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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

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Articles

(Length – At Our Discretion)

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In my upbringing South Africa was a republic and of course most at school were that way inclined. My Mum was pro-Royal lite but Dad (as a British migrant) was completely pro-Royal and he helped me to understand its goodness, terrific ancient traditions, the \$billions it raises in charity work, the happiness it brings (including the glorious pomp and ceremony), enormous inflow of \$\$\$ due to tourism, stability, etc. etc. etc.

Over time I became a constitutional monarchist by age 16 or so.

When the family moved to the UK, I was able to see Buckingham Palace, castles, monuments etc. and this experience cemented my loyalty to the Constitutional Monarchy.

When I worked for NSW Premier’s Dept one of my roles was as Manager for Parliamentary and Ministerial Services, inter-governmental relations etc. On a couple of occasions, I was enrolled to assist with Royal visits and later the Olympic Games.



One of them was in February 1992 for the Queen’s visit and in January 1994 for Prince Charles’ visit. I still have photographs, the various brochures, sitting arrangements (a pecking order and gazette), briefing documents, ID cards and such like.

For the Queen’s visit I watched her opening NSW Parliament in the Legislative Council (upper house) and saw her drive down Macquarie Street. Later I participated in guiding dignitaries to their chairs at a function at Sydney Town Hall and came within a few meters of her and I witnessed how the Parliamentarians covered before her. That was great to see!

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As I said to people later, you could feel a tremendous presence or power emanating from her. Was it just her or an angelic power with her I wondered?

During his visit in 1994 I was a mere few feet from the Prince but he only shook hands with those he visited. I was also part of the entourage that flew with him to the country towns of Forbes and Parkes and travelled around the city with him. Later, at Darling Harbour, I saw the attempted attack upon him and I was told later that guns were at the ready to shoot the offender. The Prince was so cool and took it all in his stride, simply adjusting his cufflinks as the scuffle took place and the offender was arrested.

That is it in brevity – I loved that job!



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The True Cross

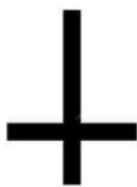
(Copyright) by Nathaniel Burson (Big Sandy, Texas)

For much of the last 2,000 years, archaeologists, saints, and crusaders have sought relics of the true cross. And throughout that time, many fragments of the true cross have been found – or were believed to have been found. Someone once quipped that if all the fragments sold as pieces of the true cross were gathered up, it would be enough to build a fleet of ships.

That's probably not true, as the fragments most churches claim to have are no more than splinters, but still – what was the true cross like? You probably picture the standard Latin cross, shaped like a lower-case "t", with or without a bloody Jesus hanging from it.



Latin Cross



St. Peter's Cross



Calvary Cross



Patriarchal Cross



Lorraine Cross



Papal Cross



Celtic Cross



Orthodox Cross



Greek Cross



Saltire
or St. Andrew's Cross



Chi-Rho



Chi-Rho



Tau Cross
or St. Anthony's Cross



Thieves' Cross



Cross Pattée



Maltese Cross



Cross Moline



Cross Fleury



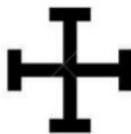
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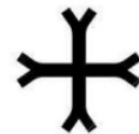
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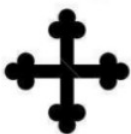
Cross Potent



Cross Fourchée



Cross Crosslet



Cross Botonnée



Cross Recerclée



Cross Pointed



Cross Quadrate



Cross Voided



Jerusalem Cross

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But Christians around the world disagree violently over the shape of the true cross of Christ, with a wide variety of crosses being used as Christian symbols. So how can we know which one is the real one?

While certain crosses are favored candidates among scholars, there is no clear consensus as to which was the “accurate” cross of Christ. The general trend is that western Christianity (Roman Catholics and Protestants) favor the Latin cross, while Eastern Christianity (Greek, Russian, and Slavic Christians) favor the Greek cross or some form of it.

Who is right? Can all these crosses be the true cross? Certainly not! No more than one of them can be the true cross *and maybe not even that one!*

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

So, we need to find what the true cross looked like. Don’t be so certain you already know the answer! “Knowing” is a very dangerous thing (**1 Corinthians 8:2**).

But before we get into what the Bible says on the subject, I want to examine the word “cross” itself. “Cross” comes from the Latin word *crux* which means... well, it means “cross”. But what does THAT mean?

In our English language today, you lay beams **across** one another. One line **crosses** the other. These uses come from the same Latin word *crux*, which – today – means exactly the same as our English words – **two intersecting lines!**

Therefore, you’d think that would settle the question and eliminate, say, the Orthodox cross above (which has four intersecting lines!). Alas, it’s not that simple **because the meaning of words can change over time**. So, let’s study what the word *crux* (and therefore, cross) originally meant in Latin.



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Many of these quotes will come from the Catholic Encyclopedia, “Archaeology of the cross and crucifix” (henceforth, CE). No organization has spent more time and money trying to establish this question, and while I may question their conclusions, their research is excellent. There’s a lot of Latin and lengthy sources, so I’m going to trim some of that – you can read the full version on their website at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/04517a.htm>

According to them “The penalty of the cross goes back probably to the *arbor infelix*, or unhappy tree, spoken of by Cicero... This primitive form of crucifixion on trees was long in use, as Justus Lipsius notes” (CE).

Justus Lipsius was a 16th century researcher who attempted to answer the same question we’re asking and drew up 16 different possibilities for the shape of the true cross of Christ.

The version referenced by this passage was called the *crux simplex* (*simple cross, meaning a straight pole*). The CE notes that the primitive or earliest form of crucifixion probably followed this pattern (Lipsius’ own drawing above), by tying, nailing, or impaling a victim on a pole or tree.



“Such a tree was known as a cross (crux). On an ancient vase [similar scene pictured lower right, arrow highlighting the “cross”] we see Prometheus bound to a beam which serves the purpose of a cross... **Certain it is, at any rate, that the cross originally consisted of a simple vertical pole**, sharpened at its upper end” (CE). **Note that a tree upon which evildoers were tortured was called a crux (cross).** This is important because it means that the word “cross” did *NOT originally* imply two beams at right angles!

In all modern languages, including “modern” Latin, we have a deeply rooted concept that “cross” and “crux” have *always* meant “two intersecting lines”. Today we use the word to refer to railroad *crossings*, chickens *crossing* roads, and parallel lines which *never cross*. **But that’s not what the Latin word meant around the time of Christ!**

“[Crux was] frequently used in a broad sense. Speaking of Prometheus nailed to Mount Caucasus, Lucian uses the substantive and the verb [forms of *crux*] and, the latter being derived from that which also signifies a cross. **In the same way the rock to which Andromeda was fastened is called crux, or cross.**” (CE).

