

5 Explosive Truths That Will Demolish Critical Race Theory

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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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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.

5 Explosive Truths That Will Demolish Critical Race Theory (Copyright 2021) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)

I applaud the parents who are confronting school board members and passionately expressing their opposition to Critical Race Theory being taught to their children. They have reason to be angry for elementary school children are being taught that it is their race and skin color that defines them, categorizes them, and determines their destiny in the evil and racist American system.

It is not enough, however, to merely be “against” Critical Race Theory. We must present proactive, alternative truths that we are “for.” Here are five explosive, alternative truths that will undermine and demolish the teachings of CRT and the 1619 Project. These five truths are:

- 1) Slavery was not unique to America.
- 2) Moral outrage erupted against slavery in colonial America.
- 3) America’s founders turned against slavery.
- 4) America’s founding documents are colorblind.
- 5) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be opposed to Critical Race Theory.

Truth #1

Slavery Was Not Unique to America

Proponents of CRT would have us think that slavery was unique to America. The truth is that slavery has been practiced by peoples and civilizations for all of recorded history. Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Hittites, Greeks, Persians, Armenians, Arabs, and many others have practiced slavery.

During its 400-year reign, the Turkish Ottoman Empire enslaved millions of Europeans. Decades after the Emancipation Proclamation in America, white slaves were still being bought and sold in the Islamic Ottoman Empire.

This is why Dr. Walter E. Williams, late Professor of Economics at George Mason University, wrote that slavery was, “by no means peculiar, odd, unusual, or unique to the U.S.” He pointed out that at the beginning of the 19th century,

An estimated three-quarters of all people alive were trapped in bondage against their will either in some form of slavery or serfdom.

Williams said that what was strange and unique about slavery in America was the “moral outrage” that arose against it. The late historians, Elizabeth Fox-Genovese and Eugene Genovese, agreed, saying,

Europeans [and Americans] did not outdo others in enslaving people or treating slaves viciously. They outdid others by creating a Christian civilization that eventually stirred moral condemnation of slavery and roused mass movements against it (Hyatt, [Abolitionist Founding Fathers](#), 8).

Truth #2

Moral Outrage Erupted Against Slavery in Colonial America

A great, spiritual awakening, beginning in 1726, morally transformed Colonial America. This Christian revival breached racial and cultural barriers, ignited an abolition movement, and paved the way for the formation of the United States of America. It also unleashed the moral outrage that brought about the end of slavery on the American continent.

Early preachers of this Awakening, such as George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, William Davies, reached out to blacks, both slave and free, and saw them respond *en masse* to the Gospel message. Their message had a levelling effect on American society for they preached that all are the same in the sight of God. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory, and all stand in need of a Savior—and that Savior is Jesus Christ.

As a result of their preaching and compassionate outreach to blacks, racial and cultural barriers were breached in colonial America. Blacks and whites worshipped together, and black preachers and black churches began arising throughout the land.

For example, while a slave on the Stokeley Sturgis plantation in Delaware, Richard Allen was powerfully impacted by the abolitionist Methodist preacher, Freeborn Garrettson, who preached to both slaves and the Sturgis family. Not only did many slaves respond to Garrettson's Gospel message, but he was able to convince Sturgis that slavery is a sin.

Sturgis immediately began making arrangements for his slaves to obtain their freedom. Allen obtained his freedom and went forth preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ and became a very successful evangelist to both black and white audiences.

In 1784, he preached for several weeks in Radnor, Pennsylvania, to a mostly white audience, and he recalled hearing it said, “This man must be a man of God; I have never heard such preaching before” (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 95-96).

Although the preaching of the first-generation Awakening preachers was evangelistic in nature, second generation Awakening preachers took their message to its logical conclusion. If all are equal in creation, and all have sinned and stand in need of a Savior, and Jesus died equally for all, how can slavery ever be justified? They, therefore, began to vehemently attack the institution of slavery.

Samuel Hopkins (1721–1803), for example, who had been personally tutored by Edwards, pastored for a time in Newport, Rhode Island, an important hub in the transatlantic slave trade. He was outraged by the “violation of God's will” he observed in Newport. He declared, “This whole country have their hands full of blood this day” (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 92).

In 1774, after the First Continental Congress had convened in Philadelphia, Hopkins sent a pamphlet to every member of the Congress, asking how they could complain about “enslavement” to England and overlook the “enslavement” of so many blacks in the Colonies.

The abolition message caught fire and was heard throughout the land. Evangelists, such as Samuel Cooke, Freeborn Garrettson, James O'Kelly and others, labored incessantly for both the salvation of souls and the abolition of slavery. In a sermon preached and published in 1770, Cooke declared that by tolerating the evil of slavery, “We, the patrons of liberty, have dishonored the Christian name, and degraded human nature nearly to a level with the beasts that perish.”

The Baptist preacher, John Allen, was even more direct, and thundered,

Blush ye pretended votaries of freedom! ye trifling Patriots! who are making a vain parade of being advocates for the liberties of mankind, who are thus making a mockery of your profession by trampling on the sacred natural rights and privileges of Africans (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 94).

This abolition movement gained momentum and eventually impacted all of colonial America, including America's founding fathers.

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Truth #3

America’s Founders Turned Against Slavery

By the time of the writing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Constitution in 1787, virtually every American founder, even those who owned slaves, had taken a public stand against slavery. What makes this particularly amazing is the fact that this was happening at a time when slavery was accepted and practiced in most of the world. Dr. Thomas Sowell, who happens to be black, has said,

Slavery was just not an issue, not even among intellectuals, much less among political leaders, until the 18th century—and then it was an issue only in Western civilization. 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 the 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).

Dr. Benjamin Rush, a Philadelphia physician, member of the Continental Congress, and signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a vocal opponent of slavery. He helped found the first American abolition society in his hometown. He called slavery a “hydra sin” and called on the pastors and ministers of America to take a public stand against it (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 100-101).

Benjamin Franklin liberated his two slaves in 1785 and began advocating for abolition. He joined the abolition society of Philadelphia and later served as its president. In a public address to this society, Franklin called slavery, “an atrocious debasement of human nature” and “a source of serious evils.”

