

MORIEL

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THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."





MORIEL
MINISTRIES

God is my Teacher

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AMERICAN NEWS

Important announcement YTD Tax deduction forms

Next year we will again send out tax receipts for YTD donations around the 2nd week of January 2018. Those that donate through PayPal get receipts already and I understand can get a YTD recap in their account, so we won't send these out unless you request one from me. An email will do it! Please send request to: Moriieldavid@yahoo.com or leave message at 412 321 6154 Thank you for your support.

RENEW – RENEW – RENEW

Make sure you renew you free Moriel Quarterly subscription. If you don't send us a renewal form we don't know you still want to receive it. While we want you to get our Quarterly we don't ever want to charge and one of the ways we hold down costs is to trim our subscribers list if we don't hear from you. Also this is a good time to update any address information as well as correct any misspellings on your subscription.

Thank You Thank You Thank You

Moriel and all of its workers would like to offer a big thank you for all of your generous gifts, offerings and tithes. These offerings do allow us to continue on in the work that the Lord has called us into. We continue to expand missions and as you will see in the Quarterly. Again, we are most appreciative of what you donate towards Moriel. On a personal note I want to thank you as we could not do what we do without you. Please continue to pray for this ministry and for the ever-expanding work we are all called to perform.

Inside this issue

Well the building in The Philippines has started and god willing Pastor Paul hopes to finish by Christmas. Lots of prayer needed and all the kids are excited. Some pictures are included, but on the website we have more.

Jacob has written an article titled Toward 2019 about what has happened in Moriel this year and what we are looking towards in 2019. He looks at the challenges this year and the opportunities for next year.

INTRODUCING MORIEL UK ADMINISTRATOR

Greetings & thanks from Moriel UK

Dear Friends

As the new administrator for Moriel UK since early this year, I just wanted to say a massive thank you for your continued support for the Ministry. I personally have been overwhelmed by the donations and love which ultimately help enable God's work to continue. I also want to say thank you to all those who have written lovely letters of encouragement, not only to Jacob and Moriel but to me as an administrator, encouraging me in the role and wishing me well. As a busy mum, it really is appreciated and so I wanted you all to know that I read your letters and find them a major blessing! Please do keep in touch and forgive me and bear with me, if I occasionally forget something. (But please don't hesitate to remind me if that happens) A loving nudge is most helpful occasionally!

Please contact Natalie on morielnatalie@hotmail.com if you didn't get the third quarter, Issue No.73 as we had a temporary issue with our UK database. Thank you.

Every Blessing as always.....from Natalie at Moriel UK



“ So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober ”
– 1 Thessalonians 5:6



In Matthew 10, Jesus sends the apostles out in pairs and when he sends the apostles out in pairs, they do things like miracles in Jesus' name. They cast out demons in His name and they do this, that, and the other thing in His name and they begin to marvel saying, "Look, even the demons are subject to us." They thought this was fantastic because there was power and authority in the name of Jesus, because of their association with him, they could do miracles: they could see people healed, they could cast out demons, and exercise spiritual authority over demons. What did they do when they came back? They were in awe. What were they in awe of? Were they in awe of Jesus, who gave them the power? Or were they in awe of the power? They were in awe of the power, something the Bible plainly rebukes, that Jesus rebuked. He said "Look, you guys are rejoicing at the wrong stuff." Now, the power was there, the power was real, but they were marveling at the wrong stuff. Today, the Church is like that. There is this obsession with getting power, but does the power always work? In the book of Acts, chapter 13, the apostles could do miracles. When the Lord allowed them, they did all kinds of things, but we are told in Acts 13:50:

Acts 13:50-52: But the Jews [that is, the religious Jews] aroused the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium. And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Notice earlier in the book of Acts when three thousand were saved, then four thousand were saved, they were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit, but when they were run out of town, they were still filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit. The joy of the Lord is our strength, it does not depend on seeing miracles, victories, or even people saved. When you see people making the way they feel a barometer or a measuring stick, or their joy is dependent upon having an impact, well, that is just not scriptural; it is just not scriptural. There were times when throngs came to Jesus and there were times when throngs left him, in John chapter 6. Somehow the Church is very good at being like the apostles, evaluating things the wrong way.

We live at a time when the Church is discredited. Evangelism is becoming very difficult. It is becoming difficult for a lot of reasons. The main reason it has become difficult is because of the impact Satan has had through the Televangelists, who have discredited the Gospel, we all know that. Born again is a household joke thanks to these people who Satan has used so magnificently. It's a tragedy. How do you preach the Gospel in a society that is not only post-Christian and increasingly neo-Pagan but where the Church has been discredited? Thanks to Satan working through his servants, the Church has

very little credibility. If you were to tell someone about a Gospel preacher, they would be stereotyped as a Jim Bakker or a Copeland, or a Hagin, or whatever. But if you were to mention somebody like Mother Theresa, they think she was a saint. I read something I got in the newspaper yesterday that somebody gave me where the Roman Catholic Church admitted she was demon possessed. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Calcutta said she was demon possessed and had an exorcism. Now, if the Roman Catholic Church says Mother Theresa is demon possessed, who am I to argue? Nonetheless, they say she is all right, a woman who said she converts people to be better Hindus and better Muslims, she is all right but Gospel preachers are stereotyped. We've got a big problem. The Church is discredited. Whether you like it or not and whether I like it or not, and I would venture to say none of us like it, the average unsaved person puts you and I in the same category as Benny Hinn and all these guys, that is what I am seeing.

Most churches that grow, grow by programatics. They have a program or an event which gets people from one church to come to another church. It is called transfer growth. Most churches that grow will grow by manipulating people, promising them some kind of material inducement by a corruption of the faith message. Most churches that grow will follow a guru who is offering them a program, in England it is Alpha Courses, in the U.S., it is Peter Wagner or it's Bill Hybels. It does not dawn on anybody that it is only market research. You find out what people want and give it to them. What do you wind up with? More people leaving church A for church B. Instead of the fields being ripe for harvest, they take crops from each other's barns like competing department stores. People get saved, one here, one there. Now there are churches that are growing by people being saved but, of course, these are not the popular churches. They don't follow that kind of message. Again, Calvary Chapels and the independent Pentecostal churches that are growing by people being saved, they are not following that kind of message. I see the kind of churches that grow, and I see the ones that don't and I don't count people leaving church A for church B as growth because God does not count it as growth. The question I put to you readers is, "How can you see the Church grow in the Biblical sense of the word growth?" Numerical growth? Discipleship, spiritual growth. Numerical growth minus discipleship is zero growth. Numerical growth must be matched to spiritual growth. Then there is financial growth. Of course, these churches that have gone into all this hype, that is the bottom line, their numbers are about money. Well, there is a relationship between numbers and money. The coin is indeed in the fish's mouth, but why? To send to missionaries and missions. See, all these things pervert a truth. Everything these people say is a perversion of a truth. Satan has no wisdom as we would count wisdom; he has a different kind of wisdom. He can only corrupt something that is true. What should you be doing?

Ideally, church is one of the churches that is blacklisted by those who are into the crop robbing, the sheep-napping, the transfer growth. You don't go along with that program, you don't follow the schemes, the hype, and you are not obsessed by people chasing power for power's sake, which Jesus rebuked the apostles for. You don't put a lot of emphasis on promising people money, in fact, you don't put any emphasis on it, and you don't go along with these things. You realize that although we all want to see people get saved, the joy of the Lord is our strength and you should be happy whether that is happening or not as long as you are being faithful. Nonetheless, we have a commission to preach the Gospel. We all want people to be saved. We all want people to grow in Jesus, we all want to have money so that we can help others in poor countries, etc. So, in order to make churches grow, different people are trying different things that don't work.

The first thing people talk a lot about today as the key to growth is a version of this. "We need unity." This is what they say. "We have to unite with Catholics, with Protestants; we have to forget about doctrine and unite in order to see churches grow. In order to redeem society, we need unity." And to support this view that unity is the way forward to make people believe, they will look to a passage like John 17. In John 17, they look at the high priestly prayer of Jesus.

John 17:23: *"I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know that Thou didst send Me, and didst love them, even as Thou didst love Me."*

"You see, we have to be one, and if we are one then people will believe. No wonder the world does not believe if Catholics and Protestants are divided or if Evangelicals or divided from others over things like doctrine. Therefore, for the sake of unity we shouldn't worry about doctrine, we should worry about unity." That's the verse that they use to support it. Satan was really good at using verses to support his arguments too. Of course, when Satan took a verse out of context, from Deuteronomy, Jesus said "For it is also written" and answered in context. Why don't these people read the context? It is because if they did read the context, the Ecumenical movement would drop dead tomorrow; they would have no unity. Let us look at the context in which Jesus is praying.

John 17:15-19: *"I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. [Remember, we are in world, not of it.] "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. "As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in truth."*

Twice Jesus says this unity depends on truth. I have pointed out a number of times, unity of the spirit is impossible when there is fundamental error. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth; he is not the spirit of error. You cannot have the unity of the Holy Spirit based upon error. Where truth is compromised for the sake of unity, that is not unity, that is Baby-

lon, it is building the Tower of Babel where man's unity is lifted above God's truth--that is the Tower of Babel. It is rebellion. Now I believe in unity of the Spirit. I am in favor of Bible-believing, born again Christians who have the same doctrines uniting across denominational lines, I believe that. But do not ask me to unite with a church that has a different basis of authority other than scripture or that teaches as precepts of God the inventions of men, or that has taken superstitions, or that prays to the dead, or that engages in basically New Age practice; that's not truth. "Sanctify them, set them apart." Notice this, they are talking about unity; Jesus is taking about sanctification.

Sanctification is the opposite of their definition of unity. Their unity is coming together. Sanctification is setting apart, understand? God's version of unity is the opposite of man's; it is being united with Him. "Come out of her my people." Sanctification is the opposite of unity. Now, there is a unity, but it is not their unity.

"We have to be united, and then people will believe." Once the Gospel is compromised, once you say it is okay if you believe in sacramental salvation and purgatory, we have to unite, people will never believe the Gospel because you no longer believe it yourself. If you really believed the Gospel, you would not get in bed with churches who don't believe it. So, they say it is unity. I assure you, all the churches in Cedar Rapids, Iowa could get together and they could get together with the Roman Church and the Greek Orthodox Church and the Liberal Protestant Churches and Frangipane's Church that is just as bad, they could all get together and Cedar Rapids would still not believe. They can put on programs and get people to come from different churches and they can seem like they have big numbers, but they are not going to grow. It is not the way forward. Some people today are telling us, "Well, the way forward is signs and wonders (ôôtôm ôômôpetîm)," again, the obsession with power, etc. If people see this, then they will believe. I heard yesterday about somebody, Hinn's brother said they didn't waste the time preaching or expounding the scripture, they just wanted to see the signs.

Turn with me please, to John 10—Jesus says this:

John 10:37-38: *"If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father."*

Why does he say this? This goes back to what we see happening building up to chapter 10 in the previous chapters. Jesus asks them, almost rhetorically, "For which one of these works do you stone me; for which one of these works do you seek to stone me?"

John 10:32: *Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?"*

The Hebrew prophets did works; they did miracles. Now these works do bear witness to Jesus but “For which one of these works are you stoning me.” Does the Bible say, “Faith commeth by seeing signs and wonders” or does it say “Faith commeth by hearing and by hearing the Word of God?”

Well that hasn't worked. Some people say “Well, we have to be seeker-friendly.” When a heavy metal band with a demonic ethos came to your community, Francis Frangipane told people and told pastors, “Don't go out there and preach the Gospel to these kids going to the heavy metal concert, give them pizza and coke. If you preach it will burn them off. Give them pizza and coke.” “Faith commeth by hearing and hearing the Word of God.” I have been a Christian, I first had a born-again experience in the winter of 1972, nearly 30 years ago and in all of those years, in various countries around the world, I have seen many, many, many people come to faith through the preaching of the Word of God, but I have never, ever, ever once seen somebody come to Christ in repentance and a saving faith through a pizza. Not even once! If people would be born again through giving them pizza, believe me, I would be out on every street corner giving people pizzas. Instead of handing out tracts, I would be handing out Shakey's Pizza; that is what I would be handing out.