This awkwardly phrased quote basically says that Lucian called the mountain the mythical Prometheus was nailed to a *cross*. In the same way another writer called the rock to which Andromeda was tied a *cross*!

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These two images are late Renaissance art depicting the “crosses” to which Andromeda and Prometheus were bound. This is according to the most cross-adoring organization on the planet, the Catholic Church. So, you see, the word “cross” says *nothing* about the specific shape of the instrument of torture – although it does usually imply a pole of some kind.

So had Andromeda said to you “take up my cross and follow me”, *she would have meant pick up this rock!* She would not have meant pick up this ☩ cross! So had I said to you in Latin “Jesus was *crucified*”, **that would not necessarily have meant “nailed to a ☩ cross”!** *It could have, but more often it would mean “nailed to a pole”!*

“The Latin word *crux* **was applied to the simple pole** and indicated directly the nature and purpose of this instrument, being derived from the Latin verb *crucio*, “to torment, to torture” (CE).

As hard as it is to believe, these sources say the word “cross” was in no way descriptive of Jesus’ *instrument of torture!* Because *crux* is derived from a root word that means simply “to torture”!

How is that possible? Why call it a cross if it wasn’t... you know... a cross? *Because a “cross” simply meant “instrument of torture” until after people started believing that Jesus was tortured on a ☩. That powerful association swamped all other meanings of “crux”!*

It was the strength of the apostate church’s belief that Jesus was killed on a ☩ which CREATED the association between *crux* and the ☩ cross; there was no clear association with that *particular* method of torture until long after the death of Jesus!

But originally, during the time of Christ and for at least a century afterwards, *crux* could mean any “instrument of torture”, because it was derived from the Latin verb *crucio*, meaning “to torture”! *NOT* meaning “to cross”!

Consider the phrase “*this is excruciating*”. This comes from the same Latin root *crucio*. Does that mean “this is like being tied to a cross” in English? Or does it simply mean “*this is painful like torture!*”

Likewise, “*crucify*” originally conveyed “torture”, *and nothing else*. Later, it meant torture on a tree or pole, in a wide variety of possible ways **which is what it should still mean today!** Still later, with the rise of Christianity, it came to mean tortured on a ☩ just like Jesus was! **But that doesn’t mean that’s what Jesus was actually tortured on!**

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So, we call ☩ a cross because most Christians believe that Jesus was killed on a ☩. But the fact that it was called a cross does not prove it was a ☩ cross! It could just as easily have been a “I” cross!

THE HANGING TREE

Originally a generic “instrument of torture”, the Latin *crux* frequently referred specifically to the “unhappy tree” or “ill-omened (unlucky) tree”. Thus Cicero said, “hang him to the ill-omened tree” (Cicero, 54 BC, “For Rabirius” 4.11). This was sometimes a living tree, but more often referred to a single, upright pole.

This is very reminiscent of what Peter says of Jesus “*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree*” (1 Peter 2:24). Joshua did this to the body of a pagan king after he was executed:

Joshua 8:29 (BBE) *And he put the king of Ai to death, hanging him on a tree till evening: and when the sun went down, Joshua gave them orders to take his body down from the tree...*

According to God’s commandment, the Hebrews killed the victims first and hung the bodies on a tree or pole to posthumously humiliate them. It was a form of shaming, but *not a form of torture* (Deuteronomy 21:22-23).

There is no reason to believe that the king of Ai was hanged on a cross. The Hebrew word *ets* simply means tree. It can be used to mean things made from trees – poles, planks, or even an erected gallows (see Esther 5:14, 8:7, etc.). But when it means what *the context tells us*, like Esther does! Otherwise, it must be read as simply “tree” or “pole”.

Since Jesus carried His cross – His tree – it is obvious He was not tied to a living tree, but one that could be dragged along (John 19:17, etc.). Thus, a pole cut from a tree. This doesn’t prove there *wasn’t* a crossbeam, **it simply means we have no reason to believe there was.**

Likewise in the NT, it frequently refers to Jesus being hung from a tree (Acts 5:30, 13:29, etc.). Galatians 3:13 specifically quotes Deuteronomy 21:22-23, above, using the Greek word *xulon*. This word means, like the Hebrew word *ets*, tree. By extension, things made from trees. You can see how the word is used in Revelation 22:2, 1 Corinthians 3:12, and Acts 16:24 to give you an idea of the different uses.

So, while the word in no way implies a cross, it is not impossible that it was one – however the simpler reading is just “stake”, as Jesus used it “...*Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves <xulon> to take me?*” (Mark 14:48).

STAUROS

We have proved that *cross* and *crux* mean “instrument of torture” and *ets* and *xulon* mean “pole”, “stake”, or something made of wood. But we have avoided the primary word translated “cross” in the NT, which is the Greek word *stauros*.

So, when it says that Jesus was nailed to a cross, the actual word inspired by God was “nailed to a *stauros*”. But what exactly does that word mean?

“*Stauros* denotes, primarily, ‘an upright pale or stake’. On such malefactors were nailed for execution. Both the noun and the verb *stauroo*, ‘to fasten to a stake or pale’, **are originally to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed ‘cross’.**” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, 1940, by W.E. Vine)

In other words, *stauros* did not mean cross *until the church decided Jesus was nailed to a two-beamed cross!* Just like *crux!*

“**Originally Greek *stauros* designated a pointed, vertical wooden stake firmly fixed in the ground.** Such stakes were commonly used in two ways. They were positioned side by side in rows to form fencing or defensive palisades around settlements, or singly they were set up as instruments of torture on which serious offenders of law were publicly suspended to die (or, if already killed, to have their corpses thoroughly dishonored).” (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, volume 1, page 825).

The Gentile nations were not so compassionate as God’s law which killed the evildoer first. Other nations delighted in

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making their captives suffer as much as possible. The victim could be tied, nailed, or impaled on the pole in a variety of horrible and sadistic ways. Upon the fall of Jerusalem, Josephus describes the many imaginative ways the Romans crucified the Jews...

“So, they were first whipped, and then tormented with all sorts of tortures, before they died, and were then crucified before the wall of the city. This miserable procedure made Titus greatly to pity them, while they caught every day five hundred Jews; nay, some days they caught more.... So, the soldiers, out of the wrath and hatred they bore the Jews, **nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses [stauros]**, by way of jest, when their multitude was so great, that room was wanting for the crosses, and crosses wanting for the bodies.” **(Josephus, wars of the Jews, chapter 11)**

The great shortage of wood mentioned here and elsewhere in Josephus makes it highly unlikely they would waste further wood creating a crossbeam. Particularly when single poles, perhaps spaced closely together, would allow much more efficient use of wood – victims could be nailed to multiple poles in creative and humiliating positions which the calloused Roman soldiers found amusing. Thus, rather than a field of Latin crosses outside Jerusalem, this was a field of closely spaced stakes used with all the cruelty of which men are capable of imagining.