George Washington was born in Virginia into a slave-owning family but came to abhor slavery as did most other founders. In a letter to Robert Morris, dated April 12, 1786, he said, “There is not a man living who wishes more sincerely than I do, to see a plan adopted for the abolition of slavery.”

Washington set up a compassionate program to disentangle Mt. Vernon from the institution of slavery. Those slaves who wanted to leave were free to do so. Those who chose to remain were paid wages, and he began a program to educate and prepare the children of slaves for freedom. 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](#), 43).

Thomas Jefferson called slavery a “moral depravity” and “hideous blot” and said it presented the greatest threat to the future survival of America. James Madison, America’s 4th president, called slavery “the most oppressive dominion ever exercised by man over man.”

By the time of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the U.S. Constitution of 1787 virtually every founder had come to agree with John Adams who declared,

Every measure of prudence ought to be assumed for the eventual total extirpation of slavery from the United States . . . I have throughout my whole life held the practice of slavery in abhorrence (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 101).

Truth #4

America’s Founding Documents are Colorblind

Because America’s Founders turned against slavery, there are no classifications based on race or skin color in America’s founding documents. Neither is there any mention of slaves or slavery. The language was purposeful for James Madison, the chief architect of the Constitution, said, “The Convention thought it wrong to admit in the Constitution the idea that there could be property in men.”

Nothing in either the Declaration of Independence or the United States Constitution indicates that the freedoms guaranteed do not apply to every individual. America’s founding documents are, indeed, colorblind even if her history

has not been.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929–1968) understood this and in his stirring, *I Have a Dream* speech, he challenged America, not to dispense with her founding 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."

Then quoting from the Declaration of Independence, he proclaimed,

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

Frederick Douglass (1818–1895), the former slave and famous abolitionist, understood the colorblind nature of the founding documents and argued that their language must be understood as applying to everyone. "Anyone of these provisions in the hands of abolition statesmen, and backed by a right moral sentiment," he declared, "would put an end to slavery in America."

CRT proponents insist that America is racist and founded on racist principles. They are wrong. David Azerrad was correct when he said, "The argument that the Constitution is racist suffers from one fatal flaw: the concept of race does not exist in the Constitution" (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 127-28)

There are racists in America, but America itself is not racist. America's founding documents are colorblind and at the time of her founding she was at the forefront of the fight to end slavery.

Truth #5

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Would Be Adamantly Opposed to Critical Race Theory

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be opposed to Critical Race Theory on three major points.

1. He envisioned a colorblind society in which people would not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. He made this clear in his "I Have a Dream Speech" when he said he looked forward to a time when his four children would live in a nation where "they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." CRT proponents, on the other hand, judge everything and everybody by race and skin color.
2. He believed in America and writing from the Birmingham City Jail referred to America's "sacred heritage." Dr. King was very aware of America's flawed and sinful history, but he also saw that there was something sacred, holy, and of God in her founding. In this same letter he speaks with pride and respect of the Pilgrims, Thomas Jefferson, the 'majestic' Declaration of Independence, and Abraham Lincoln. CRT proponents, on the other hand, insist that America is evil and corrupt and must be dismantled and replaced with a socialist/Marxist state.
3. He was adamantly opposed to communism and Marxism. He expressed this many times and would not allow avowed communists to have any public role in the 1963 March on Washington that he led. CRT, on the other hand, is based on Marxism and its founders are avowed Marxists.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was very aware of America's flawed history, but he respected the dream of America's founders for a land of individual and religious liberty. He believed that southern segregation of the 1960s was out of character with America's founding and represented a falling away from her founding principles.

In his iconic *I Have a Dream* speech, he clearly rooted his dream for racial equality in the original dream of America's founders. He declared, "I have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."

See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:

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Understanding the Middle Eastern Mind Set

(Copyright 2009) by Samuel S. Martin (Jerusalem, Israel)

Comment: I am going to be attending a wedding on April 26 and I got to thinking about the issue of marriage and how some of the customs that still dominate the culture here have some application to what was taking place in the Biblical period. Hope you find this short article interesting.

Samuel the prophet's children

One of the most interesting figures in all of the Old Testament is the prophet Samuel (not because I was named after him either). Samuel was an exceedingly important pivotal figure in the development of the nation of Israel. He was a priest and a prophet, and he functioned in many ways also as the main leader of the country in his time up until the time that King Saul became Israel's first king.

We do not know too much about Samuel's life details. We know a bit about his lifestyle and his mode of life, but his personal details of his life are not really revealed too much. One thing we do know, however, is that he was married and had at least two sons. These sons were named "Joel" (the first born) and "Abiah" (the second born) (I Samuel 8:1-2).

According to the Bible, "when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel ... (I Sam. 8:1) So they assumed the role that he had, but we note that "the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel in Ramah, and said unto him, 'Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways ...' (I Samuel 8:5) after which these elders demanded that Samuel "make us a king to judge us like all the nations." (ibid.)

Now in this story, we have to note that the sons of Samuel had to have been old enough to have assumed the office of judges, developed a corrupt reputation, displayed that corruption to such an extent that the leadership of the people came to Samuel and demanded a secular king.

The interesting thing about this story is that you never hear anything about Samuel's wife. No doubt he was legally married to have been able to have produced at least two children who were legally accepted by the leadership of the country to legitimately have been installed to be judges in the country, but not a word about his wife. Why?

This is interesting because we find some attention given to the wives of people associated with him. Note that his father, Elkanah, had two wives. (I Samuel 1:2) King David had at least six wives and other concubines (I Samuel 30:5; II Samuel 5:13). King Saul's wife is also mentioned (I Samuel 14:50), but we have no mention of Samuel's wife.

When we look at the life of Samuel, we note that his mother Hannah was an exceedingly righteous and godly woman. The prayer that is attributed to Hannah in I Samuel 2 is the first instance in the Bible of such a prayer given in the psalmodic style. We note in the first chapters of I Samuel instances of her going up and praying, fasting, and pouring her heart out to God and note that she promised that if she were to have a child that "no razor shall come upon his head." (I Samuel 1:11)

Certainly, the LORD blessed Hannah and gave her Samuel (which means, God hears), who became an exceedingly righteous person. He engaged in a reformation of ancient Israel after the transgressions of the house of Eli and the sins of his sons (I Samuel 2:12). We also note in I Samuel 2:27-36 quite an indictment against Eli for the behavior of himself

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and his family and God's judgement against him.