It began in part with the late heretic, John Wimber, who basically, with his paradigm shift ideas, tried to rewrite Christendom as a New-Age religion and he said, “Instead of God as judge, we are going to have him as loving father. Instead of God being in the courtroom with the Gospel, we are going to put him in the family drawing room.” Of course, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all put the Gospel in the language of the court room, as I have pointed out various times. Jesus was on trial for my sin; he was innocent, I was guilty of the things he was accused of. He went to the cross, so I could walk. All four Gospels put the Gospel in the language of the court room. Biblically, you cannot know God as loving father unless you know him as an angry judge who hates sin. That is what the Bible says. So, although Matthew, Mark, Luke and John put the Gospel in the courtroom, John Wimber wanted to take it out. “Don't be negative. Don't talk about hell.” Annihilationism is a big thing in England, with guys like John Stott leaning towards it, writing books about it, telling unsaved people if they don't repent of their sins and accept Jesus when they die, they won't exist anymore, they will be annihilated. That is what unsaved people believe anyway. Now, you see this over and over. “We would like to invite you to accept Jesus.” Give them some pizza and invite them to accept Jesus, a watered down, wishy-washy rag like an Alpha Course and invite them to accept Jesus. “We would like to invite you to accept Jesus into your heart.” Not one time, not one place does the New Testament or the apostles ever invite anybody to accept Jesus. The Bible says God commands men repent. He does not invite people to repent, he commands they do it. “Go out and compel them to come in. You don't want to come in? Save yourself from this perverse generation.” I don't mean the ‘turn or burn’ stuff, that is preaching

at people, not to them, but the message is clear, save yourself from this wicked and perverse generation. “Don't tell them that, that will burn people off, it is a negative message.” This comes from the whole Schüller thing. Give them pizza instead. Yes, you can love people all the way to hell. You can love Roman Catholics all the way to hell by withholding the true Gospel. You can love Jews all the way to hell, like Wings of Eagles International does by withholding the true Gospel. They have to be seeker-friendly. “You have to give people what they want. Be seeker-friendly.” Well, in the Bible were they seeker-friendly or was it “count the cost?” Jesus never made it easy for anybody to come to him. He made it simple, but not easy. Becoming a Christian is very simple. A child of average intelligence can understand the Gospel. It is very simple, but it is not easy. His yoke is indeed light, once you take his yoke, but you've got to take the yoke. “That is negative; we don't want to know about the cost of discipleship and telling people about trials and all this stuff. Boy, it doesn't work!”

Well, what else have people tried? What else are they trying? In being seeker friendly, a lot of other things come under this. They do not emphasize judgment. They don't emphasize biblical doctrine. They do emphasize compatibility with their worldview. What do I mean? Their music, their TV, their programs imitate the world. “Well, if young people are going to go to a heavy metal concert, we have to have Christian Heavy Metal music.” I grew up on Rock & Roll and classical music. Heavy metal is not even rock music. There is no variation and the melody is just three chords over and over again, using demonic themes, most of it. They can have Christian rock bands that will play heavy metal music, but they are never going to do it as good as the world. You are never going to be as good as the world at being like the world. TV--they can make movies with Carman and all this stuff, imitations of Rocky, it is not going to be as good as Rocky. The Church is never, ever, ever going to compete with Hollywood; you are not going to compete with the Rock Music industry, you are not going to compete with the world. The Church will never do it as good as the world. We are not called to do it as good as the world. What did Jesus say? “They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.” In it, but not of it. Why do I want to be like that? It does not work. What they call growth is what you saw in Pensacola, people going from other places chasing an experience, you all know that. That is what goes on here. Every couple of months, Mr. Frangipane will put on another program and invite something in, the latest thing.

They will find a gimmick, a scheme. There are many gimmicks. There is nothing wrong with what Jabez prayed in the book of Chronicles, but when you write a book, a book written by somebody who signed Evangelicals and Catholics together, so right away the author is no good. He is no good, as a preacher he is no good. He should not even be taken into consideration. That “If you say this prayer, you will have this, this and this.” Do you know what they are looking for? A formula. “If you do this, you'll have that.” Do you know what

that is? That is Catholics going to a novena. If you go to the novena for nine days; that is African animists going to a sangoma, if you go through this and you say this.... They reduce a living faith to ritualism. It is religious. It's superstition and religion. There is no formula prayer in the Bible, except, the only thing that comes close to it, is to believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and God raised him from the dead, you can be saved, if you really say the words and mean it. Even the Lord's Prayer, better called the disciple's prayer, although I am not against saying it, is a guide of how to pray. I am not against saying the words, I am not against having prayers incorporated into a liturgy, but when you have a formula prayer? There is no biblical basis for a formula prayer. Now all of these things will make money; they will result in some people making money. In fact, truth be told, the bottom line of the matter is that is what they are usually about. Alpha Courses make money, Toronto, Pensacola, they make money—they will all make money for people running the scheme, but they will not make disciples for Jesus. But as we looked at this morning, they are after the same thing the world is: money!

So when none of this stuff is working, and when your sister and her husband watch Benny Hinn on TV, exposed Easter Sunday night, prime time on HBO, for what he is, the world knows what he is, and then you try to tell your sister and your brother-in-law about Jesus and coming to church and they think that is what you are, or when you try to witness to your neighbor across the street or the person you work with, you try to share Jesus and they think you are this stuff. How do you do it? More than that, when all the other churches in the community are pursuing this stuff and you are not, and they are saying there is something wrong with you because you refuse to follow things that don't work and are not biblical, it makes it more difficult. All the other churches say you are the wrong one, even other Evangelicals. Remember, Evangelical churches that compromise will align themselves with Rome, with liberals, with the Greek Orthodox Church, they will even align themselves with open heresy but they will stand with those people against the faithful Church. Turn with me to the book of Isaiah 66:5:

Isaiah 66:5: *Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at His word: "Your brothers who hate you, who exclude you for My name's sake, have said, 'Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy.' But they will be put to shame.*

Those who tremble at God's Word will be excluded by the others. They will line up with unbelievers, they will line up with heretics, they will accept things that are morally reprehensible. That will be all right, but they will exclude you. Now, of course, Isaiah says a judgment will come upon them; that is true, but in the meantime, what do you do? What should your church do to grow? How can you see people get saved in an environment like this at a time like this, when born again is a joke, when the other churches think you are a joke because you won't go along with a joke? You won't go along

with what is really a joke, so you become a joke. What's the way forward? How can we preach the Gospel at a time like this and really see people want to get saved when all this is going on, and none of this works, and you and the Church is ostracized? What kind of evangelism should you be looking at? I cannot offer you a plan or a program. God has not given us one. But He has given us principles and He has given us a basis to understand what's wrong and he has told us exactly what to do about it. Turn with me to Matthew chapter 24:

We see all of this stuff happening, wars and rumors of war, false Christs, Jerry Fallwell calling a false Christ an unsung hero; he calls Reverend Moon an unsung hero, a backslidden Christian like Jerry Fallwell. I don't know if he was ever right to begin with either. These things are the beginning of birth pangs and then persecution. Already, Germany has an index of cults on which there are a number of mainstream Evangelical churches and the French government is trying to outlaw evangelism, in Australia there are similar laws and it is only a matter of time before such laws come into play in America, they will try it anyway. We see most people's love growing cold because of lawlessness, we have explained this:

"The one who endures to the end shall be saved." You know that. "Many will fall away," you know that.

Matthew 24:14: *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come."*

It does not say the gospel of the seeker-friendly. It doesn't even say the Gospel. Now the Gospel is the Gospel; it is called by different things, there are different aspects to it. Paul personalizes it and says, "My Gospel." In some places it is the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. In some places it is the Gospel of salvation. Here it is called the Gospel of the Kingdom. Now the Gospel of the Kingdom does not mean what the dominionists and the reconstructionist think. It certainly does not mean what the Jehovah's Witnesses think. What is the Gospel of the Kingdom? The Gospel of the Kingdom is when you use eschatology. It is when you use biblical prophecy to evangelize people. I wouldn't sell one of Hal Lindsey's books; I would not even sell his books anymore, we don't carry them in England; he is on his fourth marriage, but before he went the way he did and became what he has since become, a disgrace to the name of Jesus, with his fourth wife, he wrote a book called "The Late Great Planet Earth." That book, theologically, was a gross oversimplification of biblical prophecy but a lot of people were saved through it. Do you know why? He was using end-times prophecy to present people their need for salvation. It works, not because it is brilliant but because it is what God said to do. Unity? The book of Amos 3:3 says "Can two walk down the same road unless they agree?" Pay attention. No revival has ever come from unity. The Methodists split from the Church of England in England. The Messianic Jews and the first century Christians split from the synagogues. The Protestant reformation split from the Roman

Catholic Church. No revival has ever come from unity. Every revival has come from division. No revival has ever come from unity. Because unity as man defines it is different than how God defines it. Man's unity compromises truth. God's unity depends on it. Revival will never come from unity. Revival will only come from division.

Romans 16:17: Those who depart from the teaching of the apostles, they have gone away, let them go.

You haven't divided, they have. Do you understand? Look what it says in Romans 16:17: It says "*Mark a factious man, those who depart from the teaching which you have heard.*" People who left the Assemblies of God, they are not the divisive ones. It is the people running the Assemblies of God who are divisive. It is Trask and his crowd that have departed from the teachings of the New Testament. They may have hijacked the name, Assemblies of God, they've taken the name and the property deeds and the trusts and the buildings with them, they may have taken the cash with them, but they are the ones who have departed. You have stayed on the same road. I used to be a Pentecostal in the Assemblies of God. I used to be a Baptist. When the Baptist Union became ecumenical in England--I am not a Baptist anymore, institutionally. But I still believe in Believer's baptism. I still believe what Charles Spurgeon believed, I still believe what John Bunyan believed, I still believe what the Anabaptists believed. As far as God is concerned, I am still a Baptist; they are the ones who have left. They may have taken the name. As far as God is concerned I am still a Pentecostal; they are the ones who have left. I still believe in biblical Pentecostalism. Revival doesn't come from unity; it comes from division. Just look at the Reformation.

The Gospel of the Kingdom. Pick up a newspaper. Say to that person at work—ordering lunch, "Look at this in the Middle East, do you see this? Look, it is about Jerusalem. You know, I was reading in the book of Zechariah that Jerusalem would be the stumbling block for all nations; anybody who lifts it will hurt themselves grievously. Look, look. Hey look, do you see global warming? Look what it says in the book of Revelation, 'Let us destroy those who are destroying the earth.' Hey look, do you see the globalization of the world economy? Look what the Bible says about that, look what it is going to come to, a one-world currency system." There will be fear and anxiety among the nations, none of them knowing the way out. Hey look, you know, the world's second biggest economy, Japan, is in deep recession. They don't even know when they can get out of it. Germany, the third biggest economy in the world, and the biggest economy in Europe, is in deep recession. The United States, the biggest economy in the world is just hovering above recession. They don't know what to do. "There will be fear and anxiety among the nations, none of them knowing the way out." "Do you see what it says in the Bible? They cannot straighten this mess out. Hey, you know the antichrist, he is going to bring a false peace to the Middle East, do you see what is happening? Hey, did you see Benny Hinn on TV last night? Look what Jesus said, 'Many

will come in my name and lead many astray.' "Jesus warned us about men like Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn. He warned us about people like T.D. Jakes. Jesus warned us about people like this, look, look what Jesus said would happen, did you see those guys, that is what Jesus warned us would come." You disassociate yourself from them. You say "Look, Jesus warned about it." I cannot tell you how to get a program. I can't tell you how to organize a program. I can tell you this; a time is coming for the Church to seriously look at evangelism, in the sense of outreach, followed by discipleship. Most churches are not doing it. As a matter of fact, most of the others probably can't do it. They do all this stuff, that is what they do, they can't do what is biblical. Your church needs to seriously and prayerfully seek the Lord for an evangelistic and discipleship program, with the eventual aim of planting other churches in your region. You need to seriously fast and pray and seek God for this. I cannot tell you how to organize it, the Lord is your wisdom, He will show you, but I will tell you this: Your message cannot be the Gospel anymore. Your message must be the Gospel of the Kingdom. Use eschatology, use biblical prophecy in reaching the lost. People want to know the future. That is why they go into astrology and the occult, they want to know the future. Now the occult can only give them a lie, you have the truth. You know how events in the Middle East are going to end, do you know that? You actually know what is going to happen on this planet. You know what it is coming to in Europe, you know! You know what the climax of human civilization will be, you know the future, and as we get closer to the return of Jesus you are going to know it even better and clearer. You know, knowledge is power. You know. These guys don't know, they don't even want to know, but you know. How can you reach people in your community? How can you reach people in your region? How, when the Church is discredited, can you have credibility? How can you gain credibility when the Church has lost it? How can you come up with something that works when everybody is following things that can never work? How can you do it? What is the answer, what is the way forward? The other ones are not doing it, they can't do it, now God is telling you to do it, I am sure, but how? How can you reach people when the Church no longer has credibility? How?

