species increase. Every member of a species is in that species because they were born into that species. The God “kind” will increase in a similar way through a begettal and a rebirth (John 3:3). Today, people may be in the image of God but will not be in His likeness until their rebirth at resurrection. A photograph captures a person's image, but it is not their likeness. The photograph cannot think, cry or laugh, nor can it choose right from wrong. The Gospel message is that my Father is in a process of multiplying Himself through a begettal and rebirth into His image and likeness.

**Laura Lee says:**

1Ti 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

We know this scripture is talking about God the Father because of this scripture:

Joh 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

**The word immortality here is used only 3 times in the NT. It is Strong's number G110, and it means deathless. God the Father has never died thus an absolutely true statement about the Father.**

**The thing is that Christ was the same as God the Father until he was born of Mary and then died. When God the Father resurrected Him he was once again restored to the same glory as the Father and as he had before He was born of Mary.**

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

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John 17:5 tells us Christ was the same as the Father before He died and was resurrected and the same after He died and was resurrected.

1 Timothy 6:16 does not prove there was only one God and that Christ was created.

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**Gen 1:26** And God said, **Let us** make man in our image, after **our likeness**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

**Joh 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

I have never seen anyone dispute the fact that people and animals are always born into their own kind although I am sure such a false doctrine is out there someplace. I do however take exception with your idea that God the Father is like a blob of something whereby if He just removes a piece of himself, that piece will become another God for example Christ.

**John Leitch said:**

First of all, we know that Christ had to precede everything else, because God created everything that was created through Jesus the Christ.

---Ephesians 3:9--KJV (God created **all things**, **but** He did it through Jesus Christ)

*"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." There are also two other places that agree with this statement (John 1:3 & Hebrews 1:2).*

**Laura Lee says:**

**Eph 3:9** And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

**Joh 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

**Heb 1:2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

And at last, we agree on something.

**John Leitch said:**

Is there anywhere in Scripture that Christ claims He is the beginning of that creative process (as Daniel 2:34 implies) of the one supreme God that always existed? Well, yes there is.

**Revelation 3:14** (Is this referencing Daniel 2:34?)

*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;*

**Laura Lee says:**

Daniel 2:34 has been debunked. The mountain does not represent God.

**Dan 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were of iron and clay and brake them to pieces.* **Dan 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: **and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.**

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**Rev 3:14** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Since we are in agreement that everything that was created was created by Christ and that God created nothing then you can't now all of the sudden have God creating Christ no matter how you believe God did it.

When you study you should take everything you can find into consideration and a basic thing to do would be to look at other Bible versions as below. Revelation 3:14 is not talking about Christ being created. It is talking about Christ being the head of the entire creation, the chief of the creation, the source of the creation etc. and etc.

**Rev 3:14** "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "This is what the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God's creation, says: (Lexham English Bible)

**Rev 3:14** And to the angel of the assembly of Laodicea, write: These things says the Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Head of the creation of God: (Literal Translation of the Holy Bible)

**Rev 3:14** And to the messenger of the assembly of the Laodiceans write: These things says the Amen, the Witness—the Faithful and True—the Chief of the creation of God; (Literal Standard Version)

**Rev 3:14** 'And to the messenger of the assembly of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the witness—the faithful and true—the chief of the creation of God; (Young's Literal Translation)

**Rev 3:14** And to the angel of the church in Laodicea say: These things says the true and certain witness, the head of God's new order: (The Bible in Basic English)

**Rev 3:14** This is what you must write to the angel of the church in Laodicea: I am the one called Amen! I am the faithful and true witness and the source of God's creation. Listen to what I say. (Contemporary English Version)

**John Leitch said:**

This same beginning of creation is also mentioned in John 1:1-2. *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God"*. Here we see the author is speaking of a **beginning, but the Father has no beginning**. So what beginning is the author referring to? Would it not be reasonable to conclude that he is referring to the Father's plan of multiplying Himself.

**Laura Lee says:**

**Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Joh 1:2** The same was in the beginning with God.

A better wording of John 1:1-2 is found here:

**Joh 1:1** From the first he was the Word, and the Word was in relation with God and was God.

**Joh 1:2** This Word was from the first in relation with God. (The Bible in Basic English)

Strong's Concordance #G746 backs up The Bible in Basic English. It is hard to grasp what eternity is, so most people would make a statement such as "in the beginning". In the beginning of what? Eternity which has no beginning or end. It is better stated "From the First".

You can't use this verse to prove Christ was created. It actually proves they were together from the first or through all eternity.