Now, here is where a bit of understanding of the Middle Eastern mind set can help us to better understand the circumstances of Samuel, his family life and of what happened to him. While the Bible does not tell us, here is where we can put on our cultural caps and think this whole thing through a bit.

Obviously, the behavior of Eli's sons was not pleasing to God and even He spoke about that prophetically. In fact, not only was the behavior of Eli's sons inappropriate, we find a very strong indictment against the whole house of Eli found in I Samuel 2:22-36.

We can note in this section just quoted that God intended “to raise up a faithful priest ...” (v. 35) Of course, when we read the context, we can see that this faithful priest to be raised up was Samuel the prophet, but in fact, if one reads this passage, we can note a very strong messianic tendency here because when we look at the life of Samuel the prophet, we see that he does not really fulfill this description. This is because his children were also evil and were not faithful as was their father.

Why is this? Clearly, these priestly children of Samuel did not favor the behavior of their father's family. In fact, their behavior resembled quite similarly that undertaken by the children of Eli!

Now in understanding the Middle Eastern mindset a little, we might be able to learn what had happened.

When we look at what the prophet who came to Eli said in I Samuel 2:22:36 no doubt Eli was disquieted about that statement. Certainly, no one wishes to be told by one of God's spokesmen, no matter how bad their children might be that they will die and that the power of the high priesthood will be taken from them and their family. The natural approach to such a circumstance clearly is to resist and could this have been what Eli did and could this have affected the life of Samuel and his children? It could very well be.

Understanding the power of the High Priesthood

I think that all of us who read the Bible understand the power that the High priest had in ancient Israel. This is especially the case prior to the time when Israel had no king. The High Priest was the highest religious official in the country. He was the singular highest-ranking personality in Israel's relationship with the LORD. He was “God's High Priest.” Note how this is referenced in the following text. We can see that even one whose knowledge of the Jewish faith is equaled by few throughout the whole of the Bible (in this case we are speaking about St. Paul), his respect and precise deference to the office of the High Priest is clear, immediate, and grounded in Scripture:

“¹Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, “My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day.” ²At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. ³Then Paul said to him, “God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!” ⁴Those who were standing near Paul said, “You dare to insult God's high priest?” ⁵Paul replied, “Brothers, I did not realize that he was the high priest; for it is written: ‘Do not speak evil about the ruler of your people. (Acts 23:1-5)

Here we can see the power invested in this office. It is pretty much unquestioned.

Eli – the High Priest of Israel

We can see that this is the environment that Samuel the prophet found himself amongst. It was one of tremendous power invested in an individual. Of course, this was magnified by the fact that there was not at that time a king of Israel.

Eli the High Priest saw three things happening in front of him that portended badly for the future of his family. These things were:

1. The behavior of his two sons, whose reputations were exceedingly wicked.
2. The pronouncement of the prophet against him, his sons, and his dynasty.
3. The rise of Samuel to being recognized as a prophet and one who was in close communication with All Mighty God.

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In this environment, can we now speculate how it was considering that Samuel was a priest who had such a close relationship with the LORD and that he came from a seemingly righteous family background, that his two sons became so evil and followed in the footsteps of the house of Eli rather than in the footsteps of Samuel?

Here is where a little bit of understanding that Middle Eastern culture can offer us an answer.

With the rather bleak situation facing Eli, he may have undertaken some actions which he felt could be a way to counteract some of the pronouncements against him. Considering the influence that he had in the life of Samuel, there is no doubt that he had a strong sway in who Samuel married. After all, Samuel had been left in the custody of Eli and dedicated to the service of the LORD, so it would only be natural that the person who he spent most of his time with and under the responsibility of, would have significant influence over him. Naturally, Eli would have been threatened by Samuel, especially after Samuel was selected by the LORD to be a prophet. In a sense, with the state of the Levitical priesthood in such disarray, Samuel's rise to power and to becoming a singularly powerful individual in Israel came at the destruction of the house of Eli. However, we can note though that Samuel's power seems to have died with him and was not passed on as after that time Israel began to be ruled by kings, the first of which was King Saul. Samuel in a sense was the last of the Judges period and his life is a demarcation to a new phase of Israel's relationship with God and development as a nation.

But when we review the situation, it seems clear that the influence of Eli on Samuel's life affected him deeply and when you look at the circumstances, it seems quite plausible that Eli was involved in the selection of Samuel's wife and that that partner for Samuel was not the best for him or for his progeny. Certainly, we can say that his children did not follow in his footsteps in upholding God's Law or having a reputation as honest and righteous personalities.

So, with Eli seeing what was happening around him to his family and to see God's favor on Samuel, it seems quite possible that he would have tried to influence the situation by keeping his family in power. This could have very easily been done by arranging a marriage of Samuel to a daughter of his! This could very well be what happened.

Other examples of this during the same period

This is, of course, healthy speculation, but it is not without some foundation. The first thing to understand was that marriages in this period were arranged quite commonly. Look at the example of David and his relationship with his father-in-law, King Saul. Read I Samuel 18:17-20. Here we have the account of marriages being arranged by the parents of the bride.

Note in this example the unequal power structure. Here we have the newly crowned king of the country arranging a marriage for one of his daughters with a former shepherd boy who became a military hero. Of course, we can see that David's family had very little say in the matter. After all, who is going to go against the king of the country? We can also say the same thing about the wishes of a High priest in this context.

The power dynamics in this example are quite similar in fact to those which governed the relationship between Eli and Samuel.

In addition, note that King Saul's motivation for marrying off his daughter, Michal, to David were not in any way noble and friendly. Note what he said:

“I will give her that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” (I Samuel 18:20-21)

This arrangement of a marriage is still very much a Middle Eastern phenomenon. Today, its influence has lessened compared even to recent times as many marriages now take place for love, but arranged marriages are still very prevalent here in the Middle East.

Could it be that what happened with Samuel relates very much to what happened in the above-mentioned example to David? Could the wife of Samuel have been given to him by Eli similar to the above example with David, Saul, and Michal? It could very well be.

See Samuel S. Martin’s other articles at:

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Fundamentally Speaking!