... In David Wilkerson's ministry for the last 30 years, he kept stressing the return of Jesus, the return of Jesus, the return of Jesus. He is one example. All this stuff fails; it all fails. People leaving church A for church B is taking crops out of one person's barn and putting it in another but where is the harvest? It all fails. Tired of failing? I am tired of failure. It is fair enough to say, we have to say, "These guys have it wrong." There is a need for that. But that is only phase I. Phase II is "They are getting it wrong; we have to get it right." What works when nothing does? How do you get credibility when credibility is gone? How do you get success at a time of failure? The Gospel of the Kingdom. When all else fails, read the directions.

God bless.

MORIEL TOWARDS 2019

Blessings in Jesus.

Let me commence by thanking our brethren for their much-needed prayers and support. This year of 2018 has been a personally difficult one due to the loss of my mother and the uncertainty of her salvation. Medical difficulties related to lymphatic edema remain, yet the solid truth remains that "I Can Do All Things Through Christ Jesus Who Strengthens Me".

For Moriel however, it has been a year of change, but the right kind of change required to facilitate new growth. We have had administrative changes bringing on Mike Ben in South Africa and Natalie Alon in the UK. We have also made the first practical steps to opening a Moriel Missions branch in India with a planned orphanage for impoverished children in Andhra Pradesh.

We have a tentative offer and we are trying to acquire this property through a complicated legal process with the help of Mark Jackson who will eventually be heading Moriel ministries in India. We also held our first pastors conference in India. We are struggling to find appropriate missionaries for an HIV children's orphanage with which Moriel is affiliated but hopes to take on once we have the right mission team in place in Uganda near the border with the Congo.

Missions

The children's mission in The Philippines is robust. We have both purchased a new property near the rubbish dump in Olongapo from where we rescue our children and began construction on the new facility. Soon the building will have a playground as well as a place where their kids will come, be fed and hang out as Pastor Paul's family love them and the kids like being with them.

We cannot publicly comment on our activities in China where persecution has increased in 2018, but we have established a good rep in Hong Kong who is in contact with our mission team inside China. We must also exercise discretion regarding Vietnam, but we are faced with a problem in the Diem Province where the plight of Christian villages of tribal people are largely ignored. The water damage from the monsoons was particularly serious in 2018 and we are trusting The Lord for funding to construct metallic roofing instead of thatch for the house where the children sleep to keep the leaking rain out. These orphan children are extremely poor and are looked after by the local church (that does not have an easy time too say the least). Our partner ministry is standing with us in prayer as we seek The Lord for his provision. This is the same area where we needed to send tons of rice to alleviate hunger in Christian villages three years ago. Please pray for our work in Vietnam. Scot Noble, who directs Moriel Missions in Thailand, and Pastor Marco Quintana from California will be going to Vietnam to handle this project once The Lord provides the resources. David Lister and Paul Seville (who directs Moriel missions in The Philippines) have managed the project in The Philippines.

The visual health of Dave Royle at Ebyown has been a matter of concern in South Africa. Very sadly, we lost Paulina whom we had since the age of two. She went to be with Jesus in 2018 which was emotionally devastating for Lynn & Dave partic-

ularly. Please keep Dave's eyesight in prayer as he requires serious ocular surgery.

Branches

Fortunately, the ministry in Australia continues well with Marg Godwin although one of our supporting pastors, John Maissano is quite ill requiring much prayer. In New Zealand, Pierre Mosely is fully recovered from surgery and up and running and Moriel is by God's grace doing well. In Japan, a very difficult mission field indeed, Vima presses on relentlessly as he always has... For this we praise Jesus. Getting a stable indigenous Moriel branch that is not a mere satellite of the USA remains a challenge in Canada, although interest in the ministry and scripture teaching in Canada remains active. Thankfully, the "satellite syndrome" has ended for Moriel in The Republic of Ireland with an indigenous Irish branch based near Dublin in Maynooth with Phyl & Pam so Moriel in Ireland will no longer need to function by remote control from Northern Ireland (where Wendy is doing a great job) and from England. The ministry in Donegal with Martin Kelly also continues having shifted from Ballyboffe to Donegaltown.

Moriel TV

Moriel and its affiliated churches in the USA have seen the largest growth by God's grace. The driving force in much of this has been Moriel ROKU TV, Internet TV & Youtube, and Vimeo.

Joshua has largely taken over production operations and the subscription growth has at times been almost phenomenal. After a hiatus in 2018, 'This Week in Prophecy' is a staple feature once more with an increased and an increasing viewership. Moriel material is also available on a host of other webcasting channels including Genesis Christian Radio in London and Atzmouth TV & Radio in Scotland.

Conference Events

Moriel conference bookings in England, now managed by Beryl Hunter, and in Scotland managed by Shonagh Ferry, and in Northern Ireland managed by Wendy & Pastor Marty Foster continue with two annual conferences in Autumn and in Spring now taking place in England; one in The East Midlands and one in the North West.

Israel

Elon & Bev are doing well at Moriel Israel where each of the Messianic fellowships Moriel supports or helps sponsor have seen growth in numbers saved. Due to opposition from Yad L'Achim and Operation Judaism we keep our stats in Israel confidential and most of our activities low profile. Things are however going well and we are planning on increasing our support of local congregations, evangelism, a certain amount of evangelism also to Arab Moslems, and helping needy believers in Israel. While Moriel is visible and vocal in its opposition to anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, our support for Israel & The Jews is predicated upon our conviction of the Gospel being available by virtue of covenant & patriarchy to the Jew first.

2019

We are with God's help anticipating a continued growth in both Moriel Missions and Moriel TV in 2019. In these things we need the support of God's people but more so we desperately need their prayers. Please particularly remember India & Vietnam and for a firmer operation of Moriel in Canada. Higher oil prices also mean higher air fares and a certain amount of international travel is always an unfortunate necessity. The Lord however can and does provide through the "Tent Making" and personal giving of Moriel team members, and through the support of those whom The Lord so moves.

Two new books are due for publication in 2019. 'OIL FOR OUR LAMPS', a collection of assorted scriptural teachings & sermons (along the lines of "Grain For The Famine"), is presently being cover designed by Cory Winn in the USA. "NO BALM IN GILEAD", a book addressing the Messianic fulfillment of the Autumn Feasts of Israel and addressing what the scriptures state will take place following the Rapture & Resurrection is being copy edited in Israel by Elon Moreh.

A new website is also being designed in Israel by a Messianic Jewish designer and his company in Tel Aviv that will launch in 2019.

All in all, 2019 is sizing up to be a year of new opportunity to prepare the way for the coming Return of Jesus.

**With Gratitude & Blessings
In His Love and Service,**

Jacob Prasch

MORIEL AUSTRALIA UPDATE

Australian Report

Greetings in the Name of Jesus

Here we go preparing our December issue of the Quarterly. I doubt that a truer word was ever said than "as you get older the time goes faster and faster!" Well for me it is going at supersonic speed.

Such a great deal has been happening here in Australia, the worst being the legislation of "same sex marriage" and now we have yet another change in Federal Government. It comes to me again and again Jacob telling us that we don't have to like our leaders but we MUST prayer for them. There is quite deal more about this in "Scribes Corner"

Holiday Visits

As we bring the year toward its close & embracing the festive season please check out your diary and set aside some visits to people on their own or who are in Nursing Homes; it does bring such joy to the recipients.

Quarterly Re-Registration Forms

It is time to register to continue receiving the Moriel Quarterly, a form is enclosed with self addressed envelope – please ensure you get it in before 31st December 2018.

Jacob in Australia 2019

Penciled in tour for Jacob in 2019 (approximately July/August). Hopefully details will be in the March newsletter. Of course this will depend on Jacob's health.

Thank-you

Our most grateful thanks to those who continue to support the ministry financially and prayerfully.

Time to draw this to a close, with love to you all and your families

In Christ

Marg



SCRIBE'S CORNER

And so we begin this edition with a New Prime Minister, Scott Morrison. This makes Mr. Morrison our 7th Prime Minister in just ten years. What a shambles our government has become.

A non-believer once pointed out to me that as Aussies we do not elect a P.M based on policies, we elect a P.M based on personality. I'm starting to think that's true. It would be a complete waste of a ballot to vote for a P.M based on personality rather than policy. When running for government you need to meet a certain criteria that would be different to say wanting to be a youth leader for a church. When you chose your P.M you should look at his policies and ensure he will look after you and the Australian people. For example, will he/she increase/decrease taxes. Will they strengthen our borders and protect our country? Will they strengthen our Military? Will they give more authority to the police in order to keep our streets and homes safe from violent gangs? Will they introduce legislation that is tougher on crime? Will they keep the economy strong?...etc.

We all want a leader who will do right by us as a tax paying citizen. If we were choosing a youth leader he would fit a different criteria such as, is he/she God fearing and will the position they take in the church be used solely to glorify God.

So, as you can see different criteria for different roles, but are we looking at these policies or are we taken over by their smooth speech and charming personalities and their beliefs or policies are no longer a criteria and therefore we end up with clowns in government and in turn, clowns in the pulpit. It's very unfortunate and embarrassing that Australia has come this. If we take a look at U.S.A and President Donald Trump, well as a person, God would not chose him to be a leader of any church and as a Christian I do not condone his immoral behaviour, especially his extra marital affairs. But as the leader of the free world, his policies are aimed at protecting his people and his country. He wants to put America first and I would love to see our leaders in Australia put us first.

If history is anything to go by, some of the world's best leaders were quite immoral in their personal lives but put the national interest of their people first. In a nationwide New York Times/CBS News Poll conducted in 1998, 21% of the public said it was most important that Presidents serve as moral role models; 65% said it was more important that Presidents do their job well.

So given the world we live in, we know as Christians that the reality is, no human will ever be able to reach the ideal leadership in which they reflect the best of both moral and king like leader, until the Messiah Himself sits on the throne ruling.

There was a time when the people put their leaders on a moral pedestal but in today's world we are not going to see another King David who leads his people and fears the Lord. If we put our government under the same biblical microscope, we'd have no one to vote for. A Christian such as Scott Morrison will be under more moral scrutiny than any other leader as the secular groups will put his behaviour under a microscope as opposed to someone like Donald Trump who is known for his personal affairs. But should his personal behaviour be scrutinised or should we be looking at the policies he implements that will benefit the nation? Ultimately even if P.M Scott Morrison tries to apply Christian values to his policies, the system is so corrupt that it wouldn't work. I believe if he takes a similar approach to President Trump and focuses solely on the nations interest and is very vocal about putting Australia first, then he has a chance to win his first election early next year.

We as Christians always need to pray for our leaders no matter who is in charge. But as Aussies, we need to look at their policies rather than their personal attributes. As a tax paying citizen I'm more concerned with what my leader can do for me and if he fits the criteria of leading a nation rather than having a monk like leader who will be too nice and open our borders to allow too many foreigners to flow through instead of looking after his own people first. We need to pray for Scott Morrison as he governs our country. We need to pray he will make tough decisions that guarantee our nations safety and prosperity.

Jeremiah 29:7 - Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.

Moving on to other major issues in our country:

The Jackie Trade abortion bill was introduced into parliament in August 2018. For those of us who are not aware of this bill, it is a radical push by Jackie Trade an Australian Politician in QLD who is pushing for this bill that will allow abortion on demand until 22 weeks and then up to birth. The bill goes on further, forcing doctors who object to perform the abortion and even hospitals won't have the freedom to turn away the procedure. This bill also allows for sex selective abortions. Please get onto the Australian Christian Lobby website and tell your fellow brethren to sign the petition against this outrageous bill. We need to be active citizens and stand up for rights and the rights of the unborn children that are being ripped out of their mother's womb because they are an inconvenience to the parents lifestyle. Meanwhile across the other side of the country, there putting forward a surrogacy bill in W.A that will remove the fundamental right of a child to know their biological parents. Therefore a same sex couple will have the right to not allow the child to know their biological mother or father. Again we need to speak up and protect the children who are being used as a lifestyle choice by the secular world. It seems that in today's world if you chose to have a baby, then you have the choice of sex, having two mummies or two daddies, or even a single mum or dad who use a donor as that is what fits their lifestyle. It doesn't matter that children fare better in all measures who are brought up by their parents in a married relationship. Wish the news in our country was better.

Psalms 127:3 Behold, children are a [a]gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

On to global news; Chinese Christians are experiencing more persecution than ever and one of the main reasons behind this is the new law introduced in March whereby President Xi Jinping can serve for an unlimited time in office. He has instituted a brutal crackdown by burning and closing churches. He has even encouraged the burning of bibles and had Pastors arrested.

President Xi has made churches put posters of himself in there and is making them sing patriotic songs about the communist party as opposed to Christian hymns. Please pray for our brothers and sisters in China.