The words translated “crosses” and “crucified” in Josephus are, as in the Bible, various forms of the Greek word *stauros*. A word meaning simply *pole* or *stake at that time (70 AD)*.

ROMAN CRUCIFIXION

At some point, the Romans began using crossbars on their crux-poles. “To this upright pole a transverse bar was afterwards added to which the sufferer was fastened with nails or cords, and thus remained until he died...” **(CE)**. The bar was sometimes lower, sometimes higher, sometimes on top to form a T.

The problem is, no one quite knows when this changed, or if it ever became the exclusive method. It seems like such an easy question to answer – how did Romans crucify other people? If this was a widespread practice, and it was, then surely there would be many descriptions of their use.

And there are – the problem is, all historians, even the most fanatical believers in the ☩ admit that the Romans practiced many forms of crucifixion during and after the time of Christ. As has been shown, there was no one universal way to use the word *crux* or *stauros*. **Just like there is no one specific meaning for “and they tortured him”!**

“He was crucified” could mean the victim was tied or nailed to, impaled on, or hung from a tree, a post, or a gallows, or in a pinch a building, cliff, or boat mast; with or without a crossbar, with or without a seat, before or after death, etc.

“At times the cross was only one vertical stake. Frequently, however, there was a cross-piece attached either at the top to give the shape of a T (crux commissa) or just below the top, as in the form most familiar in Christian symbolism ☩ (crux immissa). The victims carried the cross or at least a transverse beam (patibulum) to the place of execution, where they were stripped and bound or nailed to the beam, raised up, and seated on a sedile or small wooden peg in the upright beam...” **(Anchor Bible Dictionary, article “Crucifixion”)**.

Seneca the Younger, contemporary of Jesus, said of Roman crucifixion methods “I see before me crosses not all alike, but differently made by different peoples: some hang a man head downwards, some force a stick upwards through his groin, some stretch out his arms on a forked gibbet” **(Seneca the Younger, “To Marcia on Consolation”)**.

And unfortunately, the Bible is completely silent regarding a precise description of the *stauros* to which Jesus was crucified. It tersely says, “and they crucified him” **(Mark 15:25)**. There are other details of course, like the sign above His head – but nothing that conclusively proves the shape of the cross.

CHRISTIAN BELIEF IN THE ☩

“It is probable, **though we have no historical evidence for it**, that the primitive Christians used the cross to distinguish one another from the pagans in ordinary social intercourse.... Such observations throw light on a peculiar fact of primitive Christian life, i.e., **the almost total absence from Christian monuments of the period of persecutions of the plain, unadorned cross**” **(CE)**.

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Notice that they believe this *while admitting they have absolutely no evidence*. If the cross is the true Christian symbol, why did the earliest Christians – those who knew Jesus, knew the apostles, knew their disciples – not use it?

“During the first two centuries of Christianity, the cross was rare in Christian iconography, as it depicts a purposely painful and gruesome method of public execution and **Christians were reluctant to use it.**” (CE)

Why, when the modern Christian world proudly displays this “purposely painful and gruesome method of public execution”, did the original *Apostolic Christians* hesitate to use it? Wouldn't THEY know what Jesus wanted better than modern preachers or third-century apostate Christians?

“It is not, therefore, altogether strange or inconceivable that, from the beginning of the new religion, the cross should have appeared in Christian homes as an object of religious veneration, **although no such monument of the earliest Christian art has been preserved.**” (CE)

Do you notice the inherent assumption there? “We have no proof, but this is what must have happened *because this is how we do it today!*” While the apostles still lived, there was conspiracy and deception and false doctrine in the church (**2 Thessalonians 2:7**). While John was still alive, he was being put out of churches *he raised up!* (**3 John 1:9-10**).

The so-called church fathers (dating from 150 AD and onward) unanimously believed the cross to be either a T or a ⊕ *but the Bible doesn't say and there is no proof from the first century!* So, if John was being put out of his own church by false Christians *less than 50 years after the death of Christ*, how much can we rely on third-hand evidence dating 100 or 200 or more years after the crucifixion?

We *know* the Catholic “church fathers” embraced many false doctrines not found in the Bible. They were, in fact, the systematic creators of the false gospel. So how can we rely on their testimony, which we know was based on hearsay at best, and pagan superstition at worst? **No evidence from the first century exists simply because the true Christians didn't revere the cross and were “reluctant to use it”!**

“The early years of the **fifth century** are of the highest importance in this development, because it was **then that the undisguised cross first appears**. As we have seen, such was the diffidence induced, and the habit of caution enforced, by three centuries of persecution, that the faithful had hesitated all that time to display the sign of Redemption openly and publicly.” (CE)

The reason given by the CE – fear of persecution – is one possible interpretation of these facts. The other way to interpret them is that the earliest Christians did not worship the cross and did not believe Jesus was crucified on a ⊕!

MERGE AND HARMONIZE

So based on the gospel description, based on history, and based on the words themselves the conclusion has to be that *we don't know*. Later, apostate historical accounts favor the ⊕ cross, while the meaning of the words themselves favors the simple pole or stake.

Linguistically, there is absolutely no reason to believe it was a ⊕ cross, but it's not impossible from the text that it could be. Most Christians take their cue from descriptions written 200 years after the fact by historians *we know* had already departed from the truth of the gospel.

So, what do we do? What we always do! Merge and harmonize! This event had been prophesied for thousands of years, and Jesus was fulfilling OT symbolism with almost every step He took. So even though the NT doesn't specifically describe the cross, there are enough clues in the OT to allow us to form a solid conclusion.

Jesus described His cross as follows **“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up” (John 3:14)**. This means that when Jesus was lifted up on the cross, it would be *in the exact same way as Moses lifted up the serpent! And on the exact same type of stauros!* So read that story in **Numbers 21:8-9**.

Precisely why this event happened and what it means is interesting, and can be explained, but for now focus on the *clear*

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description of the event! You do not need a cross bar to put an armless *serpent* on a *stauros*! You need only a POLE to put it on, as the Bible describes, *which agrees with the simplest meaning of the NT stauros!*

See how, by allowing the Bible to interpret itself, we can solve problems? Nearly 1,000 years later when Israel was sinning, a good king came along and destroyed this same brass serpent:

2 Kings 18:4 (YLT) ...and beaten down the brazen serpent that Moses made, for unto these days were the sons of Israel making perfume to it, and he calleth it 'a piece of brass.'