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Do you believe in God? Do you believe that there is a Creator? In today’s world there is probably nothing quite like religion for stirring people up unless it is politics! Or as happens all too often, a mixture of religion and politics, both being misused, misquoted, and misunderstood. A mixture which has been used to further the ends and desires of people, who by using other people, or methods of mass communication has resulted in conflict after conflict with all the dreadful suffering that accompanies it and the premature death of millions of people in all parts of this globe. If it hasn’t actually been physical suffering, there has been a blatant misuse and abuse of the knowledge of God and the reality of His existence, an existence which various individuals in every age have vociferously denied and mocked in order to serve their own intellectual vanity. They are perhaps more familiar to us in the English-speaking western world as they preen their feathers on national television. Mouthing condemnations of the belief in God and presenting fulsome praise of an illogical belief in evolution and then pocketing generous TV appearance fees.

One comment, publicly made and presented as a fact, was that, and I quote: “... life evolved out of nearly nothing, some 10 billion years after the universe evolved out of literally nothing, is a fact so staggering that it is difficult to find the words to do it justice.” Our response to this is: “so you are saying life evolved out of something.” After all, if it is “nearly nothing” then it IS something! He says that it evolved! No proof was offered to support that statement! And from where did he pull out the figure of 10 billion years? Out of thin air so it would seem! As do most, if not all, these conjuring tricks with figures and doubtful facts emanate.

Another statement by Professor Richard Dawkins is this: “The theory of evolution by cumulative natural selection is the only theory we know of that is in principle capable of explaining the existence of organized complexity.” Statements by Professor Dawkins are inevitably supported by others using the media with their beliefs being given wide exposure. In fact, the theory of evolution today, strongly and widely taught around the world, and especially in the so-called developed nations, is itself a most effective tool, perhaps the most effective tool in achieving the destruction of mankind and with it the consequent rendering of the planet incapable of supporting life of any kind ever again!

The statement that evolution is “the only theory capable of explaining the existence of organized complexity” is unreal. Consider the human brain. That is probably the finest example of “organized complexity” – yet we are expected to believe it simply came together as an accident of evolution. And evolution is very often referred to as “blind evolution” which is quite a good description. But consider the brain! Why not look the subject up in an encyclopedia. Mine said that it weighs around 3 pounds and consists of 100 thousand million nerve cells with a complex system of interlinked pathways between them. The encyclopedia goes on to list the functions. These are to control all of the activities of the body, both conscious and unconscious and also it is the seat, or center, of sensations, skills, emotions, intelligence and memory.

It is further divided into three sections. The cerebrum, which is the largest section and has a surface consisting of a layer of grey material known as the cortex. This is convoluted into folds which provides the maximum amount of area to receive information coming from the senses in all parts of the body. Another section is the brain stem which receives the nerve impulses from the body and controls reflex actions such as breathing and also the heartbeat. It also operates the speech system, feeding the system with what needs to be said and then transmitting it in the correct direction and at the right volume. It also recognizes full color and is able to store details of colors perceived at any previous time.

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The whole is then placed in a fluid which acts as a shock absorber. Commercially, how could Man duplicate what the brain does and pack it into the same space – frankly he can't do it! What is more the whole unit doesn't need an assembly line, it is simply grown in accordance with a previously arranged program which comes ready packed, assembled, and contained within the fetus ready for use by the newborn human being.

Similar systems and arrangements are provided for every living creature on earth. Here I need hardly mention examples, there are so many hundreds of them, however one classic example concerns migrating birds. They all know the right way! And even if they didn't go with all the others of their type, they would still find their way to the area in which they were to winter, and find their way back. I have even read of a butterfly which manages to find its way from Britain to some parts of Africa and back again. Most of us couldn't fly a hang glider round the local park! In fact, most of us probably wouldn't want to anyway! But you get the point, I'm sure!

Recent well publicized events resulted in a couple of women in two different parts of the world being shot! The bullet in both cases went through the skull damaging part of the cortex so it would seem. It exited through the other side of the skull. They have both made a physical recovery with most of the brain functions still available and with an apparent regeneration and repair being made to the damaged areas, in some cases other parts of the brain taking over functions from a damaged area.

The brain, and in fact the whole human body, is incredible. When you honestly consider the brain, consider what it does, you have to marvel at its design, structure and the miniaturization required in order to pack so much into such a small space. You wonder at the mind that designed it and what is more designed it to, as we say today, interface with a non-physical force contained in the overall package of the human body. A force we might call consciousness! What is it and where did it come from? It could not possibly be the product of mindless, powerless, lifeless, evolution! To accept that that is a possibility is to reveal ones-self to be a very narrow-minded person indeed. Someone incapable of raising their eyes and seeing the reality! That there truly is a force, a force with the utmost intelligence and power which is involved. A force which is operating to a plan and time-table.

One man who occupied a high position in this world was David, he was king over Israel. He, unlike so many evolutionists, was intelligent and was able to see the big picture as we would say today. He, as one does, considered the human body including the brain and the driving force. He brought an unprejudiced approach to life, to people, to the creation, unlike our evolutionists! In Psalm 139 he wrote this "... I will praise thee; I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knows right well."

He continues in the same psalm, verse 16 to say that God's eyes saw what He was doing and that what He was doing was unique. That what God was doing was unique. David also realized, in context, that the creation of Man would bring its unthinking, prejudiced individuals. He says in verse 20: ".... they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain."

A time is coming, and coming a lot quicker than you might believe, when this world and especially the world inhabited by the aggressive evolutionist, is going to be faced with the reality of God. But David pleads for them! He says this in Psalm 140 ".... Grant not, O Lord, the desires of the wicked: further not his wicked device; lest they exalt themselves." Whether you believe in God or not makes no difference to the reality. His existence is the only reality that can properly explain the reality of life and the balance of life, this planet, and every star we see in the sky. It brings a sense of reality to us when faced with mankind, its attitudes, and its problems.

And Man's efforts are endless. Some weeks ago, in the Letter from London we drew attention to the experiments being undertaken to prove Einstein right or wrong about the speed of light. We went out on a limb and made it clear that Einstein was right! Recently, the newspapers reported the latest experiments using the Large Hadron Collider. One group of scientists said they had sent a beam of neutrinos to another facility in Italy at a speed 60 billionths of a second faster than light would have travelled. A second group however, have re-analysed the same beam and "concluded that the particles (the neutrinos) could not have travelled faster than the speed of light without exhibiting a fall in energy levels, which was not detected.