1 Peter 4:12-14 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.

On to other news:

Israel has announced the birth of a flawless all red heifer on August 28, 2018. We are seeing prophecy unfold before our own eyes. We truly are living in interesting times where we can use world events such as this as a witnessing tool.

Amos 9:14-15 "Also I will restore the [a]captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. "I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SOUTH AFRICA ADMINISTRATOR

About Mike Benade our new South African Administrator. Aug 2018

In 1973, aged 16 I answered an altar call by an American missionary preaching in my hometown. I really experienced the Lord Jesus working in my young life. Being a Presbyterian at that time I was soon frustrated by the deadness of the church and found myself drawn to a group of Christian "hippies" from the Jesus movement and went about handing out tracts and singing from campers equipped with amplifiers and p.a. systems. I also visited many Pentecostal tent meetings but quickly learned that white doves flying around the tents were the acts of men and not Holy Spirit manifestations. An older couple took a fancy to me and decided to lay hands on me to receive the gift of tongues. They pressed down upon my head so hard that I realised if I did not come up with something fast, I was going to pass through the pearly gates by virtue of a broken neck. I promptly recited my Latin *amo, amas...* which caused them to release my head and exhorted me to go home and practice my new gift.

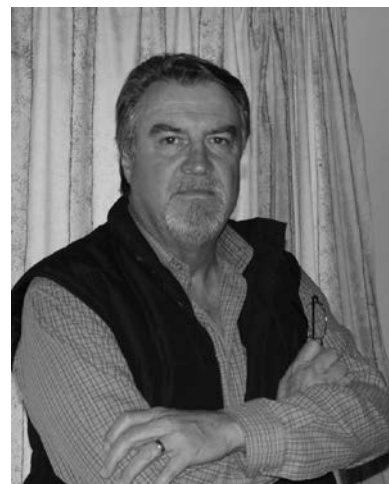
By the time I left high school, I was little more than a sceptic and very disillusioned by all things Christian. I joined the South African police force instead of going to the army and after basic training found myself fighting in a bush war which few of us really understood other than it was supposedly preventing communism from taking over Namibia and eventually South Africa. After my second stint in the operational area, I was transferred to the narcotics section where I mostly did under-cover drug gang infiltrations and eventually transferred to the criminal bureau where I did C.S.I. for about 26 years. In all of these years, I lived as a sinner yet the consciousness that I was lost never left me.

In 1996 I was reading a book, "The Final Battle" by Hal Lindsey and clearly experienced a voice saying to me, "This is the last time!". I immediately knew that God was speaking to me but soon afterwards fell back to my former ways yet the experience haunted me. Driven by a need to silence this inner voice I started seriously studying the meaning of life and began a quest to disprove the Bible and Christianity. I read Stephen Hawking and other scientists but found they had little to nothing to offer. Their postulations were absurd and empty. Egyptology and Hinduism was obviously such rubbish that I found it incredulous that people actually believed in those things. Then I found the Apocrypha and my curiosity as to why they were excluded from the canon of scripture won me over to study them. These quaint writings intrigued me until I read the book of Nicodemus, about the trial of Jesus and I was deeply moved by the unfairness and lack of jurisprudence throughout this ordeal. As an expert state witness myself, I could appreciate the corruption of the Sanhedrin in framing Jesus and it actually caused me to weep for the first time in many years. I started reading the bible again and on 1 September 1998 my wife and I had a powerful encounter with the Lord Jesus in our home and we were born again.

A few weeks later a friend of mine gave me a VHS cassette and asked me to "see" what I could make of it. It was by one James Jacob Prasch and it turned our lives upside down and challenged us to pursue truth and not follow men. This I have done and later I met Jacob in person and became his friend and co-worker in the kingdom.

I am honoured to serve the Lord Jesus and to be entrusted with the Moriel South Africa administration.

Mike Benade



MARCO QUINTANA'S UPDATE

Greetings in the name of Jesus,

I became a Christian in 1995 and shortly after my conversion I was able to share my faith to family and friends. In 1998 the Lord began to put a love and burden for the people in South East Asia. I longed to go there and share the gospel in Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines. I was not able to go, the Lord shut doors and with my schedule and commitments I was not able to. I simply prayed and helped missionaries in those areas. Well, it took almost 20 years but this past summer I travelled with David Lister to 2 of Moriel missions, Philippines and Thailand. My time in the mission field was a tremendous experience. While it was heartwarming to meet the children in Olongapo and spend time with the believers in Chaing Mai, it was also heart breaking to see how believers live in the 3rd world compared to America. It was life changing for me to be on site with the children at the feeding program in Olongapo, getting to know Pastor Paul and his family was a tremendous blessing and honor. We had true fellowship and experience the love of Christ in ministering the gospel to the children in the Philippines. I pray to return to Olongapo and spend time with Pastor Paul, his family and the children. I cannot wait to see how the building project is progressing and by God's grace it will be completed soon.

We flew over to Chaing Mai in Thailand from the Philippines to visit Scott and his family. The work in Thailand continues to grow, more and more people are hearing the gospel. There were opportunities to share the gospel everywhere we went. Scott and his family were incredible hospitable and totally committed to the gospel. We shared Christ every day, at bus stops, immigration centers and also at home fellowships. The civil war and persecution of the believers in Burma has caused many Burmese to travel to Thailand. We met a great number of them at the immigration centers, shared the gospel and also encouraged other believers to continue in the faith. Scott and his friend Jallay were incredibly kind to take me to home fellowships and to places to pass out tracts and share Jesus. Jallay has an incredible testimony coming out of Buddhism. We were able to capture his testimony on film and we hope we can get it out with a translation on Youtube for people to see the grace, love and transforming power of Christ in this man's life.

I am looking forward to visiting both Pastor Paul, the children, Scott, Jallay and their family. It was an amazing experience. For 13 years I have served as a pastor for Community church of Devore, and I also worked full time to provide for my family. I had my heart to visit the mission field in South East Asia but my demanding schedule for work and ministry prevented me. As of April 2018, the Lord opened a door for me to go full time ministry. This has enabled me to go to the mission field and meet Pastor Paul and Scott whom I have had correspondence for years but never met face to face. I am so thankful to the Lord Jesus, to my wife and children, to community church of Devore, the elders and the congregation, to Jacob, David Lister and Moriel Ministries to help me minister the gospel of Jesus in South East Asia. I long to go back and I want to thank you for reading this. The Lord is truly faithful, He promised a young believer that I will be

in South East Asia and He fulfilled His word this past summer. Sometimes we think God uses the missionary to affect the mission field, but God also uses the mission field to change the missionary. This is what has happened to me. Two scriptures the Lord reminded me while I was there, the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few, pray to the Lord of the harvest to bring laborers into the field. Also to whom much is given much is required. These two verses ran in heart and mind for 2 weeks. Please pray for God's provision for my family, ministry and for the missions. My wife and I are raising our 5 children as I pastor a wonderful fellowship. We are living by faith in God's provisions. If you have questions about the ministry in Southern California, I would love to hear from you. Contact me morielmarco@gmail.com or visit our website ccodtruth.org.

Many blessings in Christ Jesus
 Marco Quintana

MORIEL PHILIPPINES UPDATE

Dear Bro. Jacob, Bro. David and Bro. Marco,

We're sorry, the computer was not working these couple of days. We brought it this morning to a repair shop and now it is good.

Thank you very much for your prayer for us, the Lord put us in safe condition. Our place were not directly hit by the intensity of the typhoon Mangkhut.

We're forced to buy folding tables at this early stages, because the tables are a limited sale. This kind are few and hard to find. We'll always update you of the work on the lot and building. We attached some photos. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely, in Christ
 Ptr. Paul



MORIEL ISRAEL UPDATE

Moriel Israel Bulletin 4th Quarter 2018

Greetings from Israel!

Well, we have survived another Israeli summer. Autumn has begun and the cooler temperatures are slowly easing in with cooler and more pleasant mornings and reduced humidity for which we thank God. As I write we are just in the final days of the Feast of Tabernacles. In the Jewish festival liturgy, those Scriptures set forth to be read during the festival include those passages from Zechariah that we would associate with the Second Coming of Christ. As I have been looking at this subject a lot for a number of reasons (a debate with a friend, editing Jacob's books, and some reader correspondence) I thought a kind of "grab bag" of some concepts related to the subject might be interesting to readers.

SOME USEFUL PRINCIPLES FOR UNDERSTANDING ESCHATOLOGY

On and off I am involved in an on-going cordial debate with a pretribulationist friend over here. Discussion and debate has an iron sharpening iron effect. I can truly say that I have benefited from it my understanding. Up until about 2014 my understanding of eschatological events was that of classic posttribulationism. My pretrib friend pointed out some flaws in the way classic post-tribulationism handles the Seals, Trumpets and Bowls in the book of Revelation. While as time has passed our debate has left me more convinced than ever that pretribulationism is shockingly wrong;--his comments did result in my move to a Pre-Wrath understanding of the Rapture timing as I sought greater consistency and harmony between the Scripture texts that describe eschatological events.

My friend has sometimes seemed a little ruffled when reminded that the whole Pretribulationist Rapture Theory was cooked up by cultists less than 200 years ago. He recently levelled the same charge at me with the accusation that "Well, the Pre-Wrath teaching is less than 40 years old!". While it is true that the Pre-Wrath as a *whole eschatological system* is less than 40 years old,--its basic premises however, are exactly the same as those recorded as being held by the very earliest Christians and considered an orthodox part of their belief: namely, that the Church will at some point enter the Great Tribulation and endure the wrath of the Antichrist and those who survive will be caught up along with all previously deceased saints to meet the Lord in the air when He returns in glory after the tribulation of those days. Pretribulationism cannot claim any such consistency with what was accepted as by the Early Church as being the teaching of the apostles on the last days.

Is the timing of the Rapture based just on opinion, even if it is the opinion of the Early Church and the Body of Christ as a whole for nearly 2000 years? How is it possible that pretribulationists come up with such a radically different end-time scenario from what the Church as always believed?

Ultimately it all boils down to your construction techniques and the material with which you choose to work; or in other words how you build a doctrine and what you construct it from; and this applies to any doctrine not just our chronology of end-time events. In addition to rules of context, grammar historical setting etc., there are two other important hermeneutical principles that we need to understand. Those texts which are

clear and unambiguous govern those which are more obscure or unclear; and those texts which provide more detailed and complete information govern those which are more general or incomplete.

Consequently when we are trying to establish an end-times sequence of events, we must seek out those passages which provide very clear "when" information for items within the sequence, because the Bible provides certain chronological coordinates, which while they do not tell us exactly *when* the Parousia begins, they do tell us exactly where its beginning is located within the *sequence* of eschatological events and knowing this will help to solve many puzzles. These are the high quality foundational materials on which to establish a chronology.

These clear texts provide the undergirding for everything else, much like the foundation of a house. A good construction technique is to put the foundations in before you erect the building! Unless the footings are put in *first* it will be unstable and subject to subsidence or collapse. Or to use another metaphor; it is like doing a jigsaw:--you find what are obviously corners and edge pieces and put them together first and then fill in the middle. If the edges are corners are not put in you will have little idea of what the boundaries and size of the picture are and what goes where.

This principle particularly applies when we come to understand a complex book like the Apocalypse. We don't start by attempting to establish our end time sequence of events from the the book of Revelation *first* in accordance with a predetermined pretribulationist model, and then shoehorn the clear prophetic time-markers to fit or simply ignore them,-- because the book of Revelation *assumes* the basic chronology of events outlined by Jesus in His eschatological discourse. Once we sideline the Olivet Discourse our chronology of Revelation will go all over the place. I came across a particularly egregious example of this recently in a pretrib eschatological work by an author whom in other areas I highly respect. I was absolutely shocked, by the arbitrary way texts were chopped about and massaged, or events were shuffled around with no justification from the context or solid biblical reason, all in order to fit the author's presuppositions.

FOUNDATION STONES

Premillennialists share a common conviction that there is a gap between the 69th and 70th Week of Daniel and that the latter refers to what is actually the final seven years of this present age, and that this is divided into two at the midpoint by an event called the Abomination of Desolation.

The LORD is not a God of confusion but of order. If He states something in His Word it is because *He wants us to know it*, particularly if it is clear and obvious. The chronological markers that feature in biblical eschatology have been given so that we might indeed know the order of certain events for our *warning, protection and edification*.

Nearly all of the basic foundational passages are built upon the central event that is the Day of the Lord.

Before the arrival of the Day of the LORD a unique and very specific *combination* of celestial phenomena will occur. (Joel 2:30-31; Acts. 2:19-20). We find these exact same signs in Matt. 24:29-31, and later on in Rev. 6:12-17 where it describes them as

preceding the day of wrath of the Lamb. The correspondence of the signs described in these three passages is so close that it can not be an accident; so if words mean anything then these passages undoubtedly refer to the same event.