The original language (left untranslated in the KJV as *nehushtan*) implies the diminutive, as in “that worthless little piece of brass”. Not unlike Paul’s phrasing in **1 Corinthians 13:1**, if a man doesn’t show love he is “as sounding brass”.



For our purposes, however, this seems to be a single brass casting, one large enough to be seen from some distance but not so large it couldn’t be lifted up and then transported across the wandering in the desert. Interestingly, the description of a healing serpent on a pole is eerily like the Greek myth of the healer god Asclepius (near right), who is always pictured with a serpent wrapped around a staff. Made of brass, the pole would have looked like this (far right).

But there is one final association to explore – remember, always merge *all* the scriptures on a subject before you draw a conclusion!

Remember the story in **Exodus 7:10-12**. This miracle in Egypt showed the transformation from a pole to a serpent, it is fighting with and eating other serpent-rods, and becoming a staff again. The details of why and how this miracle happened are again, not the point – the point is a clear association with a serpent and a *staff* or *stake*.

So, when Moses made a brass serpent *on a stake* it would have evoked memories of that miracle, as *well as foreshadowing Jesus’ death on that same type of stake!* When Jesus would be lifted up above the people, as this serpent was, and *swallow up Satan’s serpents just as Aaron’s rod had!*

Moses fled from that serpent! (**Exodus 4:3**). But Jesus bruised its head (**Genesis 3:15**) and destroyed the works of that serpent (**1 John 3:8**, **Hebrews 2:14**, etc.) just as Aaron’s rod did! And He did that BECAUSE He was lifted up *just like the brazen serpent*, which made it POSSIBLE to cast out the devil (**John 12:31-34**)!

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THE STAKE OF CHRIST

So, while the historical record is ambiguous or unreliable, and while the linguistic arguments are not convincing... as always, the Bible itself contains the clear answer. Jesus was crucified on a stake. It simply could not have been a ☩ – Moses hung the brass serpent on a POLE, like the staff of Aaron that became a serpent, just as the inspired record tells us that Jesus was nailed to a *stauros*, a stake!

Any other conclusion is forcing a meaning into the Bible based on your own belief, which is precisely why no one can understand the Bible today. They seek to make the scriptures say what they already believe to be true.

I will continue to use the word cross, just as the Bible translations also use the English word cross, **because the word means, and has always meant, “torture-pole” in English, Latin, and Greek.** So, it is not incorrect to use the term *if you know what it really means.*

But if it means ☩ to you, then it is incorrect to use the term, and it would be better for you to emphasize *stake* or *pole* until you are comfortable with the idea. It's *very* hard to unlearn wrong ideas, as you are no doubt realizing.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Why does it matter so much? Particularly since it's so hard to be sure, who really cares whether it was a ☩ or a T or a “I”? Let's ask the Catholics themselves where the sign of the cross – by that I mean, the sign of two intersecting lines – came from?

“The sign of the cross, represented in its simplest form by a crossing of two lines at right angles, greatly antedates, in both the East and the West, the introduction of Christianity. It goes back to a very remote period of human civilization... the cross was originally not a mere means or object of ornament, and from the earliest times had certainly another – i.e., symbolico-religious – significance.” (CE)

What they're saying, while trying not to say it, is that pagans worshiped the cross thousands of years before Christ was crucified on the *stauros*.

“The primitive form of the cross seems to have been that of the... swastika. At successive periods this was modified, becoming curved at the extremities, or adding to them more complex lines or ornamental points, which latter also meet at the central intersection.” (CE)

“The swastika is a sacred sign in India and is very ancient and widespread throughout the East. It has a solemn meaning among both Brahmins and Buddhists... **It is also, according to Milani, a symbol of the sun**... and seems to denote its daily rotation.... taking the Sanskrit word [swastika] literally... it would mean ‘sign of benediction’, or ‘of good omen’ (svasti), also ‘of health’ or ‘life’.” (CE)

So, in Sanskrit (ancient Indian), the word *swastika* originally meant “sign of blessing”, or “sign of life”.

“Another symbol which has been connected with the cross is the ansated cross (ankh or *crux ansata*) of the ancient Egyptians... From the earliest times also, it appears among the hieroglyphic signs **symbolic of life** or of the living...” (CE)

Now the fascinating thing is that to the ancient Egyptians, the ankh-cross was “a sign of life”. To the ancient Indians, the word *swastika* literally meant “a sign of life”. And if you ask any good Christian what the cross around their neck means, they will tell you “It is a sign of Jesus' resurrection” – in short, “a sign of life”! And when the Pope makes the sign of the cross, is it not “a sign of benediction”?

So, you see, it matters a great deal whether Jesus was crucified on a ☩ or a I cross! **Because the ☩ cross is an ancient and pagan symbol, which means to the false Christian today the same thing as the heathen cross meant to the heathen.** So, it's no surprise that the Catholic Encyclopedia goes on to say...

“...largely employed during the third and fourth centuries, the swastika.... still more closely resembles the cross.... Many fantastic significations have been attached to the use of this sign on Christian monuments, and **some have even gone so far as to conclude from it that Christianity is nothing but a descendant of the ancient religions** and myths of

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the people of India, Persia, and Asia generally.” (CE)

Obviously, the Catholics ridicule this claim. Yet equally obviously, they admit they use the same sign, **to which they ascribe the same meaning**, as those ancient pagan religions God hated. And the conclusion they ridicule is the simple truth:

Their version of Christianity is nothing but a descendant of the ancient religions and myths of the people of India, Persia, and Asia generally. And specifically, of Babylon.

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The Little Horn of Daniel

(Copyright) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

The Little Horn is only mentioned in the Book of Daniel beginning with the 7th chapter: “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had *ten horns*. I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another **little horn**, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and behold, in this [little] **horn** were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things” (Daniel 7:7-8).

In Daniel 8, we learn more details about this “little horn.” Daniel had a vision of a ram with two horns which is attacked by a he-goat with a “notable horn” between its eyes. This he-goat from the west smote and prevailed against the ram. The he-goat waxed strong but then the “notable horn” is broken with four notable horns coming up in its place. “And out of one of them came forth a **little horn**, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land” (verse 9). Reading the entire chapter, we learn that the ram is the Persian Empire while the he-goat is the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great pictured as the “notable horn” between its eyes which was broken.

Understanding how this was fulfilled in history, we know that Alexander the Great did not appoint an heir so that after his untimely death, his empire was divided up between four of his generals. Later on, at the end-time, a “little horn” will arise from one of these divisions of the Greek Empire. It is believed by most that this “little horn” will also be the end-time “King of the North” described in Daniel 11. Also, this person that is described as a “little horn” and “King of the North” in Daniel is believed to be the same person which is called the “Beast” in the Book of Revelation and also called the “Antichrist.”