The re-analysis of this beam of neutrinos is, the report said, the first serious study to question the (earlier) "faster than light" findings that have astonished and confounded scientists in equal measure. Showing that the neutrinos would

have lost discernible amounts of energy had they travelled faster than the "universal constant" of light speed – about 186,282 miles per second. As this was not the case, the particles could not have travelled faster than light.

The article in the Independent dated 22nd November, came to the same conclusion that we did in the What Next Newsletter for 30th September that if it was possible to travel faster than the speed of light then it would open up the prospect of travelling in time! Conceivably then altering subsequent world events. Changing things before they happened! Preventing the birth of particular individuals. The possibilities are endless. So, as we previously said, to travel back in time is not open to mankind.

See John Jewell's other articles at:

[Jewell, John – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Why I Don't Want to Wear Your Rose-Colored Glasses

(Copyright 2006) by Richard Markland (London, Ohio)

I dedicate this editorial to all the people who believe the world isn't so bad. It is not my job to point at others and say they are guilty of the following words. I do, however, feel a responsibility by asking people to take a closer look at what is going on around them and decide for themselves if they are realistic or simply hiding from a world they don't want to believe exists.

Why do you insist that I wear the rose-colored glasses you comfortably wear on the end of your nose when they don't fit?

Doesn't it bother you when you look through your rose-colored glasses and hear garbage called "Rap music" from the car that just passed you from a typical teen driver who insists your mental state of mind is going to be raped by what you call a phase that all kids go through? Am I wrong when I say I am sick and tired of the lame excuses offered for kids who could care less about anyone but themselves? I didn't listen to cuss words blaring from my car or screams from godless artists with an in-your-face attitude. Please don't insult me by how you view the world through your rose-colored glasses by comparing the so-called phase kids are going through with the one I did. I didn't wear my cap backwards, slumped over in my seat with an attitude that I am cool on a 90-degree day.

Did you read of the scores of people killed by terrorists in Iraq yesterday or the latest fatalities in Afghanistan today? Did you read of the plane crash that killed 49 people in Kentucky? Are you aware of the newlywed couple whose lives were snuffed out on the way to their honeymoon? Do you simply shrug your shoulders in resignation because you feel there have always been bombings and plane crashes? Doesn't it bother you when looking through the rose-colored glasses you wear?

Why do you insist I wear the same rose-colored glasses you do when it is a known fact that so many of our leaders are crooked and could care less about what I have to say?

Why do you insist I wear rose colored glasses that supports war when I see a world that has a love affair with hate and is willing to kill in order to bring peace?

Why do you call me negative when I am willing to look at what I see and ask if this is all there is? Just because you see a world in which you have convinced yourself isn't so bad, please don't insist mine is as well.

I don't want to wear the rose-colored glasses you wear when the only time I hear the word "God" or "Jesus Christ" is when somebody is angry or says it out of habit. The world I see is one in which people give God the spiritual finger because they could care less what He has to say about the way they live.

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I don't want to wear the rose-colored glasses you wear because I see a need for God that isn't on my terms. I don't want my eyes to be discolored by a belief that He's out there somewhere and is only a good luck charm when I'm in a jam.

The world I see is one in which so many people are wearing the same rose-colored glasses and don't realize the lens need to be changed in order to see beyond a make believe world embraced and coddled.

Is it any wonder the world is the way it is? It is filled with people who don't want to admit what is wrong because they love the rose-colored glasses, they wear every day and refuse to take them off.

So many people buy rose colored glasses every day. Sales are hot right now. I just saw a pair on sale this morning. It is the bestselling item in town.

See Richard Markland's other articles at:

Markland, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Sabbath Rest

(Copyright 2022) by James McBride (United Kingdom)

For Bible-believers a highlight of the week is sundown on Friday– in Bible terms the dawning of the weekly seventh-day Sabbath. A time to lay aside worldly pursuits, to focus on the spiritual essence of our being, to worship and learn from our great Creator and our Saviour.

It is a day first set aside by God immediately following the creation of our first forefather and observed throughout time as a sign of our relationship with the creator of the material universe: *'...the seventh day is a sabbath to Jehovah your God...For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all which is in them, and He rested on the seventh day; on account of this Jehovah blessed the sabbath day and sanctified it'* (Exodus 20:10-11). Sabbath is the God appointed memorial of His almighty creative power.

For several centuries after the Flood (c.2300BC) mankind in general adhered to the true path, but with a gradual bend to idolatrous and often despotic practices. The descendants (Israel) of Abraham (who observed all God's guiding principles: Genesis 26:5) were chosen to be the flag-bearer for the primeval way of truth.

To protect the remembrance of the day God set the Sabbath at the heart of Israel's Constitution, protected by legal boundaries (Numbers 15:32-35, Leviticus 20:9ff). Indeed, their failure to guard it resulted in invasion by a foreign aggressor, and their exile The Law—and especially the law on Sabbath observance—served to bind Israel's allegiance to the one true God, though they all too often embraced idolatrous practices— with adverse consequences. By the first century of our era the religious establishment in Judaism had added burdensome strictures to the Sabbath law far beyond the written Law.

Christian Observance

Jesus—who is *'...lord of the Sabbath'* (Mark 2:28)—restored its true significance and dismantled the harmful Pharisaic additions. While authenticating the written Mosaic law for mankind in general as a guide for life and governance, Jesus placed the Sabbath law in the context of those who through repentance and baptism would have God's Spirit 'bearing witness' in their minds (Romans 8:16).

Christians are not 'legally bound' to the Sabbath law (though they joyfully embrace it) but will be held to account as to how — guided by the Word of God—they freely apply its principles in their daily lives. 'Infants' in the church must grow to maturity.

The vast majority of Christians, as dictated by the Roman church— and as is universally known— abandoned the seventh

day to observe the pagan Sunday.

But God's guiding Spirit in us is for now in an 'embryo' stage and must be carefully nourished by immersing ourselves in His Word, the written expression of His way, His thinking.

Sabbath is our weekly 'treat', our rest from the daily grind, the refreshment of the weary human spirit, our dedicated time with our Father.

Delight in it!