**John Leitch said:**

This same beginning of Christ and Christ being sent forth to create everything and to be the savior of mankind is mentioned in John 17:8 --KJV. *"For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them and have known surely that I came out from thee, (Daniel 2:34) and they have believed that thou didst send me"*.

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**Laura Lee says:**

**Joh 17:8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received *them* and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

I am sure the problem you are having with this verse is the part where it says "I came out from thee". Most people don't have a problem with this verse because in context they know that what it is saying is that Christ is saying that God the Father told him what to say to the people and the people received the words and believed that Christ came from Heaven because God the Father sent him on this mission. It has nothing to do with multiplying God and nothing to do with Daniel 2:34 where the mountain was not represented by God.

**John Leitch said:**

Herbert Armstrong and many others believe there were always two Gods and they both had eternal life but does scripture back this up? Although there is scripture that does agree with everything starting with one God, I have not personally found any that agree with "Trinity" (three individual Gods) or "Twinity" (two ever living Gods).

**Laura Lee says:**

All I can then say to you at this point is that you either can't read or you just don't understand what you are reading when you do read it. There is no Bible support for a trinity such as in "Father, Son and Holy Ghost" but there is plenty of support for two God's, God the Father and Christ His Son being ever living God's.

**John Leitch said:**

**1 Timothy 6:14-16** (The reason Christ had immortality is because He came out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) and Christ gave up that immortality (Philippians 2:6-8) to be born of Mary and go through a begettal & rebirth process.) *"Which in his times he (Christ) shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen".*

**Laura Lee says:**

**Dan 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet *that were of iron and clay and brake them to pieces.* **Dan 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: **and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.**

The stone was Christ and the stone became the mountain and by extension the Kingdom of God because Christ is the King of the Kingdom of God on earth.

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1 Timothy 6:14-16

The word immortality here is used only 3 times in the NT. It is Strong's number G110, and it means deathless. God the Father has never died thus an absolutely true statement about the Father.

The thing is that Christ was the same as God the Father until he was born of Mary and then died. When God the Father resurrected Him he was once again restored to the same glory as the Father and as he had before He was born of Mary.

**Joh 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

1 Timothy 6:16 does not prove there was only one God and that Christ was created.

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**Php 2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **Php 2:7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **Php 2:8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

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**Php 2:6** who, existing in the form of God, did not consider being equal with God something to be grasped, (Lexham English Bible)

**Php 2:6** who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, (World English Bible)

The last two verses here captures the context of these verses the best. In context these verses say that Christ was God and was equal to God the Father but He did not have a problem with lowering himself to become a man and die for our sins.

**Php 2:6** who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, (American Standard Version)

**Php 2:6** Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God. (Contemporary English Version)

**John Leitch said:**

Eve existed as long as Adam because she came out of Adam, but she did not exist as a separate entity until she came out. The Messiah existed as long as the Father because He came out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) but He did not exist as a separate entity until He came out.

**Laura Lee says:**

I believe I debunked your theory in regard to this quite some time ago.

**John Leitch said:**

**Hebrews 7:3** (Melchisedec (aka--Christ) has the same personal history as the Father because he came out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) the same as Eve came out of Adam.) *"Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."*

**Laura Lee says:**

Remember John, Daniel 2:34 does not have a mountain that represents God, so if Hebrews 7:3 Melchizedek is Christ then it looks like He was an ever-living God just like God the Father.

**John Leitch said:**

What Mr. Steinle and I are presenting, is exactly what got the Messiah crucified. The Jewish religion views coming out of the Father (Daniel 2:34) or being begotten & born of God is blasphemy and worthy of a death sentence. The Jewish religion believes God is a species of **one** and it will always be that way. It seems that many believe my Father is incapable of multiplying Himself through a begettal and birth process.

**The gospel message is that the humankind through a metamorphosis (so-to-speak) is capable of becoming the God kind through a begettal of the Father and a rebirth.** The wonderful, fantastic message the New Testament authors brought (Luke 16:16) was, people, although being born into the "kingdom of humans" have the potential of being reborn into the "God Kingdom" (John 3:3).

**Laura Lee says:**

What you were suggesting here is way more than a simple begettal and birth process. What you are suggesting here is creepy. You believe that Christ and Eve are both on the same level when it comes to existence. You believe that Christ and Eve existed before they existed (that is according to your theory). You make it sound like God is a big blob who can break pieces from Himself and make more God's. This is one of the most far-fetched fables I have ever heard, and I certainly hope that James Steinle is smarter than to buy into this theory.

**John Leitch said:**

**Farmer logic** (If the ever living God (1 Timothy 6:16) begets a person, what does that person think they will be when born?)

--When my bull begot something; when it is born, it was always a cattle beast.

--When my ram begot something; when it was born, it was always a sheep.

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--When the tomcat begot something; when it was born, it was always a bunch of cats.  
--When a Maple tree drops its seed, farmer logic tells me, when it sprouts from the ground, it will become another maple tree. I can't recall it ever being a spruce, oak, cedar, or apple tree.

My brothers and sisters, one of the foundational teachings of the bible is that "kind" begets "kind".

That's it for what it is worth.

**Laura Lee says:**

This theory is really not worth the paper it is written on. This is more than a false doctrine. It is a creepy false doctrine, but then October is the month for creepy things.

I don't believe anyone would disagree with you that kind begets kind, but what you are suggesting here is not a begettal and birth process. It is as you claim a theory about multiplication and metamorphosis both of which seem as though they have roots mounted some place in evolution.

And just in case I did not make myself clear in regard to Daniel 2:34 I will try to make it more clear here. When it says, "cut out without hands", it is talking about a supernatural action. The first mountain represents the Kingdom of God in Heaven. The second mountain represents the Kingdom of God on Earth and by extension Christ. None of this verse or even the entire chapter of Daniel 2 is speaking of a multiplication, metamorphosis, begettal or birth of any person or God. This verse is part of a future prophecy about the Kingdom of God.

While I was researching this paper, I did get stuck in one place at 5:00 in the morning on a night of insomnia. Yes, I do suffer from insomnia, does anyone have a cure for that? So, I did email a couple of people I have a great deal of respect for, but right after I emailed them, I already knew what the answer was at the point I got stuck. I actually liked both answers but one of the answers was really long and this was already getting very long so instead of printing them here I may use them in another way later. So, I want to thank those two people for their really quick response to me the day I got stuck.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope that no one actually believes what John Leitch has suggested here. And to John Leitch I want to say, I have met you and talked with you in days gone by and I like you, sincerely like you as a person but my responsibility to show people what the Bible actually says is to those reading this newsletter. It takes precedence over friendship. My allegiance is to God the Father and Christ His Son.

In the future and to John and whoever reads this, my suggestion is this. When you do research on any given subject blank your mind and say I need to look at this from a perspective that I myself may be wrong and if I am I will change my belief. Pray for Wisdom and Understanding because without it you will get nowhere. Always read all scripture in context of what it says. Use other Bible versions, use books you have or always wanted to get, use the internet but be careful of the internet as stuff is changing out there.

Thank you, John, for sharing, I know this will be hard for you to read.

The Old King James Bible was used throughout unless stated otherwise.

## Announcements

**Announcement from Zac Poonen (October 17, 2022)**

This week, the messages listed below are all primarily for Christian MEN.

ALL MEN should listen to this very important message.

**Don't Be an Effeminate Man (by Zac Poonen)** (14 minutes)

<https://rlcf.church/media/sermons/dont-be-an-effeminate-man>

(About 6,500 people around the world have already listened to this brief message in the 3 days since it was uploaded)

**Responsibilities of Men in God's Kingdom** (4 messages by Zac Poonen)

<https://rlcf.church/media/series/responsibilities-of-men-in-gods-kingdom>

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CFC Bangalore  
<https://cfcindia.com>

**Announcement from William P. Goff (October 21, 2022)**

Greetings Brethren and happy Sabbath.

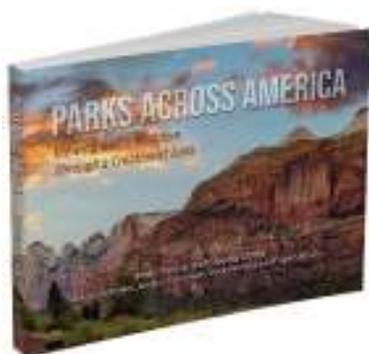
We have added much to the "current update". The Brethren send you their Highest Greeting and thank you for supporting them. The Feast went quite well, and everyone is so appreciative. Let us praise our Heavenly Father for your good works which have glorified Him.

The link to the update is: [khofh.org](http://khofh.org)

Thank you  
Bill Goff

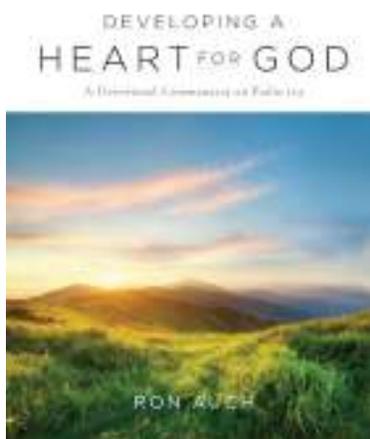
## Ads

**Ad from David Rives Ministries (October 20, 2022)**



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