Before the Day of the LORD the Antichrist must seat himself in the Temple and Abomination of Desolation must occur.

Before the Day of the LORD Elijah would appear to bring the nation of Israel to repentance.

If the Day of the LORD cannot occur until after the Abomination of Desolation takes place at the mid-point of the 70th Week then it is clear that the Day of the LORD cannot be *synonymous* either with the 70th Week of Daniel in its entirety or with the second half of it. It must refer to something else. In the Olivet Discourse Jesus tells us that these cosmic signs immediately follow the tribulation of those days. Consequently it is made clear to us that the Day of the LORD comes *after* the Great Tribulation and therefore it cannot be the Great Tribulation.

Jesus also tells us that when we see these cosmic events and the sign of the Son of Man appears in the heavens that then He will send forth His angels and gather His elect. Rev. 6:12-17 reveals that these signs occur after the Sixth Seal is opened. Tying all these things together reveals that the events described in Matt. 24:27-31 occur somewhere between the 6th and 7th Seal. All these things taken together provide the foundations for any end-time order of events.

WHAT IS THE SIGN OF THE SON OF MAN?

“Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn.”

Having good foundations helps in unlocking another mystery;--the sign of the Son of Man. Some have speculated that it might be some giant sized cross appearing in the sky or a giant sized Star of David, but this is simply supposition. At first glance Scripture does not appear to provide us with any clue as to what the sign looks like. A little idea of how the original language functions also helps us here. The words “sign” and “Son of Man” are connected together in a genitive relationship. In English we are most used to the genitive merely expressing possession or origin: “graves of our ancestors”,--our ancestor’s graves; “Catherine of Aragon”,--Catherine who came from Aragon, etc. Genitive constructions are very common in the Greek New Testament and express much *more* than these two ideas. Without going in to greatly detailed explanations, suffice it to say that the Greek behind “the sign of the Son of Man”, here can equally be understood as either the sign which *belongs* to the Son of Man, or the sign which is the Son of Man’s appearance in the heavens; and which of these is correct must be discerned from the context and relevant co-texts.

The great shining forth

For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Matt. 24:27

It seems to me, that Lord wasn’t just using a figure of speech to describe the unmistakable nature of His Parousia when He said it will be like the lightning flash that enlightens the whole heaven from East to West:--it appears He meant it almost literally, because these motifs of revelation or appearing, light and glory are present in so many of the passages dealing with the Lord’s Return, as the follow sample reveals:

“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the

earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Lk. 21:25-27)

“And to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels.” (2 Thes.1:7)

This appearing following the cosmic signs absolutely terrifies the ungodly, some even fainting with fear.

When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?”

An earthquake of the magnitude described would cause massive tidal waves. Small wonder that the nations will be in perplexity because of the surging of the sea and waves. In the midst of deep physical darkness caused by the withdrawing of light from the heavenly luminaries, there will suddenly be a great shining forth of the glory of God from heaven as the sky is peeled open;--to the joy of the saints and the terror of the ungodly, who will certainly know at this point *who* it is,--the One who sits on the throne and the Lamb, and that wrath is coming their way.

Taken together all these things also help us to *properly* understand a verse that has been so sorely used, abused and most miserably misquoted by pretribulationists to support their invisible secret rapture theory.

“ . . . waiting for our blessed hope, *the appearing of the glory* of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ” (Titus 2:13)

BEFORE THE MAIN FEATURE THERE ARE THE WARM UP EVENTS

One of the mistakes we can make is to assume that the events of the 70th Week of Daniel happen out of nowhere as if in a vacuum; just as all the technological elements to create an economic system that would fit the criteria for the Mark of the Beast are already in place now; even before the 70th Week even so with other things prophesied to occur then. We can see this in a number of areas.

Many not just some

“For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray . . . And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray.” (Matt. 24:5, 11)

It’s possible to read these verses without the significance of certain words registering in our minds. While watching some video of *another* rising star in the apostolic/prophetic movement. There there are so many of them now—we’re surrounded on all sides! The lying prophets and false teachers are multiplying faster than the feral cats outside my window. There seem to be more “restored” apostles and prophets than regular Christians! The staggering speed with which false doctrine has swept through and now dominates most of what used to be called the evangeli-

cal world simply beggars belief. Can it be that false teaching will have so overtaken what calls itself the Church that true bible-believing saints will be the tiny minority in the professing Church well before the 70th Week has even begun? I think that will *indeed* be the case; and if this is what the situation is like now, the 70th Week will be even *worse*. When Jesus said “many” He really meant it. In ancient Israel during the time of Ahab and Jezebel there were at least 700 prophets of Ba'al and just one Elijah. It looks like that during the 70th Week we are going to be *inundated* with false prophets and false teachers like never before.

By other means

“We see, therefore, that War is not merely a political act, but also a real political instrument, a continuation of political commerce, a carrying out of the same by other means.” Clausewitz On War.

The war against God's people during the Tribulation period in the 2nd half of the 70th Week reflects the eschatological *culmination* not the *inception* of persecution against the saints. If we are already beginning to see, and at a very rapid pace governments in what was once the free and religiously tolerant West becoming increasing hostile to both Biblical Christianity and already, in some western nations at least (Sweden and the United Kingdom for example), even reading certain portions of the Bible (a worrying portent of what is to come) aloud in public can result in arrest: then it is not unreasonable to assume that when the Dragon gives Antichrist his throne and great authority at the mid-point of the 70th Week, that most, if not all, world governments will *already* have become relatively hostile towards true biblical Christianity and complicit in the persecution of the saints to one degree or another. It will merely be a question of their upping the tempo from *intolerance* to *termination*, *enmity* to *eradication*. Physical war against the saints is simply the next logical political step after delegitimation. After the Abomination is set up in the Temple in Jerusalem events will enter “turbo mode”, and through the Beast, False Prophet and Harlot Church, persecution of the saints will be ramped up to an industrial scale never previously encountered.

While it may seem an odd thing to say, there be much of the *mercy* of God in the *present* gradual rise of persecution in the West. No one who wants to run a marathon just turns up on the day and then runs without training first. Christians in places like Korea, China, Sudan and Egypt have already been in “training” for a while. Now it is time for the Body of Christ in the West to prepare itself for the great event ahead of us.

Don't forget Daniel

Daniel 11:21-12:12¹ deals with the career of Antichrist, from his obscure beginnings to his end, and it details his path to power through a series of military campaigns in which he mostly carries all before him. If, as most commentators agree, it is indeed Antichrist that is spoken of in the First Seal of Revelation chapter six, then he will not just appear out of nowhere to instantly take over the world at the mid point of the 70th Week, but have a military career which leaves a trail of war, famine, pestilence and death behind as he treads over the bodies of the slain on his road to power. Far from being a man of peace, Daniel eleven reveals that Antichrist is involved a series of military campaigns and regional wars, subduing and crushing those who get in his way (Dan. 7:8, 8:9-14):--this precisely fits the pattern we see in Revelation chapter six.

The Parousia is not a five-minute event

To some extent we have been conditioned in our thinking by the language in which we read the Bible, or more accurately, by the translation of the Bible which we read. I like the old Authorised Version, but as its very own translators wrote in The Translators To The Reader “variety of Translations is profitable for the finding out of the sense of the Scriptures”, I think this is a good principle -as well as looking at the footnotes and marginal readings.

I used to assume (before I began to look deeper) is that the Second Coming was something that happened at express speed. Jesus appears, snatches up the saints, blows the Antichrist out of the water and bingo it's all done in about a day or so. This is a faulty assumption.

One of the things that clouds our understanding sometimes, is that we are accustomed to the word “coming” when thinking of Jesus' return. Coming has a rather transient feel to it. “He's come, He's here, that's it, shows over folks!”, but as someone once pointed out the word Parousia is not a verb, it's a *noun*. It doesn't just specify motion between two points, but a complex event with a number of sub-components and is better understood as “arrival and subsequent presence”. Jesus first coming is also described as a parousia (2 Pet.1:16): and that was preceded by signs and heralded by angelic messengers; He was born, grew up and entered His ministry; was crucified, died, rose and ascended--and this over the space of about 33 years. There is nothing in the word itself that necessitates a parousia be a short interval of time. After the Lord appears in the glory of the Father with the holy angels and snatches up His saints there a quite a few things left to happen, such as the Day of the Lord.

The Day of the LORD is not a 24 hour period

The Church is taken to safety between the 6th and 7th Seal and the 144,000 are sealed to protect them from the impending fury of the Day of the LORD. It can be seen from the nature of some of the plagues, such as the locust like demons which are released from the Abyss (Rev. 9:1-11) to torment those not sealed by God, that the wrath is outpoured on the Beast's kingdom over a period of *at least* five months as the Lord reduces his kingdom with one shattering blow after another, just as He did to Pharaoh's Egypt.

There is a transitional period at end of the 70th Week

Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two months. And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth.

If we look at the Olivet Discourse and the Book of Revelation we see that the Beast is permitted to exercise authority for 42 months or 3½ years. In the same chapter it is revealed that the Woman is given a place of refuge from the Beast where she is sustained for this period. As soon as they see the Beast surround Jerusalem with his armies in order to set up his image and desecrate the holy place (Matt. Lk. 21:20), believers are instructed to flee Judea and the Jerusalem environs and Revelation chapter eleven tells us that the Temple and the holy city are trampled for 3½ years, and Jerusalem effectively becomes the centre of Beast worship and there is strong evidence that it is the Mystery Babylon of Rev. 17 and 18. The mark is instituted and the economic

system put in place.

If we have our foundations in place it helps us to understand some other puzzling parts of Scripture:

And from the time that the regular burnt offering is taken away and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be 1,290 days. Blessed is he who waits and arrives at the 1,335 days. (Dan. 12:11-12)

Daniel is told that for is people who are alive at the time of the 70th Week, *extra endurance* will be needed. Even though the trampling of the city ceases after 42 months, there is some unfinished business and cleaning up to do. Though Antichrist's lease has run out and his kingdom is under bombardment from divine judgements, he has not yet been removed from the scene.

In Zechariah 12, we see Jews *once again* in Jerusalem, who have obviously not bowed to the Beast and received the mark, because they repent and mourn as they see Him whom they pierced and the Spirit of grace is poured out upon them and the fountain for sin and uncleanness is opened for their forgiveness. They clearly must have returned from refuge somewhere and re-entered the Land and Jerusalem *after* the 42 months are finished and Gentile and Beast control over Jerusalem is weakened or lost; this is obvious when you think about it,—if he was still in control of it he wouldn't be gathering armies at Armageddon ready for his assault on it, which also clearly takes place during the extra days of Daniel as well.

DON'T BE A GROUPIE

Sometimes I receive correspondence from individuals that disagree with me. That's not actually a problem as long as they can justify it from the Scriptures in context. We should, all of us and always, be prepared to make course corrections if we are out of line with the clear teachings of Scripture. One thing that grieves me however, is to receive mails with a string of references, and assumptions which have no relationship to the references that they are citing, such as:

“ . . . the Rapture of the Church is imminent and any minute, based on Scriptures eg, Romans 5:9; Mt 24:42-44; I Cor 15:52; Titus 2:13; 1 Thess. 4:16-18 but most of all that God, Who is Love, will not allow His Bride to go through the worst time on earth which is for Israel and unrepentant, unbelieving sinners.”

Merely sending a list of references is not the way to argue from Scripture, all it shows is that you possess a concordance, it is not making an argument and it proves nothing. This kind of correspondence worries me, because it reveals that the writer has not interacted with the passages they are citing, not bothered to actually look at the references they have sent me in context, they are merely parroting the assumptions of others without being a Berean and checking things properly, and this can have serious implications for discernment of future deceptions.

Let me illustrate:

Rom. 5:9 has nothing to do with the Second Coming of Christ at all and it certainly says absolutely nothing about the Rapture.

Titus 2:13 “waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.”, once again says nothing about the timing of the Rapture. There is no sense of imminency or any-momentism in this verse whatsoever. Waiting does not equate with “It could happen at any time without prior notice.” My wife and I are awaiting our third grandchild, but that does not mean that after conception it could arrive at any moment without warning:—we will be expecting it around

the nine-month mark when the gestation period is fulfilled. It will only be imminent after the contractions begin and certain other conditions have are met such as the breaking of the waters dilation of the cervix etc. Secondly, this verse does not even mention a secret coming to Rapture the saints, but the *appearing of the Lord Jesus in glory* (which I refer to above).

1 Corinthians 15:52 which deals with what will happen at the resurrection, does not say that the Rapture/Resurrection can happen at any moment, only that we will be transformed in a moment,—in other words Paul is referring to the speed of our transformation, not any time arrival.