See James McBride's other articles at:
[McBride, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Hamas Attack Mystery

(Copyright 2023) by Dwight Fleming (Oroville, California)

Jonathan Cahn will blow your mind with his latest video. He reveals numbers and dates tied to the Jubilee principle declared in Leviticus 25:8-10. How does the Jubilee principle relate to the attack by Hamas on October 7th?

As you know, the surprise attack against Israel in 1973 happened 50 years prior to this year's attack almost to the very day. But there is more than meets the eye. Jonathan reveals a deeper mystery at work that glorifies God's precise timing.

Jonathan mentions the year 1867. This was the year that Mark Twain visited the Holy Land which he later wrote about in "Innocents Abroad." See **[Mark Twain's unwittingly prophetic vision for the State of Israel - The Jerusalem Post \(jpost.com\)](http://jpost.com)**. Cahn explained in one of his books how this played into the Jubilee principle with the Balfour Declaration in 1917. It is also interesting that Charles Warren was sent by the Palestine Exploration Fund in 1867 to explore Palestine and Jerusalem.

The surprise attack in 1973 happened on Yom Kippur. The surprise attack in 2023 happened on The Last Great Day. Both of these attacks happened on an annual Sabbath (Moed) as listed in Leviticus 23. The Hebrew word "Moed" is translated as "appointed feast" or "appointed time" in Leviticus 23:4.

The Daniel 11 prophecy reveals the King of the North and the King of the South and their battles which directly affect the land of Israel. It mentions in three places, events that will occur on a Moed or appointed time. It is the same Hebrew word as used in Leviticus 23. In other words, the Kings of the north and south will time some of their attacks according to God's appointed holy days. See verses 27, 29, and 34.

Two Moed attacks have happened so far as Daniel 11 reveals. There will be one more attack to occur on a future Moed at the time of the end (verse 34). Which holy day will this future attack occur on? The next Moed attack is when the King of the North (the Beast or Antichrist) will invade the Holy Land. I see it happening at Passover or the Days of Unleavened Bread with the Resurrection occurring seven weeks later on Pentecost. See Revelation 9:1-5 and Revelation 12:13-15.

Much more is revealed in Jonathan Cahn's video that you won't want to miss. I have also included links to two songs that have deep meaning to the Jews and all those who desire to serve the true God during these difficult times. Here are the links:

Jonathan Cahn gives significance of attack dates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8wu85uA9bY>

Jerusalem of Gold -- Andre Rieu: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lm5lh2kJWTI>

You Have Chosen Me For Such a Time -- Elihana Elia: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IzZ3muwohk>

See Dwight Fleming's other articles at:
[Fleming, Dwight – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

The Globalists and Media

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Are they playing us emotionally, so everyone now wants war?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y01vFIVnLbo>

Very interesting 7 min. video. (Some humor in it too). First time I've watched this guy. You may want to go over it twice to get the full import. At the 4+ min. mark it shows the Prime Minister of Israel at the UN holding a map of the middle east and it has no Gaza or Palestine on it. This was supposedly a couple of weeks before Oct. 7!

I will add also the whole 7 hours with no response to the terrorists by the most elite military security in the world had to have been a setup. (I would think with the support of the west also.) Satan knows how to achieve his goals by manipulating people; but in the end he will fail per Scripture. The Savior when the time is right, will return putting down all rebellion and will rule with a rod of iron!

See James Steinle's other articles at:
[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

The Powers that Be Plan to Kill 7 Billion People

(2023) Sent by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

BREAKING: King Charles Announces Plan to Kill 7 BILLION People

Update from King Charles - current state of the world must change now:
<https://www.infowars.com/posts/breaking-king-charles-announces-plan-to-kill-7-million-people/>

1.5 min. video

See James Steinle's other articles at:
[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

Newsletter

(2023) Sent by Craig M. White (Australia)

Britain's Immigration Crisis

It is worth subscribing to this free newsletter.

https://www.mattgoodwin.org/subscribe?simple=true&next=https%3A%2F%2Fmattgoodwin.substack.com%2Fp%2Fis-britain-giving-up-on-brexite&utm_source=paywall-free-trial&utm_medium=web&utm_content=69199938&coupon=ee93e58e

See Craig White's other articles at:

[White, Craig M. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Iron Sharpening Iron

New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Sabbath Rest

Article by James McBride

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

From the article:

Christians are not 'legally bound' to the Sabbath law (though they joyfully embrace it)

Honestly, I have no idea what he meant when he wrote this in an article about the Sabbath, however the law of God is binding on all people and the Sabbath Command is part of that law.

In regard to: Sabbath Rest

Article by James McBride

Comments by Darwin Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Sabbath Rest Command

Such a good short article on why the Sabbath and need for it, then he ruins the message by saying we are not bound to keeping it even though Israel of old was bound to keeping it, as he makes it clear by scripture he quotes.

If Christians are not legally bound to keeping the Sabbath laws, then why bother keeping them as says the mainstream "so called 'Christian' community"? So, they act on it, yet somehow, they recognize the value of keeping a "Sabbath" and make a day for one. It's just not the one God says to keep because it's so "Jewish"!

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He nullifies his own argument when he says Christians are not bound to that which God has made a law. Did he ever read the ten-commandment laws made clear in the “book of the law”? Number four to be exact. “Remember the sabbath to keep it holy”! Again, if not binding, why bother keeping it at all? Such utter nonsense! Can you imagine the state you are living in having the traffic laws as not mandatory and what madness that would result in? Most everyone would say you don’t have to keep them, guess what, “I can run red lights with impunity! Man, this is fun”! Well, for most people it’s fun for not keeping a Sabbath. One can do all sorts of fun things on Saturday-Sunday, hunting, fishing, gambling at the nearest casino, yada, yada, yada! Thank you, God, for not making it mandatory, praise the Lord!

If you are one with that mind set, then repent and believe God when He says, “thou shalt”. Stop teaching lies. Anyone that teaches lies will not be a King and/or Priest for Christ in His coming kingdom. God will have nothing to do with liars. Make sure you are not one of them!

“We Have Seen His Star” (Part 6)

(Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

Prominent Political and Religious Potentates came to Jerusalem in the waning days of the reign of Herod the Great. The World today knows of them but knows little of who they actually were or why their interest and their visit was significant.