There has been much speculation over who may become this future “little horn.” Since much of the ancient Greek Empire is now occupied by Muslim nations, it has become popular to suggest that this future “Beast” or “Antichrist” will be a Muslim. Others speculate that the Antichrist will come from the Tribe of Dan and thus be of Jewish or Israelite ancestry. Still, others believe that he will come from Edom or Esau which would probably also make him a Muslim. Are there any other clues about this “little horn” that has been overlooked by most prophecy writers?

“And in the latter time of their kingdom [the four horns], when the transgressors are come to the **full**, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding **dark sentences**, shall stand up” (Daniel 8:23). What does it mean that he will understand “dark sentences”? In the English Standard Version, this phrase is rendered, “one who understands riddles.” So, “dark sentences” could mean “riddles.” Where else in the Bible is there a mention of riddles?

“And the word of the LORD came unto me saying, Son of man, put forth a **riddle**, and speak a parable unto the house of Israel” (Ezekiel 17:1-2). Ezekiel 17 describes a parable which then contains a riddle. The parable first mentions a great eagle which comes to Lebanon and takes the highest limb of a cedar and carries it to “a city of merchants” (Babylon). This describes when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and took her king to Babylon. He set up another king over Judah (verses 12-14). However, that king rebelled and turned to Egypt (the other great eagle) for help yet to no avail

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(verses 15-21). As recorded in Jeremiah and elsewhere, the rebellious king of Judah, Zedekiah, was taken captive to Babylon. All his sons were slain before his eyes and then his eyes were put out. See Jeremiah 52:1-20 and 2 Kings 25:1-21.

The parable in Ezekiel 17 which describes the two great eagles was recorded in the Bible as part of Judah’s history and is easy to understand. Now comes the riddle. “Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also take of the highest branch of the highest cedar, and will set it; I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a **tender one**, and will plant it upon a high mountain and eminent: In the mountain of the height of Israel will I plant it; and it shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar: and under it shall dwell all fowl and every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell. And all the trees of the field shall know that I the LORD have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree, and have made the dry tree to flourish: I the LORD have spoken and have done it” (Ezekiel 17:22-24).

What was this “tender one” and where exactly did God plant it? That is the riddle which some have come to understand though largely rejected by the majority of Christian or Biblical theologians. If you want to learn the riddle, then obtain a copy of **Judah’s Sceptre and Joseph’s Birthright** by J.H. Allen. You can find a free copy to read online. That book explains how God fulfilled His covenant with King David. Jeremiah took a young daughter of King Zedekiah to Ireland to marry into another line of David which is called the “low tree” or “dry tree” in Ezekiel 17. Thus, Queen Elizabeth II sits on the throne of David today which is known as the throne of England.

This brings us to some speculation that I proposed over 40 years ago in my book on prophecy. Others have since come to see this with their own published book containing some interesting details of the present heir to the British throne, namely, Prince Charles. From my own research, here are some interesting tidbits to consider:

If a “horn” mentioned in Daniel is considered to be a king, then might “a little horn” possibly be referring to a prince? Could be. This “little horn” understands riddles. There are charts which show the ancestry of Queen Elizabeth II which reveal that she is a royal descendant of King David. Prince Charles would certainly be aware of this and may utilize this in the future to establish himself as the awaited messiah to the Jews.

Yet, the “little horn” was to arise from one of the four horns of the Greek Empire. This is where the pieces of the puzzle really begin to fall into place. Prince Charles’ father, Prince Philip, was a possible heir to the throne of Greece. He was born on the Greek island of Corfu. He was born Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark. He later abandoned his Greek and Danish titles and became a naturalized British subject in order to marry Elizabeth. With this in mind, Prince Charles should certainly be considered a possible candidate for “the little horn.”

The name “Charles” means “man.” Remember that the number of the Beast would be the number of a “man” (Revelation 13:18). This verse also mentions the number 666. Elsewhere in the Bible, the number 666 is connected to King Solomon (1 Kings 10:14; 2 Chronicles 9:13). As you know, Solomon inherited his father’s throne which still exists today. Satan knows the importance of that throne in the plan and promises of God.

The Little Horn is not mentioned in the book of Revelation. Rather, we see a “beast” rising up from the sea in Revelation 13:1-2. It has the body of a **leopard**, the feet of a **bear**, and the mouth of a **lion**. We find these same animals listed in Daniel seven. Yet, Revelation 13 depicts nations existing at the end-time. Which nations today are represented by a leopard, a bear, and a lion?

Germany, Russia, and Britain or the United Kingdom. Could Revelation 13 be forecasting the rise of a future military and economic alliance of these three nations? And could Prince Charles somehow become the honorary figurehead of this alliance?

Don’t forget that Prince Charles also has German blood through Queen Victoria’s husband, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (See “House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha”).

Instead of Germany fighting against Russia and Britain, as in WW 2, imagine them combining their future economic and military might in an alliance inspired by Satan himself. With the U.S. blundering withdrawal from Afghanistan last August,

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we saw how the UK and others realized that U.S. support could no longer be relied upon after many decades of NATO security with the U.S. being the cornerstone of that alliance. Cracks have formed which may never be repaired.

Revelation 13:3 says that one of the heads of the Beast was mortally wounded but then was healed causing the world to wonder. What may be this symbolic healing yet to occur? If the Roman Empire was one of the heads of this Beast, then remember that it became divided or “wounded” which weakened it and led to its eventual downfall. First in the west and then in the east with the fall of the Byzantine Empire in 1453.

Do some online research with “The Third Rome.” Moscow became known as the Third Rome. Also, see online article on “Sophia Palaiologina” who married Ivan III of Moscow. She was the niece of the last Byzantine Emperor. Thus, Russia or Moscow became the inheritor of the Eastern Empire, while Germany became the inheritor of the Western Empire if you know your history. In Russia, we find the Czars. In Germany, top dog was known as Kaiser. Both titles refer back to “Caesar” of Rome.

Plus, Britain was at one time under Roman control. Would the coming together of these three nations be the healing of the deadly wound of the Roman head? Germany and Russia are extensions of the two legs of iron described in Daniel 2. The Little Horn or Prince will head this future alliance described in Revelation 13. After his success in battle and perhaps economic warfare, he will be heralded as some kind of savior.

While the understanding of David’s throne being the throne of England is today scoffed at by many, it may become quite popular in the future which would put Prince Charles in a whole new light. He is eventually joined by 10 toes or 10 horns. Why ten? Think about this: How many tribes were in the northern kingdom of Israel and became lost to history? That’s right, ten.

These 10 toes or horns may represent the 10 lost tribes which the heir of David’s throne has now revealed by his understanding of “riddles.” Thus, this future false messiah may attempt to reunite all of Israel by invading the Middle East and take control of Israel (kingdom of Judah) which was anciently occupied by Judah and Benjamin. Did not Jesus Christ warn of this in Matthew 24? See also Daniel 11:36 to 44. Do you see how Satan will use David’s throne as a possible major future deception? Learn all you can about Prince Charles including his study of Islam.

Revelation 17 describes a great city which is referred to as “Babylon the Great.” This woman or city sits on the Beast. If you sit on a beast, such as, a horse or donkey, when it moves then you will move with it. Thus, God is telling us that this woman or city has moved about throughout time. First, she was in ancient Babylon found in Iraq. Then probably in ancient Rome. Then perhaps Venice. Then Amsterdam. (See “Babylon’s Banksters” by Joseph P. Farrell).

We are fast heading toward a revolution in money. Money today is largely controlled by the banking system of the world. With the fiat currency that came about in 1971 when Nixon took the U.S. off the gold system, money was no longer tied to something which had been made by God, such as, gold. Now, money comes from witchcraft or sorcery. It can be made out of thin air. It is said of her in Revelation 18:23-24:

“Your merchants were the great men of the earth, for by your sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and all who were slain on the earth.”

This great city once ruled over the entire world and will once again become the capital of the world. Besides being a financial hub, Revelation 18 describes it as a major trading port where ships would come. This was also true of ancient Babylon since it was located on a river. What city will give birth to this future Beast power described in Revelation 13 which rises out of the sea? What nation is an island nation which once ruled over the world from its capital city?

Baby-**Lon**-don. This city is called a whore or prostitute. Who did God call a whore in the Bible?

“Though you, **Israel**, play the **prostitute**, Judah must not become guilty” (Hosea 4:15 NASB).

There’s more: What is the color of royalty? Were not her armies dressed in scarlet? See Revelation 17:4. Is not the Port of London on the Thames River a major trading port? Check this out online, “City of London Corporation.”

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Does this all seem too farfetched? With any speculation we must use caution and not allow our thinking to blind us to other possibilities when reality exposes errors in our prophetic scenarios no matter how appealing they may be. As Christ warned, we must always be watching world events so as not to be caught unawares of possible deception and spiritual danger.

None of us know exactly how future events will unfold which will fulfill Bible prophecy. The main thing about prophecy is to help us to be zealous toward God and our walk with Him. It is not something that should cause division or unending arguments that can't be absolutely proven one way or the other. Just be aware of any possibilities that I have presented here to avoid deception if things should go that way. But they may not. Keep an open mind but be careful and cautious until actual events confirm any prophetic speculation. Any prophetic explanation which contradicts Bible truth regarding grace and works of faith in Jesus Christ should not be given any merit. Remember Isaiah 8:20:

“To the law and the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because they have no light in them.”

Twisted Culture – LGBT – America: And January sixth by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Job 9:24 “When a Land falls into the hands of the wicked God blindfolds it's judges.” Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are God's Rebuke to - LGBT - America. God is taking away our peace and prosperity. BECAUSE: Politicians Left and Right and Most Christians and Jews in America Reject God and Believe the Devil. Congress and Judges making Law IMPOSING what God proclaimed Evil on the nation: Is Devil Worship! Unless our national leaders Repent: And call on the nation to Repent. America will suffer God's wrath. Americans are considered by politicians and Judges: Mind Slaves of the - LGBT - STATE. Sexual Perverts will be sexual perverts without law: So why make law imposing sexual perversion on the nation? Obviously to - DISCRIMINATE - against and Attack those who believe God. And most Church Leaders, close their eyes.

If President Trump was reelected and democrats marched on the capital and committed the same violations because Trump's - criminal vote counters - stole the election. Democratic Party Snakes and Devil Media would call it a “Defend Democracy Peaceful Demonstration.” Criminal-Government agencies would have insisted those arrested be released the next day. They may be needed for the next Democratic Party peaceful Riot.

The Defend Democracy Banner: Would have been carried by, the deeply corrupt, Department of Injustice - FBI - and Dimwitted Republicans. Will the next Republican win inspire the Mad Left to organize a “Defend Democracy” Riot? Peace and security for America - God has Reversed. Because - State Devil Worship has been written into Law. Depravity Complete: When Congress Driven by Devil Media inscribes - LGBT - on the Dollar? America Has the Best - LGBT - Generals whose only victory is: Imposing Depravity on Recruits! Is it true America's Generals are proposing - LGBT - on the American Flag? That would delight Twisted - LGBT Equality act Devotees - Senators Tim Scott and Pat Toomey. Those Devils Shout: All Bow the knee to LGBT.

The Twisted State: Transgender is a Fraud: A - Mocking - of God's Creation. Why does America's Fraud President Biden - believe - Dr Frankenstein can make a man into a woman? Bidens White House is flooded with LGBT-Queer as can be Depravity. His health Official Delusional Dr Levine - is a man who - Pretends - being as a woman. Yet Media and all Bidens cabinet treat - Dr Delusional Levine - as if He was a woman. Which ones are Mentally Deranged? Ecclesiastes 10:13 The folly of fools honored “ends in wicked madness.” Educators, desire to appease State Devils - happily impose Vile Sexual Depravity on school children: Sex education is LGBT Indoctrination!

Hate Crime Law and Non-Discrimination Law: Discriminate against those who believe God's Law. And give Preferences - based on race and sex. Why can't Politicians and Judges Love, Sexual Perverts, without forcing the Depravity they love on others? LGBT - Presidents, Governors, Congress, Generals, Judges, Educators, and many Church Leaders are all driven like Dumb Mules by Devil Media to embrace evil and condemn those who will Not. Among our ruling elites - truth is a foreign - language. America - parading your perversion to the world with LGBT flags - on our embassies - is inviting God's Wrath. Stop Praising Wickedness: Or God will give Victory to our Enemies.

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Preachers Publicly - Call out the nation’s sins - and call on politicians and Judges to Repent for writing Devil Worship into Law. Preachers you can either call on the wicked to Repent - be “accountable for their blood” or “save yourself” Ezekiel 3:18-19.

Christians and Conservatives: **Stop** saying “God bless America” Instead pray God have mercy on America. **Stop** claiming “the constitution is the answer” when God’s Word is the answer. **Stop** calling America “the greatest nation” God rebukes arrogance and pride. Today, what our Nation’s Leaders and Americans Left, Right and Religious, are proud of is Shameful: Humility and Repentance is called for.