1 Thess. 4:16-18 does indeed refer to the Rapture, but it says nothing about its *timing*.

Matt. 24:42-44 also refers to the Rapture, but actually it causes two massive headaches for pretribulationists that wish to employ it to support any-momentism. To apply it to Christians means that the pretribulationist has to finally “fess up” and admit that Matthew 24 applies not to unregenerate Israel but to the Church, and if it applies to the Church then the Church will experience the events Jesus describes in the Olivet Discourse. This is precisely why Pretribulationists dumped the Olivet Discourse in the “Jewish Waste Paper Basket” (along with Hebrews, James, Revelation, the Sermon on the Mount etc) as not being “Church Truth” in the first place, because:

a) They recognised that it only spoke of one coming and that is the Lord's appearance in glory in the clouds with the angels of His power.

b) The coming spoken of was clearly preceded by certain events and signs which Jesus commands us to watch out for.

Incidentally, because of this very reason my pretribulationist good friend has longed ago dumped any-momentism/imminency, because he recognises that pretribulationists can't have it both ways and maintain these verses are for the Church while simultaneously claiming that the Olivet Discourse applies only to Israel.

I could also add that Matt. 24 does not say Jesus can come at any moment, only that He would come unexpectedly on *those who were not watching for the signs preceding His coming and living accordingly*, which is exactly what Paul also says in 1 Thess. 5:1-11. The next objection that our reader raised was this:

“God, Who is Love, will not allow His Bride to go through the worst time on earth which is for Israel and unrepentant, unbelieving sinners.”

This is not biblical argument at all but an emotional one. God is already allowing His Bride to suffer in so many parts of the world. More Christians have been killed this century than in all the previous 1900 years put together. Did God not love the Twelve and Paul? --yet only one of these—John,—died of old age, the rest were martyred. This reader's assertion simply does not match the facts. The reader also confuses the Tribulation with the Day of the LORD and the outpoured wrath of God,—a common pretrib error and one which I have refuted above. No faithful believer will go through the Day of the LORD which is indeed for Israel and the unrepentant, but we will endure the Tribulation (which is Antichrist's ware against the saints) if we are still alive when the 70th is upon us.

May the Lord bless you richly, Elon and Hadas

Footnotes

1. Commentators differ on whether it begins at v.21 or a little later. All however agree by v.36 if definitely speaks of Antichrist.

SANDY SIMPSON UPDATE

Dear Moriel partners,

I want to thank you for being a friend and supporter of myself and Juanita Simpson all these years. I know she really appreciated it, especially when we had to leave the mission field and move back to the US mainland.

Recently Juanita discovered she had cancer all along her spine, in her liver and elsewhere in her body when she began to suffer backaches in July 2018. She was 90 years old and we were all shocked at the sudden discovery of cancer. By the time it was detected it was too widespread to be successfully treated. After some weeks of severe back pain she was finally admitted to the hospice care unit in the hospital in West Palm Beach. There she received the kind of care that helped her cope with the pain and she finally passed peacefully on August 7, 2018 at around 9 am. I was just coming in to see her that morning when the call came in. I was grateful to the Good Samaritan Medical Center in West Palm Beach for their care for her. I had gone down to Florida initially when she was admitted to the hospital then had to come back to North Carolina, where I live, for a brief time while my sister Angela stayed with her. I then went back down and was there for around three weeks taking care of her. I was glad I was able to be there even though a lot of work was piling up at home. We had a special time together. I read the Bible to her and played music for her. I was grateful I could be there with her. I want to thank you for your faithfulness in prayer for our family in the Lord's work.

I'm sorry that this news may come as a shock to some. But rest assured she is in the arms of the Savior and finally at peace. May the Lord continue to bless you. We would also appreciate your continued prayers and support. You can write to me at:

Sandy Simpson
P.O. Box 1043
Wadesboro, NC 28170

We continue in mission work from here with our local church and with doing projects for Moriel Ministries.

**In His hands,
Sandy Simpson**

Deliverance!

**A Biblical Guide To Freedom from "Another Spirit"
The Possible Consequence of the Unbiblical Practice of
"Slain In the Spirit"
by Sandy Simpson, 2/08
Updated 8/30/18!**

The cases are legion. Let's look at John (a pseudonym) as one case in thousands that I read through the years in the emails sent to my site.

John attends a "Christian" event where he is told he should have the star "apostle" or "prophet" of the event lay hands on him so he can get the "anointing" and subsequent manifestations to prove he really has it. John goes forward hoping and praying for the "power" to come on his life that has been so empty of purpose and zealotry, opening himself up to all possibilities. At the touch of the "apostle" or "prophet," John falls backward, having experienced an electrical-type shock effect. He finds himself temporarily incapacitated. He then begins to exhibit one or more of the following "manifestations":

Laughing, crying, shaking, babbling, running around the building, fast dancing, running followed by collapse, a sensation of being stuck to the floor over being so heavy it is impossible to stand up, barking-howling, trances, drunkenness, falling out, oinking, being "hot", fanning self or blowing, walking like chickens, high pitched whine reminiscent of a lively horse, mooing and crowing, swimming in the spirit ... on the back and also breaststroke style..., women and men going through imaginary birth pangs, loss of consciousness, trying to soar like eagles, hissing and moving like a snake, inability to speak and involuntary body spasms, Kung fu-like stances, vomiting in the spirit, holy head-banging, stripping, etc.

The exaltation of having experienced something "supernatural" excites John to the core and begins to take hold. John finds that he wants more and more, so He continues to attend the meetings. While being slain in the spirit over and over again, John has also become a fan of the "anointed ones" and soaks up all the teachings and actions he can get. He begins to see the "apostles" as a "holy men of God". Before long, when someone speaks a cautionary word about one of John's "holy men of God" he tells that person not to judge or to "touch the Lord's anointed". This is because John has been taught this defense by the leadership himself. If someone dares to tell John that his "apostolic" hero is a false teacher or false prophet, and shows them the evidence to back up their claims from the Bible, John tells that person they are demonic, of the devil, a "heretic hunter", a Pharisee, or simply tells them to "go to hell".

By this time John is totally immersed in this new "slain in the spirit" lifestyle. John ends up spending most of his time at events, and most of his money traveling to them and giving "seed faith" tithes to the movement. John's belief system alters to fit that of the "apostles" or "prophets" he is following. Notice that he now follows those other people endorsed by the movement. Things John would never have believed before are now a part of his worldview, and he has been convinced that this is the "new" way of doing things and a "new" wave of teaching beyond the old historical, dusty pages of the Bible. The new "apostles" and "prophets" are bringing a fresh "Rhema" word to the churches, and those who want to be involved in Joel's Army and not a part of the "Jezebel spirit" must jump in the "river". John already jumped in and is now encouraging others to do the same.

But privately John is having an inner struggle. He interprets this struggle as one against the devil because what he is thinking is in opposition to what is being taught and done by his apostolic idols. Along with this mental struggle of belief, he is also experiencing physical symptoms and emotional upheaval. He goes to his new friends who follow the same people he is following since there is little chance he can get help directly from his favorite idol, and explains his troubles. They gather around John and cast out the spirit of Jezebel. They bind Satan and slay him again in the spirit. John feels better ... temporarily. But when he returns home the same doubts resurface. Weird things begin to happen to him in his home and to his family. In talking to his new "friends" he learns that this is simply an attack of the enemy and he should shut his mind to any doubts about what is being taught and done in the movement's events. They tell him not to read books or online materials that are exposing unbiblical teachings and practices by people in their movement and "quoting them out of context". They even get together to pray against the "heretic hunters" and ask God to bring sickness and trouble into their lives until they realize

the truth and get slain in the spirit.

All these actions produce a temporary salve for the problems John is facing, but none of them produce a lasting effect. At this point, John is at a crossroads.

(1) If he continues down the road of the movement eventually his conscience does not bother him about anything they are saying or doing. He doesn't even think about it anymore. He becomes a diehard supporter of everything in the Latter Rain, Third Wave or Word of Faith and becomes a "prophet" himself making more "prophets".

(2) But perhaps one day John is presented with evidence he cannot ignore. His favorite apostle/prophet has made many false prophecies and has never repented of them. He is teaching things that are so far afield from what the Bible actually teaches that John begins to question what is really going on. He cannot deny the experiences he had at the hands of his idol, but he also cannot deny that his favorite teacher is teaching falsely and prophesying falsely. He is thrown onto the horns of a dilemma. To top all this off, things worsen in his life. He is becoming even more conflicted, has personal family troubles, is sick a lot, and accidents are far more likely to happen. Everything in his training under the star is screaming at him that this is the devil trying to tempt him and ruin his life. But since he has never really received any "deliverance" from those who follow the teacher, the thought occurs to him that there might be another answer. But it is too radical to think about. He can hardly bring himself to think the thought that "maybe the Holy Spirit has been trying to convict me of sin ... maybe the devil really is causing problems in my life, but for the purpose of getting me to follow a false teacher ... maybe the Holy Spirit has been at work to try to break through the deception I have allowed in my life and that is the cause of my struggle." Without telling his friends, who would surely run over to his house and dissuade him, he begins a search of the web for articles having to do with the teacher he has been following. It isn't too long before he finds a number of sites, some of which are by respected Christian leaders, that show strong documented evidence of false teaching and false prophecy on a consistent basis coming from his idol and movement. John begins to be afraid. What if he has allowed "another spirit" a foothold in his life? How can he be free of this and belong totally to Christ?

Deliverance!

This story is just a compilation of many, many accounts we have been told and our friends and family members have experienced. If you find yourself in the second category with John there is definitely hope and freedom waiting for you! Don't despair. Just realize these things you have become involved in will take time to fade into memory. You have a rough road ahead, but it is a road to freedom and peace in the Lord Jesus Christ. Let's walk that road together for a moment.

Salvation

(1) The most important point to consider, in fact, the crux of the matter, is that you need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Why do I say "knowledge"? *John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

1 Timothy 2:4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Your belief system is the most important thing about you. If you don't believe at all or believe the wrong things about the

Father and the Son you are on your way to hell. If you believe the right things, then you have eternal life. If you have been involved in the Third Wave or Word of Faith movement for long, and especially if you were "saved" under their system, it is highly likely you do not know the true God and His Son, Jesus Christ. This is because a false concept of salvation, the Trinity, the Son, the Scriptures and His second coming are being taught in the New Apostolic Reformation which encompasses the Third Wave and Word of Faith among other Latter Rain heresies. You can read about what the true five core doctrines of Christianity are here: <http://www-deceptioninthechurch.com/5doctrines.html>

The only way to be free of demonic influence and the sin of self-righteousness and self-deception is to truly believe that we have deliverance from sin, the world, the flesh and the devil through the cross of Christ, God Who came in human flesh. I would be remiss at this point if I did not present the Gospel so we have a basis to know what we must do to be saved.

Acts 16:30-31 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

What we must "do" is believe. Without the conviction of the Holy Spirit Who opens our eyes to our sin and need of the Savior we would never know what to "do". But when a person has heard the true Gospel message and Jesus Christ knocks at the door of our hearts, we have a choice. To be saved we must believe and believe rightly. Let's step through the Gospel.

Who is God?

... He is the Creator who made everything and still holds it together. He is involved right now in His world. The Bible says:

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth...He himself gives all men life and breath and everything else." Acts 17:24-25

... God wants to be our Father. This was His purpose in creating man -- to have a family He could love and who could love Him in return. The Bible says:

In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will. Ephesians 1:5

... God the Father is changeless and trustworthy. He loves us with an everlasting love. When we become His children we are safe. He will never fail us or forsake us. The Bible says:

"I will never leave you or forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

... God created heaven as a beautiful home where He and His children could live together forever in peace. The Bible says:

"Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." Revelation 21:3-4

What is sin?

...God's beautiful plans for men were spoiled by the entrance of sin and shame. Sin began with the pride and rebellion of some of the angels of God. They were thrown out of heaven and became Satan and the evil spirits.

...Sin and shame came upon man when Satan tempted Adam and Eve, the first people. Because of their pride and rebellion, they disobeyed God's command. They chose to obey Satan instead of God.

... The result of Adam and Eve's sin was:

- they were ashamed before God for the first time
- their relationship with God was broken
- all men became sinners because of them
- all men are condemned to die and be eternally

separated from a holy God

- no one could go to the heaven God made for them;

all must go to hell.

The Bible says:

"Therefore just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men because all sinned...For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 5:12, 3:23

...Sin is the result of falling to temptation like Adam and Eve did.

It is disobeying and displeasing God. We sin when we do what we know we shouldn't do. We also sin when we don't do what we should do. The Bible says:

"When tempted no one should say, 'God is tempting me.' For God cannot be tempted by sin, nor does He tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed... Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins." James 1:13-14, 4:17

What is salvation?