It was after the end of the winter season when a far-travelled foreign contingent of high-ranking elites entered Jerusalem on what was to them an extremely important mission. They came seeking to find information that they expected the people of the city would know. Not only was their question startling to Herod, but for other reasons, the whole city became alarmed greatly with their appearance on scene.

This is a story with profound elements. What was of real concern was the true nature of their quest.

Perhaps the first thing we should note is that these ‘wise men’ somehow failed to realize what impact their question would have with Herod. Wasn’t HE the ‘king of the Jews’? He thought so!

Troubled Judea

Now, the whole city also became alarmed hearing of these visitors from a rival regional power. The obvious reaction, considering that their conviction was that there was another potentate in the region, suggested an imminent political upheaval. Those in power under the current government stood to lose their positions! It posed a number of profound political and military considerations.

This is the narrative that Matthew gives us:

Matthew 2, “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

[2] Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.¹

[3] When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.²

[4] And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.³

¹ Straight-line distance from where they were at the time to Jerusalem was some 600 miles. What did they see that could be seen from such a distance?

² First, we should note that Herod and the Jerusalemites were unaware of this event prior to this. But the apprehension of ‘trouble’ of some sort is another matter that we should take into consideration. What were the implications of this?

³ This is interesting in that the theological community of the day were aware of the birth of “the Christ”. What implications that had in their religious mindset is debatable, but at least we can see that they were cognizant that such a person would be born and where the event would occur. Verse 6 might help explain how they regarded this Person.

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[5] *And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,*
[6] *And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.* ⁴
[7] *Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.*
⁵
[8] *And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.*
[9] *When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.* ⁶
[10] *When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*
[11] *And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.*
[12] *And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.*

From Luke's Account

In Luke chapter 2, we're given a detailed account of another miraculous event. However, this occasion was mere hours after Jesus' birth.

Beginning in verse 8: *“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.*
[9] *And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.*
[10] *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*
[11] *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*
[12] *And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*
[13] *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,*
[14] *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*
[15] *And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us* .
[16] *And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.*
[17] *And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.*

[18] *And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”*

The Glory of the LORD

So, with this event, there is first what is described as “the LORD's glory” illuminating the vicinity. That was followed by a large heavenly chorus of angels that descended and filled the sky over them to sing an announcement anthem, repeated since then at a particular season of the year. This chorus was illuminated, and brilliantly so!

Probable Connection?

There's a question we ought to consider. That being, was there a connection between these two accounts that we're given by Matthew and Luke?

⁴ This is a quote from Micah 5:2. What isn't fully repeated in their quote is the revelation that: *“whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”* Is this revealing that this Being had eternally pre-existed? That idea would contradict Jewish teachings of the day!

⁵ Now this indicates that the wise men were keeping careful note of the exact date when the first appearance happened. It happened to be a memorable date, likely a high Holy Day!?

⁶ We're here faced with the question that this wasn't the same identical 'angel' that they'd seen from some 600 miles away. This appearance was up close and direct, leaving the entourage with no doubts as to what they were being selectively privileged to see and know. It also indicates that God wanted these high-level dignitaries to have this experience and to carry the knowledge back to their homeland.

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While Matthew gives us the account of the Magi, yet we know that their ‘visit’ to the Christ Child wasn’t near the time when the shepherds visited. Their visit came months later when He was by that time a young child, in a house.⁷

At this point, I’m going to enter speculative territory and pose that the two accounts are related. Matthew didn’t reveal the possibility, he merely presented one of two accounts focusing on the relative importance. The Magi’s visit posed far greater implications as Herod’s, and the City’s, alarmed reaction indicates.

Seen From Afar?

Where the Magi were at the time of their ‘sighting’ was some 600-miles directly east, their capitol city being Ctesiphon just north of present-day site of Babylon. From where they were, they saw some-thing brilliant on the horizon to the west, over Jerusalem (they knew where Jerusalem was from their perspective in that they worshipped toward it).

What I’m posing here is that what they witnessed was the event related in Luke’s second chapter account. Shepherds staying out in the fields with their flocks overnight (this posing that it wasn’t ‘in winter’) were abruptly presented with an angelic announcement, followed by a choral display unlike anything before or since. This brilliant display went on for several minutes. It lit up the area!

A Casual Coincidence?

An interesting assessment of these observers is given in an internet source, where they pose the question: “*So, were these just “smart” men who happened to be looking up at the sky one day and observed something unusual and decided to investigate? No and no.*”! Their statement that “*...we have seen His star*” tells us that more than just one among them saw it. That suggests that the occasion involved more than one out observing. There obviously were multiple reliable witnesses to the unusual event. We need also to consider how they identified it as “His star” with such confidence? After all, they were astute astronomers knowing what couldn’t happen.

But was there something in their normally assigned activities that played into this? Among their responsibilities (which included nominating and installing their kings) was the task of being astronomical observers, in large part to officially determine and declare their calendar.⁸ One month in particular, the seventh, provided the basis for the calendar for the lunar new year.⁹

It’s the first ‘new moon’ of the seventh month that would have meaning beyond just a calendar matter. That’s a date to us that we would identify as the Feast of Trumpets:¹⁰ A date that has significance in their religious observances and in Biblical prophecy. Being a significant annual Holy Day – as Parthian presence at Holy Day observances in Jerusalem attests to – we see a regard for their Old Covenant religious heritage. (Acts 2:9) So their retention of Old Testament practices is evident in a significant portion of the Parthian population regularly attending High Days there. And it isn’t the average citizen who could afford such attendance.

Scholarly Association

It’s been documented by a well-known Biblical scholar in the Church of God genre, that Jesus’ birth was very probably on the Feast of Trumpets.¹¹ (The mid-winter date being spurious, borrowed from extra biblical sources. Many historical facts and New Testament accounts show the mid-winter date to be impractical and thus highly improbable.)

It’s more than reasonable that while the Magi were performing their official task of sighting for the expected first visible crescent of the seventh month that the ‘star’ (or what appeared to be such from 600-miles distant) was seen. That crescent would have been visible on the western horizon some minutes after sunset, as dusk was deepening. The unusual phenomenon appeared in that timeframe. As they sighted the ‘new moon’, an unusual thing occurred that to them was regarded as highly significant. Especially to them!

⁷ Matthew 2:11 seen above

⁸ The Magi were known as astronomer priests.