Lawmakers, Judges and Church Leaders: Children of God or children of the Devil - You know who you are? Laws you vote for or approve of will either Acquit or Condemn you on - Judgment Day. Repent - turn back the - ocean of Depravity - invading the minds of our children and create this Law. No one, including Congress and Judges, is to **impose** their, sexual practices, or the sexual practices of others, on their neighbor - Luke 13:1-5 “Repent or perish.” The Fire of Hell is the Destiny of Lawmakers, Judges and Church Leaders - who refuse to Repent.

Embrace God’s promise - Life that is Not subject to death. Jesus Christ Crucified is Light that Shines Beyond the Grave! Praise God.

Feast Sites

Feast Site – Lake Tahoe – Guardian Ministries
(Copyright) by David Antion (Pasadena, California)

Here is an update on the Feast and the rooms at the Beach Retreat and Lodge at South Lake Tahoe.

Urgent Request for anyone potentially interested in booking either a “Lake View” room, “Beach Front” room, or one of the “Suite” rooms for our upcoming Feast of Tabernacles at South Lake Tahoe?

Currently, the upgrade rooms from our original block have booked out, HOWEVER, we may be able to Add More of the Upgraded rooms to our block “IF” needed?

If you are considering attending with us, but still are not certain, that is perfectly fine, as you can book and still cancel up to 48 hours prior to check-in without charge or penalty. However, it is advisable to book your room now to ensure availability. If you have not yet done so but think you might want to come, go ahead and book now because there is no obligation if you cancel.

***Please let me know as soon as possible**, as we will be asking our booking agent to make any needed adjustments by this Thursday afternoon, so the upgraded rooms can be made available for booking this weekend. There are still regular Garden View rooms currently available.*

*As a reminder, our Discounted rates, when using our Group Code **FEAST** (all CAPS) ...*

\$129 Garden

\$149 Lake-view

\$169 Beach-front

There are 3 options for Suites...

King Parlor Suite - similar to our One King guest room however it has a smaller living room area with a balcony attached right off of the bedroom. Group rate **\$229**

Two-Bedroom Suite - it has One King bedroom and another bedroom with Two Queens however there is still just one bathroom. Group rate **\$309**

Honeymoon Suite - One King bedroom with sitting area and larger bathroom. Group rate **\$329**

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There is no guarantee that the upgrade rooms will still be available, but we need to know if there is interest so we can make the request.

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or need the booking information.

Looking forward to our wonderful fellowship during the Feast!

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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: Salvation of Angels
Article by Nathaniel Burson
Comments by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Salvation of Angels article smacks of being sorry for the Devil and his angels. Satan doesn't feel sorry for having deceived you or anyone else and trying to get you or any other humans to "diss" God. Wake up! (Emphasis throughout)

Isaiah 14:12-14 (KJV) How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Lucifer and his angels sinned. They were once righteous angels as the other angels, (Michael and Gabriel and their host). All the angels were made righteous but not without free moral agency to choose at any time not to love their Creator as Lucifer and 1/3rd of the angels under his charge, did make a choice to hate God and His righteousness.

CAUTION, once a person has tasted the goodness of God and chooses to defy that, what they have been partaking of, there is no longer any hope of bringing them back.

Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV) For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Angels tasted the goodness, "heavenly gift" and Lucifer and his angels under him rejected the "heavenly gift". It is impossible for them to repent. And Jesus said, "**Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.**" **John 14:30 (KJV)**

Ezekiel 28:12-17 (KJV) Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. **Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God;** every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. **Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.** By the multitude of thy merchandise,

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they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: **and I will destroy thee**, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Did you catch that, God says to Lucifer, “I will destroy you”? Lucifer (Satan) was in “Eden the garden of God”. Eze. 28:12-17, clearly referencing Lucifer once perfect from the day he was created.

It is clear that Lucifer was perfect in his ways “till iniquity was found in him”. It’s quite clear that he chose to do evil and be God’s ADVERSARY! **1 Peter 5:8 (KJV)** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Revelation 20:1-3 (KJV) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

Revelation 20:7-10 (KJV) And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. **And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

After seven thousand years Satan is still trying to deceive, and you still think he can be “reprogramed”. No hint there, that there is going to be any “repentance”!

Mark 1:23-25 (KJV) And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let *us* alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? **art thou come to destroy us?** I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, **Hold thy peace, and come out of him.**

Luke 4:33-34 (KJV) And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice, Saying, **Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us?** I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

No hint of repentance but a certain destruction for the demons, (“the Devil-Lucifers followers”). As Jesus said, **“Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me”.** **John 14:30 (KJV) So to, the angels now demons that sinned against God!**

Jude 13 (KJV) Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; **wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.**

Angels are referenced as to stars. Job 38:7 (KJV) When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? **Revelation 1:20 (KJV)** **The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.** **Revelation 12:4 (KJV)** And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman, which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

The author of the “Salvation of Angels” says this, “Now before you object vehemently and say ‘Angels are sinless! Their holy!!’ I want you to think about it a second! Haven’t ALL sinned, and come short of the glory of God? **(Romans 3:23). Are angels the exception?**”

Romans 3; verses one and nine in context of this whole chapter is referring to man-humans, not even a query of angels being the subject. **Romans 3:1 (KJV)** What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit *is there* of circumcision?

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Romans 3:9 (KJV) What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin.

The Bible is clear, and no, not ALL angels sinned! Two thirds of the angels have remained righteous to this day, so yes, they are the exception! False doctrines abound and this is a truly big one!

There is not any evidence that Lucifer and his angels' can or will repent, but all evidence as brought forth in this response to "pandering" to evil angels is clearly not Biblical!

Michael and Gabriel and those under them remain faithful without sin. That is why they are called "righteous" angels! Furthermore, had they at any time sinned, they would no longer be in God's presence in His throne dwelling with God in an unrighteous state. The blood of Jesus was shed for man, not angels! Repentance is available to and for man for he (all men) was never made righteous in the day he was created unlike the angels! As a baby just born from your mothers' womb or even in her womb, were you made righteous at that time?

In regard to: Was Our Savior Created?

Article by James Steinle

Comments by Royce Mitchell, Jr. (Manvel, Texas)

I read this article astounded at the lengths James Steinle went to fabricate his lie about our Savior. I want to take his initial "proof" scriptures one by one to show that his article is merely nonsense.

He wrote: "In Revelation 3:14 John wrote the message that came from the Father who gave it to His Son (Rev. 1:1), "And unto the angel [messenger] of the assembly of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning [G746, the ar-Kay or arche] of the creation of God [Yehovah]." It is my belief this "beginning" is talking about Yeshua the Son as the very beginning of the Father's creation as I believe Proverbs chapter 8:22-31 describes in more detail."