...God the Father was not willing that we should all die and go to hell. His plan was to send His Son Jesus to die in our place. Jesus is the only One who could be our substitute because He is the only One who is sinless and so has no sins for which He must die. He could die instead of us. The Bible says:

"God demonstrated His love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

... Jesus, who is Himself God, was willing to be born as a baby, live on earth, suffer and die on the cross for our sake to fulfill the Father's plan. The Father's plan was to bring us lost sinners back into His family. The Bible says:

"God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them." II Corinthians 5:19

... Christ's death on the cross totally defeated all evil powers -- Satan, evil spirits, and death. His shed blood provides cleansing from sin and power over evil. The Bible says:

"Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who has the power of death -- that is, the devil -- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. Hebrews 2:14-15

... Jesus rose, from the dead proving His victory over Satan. He ascended to heaven and is now at the Father's right hand praying for us. The Bible says:

Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him because He lives to intercede for them. Hebrews 7:25

How are we saved?

... There are not many ways to God as some people think. There is only one way -- the way God has chosen: His own Son! The Bible says:

"Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except by Me.'" John 14:6

... Although Christ died for the whole world, this doesn't mean that everyone in the world is automatically saved. If we want to be children of God we must each be born individually into His family. The Bible says:

"In reply Jesus declared, 'I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3

... Since our sin separates us from God, we must first repent of our sin. Repentance means not only feeling sorry for our sin, but also humbling ourselves before God and then turning from our sin. The Bible says:

"Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him, and to our God, for He will freely pardon. Isaiah 55:7

...Then we must confess all our sins to God and ask Him to forgive them. Only God can forgive sins against Him. The Bible says:

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

... Next, we need to have faith. Faith is believing that God hears my prayer and forgives all my sins; that when I ask Jesus to come into my life as Lord and Savior, that He does; that when God says He will make me His child, He really does. The Bible says:

"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God. I John 1:12

... We need to turn our whole lives over to Christ, making a complete commitment to Him and asking Him to be our Lord and Savior. At the same time, we need to renounce any connection from the past with evil spirits, magic, and witchcraft, claiming the cleansing and protecting power of Jesus' blood. The Bible says:

"I know whom I have believed and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day." II Timothy 1:12

Here is a sample prayer you can pray. This prayer is just a sample. Think of it like the Lord's Prayer that Jesus taught the Disciples. It is not to be prayed verbatim. No prayer is a magic formula. What God is looking for is a prayer placing your faith in Him completely for salvation. You must pray your own prayer of faith.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn now from all my sins and any connections with evil from the past. Please forgive me and wash me clean with Your blood. I now humbly ask You to come into my heart and life and be my Lord and Master. I give my life totally into Your hands. Thank You for Your mercy to me, and for making me a child of the Father.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn now from all my sins and any connections with evil from the past. Please forgive me and wash me clean with Your blood. I now humbly ask You to come into my heart and life and be my Lord and Master. I give my life totally into Your hands. Thank You for Your mercy to me, and for making me a child of the Father.

What difference does this decision make in our lives?

...We enjoy the freedom of having our sins cleansed away and no longer being under Satan's control We must share this good news with others so that they, too, can experience this freedom from sin and Satan. The Bible says:

"When the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

... We become members of God's family with Him as our Father, Jesus as our Savior, and all other true Christians as our family members. It is important to regularly attend a church where you can fellowship with other believers. The Bible says:

"You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household. Ephesians 2:19

...We have the certainty of eternal life - living forever with our Father and our new family. The Bible says:

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, but God's wrath remains on him. " John 3:36

... The Christian has the Holy Spirit, who is God, living within him. He is the Christian's Guide, Teacher, Comforter and the One who shows him his sin. We need to fellowship with the Father and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit each day by reading our Bibles. The Bible says:

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my (Jesus') name, will teach you all things. and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

... As Christians we can come at any time to Christ to ask for His forgiveness for our present sins and failures, and to ask His help in times of need. We need to spend time in prayer every day for these things. The Bible says:

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our hour of need Hebrews 4:16

... As Christians we can come at any time to Christ to ask for His forgiveness for our present sins and failures, and to ask His help in times of need. We need to spend time in prayer every day for these things. The Bible says:

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our hour of need Hebrews 4:16

The beginning of deliverance!

After taking this first step of repentance of sin and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, let me give you a good resource for Christian growth: ABC's For Christian Growth - Laying The Foundation by J. Hampton Keathley III, Biblical Studies Press, 1996. For further Bible study, I recommend the following site: <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/bible-studies.html>

After you have tested yourself to see if you are in the Faith (2 Cor. 13:5) and have believed in the true Jesus Christ of the Bible, you will be free to ask the Lord Jesus Christ for deliverance and forgiveness. One important aspect of this process is that you repent of your sins of false belief and self-deception.

Acts 3:19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

You must fully acknowledge that you have been led astray by false teachers who are actually working out the plans of the enemy and that you may well have been demonically oppressed. Lay those things at the cross and die to them! Understand that in the cross of Christ we have victory over death, hell, and the enemy. *1 John 5:4-5 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

1 Cor. 15:55-57 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" {Hosea 13:14} The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Col 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The power of deliverance is not in some laying on of hands, but through the cross of Christ. There are no magic words of deliverance, only words of confession, belief, trust, and repentance. You must stand on the promises of God's Word and in the power of the cross over demonic influence. You must separate yourself from false teachers and the false anointing.

2Co 6:17 "Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

Ro 16:17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

This is a very important step. You must no longer associate with the apostle and movement you were following or his followers. You must leave the church you were attending that was promoting these things. Then you need to find a good church.

Find a church that is Bible-believing and Christ-centered -- that is a church that considers the Bible to be the highest authority in all matters of Faith and practice instead of new revelation, and the main focus is on Christ and not the Holy Spirit, Who Himself focuses our worship and attention on Jesus. Write an email or call the pastor of the church you want to check and ask him for his doctrinal statement. You should also ask him what his position is on the Toronto Blessing, Brownsville, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Church Growth, Emerging Church, the Third Wave/New Apostolic Reformation, etc.. If you are given any response other than that they reject and stand against those teachers and teachings, then don't bother with that church. Find a smaller church that has not gotten into any wacky stuff, or a good home bible study, not cell group. Get into the written Word and pray. Ask the Lord to give you His wisdom and understanding on these matters. That means you will have to put some time into Bible study and reading articles on the movements. Seek out some-

one who can help you who is a mature Christian. Be careful of most Pentecostal denominations today because many are compromised, but there are still a few that hold to orthodox doctrines. Stay away from United Pentecostals, International Church of Christ, Brownsville, Vineyards. They are apostate cults. Some denominations to check for good churches would be Calvary Chapel, Evangelical Free, North American Baptist, Congregational Christian Churches (CCCC), Conservative Baptist, some Southern Baptist, some independent churches. But be sure to test each individual church because even some of the denominations mentioned above have churches that are compromised. Be sure they are not into the C. Peter Wagner organizations like the New Apostolic Reformation, Mission America, Lighthouse, cell church, YWAM etc. Stay away from megachurches, particularly those that are using the "Church Growth" models of Bill Hybels/Willow Creek, Robert Schuller, Rick Warren and C. Peter Wagner. Finding a good church can be daunting in some areas because so many churches are compromised these days. Some are open and upfront about being involved in the Third Wave, but be aware that many will be deceptive about their level of involvement. Still, others don't realize they are already accepting many of those false doctrines. Stay away from churches that play Vineyard and Hillsong music constantly with songs that talk about a great end times revival, the "river", and treat the Holy Spirit like a pantheistic force. Stay away from those that urge people to pray the prayer of Jabez, support Promise Keepers, have Healing Rooms, use Cleansing Stream, do Theopostic counseling, run Cell Groups, etc. You do need fellowship, but be sure that fellowship is with true believers, not heretics. Come to my site and read the sites of the authors linked there: <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/>

Here are a few other articles you might find helpful in finding a good church:

<http://www.catholicconcerns.com/Former/Church.html>

<http://www.letusreason.org/CultHOM.htm>

<http://www.christian-witness.org/active/goodchurch.html>

If you still have problems with demonic oppression due to being slain in the spirit, seek out godly counsel from someone who has not been in the movement and has experience with these issues. There are many fine discernment and apologetics ministries out there that you can contact. For a list of them, go to <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/actauthorlist.html> or check the ACT web site <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/page4.html> and contact authors from there. You may also want to avail yourself of some principles of deliverance <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/heresy.html#Guiding%20Principles>.

If you are struggling with these issues you are welcome to contact me also via ditc@hotmail.com. I and many others have been privileged to help hundreds if not thousands of people worldwide who have gone through very similar circumstances related to demonic influence brought on by following false teachers. Don't feel like you are alone. You are not. Many of us have been through issues that resemble your own.

I hope these precepts have been a help to you. Please begin a regular regimen of searching the Scriptures daily and reading the articles on the <http://www.deceptioninthechurch.com/> because you need to have your worldview changed to a Biblical one. Then you will be able to stand and resist the devil.



MORIEL THAILAND UPDATE

David and Marco

Last month we had two Moriel visitors—David Lister and Marco Quintana. It was good to see David again, and good to meet Marco for the first time. One night we went to teach the Bible at a house where Jallay has been teaching. We had a 3 hour church service there! I was amazed that these families listened through such a long (but very good) teaching (longer because of translation). These families are from Myanmar and are precious souls who are longing for God’s salvation. Marco gave an altar call and almost everyone raised their hand. Jallay has continued to follow up with them.

Another day Marco shared his testimony and a Bible teaching at the Women’s Prison. Four ladies came forward who were already Christians, and one lady came forward who is thinking of becoming a Christian, whose daughter on the outside wrote to her of wanting to become a Christian.

We also went to three different areas to hand out tracts and talk with people. At one place we met an Indian-Burmese man who said he’s an atheist. For an atheist he seemed very open though.

Another day we went to speak with a Muslim man from Egypt. David very effectively shared the gospel with this man, and he invited us to come back next time to discuss further over a meal.

Mother of the Children

For the last few months one of the mothers of a few of the children has been coming with us to church fairly regularly also. She’s from the same area as the 13 year old girl with a baby. We welcome any of the parents to come with us and pray for them to know the Lord also.

Jordan is One Year Old Now

Jordan, the baby of the 13 year old, has just turned one year old. Her mother, once addicted to video games and her cell phone (her brother has already dropped out of school from the same problem) now sees life differently, having her own baby. She didn’t choose this, but it has worked together for good, and now she regularly studies the Bible with us and loves the Lord.

Khae said it is like Peter’s fishing experience—No fish all night, and then at the master’s command, an abundance. The young lady with her baby stopped coming to church and it seemed we had labored in vain, but then God turned the tables and from the same village He has brought many others in to hear the gospel. Also, this young lady has been taking TB medicine for four months now and getting healthy again.

Here are some pictures of our Saturday and Sunday students. We have many new regulars now, and some of the old-timers (who’ve been with us for years) as well.



Women’s Prison

Last month Khae came with us for the first time in about 4 years to the Women’s Prison, while Micah was in school. She shared with the ladies about Namaan being healed of leprosy and how this parallels to humbling ourselves to put our faith in Jesus, and I also handed out her printed testimony in Thai. Also a couple weeks ago was a very good day. Some of the ladies made a decision to call on the name of Jesus to be saved!

Jallay

Early this month Jallay went to share the gospel at an orphanage where only about half of the children are Christians. And, he’s been going to various places to hand out Lahu and Thai Bibles and to share the gospel, in addition to the home fellowships that he leads. Here are some pictures of that.



Da in Mae Ai

Da continues to share the gospel among the children and adults in her Lahu village up north. Last month Jallay went to visit her. Here are some pictures.



Khae’s Bible Studies

Khae continues to teach the Bible to some ladies, two of whom are young Christians, and one is an unbeliever. And, she’s also been going to teach some non-Christian children after school with our friend Paul, where Paul’s son is a student.

Please pray for us also, as we’re seeking the Lord for an open door to share the gospel in an unusual place. This has been approved already by those in authority, but may not begin until next month.

Peace in Christ, Scott, Khae, Micahberekiah, and Isaiah.
“Made in China”: The History of Buddhism in the Middle

MADE IN CHINA PART II

Kingdom (Part II)

By Scott Murray Noble (micahberekiah@gmail.com)

In China, so many Buddhist texts were created, that it would take several elephants to carry this canon of texts. The way to “enlightenment” became much disputed, modified, and eventually assimilated into major schools of thought under the broad name of Mahayana.