⁹ The calendar in that day was lunar, with each month beginning with a new moon. That was the case with them as well as in Judea, and for that matter much of the world.

¹⁰ Leviticus 23:24

¹¹ Fred R. Coulter in his booklet: “When Was Jesus Christ Born” 1996, and pages 22 to 36 of his book: “A Harmony of The Gospels” 3rd Edition, 2001, York Publishing Company.

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A glow first appeared in the Jerusalem vicinity.¹² While they speculated as to what that glow might indicate, a brighter light descended into that glow (which Luke identifies as the glory of the LORD), dwelling there for a few minutes while the angelic chorus sang, then reascended upward out of sight.¹³ This they positively identified as an angel, not some rare astronomical phenomenon.¹⁴

That being the case, with the Magi's observance of the new moon of that month, and with the coincident sighting, it posed profound implications. Not just an unusual event, but one occurring on a date with Holy significance. It would have been realized by them for what it had to signify.

Their Ultimate Interest

But then, there was another matter that concerned them. It involved the current line of succession to the Parthian Throne. Their viable heirs to the throne were particularly unsatisfactory. Most legitimate heirs had been killed off by rivals. The next in line, if not already in power, was a young man and his former slave girl mother. She actually ruled as regent to her son. We can understand the dissatisfaction on their part with that situation.

Their assigned oversight of such matters as the selection of their kings included maintaining awareness of potential heirs to their throne living abroad. They were tasked with maintaining awareness of Arsacid males born and/or living in foreign lands. It wasn't uncommon for them to summon potential heirs to repatriate for the purpose of serving as king.

With this realization, the Magi's interest in paying homage to a potential 'newly born heir' becomes very understandable. Jesus was not only a direct descendant of King David, but also was of the Phares line! (Perez in the Gospels).

So, is this the underlying story based on the Gospel narratives a strong possibility? Could the original sighting have been the incident with the shepherds? There's too much there for it to be dismissed outright.

See Rich Traver's other articles at:

Traver, Rich – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Expect the Unexpected (Part 3)

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Follow Up Notes

The Last Great Day this year, 10/7/2023, marked a **significant turning point in the prophetic timeline**. Who among us expected war to break out in the State of Israel on the Last Great Day. 3,500 young Jews were celebrating and dancing all night long! Obviously, no-one could have predicted the terrible events that transpired.

Will world order ever return to “normalcy?” We have been witnessing the significant decline in the Israelitish nations in recent years—a major rejection of God and His ways. We have been witnessing considerable incursions of Islamic peoples into America, Britain, Europe and throughout the world. Great numbers of Islamic insurgents have **flooded all of Europe**.

But when Hamas terrorists invaded Israel on the Last Great Day, the entire world changed—and not for the good. Who would have believed the **rampant anti-Semitism** in our Legislative bodies and universities that have been unleashed as

¹² Luke 2:9

¹³ Luke 2:13-15

¹⁴ Matthew 2:2

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a result of Hamas' unprecedented slaughter of babies, pregnant mothers, and elderly civilians? Could it be that a process leading to the destruction of Jerusalem itself has begun?

Is there a kingdom anywhere on earth that could threaten the security of the United States, Great Britain, and the Western English-speaking nations of the world? God tells us it is going to happen.

Daniel 2:28 There is a God in heaven that reveals secrets and makes known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the **latter days**.

God has prophesied in Daniel 2:43 that there will be a great major faction that will be a characteristic of the **final kingdom** in the latter days. There will exist an identifying division in that kingdom that will not allow for harmony and accord.

We would be wise to ask who the parties are that **will not cleave** one to another in Daniel? What kind of kingdom does not have **cohesiveness**?

Note this: Sunni and Shi'i are the two largest branches of Islam, with the overwhelming majority of **Iranians practicing Shi'i Islam**. About 90 percent of Iranians practice Shi'ism, the official religion of **Iran**. By contrast, most Arab states in the Middle East are predominantly **Sunni**. The twain shall never meet! Any attempted amalgamation of these contrasting Islamic religions will **never become a cohesive unit**.

Jesus Christ's Return in Power

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

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou saw the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou saw the iron mixed with miry clay. Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou saw iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but **they shall not cleave one to another**, even as iron is not mixed with clay. Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou saw that the **stone** was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and **the dream is certain**, and the interpretation thereof sure.

In near proximity to the Gaza Strip border, the location of the Supernova music dance festival was near Kibbutz Re'im which hosts similar events with regularity. The October 7 massacre by Hamas has been called Israel's 9/11. Hamas killed ~1,400 civilians in Israel and captured many civilian hostages. Israeli military forces retaliated with extensive strikes against targets in Palestine's Gaza Strip and a subsequent invasion of Gaza.

The horrendous attack coincided with the weeklong Jewish holiday of Sukkot, observed from Friday, September 29, 2023, to Friday, October 6, 2023, concluding on the Last Great Day October 7, 2023. Some attendees were under the influence of alcohol or drugs, which heightened their confusion and fear. Some Hamas narco-terrorists were on Captagon pills that came by way of Lebanon and Syria. For years, Captagon has been a staple drug among Islamic State fighters, especially in Iraq and Syria because it gives them almost superhuman powers – including the ability to stay awake, calm, and focused for days on end without food. Israeli security officials with direct knowledge of the matter confirmed that the methamphetamine-like substance was found on at least some Hamas members killed during or after the horrific raids on Israel.

Who are the radical Islamic jihadists **Iranian proxies**? Chief among them are, Hezbollah in Lebanon, Houthis in Yemen, but also Palestinian Islamic Hamas in Gaza. This is a trademark of Iranian foreign policy. Iran says that while it supports such “resistance forces”, they act independently.

Palestinian residents are predominantly Sunni Muslims. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a majority Muslim country with 96% of the population following Sunni Islam while a small minority follow Shiite branches. Iran succeeded, however,

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in Yemen, where the militant Houthis Shiite Islamist political and armed organization movement armed by Tehran has come to dominate the country in an extended proxy war, pitting Iran against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. With the Abraham accord beginning to show fruit and take hold – Iran could not stand by idly and allow. Aided chiefly by the United States, Iran has been funding Hamas by a 100 billion + sanction relaxation, and hostage monies.

See Warren Zehrung’s other articles at:

Zehrung, Warren – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes