

**The Forbidden Secret
Part Two – Aliens?
Chapter 7 –
Did Aliens Create Us?
(Copyright 00-00-2011)
by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)**

SERIAL ARTICLE PAGE 2

**The Forbidden Secret
Part Three – A Supreme Being?
Chapter 8 –
Desperate Phone Call
(Copyright 00-00-2011)
by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)**

SERIAL ARTICLE PAGE 8

**Spare the Rod,
Save the Child
(Copyright) by Catherine C. Kroeger
(Brewster, Massachusetts)**

ARTICLE PAGE 12

**Why
George Washington University
Should Celebrate Its Namesake
(Copyright 2022) by Eddie Hyatt
(Grapevine, Texas)**

ARTICLE PAGE 14

**Pulsating Discs
from the Sky?
(Copyright 06-02-2008)
by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)**

ARTICLE PAGE 15

**Was Paul a
False Apostle?
(Copyright 09-17-2025)
by David C. Grabbe
(Charlotte, North Carolina)**

ARTICLE PAGE 18

**Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to:
Prophecy Unfolding
Article by Dwight Fleming
Comments by Rafael Algorri (Email)**

IRON SHARPENING IRON PAGE 23

**Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to:
Prophecy Unfolding
Article by Dwight Fleming
Comments by Laura Lee
(Bismarck, North Dakota)**

IRON SHARPENING IRON PAGE 23

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

To Unsubscribe from this newsletter:

Use the unsubscribe link on the end of your weekly newsletter.

To Subscribe to this newsletter, Go to:

Use the Form on our Website.

To Submit Items for Print, Send to:

laura@the-new-church-of-god-messenger.com

the-new-church-of-god-messenger@hotmail.com

Mail to Darwin & Laura Lee, 320 N. Griffin St., Bismarck, ND 58501

The “New” Church of God Messenger is an independent publication. All newsletters may be copied and given to others if they are copied and sent in their entirety.

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: Rafael Algorri, David C. Grabbe, Jonathan Gray, Eddie Hyatt, Catherine C. Kroeger, Laura Lee

Websites:

<https://the-new-church-of-god-messenger.com/>

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.

The Forbidden Secret
Part Two – Aliens?
Chapter 7 – Did Aliens Create Us?
(Copyright 00-00-2011) by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)

“Oh, what a journey that was!” sighed the weary spore as it landed on earth with a bounce. “70 zillion light years – and I’ve made it at last! Now let’s raise the Pleiades flag and claim this planet!”

So, could that have happened? Could life have already existed in outer space, and then somehow got here?

Life spores drifted from outer space?

Some keen minds have been asking whether life might have first appeared on some other planet, then drifted from planet to planet as naked bacterial spores, eventually ending up on this earth?

An interesting idea! But it seems Isaac Asimov has already covered that one. Experiments have shown that **ultraviolet light (UV) would quickly kill such spores.** In space, UV is much more intense.

Also, there are other forms of radiation that would kill off any microscopic spores. The big problem would be the accumulated dosages over an extended time period.

But we still get back to this: ***matter itself contains no information that can produce life*** in the first place.

So, it boils down to these two facts:

1. No DNA information comes from non-living matter, to even create the spores to start with.
2. Outer space radiation would kill spores travelling toward earth. End of story.

DNA brought by aliens?

Then what about this idea? Might already-intelligent aliens have introduced the DNA on earth – and then let evolution take over?

Despite the *Sitchin Fiction* fiasco, is it still possible that aliens may have interbred with primates to produce modern man?

The quick answer is: I **do** accept that there are other intelligent beings “out there”. But unfortunately, ET (extraterrestrial) “seeding” would not answer the ***origin of ET intelligence*** in the first place - whether on this earth, or on some other planet.

You can work this out for yourself. ETs from another planet also needed a beginning. They needed to be programmed with *their* DNA from somewhere - before they could even exist! And then, if you expect similar results time and again on numerous planets... the odds against that ever happening by chance become so exponentially remote as to be impossible.

Scientists have never ever observed chemicals forming themselves into complex DNA molecules. Life cannot arise spontaneously from non-life.

Just as for us on this earth, the odds for ETs to exist on some other planet would be as if they had won a million-dollar lottery a million times in a row.

Could genetic engineering occur? Yes. But again, even if by some long-shot miracle earth primates were given an extraterrestrial DNA boost artificially, any subsequent upward evolution ***would require continual adding of genetic information***. However, as we saw in an earlier chapter, there is ***no*** natural mechanism that can add this information.

So with upward evolution impossible, aliens would have needed to create 100 percent fully fledged, intelligent modern humans ***in one hit***. And the same applies to all other life forms, as well. The whole multitude of them ***complete and functioning***.

Could not just evolve -whether here or in outer space

The more you think it through, the clearer it comes.

Evolution? Not here – or anywhere! If ***evolution*** cannot account for the ***programming of intelligence*** (or life itself) on this planet, it is equally impossible to explain a more highly intelligent man ***evolving*** on some other planet.

If ***evolution*** of original cells is ***impossible***, then aliens with physical bodies could not be the product of evolution either. Aliens could not themselves have created the matter from which they ultimately came.

The more we discover about the complexity of life, the more one is forced to concede that ***no form of evolution*** is an adequate explanation.

There is no escaping it. This planet's complexity of life - as evidenced by ***DNA*** and the remains of ***fossils*** – shows all signs of having “burst” into existence fully formed. It shows ***no evidence of evolutionary ancestry***.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

And if matter **could not arrange itself** into complex life by natural processes, then even the **ETs would need a Creator**.

Evolution of intelligent life is so improbable that it is unlikely to have occurred on any other planet in the entire visible Universe.

So, it all gets back to the question, **who, then, was responsible for life?**

A Superior Designer

Like it or not, this requires an ultimate Master Creator, a Superior Designer working to a pre-organized plan. Someone who was **not one of us, but much greater than us** – someone greater than any extraterrestrials, **greater than the creation itself**. Someone OUTSIDE OUR TIME AND SPACE arena.

No help needed from ETs

A Supreme Creator **outside time and space** would be totally adequate to account for

- (a) the origin of life on earth;
- (b) man's original intelligence; and
- (c) early man's advanced civilization.

No need for ET help. Civilization did not suddenly drop into the Middle East from some star.

DNA changes the whole game. It means **man was already intelligent from the first cell**. Man had the **information** ability from Day 1 to invent his own technology and high civilization. All it would require were enough people to support a culture.

6 other things worth remembering

Here are a few other things to bear in mind:

1. None of the out-of-place artefacts is composed of material unknown to earth.
2. Their technological makeup conforms with the development of our own modern civilization.
3. For sexual interbreeding to produce **fertile offspring**, aliens would
 - (a) need a carbon-based physiology;
 - (b) need to be physically adapted for entering the human female; and
 - (c) their chromosomes would have to be interchangeable, even for artificial insemination. Chromosomes and genes must **both** match up, which is extremely unlikely and does not happen even between animals and humans of the same planet!

Simply put, each separate type has a distinct set of chromosomes which holds its genetic makeup. For example, cats have 19 pairs, rabbits 22 pairs. Each parent donates a chromosome to make each pair. With most species, after fertilization, when the cell starts to divide, there would be an uneven number of chromosomes that needed to 'pair up.' The cell would die. There are rare exceptions. Domesticated horses have 32 pairs, and donkeys 31 pairs. Their offspring (mules) have 31.5. Mules are infertile – no offspring. Like zedonks and tigons, their chromosomes match up just enough to allow for interbreeding between similar species. **And then** (with rare one generation exceptions) **full stop**. However, the location of a gene is not in the same place on the same chromosome between species. Chromosome A on a rabbit might hold the genetic codes for ear size, hair color and bone configuration, but chromosome A on a cat might hold the genetic codes for vision, tail length and brain size. They could never match up.

4. And of course you realize that if these were to match, they would already be of the same or closely related species—and man would be **already** intelligent.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

5. Still unresolved, the problem of the origin of intelligence is only removed to another planet. You have to account for civilizations on two worlds now, instead of one, and you still have to find out how the first began. Now naturally, if evolution cannot account for it on this planet, it is equally impossible to explain a more highly intelligent man evolving on some other planet.

6. Memories of "gods" from the skies are explainable as the recollection by primitive people of visits from contemporary civilizations who had aircraft. Similar reactions have occurred in our day.

With whatever good intentions, the "space gods" theory was born in careless research, since then it has been perpetuated through the use of faulty reasoning and sensationalism.

Then what are UFOs, and from where?

Quite apart from any secret advanced military technology, are UFOs real? Yes, there are real UFOs.

Are other worlds inhabited? **Yes**, there are other inhabited worlds.

Are aliens visiting this earth? **No**, aliens are not visiting our little planet.

Who, then, are the "aliens" that people keep reporting?

The subject is much more complex than any of us imagined. It has **paranormal aspects** but certainly it has very real **physical aspects**, too.

Few have studied this question better than J. Allen Hynek who founded the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) along with the now noted UFO researcher Jacques Vallee.

When interviewed by *Newsweek*, Hynek expressed this theory:

UFOs, he says, may be **psychic phenomena** and the 'aliens' **may not come from outer space** but from a 'parallel reality.' (Hynek, *Newsweek*, November 21, 1977. Emphasis mine)

We shall address this more comprehensively in a later chapter. Meanwhile, here are a few quick facts to think about. The evidence from millions of observations suggests that:

1. They are here – emanating, apparently, from our own planet Earth.
2. Although visible, they may not be physical entities. They appear to be **not** bound by the same material, physical laws.

UFOs can

- **make 90 degree turns** at impossible speeds
- make other **maneuvers impossible in the physical realm**.
- **change shape** before our eyes
- **melt away** into nothing in front of us
- apparently '**materialize**' (take physical form)
- **Two distinctly different UFOs** hovering in a clear sky will converge and eventually **merge into one object**.

These all hint at another dimension. The **weight of evidence** suggests these are paramountly **not physical, but spiritual** manifestations. (In a later chapter, we shall examine this closely.) Extraterrestrials? No. **There is a better explanation.**

Then what about the seeming traces of physical landings?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

An engineer with an understanding of physics will find no problem with this. They could be explained as **manipulation of mass and energy**.

Bearing in mind that all solid objects have a vibration frequency within the range perceptible to the human eye. What if the vibration frequency could be altered into vibrations outside the visible range? Some scientists consider it possible.

Many open-minded scientists are, in fact, concluding as much -that the cosmos consists of frequencies or dimensions of life that share the same space, just as radio and television frequencies do.

Reason for the “aliens created us” theory

So how came the theory that we are the result of alien intervention? This theory stems from the **same mindset as the evolution theory** – which is basically a resistance to the idea of an Eternal Being who, by creating us, has a claim on us. We want to do our own thing and banish the idea that one day we might have to account for our behavior. That’s the bottom line.

Its promoters are correct, however, on one point: **Human intelligence** cannot be the product of chance evolution. Man did appear suddenly—at the top, not at the bottom. Man is a created artefact, far more wonderful than any computer. He was carefully planned and endowed with the gift of language and the most amazing intellect, as well as a feeling for handcrafts and technology.

And something else was implanted within man: both the capacity and the need to communicate with his Maker, the prime Intelligence. Consequently, there is a part of every person which is restless, seeking unattainable goals, yet experiencing futility and emptiness until it finds identity and peace with the Creator. And that makes all the difference.

Belief in someone you cannot see?

QUESTION: Is it reasonable to believe in a Being I cannot see?

You ask Australian atheist Philip Adams, and he may tell you that any who believe in a Creator “*have bats in their belfry*”. They are “*gullible*”, “a growing multitude of *dimwits*” in need of “psychiatric help,” and that it’s a “*looney proposition*.” (Adelaide Weekend Review)

ANSWER: Very early every morning someone delivers my newspaper. I’ve never seen him. But the paper is always there. Should I believe that no one has been delivering the paper?

In this world we have full confidence that many people we have never seen do exist.

Why? Because there is evidence of their presence. So, if our world reveals evidence of an architect behind it, is it any less reasonable to believe in a God I have never seen?

“I’m an atheist”

My neighbor Bernie came straight out and said it: “I’m an atheist.”

“Well, an atheist is one who **knows** there is no God. Do you know all there is to know?”

“Of course not.”

“Would it be generous to say you know half of all there is to know?”

“That would be very generous.”

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

“Then, if you know only half of all there is to know, wouldn’t you have to admit the possibility that God may exist in the body of knowledge you do not have?”

“I never thought of that,” mused Bernie. “Well, I’m not an atheist, then I’m an agnostic.”

“Now we’re getting somewhere. Agnosticism means you don’t know.” (I didn’t tell him, but the Latin equivalent means “ignoramus.” However, that wouldn’t be nice.) “An agnostic is a doubter,” I said.

“Well, that’s what I am.”

“There are two types of doubters – honest and dishonest. The honest doubter doesn’t know, but he wants to know. The dishonest doubter doesn’t know because he doesn’t want to know. He can’t find God for the same reason that a thief can’t find a policeman. So which kind of doubter are you?”

Bernie’s face softened. “I never really thought about it. I guess I never really wanted to know.”

“Bernie, if a man honestly wants to know what is true, then if there is a God He will reveal His reality to that man.” I looked Bernie straight in the eye. Yes, I thought, he’s basically an honest man.

“Okay, Bernie,” I said, “Would you do this: Would you be willing to write this down and sign it?” This is what I suggested:

God, I don’t know whether you exist or not, but I want to know. And because I want to know, I will make an honest investigation. And because it is an honest investigation, I will follow the results of that investigation wherever they lead me, regardless of the cost.

Bernie studied his shoes. Then, after a pause, he again looked up. “Yeah, I’ll do it!” And what happened in the end? Bernie was not disappointed. He says his whole life now has purpose.

It is laughable, when you think about it. We have sneered at miracles... but all that time we have believed in the self-creation of life (a miracle, if ever there was one!).

We have mocked at the creation of the world by a God... yet we have spoken learnedly of unconscious matter producing consciousness, of a primal cell that created itself!

We have maintained the self-beginning of life and denied the possibility of Creation!

When God is defined as the Creator of the universe, we are immediately faced with the mutually exclusive alternatives as to whether the universe came about through a random process or by special creation (by God). We have already proved mathematically that random evolution is impossible. This leaves the existence of God as the only option.

Who made “God”?

All that we experience – time, matter and space – had a beginning. This can be shown from the Laws of Thermodynamics, the most fundamental laws of the physical sciences. So, it needed a cause. The universe cannot be self-caused. Nothing can create itself, because that would mean that it existed before it came into existence, and that would be an absurdity.

On the other hand, since God, by definition, is the creator of the whole universe, He is the creator of time. Therefore, He is not limited by the time dimension. He created, so He has ***no beginning in time***. He doesn’t have a cause. It is futile for me to ask, Where did He ***come*** from? *I cannot use my limitations of time and space to measure His existence.*

One sunny afternoon, I plopped myself down on the grass to watch a baseball game. For a brief moment my attention was attracted to a tiny ant battling heroically through the grass. That little ant moved around beneath the turf, the blades of grass overhead, the soil beneath, and the tinier life forms all around. That's the world the ant understands. As a baseball game unfolds, this little ant may see an occasional shadow moving above him. He may hear the thud of giant feet and feel the ground shake. But he has not the foggiest idea what is going on in that world above him. He crawls around the grass shoots, virtually unaware of anything but his own world.

Could you explain that baseball game to that ant? We might smile. That little ant would be incapable of comprehending.

Come to think of it, are we not like that little ant, when it comes to understanding the Supreme One? Indeed, if I could fully understand God, I should either be a god myself, or God Himself would cease to be God. Just because I live in *my* reality is no reason to dismiss another reality of existence.

So, because I'm ever so inquisitive (that's why I am a field archaeologist), I now invite you to come with me as we follow Ken Gaub along a road near Dayton, Ohio...

The Forbidden Secret

Part Three – A Supreme Being?

Chapter 8 – Desperate Phone Call

(Copyright 00-00-2011) by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)

A personal, caring Creator? - DESPERATE PHONE CALL

"I don't know what to do!" exclaimed Ken. "Perhaps I need a change."

For quite a while now, Ken Gaub's time had been spent giving a boost to others... helping those who were hurting... trying to influence their lives in a positive way.

With this in mind, he and his family had travelled, both across the United States and overseas. He had also established a counselling service on radio and television.

But that day in the 1970s as Ken, his wife Barbara and their children drove their two buses down I-75 just south of Dayton, Ohio, Ken was feeling drained and discouraged.

"Oh," he cried, "Am I doing any good, travelling around like this? God, is this what you want me to do?"

His thoughts were suddenly interrupted. "Hey, Dad, let's get some pizza!"

Ken turned off at Route 741. There was sign after sign, offering fast food.

"A sign," mused Ken. "That's what I need... a sign."

As Ken's family poured out, and across to the pizza parlor, Ken announced, "I'm not really hungry. I'll just stretch my legs."

He grabbed himself a soft drink and ambled back to the bus. Was it burnout? He was just plain exhausted.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

A persistent ringing broke into Ken’s concentration. He looked across at the outside phone booth. The attendant seemed oblivious to the sound.

Ken grew impatient. “Why doesn’t someone answer it?” he wondered. “What if it’s an emergency?”

Nine rings. Ten...Fifteen...

His curiosity perked up. He shuffled over to the booth and picked up the receiver. “Hello?”

The operator’s voice came through. “Long distance call for Ken Gaub.”

Ken was dazed. “No,” he heard himself saying. “You are crazy!” And then, realizing how rude that must have sounded, he apologized and tried to explain. “I was just walking down the road here. And the phone was ringing...”

The operator simply asked again, “Is Ken Gaub there? I have a long-distance call for Ken Gaub.”

Oh, this must be *Candid Camera*, he thought, instinctively. Ken ran his hands through his hair. But no camera crew appeared.

He looked toward the pizza house. The family was still inside. They were at this restaurant only on a whim. It was randomly selected. And no one knew they were here. No one.

“I have a long-d i s t a n c e call for Ken Gaub, sir.” The operator sounded quite insistent now. “Is Mr. Gaub there, or isn’t he?”

“Operator, I’m Ken Gaub.” Ken could make no sense of this whole thing.

“Are you sure?” asked the operator. Then suddenly there was another woman’s voice on the phone.

“Yes, that’s him, Operator!” she exclaimed. “Mr. Gaub, I’m Millie from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. You don’t know me. But I’m desperate. Please help me.”

“How can I help you?” And Ken heard the operator hang up.

The woman at the other end was weeping now. Ken patiently waited. Finally, she gained control. “I’m at the end of my rope. I was about to kill myself. I started to write a suicide note. Then I began to tell God I really didn’t want to do this.”

In her despair, Millie recalled that she had seen Ken on television. Oh, if she could only talk to that kind, understanding person....

But that was impossible. There was no place she knew to reach him. Millie spoke a little more calmly now. “So, I began to finish the note. And then some numbers came into my mind, and I wrote them down.” Millie was weeping again.

Silently Ken prayed. “Show me how to help this woman.”

Through her tears, Millie went on. “I looked at those numbers. And the thought came... wouldn’t it be wonderful if God has given me Ken Gaub’s phone number? Oh, Mr. Gaub, I just can’t believe I’m actually talking to you. Are you in your office in California?”

“No,” responded Ken, “I do not have an office in California. It’s in Yakima, Washington.”

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

“Then where are you?” called the woman, bewildered.

Even more puzzled was Ken. “Millie, it was you who made the call. Don’t you know?”

“No, I have no idea what area this is,” said Millie. “I just dialed the long-distance operator. I gave the numbers to her and made it a person-to-person call.”

Gaub advised Millie what to do. And it was to take her into a successful new life.

Still stunned, Ken hung up.

“Barb,” enthused Ken as his family climbed back into the bus, “you won’t believe this! God knows where I am!”

This incident was reported by Nancy Leahy to Joan Wester Anderson and appeared in the #1 *New York Times* bestselling *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen.

Some questions

- Who was it that arranged those events in such a manner that Ken and Millie should meet on the phone exactly at that hour?
- Who prompted Ken’s son to ask for pizza exactly when he did?
- Who led Ken to pull into that precise restaurant?
- Who persuaded Ken to stay outdoors near the payphone booth?
- Who gave Millie the exact sequence of numbers that would ring that precise telephone beside the road?
- Who imparted these “impressions”?
- **Who answered both their prayers with one “miracle” connection?** To each separately an electrifying response.

And that again raises the BIG question...

* Who programs those many DNA machines, all so different from one another, to **inter-connect** inside a cell? Could it be **the same Superior Intelligence** that **connected** Ken and Millie to the pay phone?

Is this evidence of a Designer who cares about his creation?

Speaking of this God that thousands of scientists now believe they can pray to, if this God can not only plan, design and create, might he also be able to hear?

You may ask, If God exists, how on earth could he be concerned about every human being in the world?

Why does a mother love her baby? She can give no reason, except that it belongs to her. The chemicals comprising its body are worth only a few dollars. It weighs perhaps eight pounds of flesh. That tiny baby causes trouble, disrupts the family routine and deprives her of sleep. But he belongs to her and she loves him.

Suppose you have five children. Did you love your first baby? Naturally you did. Did you love the second child only half as much? Of course not. So, what about the third? You loved it just as much as the other two. What if you had twenty children? You would love each child just as much as the others.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

Think now. If you and I, limited as we are, could have hearts big enough to love all our children, why would a limitless God find it difficult to love all of his children on this planet?

In our computer age, what’s the potential for programming information? By pressing a few keys, one can already gain information about the financial situation of people with credit cards from all over the world. Conceivably, in a few years from now, everyone on earth will have a number – by which all their information will be stored on one machine. Now if such a vast storage of information can be memorized on one inorganic electronic brain, surely it is conceivable that there is a supernatural being that understands us in greater detail?

“Not testable”

A guy called DL heard another guy Mark Harwood mention God – and was he upset! “The god proposition does not appear reasonable,” said DL. “It’s both untestable and founded upon lack of knowledge. How can one rationally be expected to believe (have faith) in untestable propositions.”

“Well,” said Mark, “we all have faith in nontestable propositions every day of our lives. Rather than being based on lack of knowledge, our faith is usually based on very real experience.

“For instance, the room you are sitting in is part of a larger building. Can you see the architect and the builder? Have you met them? How do you know they exist? You know the building had a designer and a builder because in your experience you observe that buildings do not make themselves. They all have a designer and builder.