First, what we "believe" is not relevant. What is relevant is what the Word of God says. That scripture, Rev 1:1 is clearly NOT talking about the beginning of the Savior but of the Creation as it plainly states. Twisting it to mean the beginning of the Savior is beyond the plain meaning of the scriptural text.

Next, he writes, "Proverbs 8 talks about wisdom and verse 12 says, "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions." Going on to verse 22, "Yehovah [the LORD] possessed [H7069 erect, create, procure are some of the meanings], me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up [H5258 pour out, to cast as in metal] from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 24 When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth" [H2342; born, to be in labor (childbirth), amongst other meanings]."

Here is that set of scriptures unobstructed with the deception Mr. Steinle adds to the scripture:

Pro 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

Pro 8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

Pro 8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

Who was speaking there? It wasn't YHVH, the LORD, the Word who became flesh. It was WISDOM speaking metaphorically as can be shown from the context in verse 12.

Next Steinle brings in Isa 66:7-9 to explain what "bringing forth" means. It adds nothing to proving the lie he proposes. It was wisdom that was brought forth before the works of old.

He next conjures up the rest of Prov 8 as if it proved his lie. The fact is that the rest of Prov 8 is merely the metaphorical speaking of WISDOM, not of some entity that later became Christ.

Next, he drags in a verse out of context attempting to support his blasphemy, 1 Cor 1:24, as if Christ was the power but

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the wisdom was someone different. This is exactly the kind of foolishness we get from people who make up their own dogma then twist scriptures to support it. Here's the context of that verse:

1Co 1:22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

1Co 1:23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

1Co 1:24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

Paul is talking about Christ who was crucified and who is the Power of God AND the Wisdom of God, being preached to those who are called.

I need go no further so that I can bring this response to an end. John 1 is clear. The One who became Christ was in fact the Word, the YHVH, the Ever Living One, who created all things and for Whom all things were created. Attempts to make Christ less than what He is becomes instantly a lie, a heretical statement, and foolishness on its face.

While I appreciate wanting to give different authors a forum, there comes a point when perhaps wisdom should dictate that obvious nonsense not be published lest others think that these fantasies have some basis in reality.

In regard to: Was Our Savior Created?

Article by James Steinle

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

We sincerely appreciate anyone who helps us out with these “Iron Sharpening Irons”. Great Job and Thank you.

Royce said:

“While I appreciate wanting to give different authors a forum, there comes a point when perhaps wisdom should dictate that obvious nonsense not be published lest others think that these fantasies have some basis in reality.”

Laura’s Response:

I fully understand your concern. We don’t publish these articles because we want to give different authors a forum for what you call nonsense.

It is our opinion that if the Worldwide Church of God had dealt with these issues rather than to show the door to those who had different ideas, those ideas may not have gone out of control as they have. Like it or not, there seem to be several people within the Church of God that have some version of James Steinle’s idea pasted into their belief system.

Wouldn’t it be better to get these ideas out in the open and deal with them? We definitely do not agree with James Steinle’s idea that Christ was created. But now we have an article by James Steinle and attached to it will be your “Iron Sharpening Iron” and a few others showing what the problems are with James’s article.

Jame’s may not change his mind in regard to this issue, but others who have an open mind and are willing to read the scriptures for what they really say instead of looking for coded messages will be able to look at this whole thing and perhaps not go in the same direction that James went with this.

This is one of the reasons that we want many people to write up these “Iron Sharpening Irons”. When they are not attached to the article as we do, people do get the idea that what is being said is true when it is false, or it could go the other way sometimes also.

I think if we are truly God’s people, we all want to teach what is true and not what is false, but sometimes people don’t really understand certain subjects and do need help with the right understanding. Darwin and I can only do so much, we need other people to back us up and contribute to these conversations. So again, we sincerely thank you for your contribution and hope you will help out again with other articles in the future.

Holy Days 2022

Passover – April 16, 2022 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)
Unleavened Bread – April 16-22, 2022
Pentecost – June 5, 2022
Trumpets - September 26, 2022
Atonement – October 5, 2022
Tabernacles – October 10-16, 2022
Last Great Day – October 17, 2022

Prophecy

The Restrainer

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The commentary given by Dr. Steve Turley, in the video linked below, reminded me of Paul's prophetic warning in 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. The apostle Paul warned of a time where many would depart from the faith which would lead to the rising of a "lawless one" who would deceive by the power of Satan those who do not desire to know the truth of God. Yet, there would exist a "restrainer" who would prevent this future "son of perdition" from arising. Once the Restrainer was removed, then the "man of sin" would be revealed who would eventually exalt himself above the true God.

With the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, we must ponder if she was the Restrainer foretold by Paul. As long as she sat upon the throne, Prince Charles could not become king. Now that he has become king upon the death of his mother, it remains to be seen what part he may play in Bible prophecy. Does he fit the description given by Daniel of a "little horn" which arises in the last days from one of the four divisions of Alexander the Great's empire? Charles' father, Prince Philip, was a possible heir to the throne of Greece prior to his marriage to Elizabeth.

With the sanctions imposed upon Russia by the U.S. and many European nations, including the UK, we are headed for tremendous economic turmoil this coming winter. Those nations who have been heavily dependent upon the import of Russian gas for heating and electricity generation will suffer greatly this winter. This will obviously lead to political turmoil as well. This may eventually lead to the breakup of the EU and perhaps the collapse of the NATO alliance.

What part may the new king, Charles III, formerly Prince Charles of Wales, play in the future if his countrymen suffer greatly from the governments of Europe waging an economic war against Russia? If he should decide to speak out against this course of action, he would abandon the traditional role of British monarchs refraining from interfering with the affairs of the elected government by speaking out publicly. Given Prince Charles' history of speaking out on issues important to him, it will be interesting to see if he is able to "restrain" himself as king.

Here is the link to Dr. Steve Turley's perspective on the significance of Queen Elizabeth's reign. The first 31 minutes consists of his insightful commentary. This is the part that I want to share with you. The remainder of the video consists of questions from his viewers.

https://youtu.be/xYEmCfh_bil Queen Elizabeth II: The Last Monarch of Christendom

We Are Grateful for All Contributors to this Newsletter.

Other Items

(Poems, Jokes, Questions etc.)

Did God Want Israel to have a King?

(Copyright) by Craig White (Australia)





Did God want or not want Israel to have a Human King?

Download the Book Here: [Did God want Israel to have a king.pdf \(friendsofsabbath.org\)](http://www.friendsofsabbath.org)

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**Have a Really Great Feast
In 2022**