“So, you have faith that the designer and the builder have existed, because the building exists and your faith is based on knowledge. But the existence of the designer and builder is **not scientifically testable!** It would be irrational to assume there was no designer or builder just because you can’t see them now.

“In exactly the same way, we look around at the amazing diversity and complexity of living things, and we know there must have been a designer and a builder.

“One of the sure evidences of design is the presence of information in the genetic code of living things. The coded information is not inherent in the physics or chemistry of the DNA molecule, just like the information in a book does not reside in the ink and the paper. Instead, the information resides in the way the base pairs of the DNA are arranged, and in the way the ink makes shapes on the paper, so that the code is intelligible and meaning is transferred.

“Therefore, the inference that the universe has a Creator who is outside of what has been made, in other words, a supernatural Being, is entirely reasonable and soundly based on knowledge and experience.”

DL: “I’ll only believe what is testable. Is there any scientifically testable evidence for the existence of any spiritual being?”

MARK: “The answer is clearly ‘No’. But the problem is you are asking the wrong question. Perhaps you could ask:

1. Do you only consider something to be real if it is scientifically testable?
2. Is love real?
3. Are historical events real?

“Clearly, there are very real things that are not accessible via scientific experiments. Most importantly, past events can only be determined by historical records as they are not available for observation and are therefore not accessible by science.”

And I believe we do have such historical records...

Spare the Rod, Save the Child (Copyright) by Catherine C. Kroeger (Brewster, Massachusetts)

The *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* carries a report of a study on corporal punishment of children. The research was conducted by a medical team at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. One discovery was that spanking with an object rather than the hand raised by nine times the likelihood of other forms of abuse.

Parents who spanked frequently were far more likely to beat, burn or shake their children. Pediatrician Adam Zolotor, lead author of the study, wrote "Parents get angry when they're spanking, and it's not working. . . If a child gets spanked so often, they just don't care any more and will misbehave anyway."

This illustrates the need to re-evaluate certain passages of Scripture that result in the mistreatment of women and children. Many parents have been told that the biblical form for the disciplining of children is corporal punishment. Have literal translations created a mindset that leads to dangerous situations? The appalling rise in mistreatment of children is attributable to many causes, but one of them is the notion that beating a child is biblically sanctioned.

The parental role in instructing the young child is carefully delineated in the fourth chapter of Proverbs. Indeed, the purpose of the composition of the book is said to be "to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young" (Prov. 1:4). The tractate is full of wise counsel designed to mold the character and conduct of the young. Instruction from both father and mother brings the child to wisdom (Prov. 1:8-9; 6:20-23; 31:3) and forms a core of the message of Proverbs. The emphasis is on exhortation and verbal guidance.

The word "rod" in particular, though often used as a metaphor in the biblical text (Ps. 23:4; Isa. 10:15; 2 Sam 7:14; Micah 5:1), appears to be the center of difficulty for some Christians. Although in English "rod" evokes an image of harsh corporal punishment, the term has other associations in Hebrew. The term *shebet* (often translated as "rod") is used in connection with the training of children at Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15. It is frequently a metaphor for correction, (Prov. 10:13; 13:24; 22:8; Job 9:34; 21:9; 37:13; Isa. 10:5, 24; 30:31), and in Isa 11:4 refers specifically to verbal correction.

Significantly, in Leviticus 27:32 and Psalm 23:4 *shebet* denotes the shepherd's crook, useful to hook around the leg of an animal in order to pull it back from danger. The *shebet* was used as a means of counting sheep (Lev 27:32) and appears in a figurative sense in Ezekiel 20:37 as a tool to guide Israel back to a covenant relationship with God. The rod could be used to protect the sheep (Ps. 23:4; Micah 7:14) or to keep them headed on the right path. It could be interposed as a barrier to prevent animals from wandering astray and as a device to keep the flock moving in the right direction. How much better to interpret the rod as an implement of guidance and control rather than as a means of inflicting pain. In its note on Proverbs 13:24, the very *conservative New International Version Study Bible* remarks that the rod is "probably a figure of speech for discipline of any kind."

Then we can translate Proverbs 13:24 to convey the sense that parents who withhold guidance and control from their children do them a profound disservice. The current NRSV translation "those who spare the rod hate their children" needs to be reconsidered. Those who love their children are careful to discipline them, but the guidance is to be positive and affirming. Could a fresh translation of this target text substitute an abstraction for the metaphorical rod - such as training, discipline, correction, guidance? Should there not at least be a marginal note offering an alternate meaning? The next line literally goes on to say "he seeks him early (or earnestly) with discipline."

At this point, the New King James offers "But he who loves him disciplines him promptly." It is certainly true that parents who love their children seek to begin their guidance early in their life. Better yet is the New International Readers Version "Those who don't correct their children hate them. But those who love them are careful to train them."¹

¹, New International Reader's Version. Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 1996.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

With a harshness not warranted by the text, the New English Bible version of Proverbs 22:15 reads “Folly is deep-rooted in the heart of a boy; a good beating will drive it right out of him.” Surely this can be grasped as an invitation to unfortunate action. The New International Reader’s Version renders the passage “Children are going to do foolish things. But correcting them will drive their foolishness far away from them.” The same verse in the NRSV speaks of “the rod of discipline”. This gives room for the concept of the rod as being a metaphor of instruction, correction or discipline. In Prov. 29:15, the *shebet* is equated with reproof that gives wisdom. The current NRSV rendering of Prov. 29: 15 “the rod and reproof” might better be emended to replace “rod” with “correction”, so that it would read “Correction and reproof give wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by a neglected child” At the same text the New International Readers Version declares “If children are corrected, they become wise. But children left to themselves bring shame to their mothers.” Two verses later it reads “If you train your children, they will give you peace. They will bring delight to you.” (v. 17)

More problematic is the instruction of Prov. 23:13-14 rendered in the New English Version “Do not withhold discipline from a boy; take the stick to him, and save him from death. If you take the stick to him yourself, you will preserve him from the jaws of death.” The NRSV is far more restrained: “Do not withhold discipline (*musar*) from your children; if you beat them with a rod, they will not die. If you beat them with the rod, you will save their lives from Sheol.” The New International Reader’s Version offers “Don’t hold back training from children. If you correct them, they won’t die. So correct them. Then you will save them from death.” Of all the versions that I checked this was the one that most consistently avoided reference to the actual rod or to beating. How tragic that an ugly political situation has forced Zondervan to remove it from circulation. The simplified translation, intended for children and those whose first language was not English, fell afoul of the inclusive language issue. Like the inclusive language NIV, it was banned. As John G. Stackhouse remarks in the most recent *Christianity Today*, the fervor over the latest translation question has “been aroused by the clash of social and political agendas.”²

But can we with integrity substitute an abstraction for the literal rod? In point of fact, this is already being done in Job 37:13. The NRSV reads “whether for correction, or for his land, or for love, he causes it to happen” while the NIV renders it “He brings the clouds to punish men or to water the earth and show his love.” The New King James has

² John G. Stackhouse “The Battle for the Inclusive Bible,” *Chirstianity Today*, November 15, 1999, p. 83-84/

”He causes it to come, whether for correction, or for His land, or for mercy.”² Although *shebet* appears in the original text, these versions translate it in terms of a metaphor. The literal rod makes little sense in this context.

Perhaps as an antidote to harsh interpretations of the Proverbs material, the New Testament writers encourage positive training, free from oppressive measures that will serve only to alienate the child. (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21). The current translations might even be enhanced to emphasize the danger and the unfortunate consequences. At Ephesians 6:4 “Parents, do not arouse the bitter resentment of your children” would be stronger than the present “do not provoke your children to anger”. (*Parorgizo*, the verb of Ephesians 6:4 is an intensive, used primarily in the Septuagint when it speaks of arousing the fierce anger of God). Children are to be raised in the discipline (*paideia*) and instruction (*nouthesia*) of the Lord an echo of the instructions in Proverbs.³

The NRSV rendering of Colossians 3:21 reads “Fathers, do not provoke your children, or they may lose heart.” The verb *erithizo* is “to make resentful or embitter.” Associated with *erithizo* is the concept of aggravation to the point of making a person rebellious or perverse, while the verb *athumeo* is to become discouraged, despondent or disheartened. The implication is that under overly harsh discipline, children will despair of

² . The New English Version omits verse thirteen altogether but offers in a foot-note “whether he makes him attain the rod, or his earth, or constant love”

³ In the writings of the Apostolic Fathers we find “You must not remove your hand from your son or daughter but you shall teach them the fear of the Lord from your youth.” (Epistle of Barnabas 19.5). Here the text is understood to indicate that withholding a guiding hand is neglect of one’s responsibility in training one’s children.

measuring up to what is demanded and will simply give up trying. Perhaps a fresh rendering could go something like this:” Do not goad your children into resentment, lest they be driven to despair.”

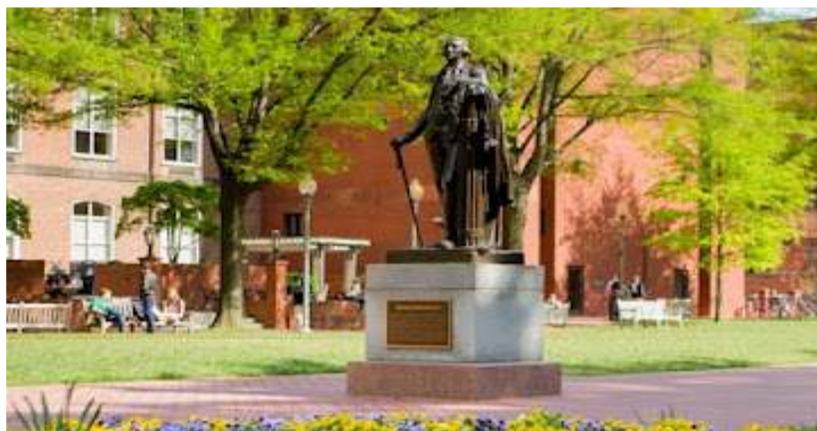
The news article reporting the study concludes that “A growing body of research suggests parents should use their voice, not their hands or household tools.” A major motif of the book of Proverbs is that of treasuring the verbal instruction that both parents offer to their child (1:8, 2:1-5; 4:1-4, 10-13, 20-22; 6:20; 7:1).

Editor’s Note:

We do not listen to video links or read print material that is linked to items we print, so we may or may not agree with those links. We only look at print material that is sent to us for print. Laura Lee

Reprinted with permission from: **God’s Word to Women**
<http://www.godswordtowomen.org/>

Why George Washington University Should Celebrate Its Namesake (Copyright 2022) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)



The Washington Post recently raised eyebrows after publishing an op-ed that called for renaming George Washington University in order to address systemic racism and inequality. Such rhetoric, however, reveals a very limited understanding of history and is at odds with the nation’s most highly regarded abolitionists and Civil Rights leaders.

For example, no one was more scathing in their verbal attacks on slavery and racial inequality than the former slave and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. Yet, after much study and investigation, Douglass acquired a very high regard for Washington and America’s founders. In a July 4, 1852, speech, Douglass declared,

Fellow Citizens, I am not wanting in respect for the fathers of this republic. The signers of the Declaration of Independence were brave men. They were great men too—great enough to give fame to a great age. It does not often happen to a nation to raise, at one time, such a number of truly great men.

The difference in Douglass and modern anti-American pundits is that he understood the historical context of what happened in 1776 and 1787 and, therefore, their significance. He realized that, although imperfect, the Founders struck

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

a clear and bold blow for liberty by formulating anti-slavery founding documents at a time when slavery was accepted and practiced throughout most of the world.

Indeed, America's founders turned against slavery as the result of a great, spiritual awakening that transformed 18th century colonial America. This "Great Awakening" breached racial barriers and ignited an anti-slavery movement that turned multitudes of the founding generation against slavery, and even those founders who owned slaves publicly confessed that it was sinful and wrong. These facts led the noted Black scholar, Dr. Thomas Sowell, to write,

Among those who turned against slavery in the 18th century were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and other American leaders. You could research all of 18th century Africa or Asia or the Middle East without finding any comparable rejection of slavery there (Hyatt, *1726: The Year that Defined America*, 90).

Yes, Sowell is correct in saying that George Washington turned against slavery. In a letter to Robert Morris, dated April 12, 1786, Washington wrote, "There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of slavery."

Before his death, Washington devised a plan to completely rid Mt. Vernon of slavery. Those slaves who chose to leave were free to do so and those who chose to stay were paid wages. He also began a program to educate the children of slaves and prepare them for liberty. In a conversation with John Bernard concerning abolition, Washington declared,

Not only do I pray for it, on the score of human dignity, but I can clearly foresee that nothing but the rooting out of slavery can perpetuate the existence of our union by consolidating it in a common bond of principle (Hyatt, *Abolitionist Founding Fathers*, 42).

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) also understood the anti-slavery, inclusive character of America's founding documents. In his stirring, *I Have a Dream* speech, he exhorted America, not to dispense with those documents, but instead, to live up to them. Speaking from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, he declared,

When the architects of our Republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the "unalienable Rights" of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Yes, George Washington and other American Founders were on the cutting edge of the fight to end slavery at a time it was accepted and practiced in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and most of the world. We should, therefore, join Douglass and King in honoring Washington and the other founders for creating the freest nation in the history of mankind.

Editor's Note:

We do not listen to video links or read print material that is linked to items we print, so we may or may not agree with those links. We only look at print material that is sent to us for print. Laura Lee

Reprinted with permission from: God's Word to Women
<http://www.godstowomen.org/>

Pulsating Discs from the Sky?
(Copyright 06-02-2008) by Jonathan Gray (New Zealand)

Attention. Aliens are coming to abduct all the good looking and sexy people.

You will be safe, I'm just emailing to say goodbye.

I chuckled as I read that email from my friend and colleague John Paige. Whenever John phones, you can be sure we'll end up laughing about something.

If you didn't know, laughter is good for the heart. How's your heart?

Anyway, speaking of aliens, I mean the extraterrestrial kind, have you heard about the group of alleged ancient astronauts who supposedly dropped out of the sky and left behind some pulsating discs in caves over in Asia?

ARE THE DROPA DISCS EXTRATERRESTRIAL?

It was in 1938, high in the mountains of BayanKara-Ula, on the border of China and Tibet, that some archaeologists were surveying a series of interlocking caves.

They came upon a cache of 716 stone discs. Each had a hole in the center, like that on a gramophone record. And from the hole a double groove traced out a spiral to the circumference.

These, however, were not soundtracks but some kind of writing.

The discs contained large amounts of cobalt and were said to rhythmically pulsate as though they had electric charges in them or were part of an electric circuit.

Some of the discs were given by the discoverer, Chi Pu Tei, a professor of archaeology at Beijing University, to the University and kept there for 20 years, from 1942 to 1962.

Although their present whereabouts are uncertain, they might still be at Beijing University.

An Austrian engineer by the name of Wegerer took some photographs in 1974, when he was on a guided China tour.

In Banpo-Museum in Xian, the capital of the Province of Shensi, China, he came across two discs which exactly met the descriptions known from the Bayan-Kara-Ula of 1962.

And he could even recognize hieroglyphs in spiral-like grooves, although they were partly crumbled away.

According to the translator, Dr Nui, one of the lines of the hieroglyphs read:

The Dropas came down from the clouds in their aircraft. The men, women and children of the neighboring peoples (Ham) hid in the caves ten times before sunrise.

"When at last they understood the sign language of the Dropas, they realised that the newcomers had peaceful intentions."

My engineer friend Roland Brown smiled when he heard someone claiming these had to be of extraterrestrial origin.

"Why was that?" he asked.

"Well, simply," it was explained, "because ancient man could not have produced them."

You know the story. We evolved up from a primitive state, so if anything so advanced was ever found, it could not be from ancient man.

That's basically the story that was pitched to us at school, right?

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

So anything advanced from the past such as these pulsating discs had to have been brought to this planet from some other world. Well, especially since the people that brought them came down from the clouds!

Roland smiled to himself. “Obviously some people don’t know about the amazingly high man-made civilization of the past,” he chuckled. “So they like to think of the discs as evidence of visitors from outer space.”

However, Roland was in a good position.

He had become familiar with evidence for ancient mathematics, metallurgy, megalithic construction, mechanical devices, advanced medical practice, electricity, weaponry, flight, and so on.

Yes, the ancients were quite capable of making those discs. And flying, too.

Ancient flight? The evidence is more substantial than many folks realize.

So, it is natural that folk unaware of such ancient knowledge would “find it difficult” to explain the Dropla discs in terms of earthly experience.

Therefore, they would find it tempting to suggest that the discs and the Dropla - had come from outer space.

Yet truth is often very simple. Memories of “gods” from the skies are explainable as the recollection by primitive people of visits from contemporary civilizations who had aircraft.

Similar reactions have occurred in our day.

Roland remembered a report from Vietnam. A helicopter made an emergency landing in a remote village. The natives greeted the crewmen as gods and offered sacrifices to them!

And during World War II, in Papua New Guinea Allied airmen were mistaken for gods landing with gifts from the sky.

As for those skeletons found near to the Dropla disc find, there were similar looking people living today in the vicinity! No good reason for stating them to be non-human.

From all the research worldwide, it is reasonable to suspect that these discs could well belong to the man-made high technology era of 2200 to 900 BC.

In case you weren’t aware, none of the ancient artefacts found on earth is composed of material unknown to earth.

And significantly, their technological makeup conforms with the development of our own modern civilization.

Okay, but what about all the UFO sightings, contacts, and cover-ups?

Who are those “greys” and others that are reported to be appearing to men and women everywhere? What about the reported abductions? Are these for real?

Answer: Yes, they are. The real question should be, Who’s behind all these strange goings on?

Now, that’s the REAL story.

And the answers will shock you! Guaranteed.

Was Paul a False Apostle?

(Copyright 09-17-2025) by David C. Grabbe (Charlotte, North Carolina)



"Go, for [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel." ([Acts 9:15](#)).

In his book, *Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis makes a useful observation:

The devil always sends errors into [the world](#) in pairs—pairs of opposites. And he always encourages us to spend a lot of time thinking which is the worse. You see why, of course? He relies on your extra dislike of the one error to draw you gradually into the opposite one.

An unusual conversation reminded me of this quotation because the exchange involved an error that is contrary to what we typically encounter from nominal Christianity. That is, many view the apostle Paul as the champion of grace because some of his statements appear to nullify works of obedience (such as keeping the [Sabbath](#)) within a Christian's walk (though accepting works of *charity*). The church of [God](#) is familiar with that error. But there is a corresponding opposite approach that is also an error. It is less common, but it seems to be growing in prevalence as [Satan](#) continues to wage war against God's Word.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

The conversation that recalled Lewis’ observation occurred in the church office parking lot. I was about to back out of my parking space when a car pulled into the spot next to my truck. The driver gestured that he wanted to talk—I thought perhaps he wanted directions—so we got out and made brief introductions, including a Covid-era elbow bump. Then this self-identified “son of Jacob” got his Bible, saying he wanted to go over some things.

He began in the early chapters of Romans, with Paul’s well-known teaching on justification by [faith](#). However, he followed on by saying that Paul’s statements *contradict* “Brother James”—referring to [James 2:24](#), where James concludes that a man is justified by works and not by faith only. It was then that I noticed that in the margins of his Bible, certain passages were bracketed and labeled with the word “lie.” Glancing down the margin of his Bible, I saw where he had written, “Lie . . . Lie . . . Lie.”

In short, this son of Jacob wanted to save me from Paul, whom he considered to be a false apostle!

Is Paul Credible?

Among his more colorful assertions, this man claimed Paul was a great seducer. He asked me if, when younger, I went out drinking and trying to seduce women. I told him no. Well, he admitted, he had. He also confessed to having been in sales, which, in his mind, was apparently the same thing. In his younger days, he said, he would say whatever he needed to say to get what he was after, even though he did not actually mean it. He would knowingly say things just for effect, not because his words reflected personal belief or reality.

Thus, this man used his own example of ungodly persuasion to explain Paul’s approach in Romans. The book indeed tackles both sides of a complex subject. Paul extols grace or faith in one section, and then in the next section, he appears to backtrack and say something in support of the law.

In this man’s mind, all those places where Paul upholds God’s law and works were just part of the apostle’s seduction. They were hollow statements that allowed him to hide his real object, which was to undermine God’s law. By his own admission, this son of Jacob was practiced in manipulating others, and it seems he projected his former ways onto Paul. Truly, we see things as we are.

Yet this accusation is nothing more than an insinuation. Like the serpent’s words to Eve, this plants the seed of doubt, but it has nothing of substance to support it. Subsequently, nothing Paul writes can be used in his own defense, being automatically suspect.

The overall question of Paul’s credibility is a branch off the age-old question of whether we can trust the Bible and how we know it contains the correct books. One common misconception, which this son of Jacob repeated, is that the Catholic Church determined the biblical canon. So, he reasoned, if one distrusts the Catholic Church, then we as individuals must establish our own canon.

But the truth is that the Catholic Church did not determine the canon. It only agreed to the list of books already in use at the time—including Paul’s—and then added some apocryphal books (see Richard Ritenbaugh’s sermon, “[Forging the Canon](#)”).

Notice, then, the two perspectives. Most Protestants interpret Paul to mean they have been freed from God’s law. This man, seeing how Protestantism tends to use Paul’s writings to turn grace into license (see [Jude 4](#)), went to the opposite extreme and blundered into another devilish error. Thus, a pair of opposite errors is set before us, each problematic in its own way.

Paul Was Not Anti-law

This man is not alone. Within the religious world, an undercurrent exists that asserts that Paul preached a different gospel than Christ and started a new, false religion called “Christianity.” Anti-Paul sentiment was prevalent among the Ebionites, a sect that arose in the late first century or early second century. This sentiment is also found today among some followers of the Hebrew Roots movement.

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

Opposition to Paul arose early because of his conversion and subsequent renunciation of Judaism, making him an apostate in Jewish eyes. Confusion enters at this point because many believe Judaism to be the religion God delivered to Israel through [Moses](#). In reality, while Judaism contains God’s law at its core (as does true Christianity), it also incorporates forms and thoughts picked up during the Jews’ exile in Babylon, as well as Greek thought (Hellenism). Over the centuries, it developed numerous additions to God’s law and countless traditions that obscured His intent.

Thus, while Paul was an apostate from Judaism, it is *not* true that he was against God’s law. He was against the misuse of works within the salvation process and against the traditions Judaism added, which Jesus was also against ([Matthew 15:1-14](#); [Mark 7:5-13](#)).

The book of Acts shows Paul not merely giving lip service to God’s law as some kind of “seduction” but *actively practicing the law* he allegedly discarded. Scriptures such as Acts 13:42-44; 16:13; 17:1-2; 18:4 illustrate his regular Sabbath-keeping and fellowship. His participation in vows (Acts 18:18) and feasts (Acts 18:21; 20:6) further demonstrates his commitment to the law.

Additionally, Paul’s trial before Felix illustrates his true convictions. The apostle forthrightly stated, “But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, *believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets*” (Acts 24:14; emphasis ours throughout). While a seducer probably would have shown his true colors to get out of this trial, attempting to placate Felix with platitudes of licentious grace, Paul instead doubled down and “reasoned [with Felix] about *righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come,*” causing Felix to fear!

These are not the actions of a man willing to say whatever it takes to further his own agenda. His conviction compelled him to speak of God’s requirement for obedience while on trial.

Peter’s Character Witness

God has provided ample support for Paul even apart from his testimony about himself. Notice the conclusion of Peter’s second epistle:

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in [peace](#), without spot and blameless; and consider that the [longsuffering](#) of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the [wisdom](#) given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. ([II Peter 3:14-16](#))

Here, the apostle Peter gives us a character witness of Paul. He also provides a warning about the tendency for untaught and unstable people to misunderstand Paul’s writings, twisting their meaning to their own destruction. In God’s church, this passage is commonly referenced regarding Protestantism’s antinomianism, but it also applies to anti-Paul rhetoric. His writings are deep and nuanced, but many today claiming the name of Jesus seem only able to digest the scriptural equivalent of sound bites and video shorts, missing the full depth.

Notice that Peter calls him “our beloved brother Paul.” Those are terms of endearment, not terms used to describe a false apostle. In fact, Peter spends the entirety of the previous chapter warning about [false teachers](#), but it contains not the slightest hint that he had Paul in view. Peter says that some things Paul writes are hard to understand, not that Paul is a false apostle! The problem lies in *understanding* Paul’s material, not in the material or its author.

Peter goes on to state that Paul had wisdom “given to him,” implying “by God.” In other words, God inspired Paul to write what he wrote. (His “wisdom” could even include his difficult-to-understand style because God has not given everyone eyes to see and ears to hear at this time.)

Finally, Peter includes Paul’s epistles—which were circulating among the churches—with “the rest of the Scriptures.” It could also be rendered, “the other Scriptures.” Peter puts Paul’s writings in the same category as the writings of Moses

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

and the prophets! (Peter may also be referring to the books that would become the New Testament canon, which was nearly complete at this point, perhaps missing just the final writings of John.)

Thus, despite Paul and Peter having some disagreements early on, Peter’s testimony here—after most, if not all, of Paul’s epistles were written—is that he is a beloved brother, gifted by God, whose writings fall in the same category as the other Scriptures, albeit people tend to misunderstand them.

Peter’s endorsement-cum-caution here answers the critics who see Paul’s claim of apostleship through private visions as self-promotion without external validation. While Peter does not directly call Paul an apostle (yet writes this endorsement within the context of “*the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior*” in [II Peter 3:2](#)), neither does he dispute his apostleship nor accuse him of usurping a position. Instead, he implicitly endorses Paul’s letters, warning only of *misunderstanding* them in a way that can lead to destruction. Humble, sincere obedience to God’s law does not lead to destruction—disobedience does.

Peter’s validation of Paul has some far-reaching ramifications. If, as alleged, Paul is a false apostle, then those who support him are also called into question. If he is untrustworthy, then Peter is also unreliable because Peter vouches for him and his epistles, as does Luke. The faith-destroying contagion begins to spread.

The Support of John and Jude

The apostle John is especially significant regarding Paul’s “threat” to believers. As the last original apostle, John saw the whole span of the first-century church—its personalities and its problems. He could have written an open letter, warning of “the great Pauline heresy,” and ensured that this letter was included with the writings he collected and canonized for all future generations. Yet we have no such warning.

The New Testament warns against the leaven of the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and Herod. We are given the story of Simon Magus, who likely started counterfeit Christianity. We are warned about Diotrephes, the [Nicolaitans](#), a “Jezebel,” [Gnosticism](#), the doctrine of Balaam, and the way of Cain—but not Paul. John’s epistles cover some of the same ground as Paul’s, and while John does also warn of false teachers, none of the warnings of the last original apostle fit Paul or what he wrote. The only thing that God has preserved for us that resembles a warning is what Peter wrote, which is really an endorsement, albeit with a caution that his fellow apostle’s writings can be misunderstood.

Jude’s short letter is almost entirely about false teachers. Notice his description:

These are grumblers, complainers, walking according to their own lusts; and they mouth great swelling words, flattering people to gain advantage. But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord [Jesus Christ](#): how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. ([Jude 16-18](#))

In verse 17, Jude refers to apostles of Christ, and in verse 18, he tells us what these apostles of Christ warned of: “mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts.” An apostolic warning that matches this appears in [II Peter 3:3](#), a little before Peter notes that brother Paul’s epistles contain some things that are difficult to understand. So, Jude upholds Peter.

However, Jude refers to *apostles*—plural—meaning that there was at least one other apostle (other than Peter) who warned about end-time false teachers. The only other writer that is available to us who gave a warning like what Jude describes is Paul:

» Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons . . . ([I Timothy 4:1](#))

» But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: . . .([II Timothy 3:1](#))

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

» For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers . . . (II Timothy 4:3)

» For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. (Acts 20:29)

Thus, although Paul was not a companion of Jesus, Jude still indirectly identifies him as an apostle of Jesus Christ by referring to what he wrote. The word *apostle* simply means “one sent forth,” meaning one commissioned with a message.

Luke’s Witness

The question of Paul’s authenticity also involves the book of Acts, which was written by Luke, the apostle’s traveling companion. Acts 1:21-22 relates the original disciples’ search for a replacement for Judas:

Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the [baptism](#) of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.

Some use these verses to say Paul should not be considered an apostle because he did not accompany Christ throughout His ministry. However, this creates a dilemma: Through this same book, Luke testifies extensively about Paul and his evident apostleship. Therefore, if Luke and his writings are tossed out because they support Paul, then this passage has no bearing as a disqualifier of him. The book of Acts—in its entirety—is either part of the canon or it is not.

An event in the middle of the book gives Luke’s endorsement:

But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. (Acts 14:4)

To identify who it is that Luke calls “the apostles,” we must look back to the beginning of Acts 13:

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the [Holy Spirit](#) said, “Now separate to Me [Barnabas](#) and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. (Acts 13:2-3)

Clearly, Paul and Barnabas were the apostles in Iconium during the division there. To remove all doubt, further down in Acts 14:14, Luke writes that “when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude . . .” This passage shows that one did not have to have accompanied Jesus to be an apostle. Luke directly names Paul and Barnabas as apostles because they were sent forth.

Acts also records the vision of Ananias of Damascus, in which the Lord said to him, “Go, for [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel” ([Acts 9:15](#)). Similarly, Acts 19 chronicles that Gentiles at Ephesus received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of Paul’s hands (verse 6). While working incredible miracles, he boldly preached the [Kingdom of God](#), as God’s Word prevailed through his work (verses 8-12, 20).

Again, if Paul is untrustworthy, then Luke—who wrote extensively about Paul—is suspect as well. In that case, we cannot trust his gospel, nor the book of Acts, both of which fill in exquisite details about Jesus, such as His birth and genealogy through Mary, as well as the stories of John the Baptist and the early church, which are not found elsewhere.

Significantly, if we exclude Paul and Luke, we also exclude all the New Testament support for Gentiles becoming believers, as prophesied (see [Joel 2:28](#); [Isaiah 11:10](#); [40:5](#); [42:6](#); [49:6](#); [66:23](#); [Jeremiah 16:19](#); [Malachi 1:11](#); [Amos 9:12](#)). The remaining, disfigured New Testament would be anti-Gentile and chauvinistic, which some sons of Jacob would prefer because they are inclined to think of Israelites as superior.

The "New" Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

Adding and Subtracting

Paul writes that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" ([Romans 10:17](#)). An aspect of that truth is that our faith is dependent on what we consider to be "the word of God"! If we add apocryphal works into the mix, our faith will change. If we subtract works, such as Paul's writings (and Luke, Peter, and Jude, who uphold Paul), our faith will likewise be radically altered.

Judaism added so many traditions, opinions, and pagan concepts that its ardent adherents could not recognize the Messiah when He walked and preached among them. Their faith had been altered because they were using a corrupted lens to view God's pure Word. Messing with the canon always alters faith. It is for good reason that we are warned not to add to or take from God's Word (see [Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19](#)).

It has been said that if you believe what you like in the Bible and reject what you do not like, it is not the Bible you believe, but yourself. God does not give us a line-item veto to decide what to accept and what to reject in His Word, which is a lazy way of dealing with apparent contradictions. Instead, we must do the hard work of digging in and finding how all the Scriptures work together so that we can pattern our lives by every Word of God.

Editor's Note:

We do not listen to video links or read print material that is linked to items we print, so we may or may not agree with those links. We only look at print material that is sent to us for print. Laura Lee

Reprinted with permission from: Church of the Great God
<https://www.cgg.org/>

Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to: Prophecy Unfolding
Article by Dwight Fleming
Comments by Rafael Algorri (Email)

Not sure my first attempt got through, very interesting points!

Another interesting point of proof/view?

[https://wccongregationofgod.org/uploads/3/4/8/2/34821898/the_united_states_in_propesy.pdf](https://wccongregationofgod.org/uploads/3/4/8/2/34821898/the_united_states_in_prophecy.pdf)

Iron Sharpening Iron
In regard to: Prophecy Unfolding
Article by Dwight Fleming
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

First of all, thank you for the information. The reason you are unable to get through to the list is because the list is set up as a one-way list. In other words, it is meant to send out newsletters and other important information. We believe we are in the last days. How close we are I don't know, but at times we may receive information which is relevant to what is

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

happening today so that everyone on the list gets a copy right away. It could be prophecy, a warning, or a prayer request or perhaps something else of some importance.

I believe that the major problem with the article you sent to us as your proof that Ephraim is the United States instead of Manasseh is found in this verse:

Gen 48:19 And his father refuseth, and saith, 'I have known, my son, I have known; he also becometh a people, and he also is great, and yet, his young brother is greater than he, and his seed is the fulness of the **nations**;'

In the article they are trying to tell everyone that “nations” here should have been translated as “people.” The article is trying to say that Strong’s #1471 means “people”, but they neglected to tell you the rest.

H1471

gôy gôy
gô'ee, gô'-ee

Apparently from the same root as **H1465** (in the sense of *massing*); a foreign *nation*; hence a *Gentile*; also (figuratively) a *troop* of animals, or a *flight* of locusts: - Gentile, heathen, nation, people.

Most bibles translate it as “nations” even most literal versions. As you can see from the Strong’s definition the nations could be Gentile nations.

As you know during war time you end up with a lot of mixed seed due to rapes and one night type stands and even through some lasting relationships. So why would Great Britain not be spreading their seed all over the world as they overtook and ruled over these many nations, gentile or not. Since the seed was mixed only God could count those who were and were not of Israelite (Ephraim) blood all over the world.

From Wikipedia

Several countries ([dominions](#)) within the British Empire gained independence in stages during the earlier part of the 20th century. Much of the rest of the empire was dismantled in the twenty years following the end of the [Second World War](#), starting with the independence of [India](#) and [Pakistan](#) in 1947, and continued until the handover of [Hong Kong](#) to the People's Republic of China in 1997. There remain, however, fourteen territories around the world known as the [British Overseas Territories](#) which remain under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the United Kingdom.

Many of the former territories of the British Empire are members of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#). Fourteen of these (known, with the United Kingdom, as the 15 [Commonwealth realms](#)) retain the British monarch (currently [Charles III](#)) as head of state. The British monarch is also Head of the Commonwealth, but this is a purely symbolic and personal title; members of the Commonwealth (including the Commonwealth realms) are fully sovereign states.

[Territorial evolution of the British Empire - Wikipedia](#)

Also, from Wikipedia

As of 2023, there are 15 Commonwealth realms: [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Australia](#), [The Bahamas](#), [Belize](#), [Canada](#), [Grenada](#), [Jamaica](#), [New Zealand](#), [Papua New Guinea](#), [Saint Kitts and Nevis](#), [Saint Lucia](#), [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#), [Solomon Islands](#), [Tuvalu](#), and the [United Kingdom](#). All are members of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#), an intergovernmental organization of 56 [independent member states](#), 52 of which were formerly part of the [British Empire](#). Charles III is also [Head of the Commonwealth](#), a non-constitutional role.

[Commonwealth realm - Wikipedia](#)

The British Empire started to decline in the early 1900's and after World War II. In it's hey day the British Empire was the

The “New” Church of God Messenger
A Newsletter for the People of God
November 22, 2025 --- Issue No. 237

biggest empire that ever existed with a population of 531 million people.

In 2021 the population of the United States was only 331.9 million people, and that number would also include many gentiles.

So, I have to stick with what the bible says. Ephraim was blessed first making him the 12th tribe or Great Britian. It has been said that “The sun never set on the British Empire”. They were the largest and they were a multitude of Nations just like the bible says.

Manasseh was blessed last making them the 13th tribe. Which means they are the smaller of the two countries which is the United States.

Even in scripture Ephraim had a larger population than did Manasseh.

Num 1:33 Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of **Ephraim, were forty thousand and five hundred.** **Num 1:34** Of the children of Manasseh, by their generations, after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, all that were able to go forth to war; **Num 1:35** Those that were numbered of them, *even* of the tribe of **Manasseh, were thirty and two thousand and two hundred.**

This scripture is interesting because it talks about and connects Ephraim with a unicorn (ox, reem “unicorn”). The coat of arms for Great Britain has a lion and a unicorn on it. The unicorn for Ephraim and the Lion for Judah because that is where the throne of David is and he (David) is of the tribe of Judah.

Deu. 33:17 His glory *is like* the firstling of his bullock, and his horns *are like* the horns of unicorns: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they *are* the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they *are* the thousands of Manasseh.

So, until you can show me biblical evidence that Ephraim is America, I will have to stick with what I see in the bible. Ephraim is Great Britain and Manasseh is the United States, there is too much biblical and historical proof to see it any other way at this time. If someone has more proof one way or the other, present it to us.

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

Holy Days 2026

Passover – April 2, 2026 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 2-8, 2026

Pentecost – May 22, 2026

Trumpets – September 12, 2026

Atonement – September 21, 2026

Tabernacles –September 26, 2026, to October 2, 2026

Last Great Day – October 3, 2026

Notes

Notes