Types of Buddhism Around the World

---Hinayana (the “small vehicle”) Buddhism (of which Theravada Buddhism is the only surviving sect) is practiced mostly in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. This is the oldest type of Buddhism, and currently has about 150 million followers. Geographically, this is “Southern Buddhism.”

---Mahayana (the “large vehicle”) Buddhism is mostly practiced in China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Vietnam. Mahayana Buddhism is an umbrella-term warehousing a huge variety of beliefs. It was largely developed in the century before Christ, and the eight centuries after Christ, but has roots going back earlier than that. Scholars debate the exact origins of Mahayana, but because of its huge variety, roots of its origin can be seen in many of the aberrations from Hinayana Buddhism. Currently there are about 360 million Mahayana Buddhists in the world. Geographically, this is “Northern Buddhism.”

---Vajrayana (the “diamond vehicle”) Buddhism (commonly called Tibetan Buddhism) is predominant in Bhutan, Mongolia, and Tibet. It is sometimes considered to be a subset of Mahayana Buddhism. It became more fully developed in the 7th century AD, and currently has about 18 million followers.

A Hybrid Strain of Buddhism Debuts in China

Buddhism reached China during the Han dynasty in the first century AD via Central Asia. The type of Buddhism that arrived in China was Mahayana Buddhism. In Hinayana Buddhism, the death of the Buddha (his parinirvana) meant he ceased to exist, and this goal of nirvana was held out as the goal for his followers. If the Buddha did not exist, who would his followers pray to, and should the ultimate goal really be to cease to exist? The yearning in the human heart for relationships both socially and spiritually, and the sense that we have a purpose higher than just to be extinguished, led Buddhist innovators to develop hybrid strains of Buddhism, which would attempt to address these needs of the human condition, but unfortunately would fail, because they were all based on imaginary deities and paradises; and mixed with man-made doctrines that keep people away from the true Creator and Savior who loves them. Here’s some background in how Mahayana Buddhism developed:

1. The Second Buddhist Council: Beyond the Two Baskets

This council was held about 100 years after the death of the Buddha. A split between monks occurred: “...the general thrust was against accepting the Sutras and Vinaya [the first two “baskets” of the Pali Canon] as the final authority regarding the Buddha’s teaching... it provided an opening for what has been termed ‘designer Buddhism,’... the Mahasanghikans’ liberal attitude toward the tradition eventually engendered the Mahayana movement, which asserted that the early arhants may have not only misunderstood certain details in the Buddha’s original teachings, but actually missed the entire point” (Robinson and Johnson, 57-58).

2. A Third Basket to Consolidate Traditions

The third, and controversial “basket” of the Pali Canon, the

Abhidharma, was not added until about 250 BC, and would lead to objections by those who did not accept the traditional Hinayana views. Also around this time, according to the Mahavamsa, King Asoka had all of the non-Theravadin heretic monks (no less than 60,000) ousted from the Theravada community of monks at that time. The teachings of the Buddha were still in oral form at that time, and Asoka never mentions a “canon” of Scripture in his inscriptions, so it is unclear how much or little of the Pali Canon was then fixed in place.

3. The Fourth Buddhist Council: Hinayana (Theravada) Canon Written Down

The Pali Canon was first written down during the Fourth Council in Ceylon, in about 25 BC, including the Abhidharma. Other inventive Theravada stories, such as the Jataka stories, which supposedly recorded previous lives of the Buddha were not finalized until the 5th century AD and later.

4. Backlash Against Hinayana Doctrine: Inventing New Texts

From the first century BC through the first century AD, “...a backlash gradually developed...in south India-among those who felt that Abhidharma analysis had missed the point of the teaching... they began composing new Sutras of their own, placing their anti-Abhidharma arguments in the mouths of the Buddha and the great arhants, and claiming that their Sutras were newly discovered texts that had been hidden since the Buddha’s time” (Robinson and Johnson, 82).

It’s not that Hinayana teachings were monolithic. There were at least 18 schools of Hinayana Buddhism, only one of which survives today (Theravada). The oldest Buddhist manuscripts of any school are the Gandhari texts (a school of Hinayana) from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD. However, “...the majority of the Gandhari texts have no known parallels in other Buddhist traditions” (Salomon, 300). And, the Gandhari texts are not a confirmation of the Pali Canon, but rather a testimony to a partial record of a school different from Theravada.

Regarding the content of these fabricated Mahayana texts, Robinson and Johnson say, “...their immense, all-star casts of characters; and the sheer extravagance of their language all serve to reassert the primacy of the visionary, shamanic side of Buddhism...” (84). Mahayana texts continued to be composed until about the 8th century AD.

The Mahayana Lotus Sutra adopts an “ends justifies the means” attitude, which would have made the counterfeit texts seem less egregious: “...the Lotus Sutra...explicitly states that lies can be valid ‘skillful means’ (although it avoids calling them lies), which probably explains the Mahayana penchant for attributing its Sutras to the historical Buddha” (Robinson and Johnson, 90).

5. Buddhist Savior Cults Added to the Mahayana Mix

Like the roster for a Marvel comic series, the Mahayana movement managed to conjure up dozens of Buddhist super heroes: “The chief innovation in this Mahayana pantheon is the class of great bodhisattvas.... The Lotus Sutra names 23; the Vimalakirti, more than 50. Of these, three became most important: Maitreya, Manjusri, and Avalokitesvara. All three figure as interlocutors in Mahayana Sutras, where they appear as men and converse with the great disciples and Sakyamuni. These great beings are nonhistorical; there is no evidence that any one of them is an apotheosis of a human hero” (Robinson and Johnson, 105).

With the exception of Maitreya, which is mentioned in the Pali Canon, and whose role is in keeping with Theravada enlightenment, mention of these other imaginary “saviors,” stem from the time after Christ, and offer a “savior-power” to put one’s faith in, rather than “self-power” as in Theravada Buddhism. This is interesting, since the apostle Thomas was preaching faith in the true and histori-

cal Savior, Jesus Christ, in Parthia and India from about AD 47-72. Instead of coming to the real person of Jesus Christ, it seems that half-measures were taken, leaving people with only names of "saviors," but no reality behind these names.

6. A Light Grip on Texts and A High View of Emptiness

Historically, Buddhists of various schools have not placed much weight on the Buddhist texts. From the time of the Second Council, when doubt was shed on what the Buddha actually taught, and throughout Buddhist history, monks have felt at liberty to make up stories, add to, take away, ignore, and contradict their texts. In view of non-attachment, some schools also teach that texts must be used, only to be abandoned later. That has led to a flood of new texts which have equally unauthoritative underpinnings.

The doctrine of emptiness (Sunyata) became central in this new "Designer Buddhism": "...the Mahayanists summoned their listeners to reevaluate samsara as empty and achieve release right where they were.... The primary early Mahayana discourses... generally tried to undercut the Abhidharma mind-set by portraying the Buddha and his chief disciples as repudiating the conventional teachings of the Sutra Pitaka" (Robinson and Johnson, 87).

7. Mahayana Buddhism: Made in China

Although Mahayana Buddhism has roots going back to India and Central Asia, China became the place where this new hybrid of Buddhism spent its formative years, undergoing new developments as it mixed with and reacted to China's Taoist and Confucian ideas. And, later in history China would become the primary exporter of Mahayana Buddhism, in all of its diverse forms.

China was influential in bringing Mahayana Buddhism to Vietnam and Korea. In turn, Koreans introduced this newly designed form of Buddhism to Japan: "Buddhism was probably first brought to Japan by Korean immigrants...The first recorded contact on the royal level, however, was in 552." (Robinson and Johnson, 243) "Because Buddhist Sutras were all written in Chinese, it became plain to the Japanese that they might do better to establish direct contact with China, rather than go through Korean intermediaries." (Robinson and Johnson, 244)

Buddhism's Formative Years in China

What began with monks at the Second Buddhist Council veering from standard Hinayana doctrines, would eventually result in "the large vehicle" (Mahayana), containing some polar opposite ideas, compared to "the small vehicle" (Hinayana), now represented by Theravada Buddhism. Mahayana Buddhism generally holds to the following ideas:

- viewing nirvana as bliss (not cessation as in Theravada)
- there are female Buddhas in Mahayana, but not in Theravada
- seeking the enlightenment of all beings, not just personal enlightenment
- praying to various saviors/bodhisattvas, and in some cases seeking to become a savior also (in Theravada only one future savior is acknowledged, Metteyya/ Maitreya, who is thought will bring all people to enlightenment when he is born in this world)
- the historical Buddha is seen as divine and worshipped (whereas Theravada Buddhists see him as just a man who achieved enlightenment)
- the doctrine of sunyatta, that everything is "empty"
- the doctrine that all beings have the Buddha-nature
- generally more strict about keeping a vegetarian diet

Although there are clear differences, many people freely mix Theravada and Mahayana ideas in their practices and beliefs. Throughout Buddhist history in Southeast Asia, there were times when contradictory doctrines of various schools of Buddhism (and ideas from Hinduism) were held in "symbiosis," and people did not

worry about how to reconcile these tensions. These eclectic attitudes are still commonplace today. But, there were other times when doctrinal differences led to sharp disagreements and to kicking heretics out.

Highlights in Chinese Assimilation of Buddhist Ideas

During the first century AD, Buddhism merged with Taoist ideas, finding agreement in the need for an altered state: "Taoism and Buddhism both contained shamanic elements in practice and thus had certain similarities that eased the introduction of Buddhist practice during the Han dynasty. Meditation guides were the first Buddhist texts sought after by the Chinese, who hoped for the psychic or supernatural powers that meditation might provide" (Robinson and Johnson, 213). This shamanic element in Taoism and Buddhism had in common seeking an altered state: "The various shamanic traditions around the world differ primarily as to which altered states they regard as significant.... We have already noted how early Buddhism was a variant of shamanism..." (Robinson and Johnson, 290).

Translations began: "The second century was also when the first Buddhist texts were translated into Chinese. The Parthian monk An Shih-kaio reached the Chinese capital of Loyang in 148 and began translating a set of texts dealing with meditation practices, such as breath awareness, and numerical lists of Dharma topics..." (Robinson and Johnson, 174)

Pure Land Buddhism, which emphasized putting faith in a savior rather than in one's own abilities: "The roots of the [Pure Land] movement date back to the Later Han dynasty. A text translated in the second century C.E. advocated concentrating on or visualizing the Buddhas of the 10 directions. Prominent among these Buddhas was Amitabha..." (Robinson and Johnson, 196) By the sixth century in China, Pure Land Buddhism had been altered: "These two points-recitation rather than meditation, and the inclusion of sinners with those who can benefit from Amitabha's vow-were the main Chinese departures from Indian Amitabha doctrines." (Robinson and Johnson, 196)

Staring at images to gain psychic abilities: "Central Asian Buddhist monks claiming psychic abilities won many converts. Images of Buddhas and bodhisattvas-especially Maitreya, Arnitabha, and Avalokitesvara-played a central role both in devotion and in meditation practice. (The meditator would stare at the image to create a psychic connection with the supernatural being who would then, it was hoped, grant knowledge or protection.) This cult of the Buddha-image was responsible for some of the royal converts to Buddhism during this period" (Robinson and Johnson, 175).

Emptiness: Speaking of Taoism's influence in the 4th century.... "Others viewed emptiness as the essence from which all things came-like the Tao-and to which they would all return. These views resurfaced several centuries later and formed the basis for the great doctrinal syntheses of the sixth to ninth centuries." (Robinson and Johnson, 180)

Persecution: "Twice-in 446 and 574-edicts were issued for the total suppression of Buddhism, in response to complaints from government officials that the Sangha was growing too strong." (Robinson and Johnson, 177)

The Chinese turned to Mahayana Sutras to justify their amalgamation of contradictory teachings from the various schools: "...The Buddha used skillful means and preached different doctrines to suit the conditions of his various audiences at different points in his career. This interpretation struck a responsive chord.... That the Mahayana Sutras were the ones offering this explanation is one of the factors that assured the ascendancy of Mahayana over Hinayana in Chinese thought." (Robinson and Johnson, 182)

Emptiness and the Buddha-nature: The designer of the T'ien-t'ai system was Chih-i (AD 538-97). An example of one of his teachings was that, "The entire cosmos is immanent in a moment of thought and is perceived simultaneously by the Awakened mind as empty, substantial, both, and neither." (Robinson and Johnson, 188) Also, "He established the doctrine of the Buddha-nature as the ultimate Buddhist teaching, a position that was accepted by all east Asian schools of doctrine and practice. His writings on meditation, in particular, formed the matrix in which the Ch'an (which became Zen in Japan) schools developed." (Robinson and Johnson, 189)

Emptiness, and yet being at one with the Buddha Mahavairocana: Another major school in China was Hua-yen. One of its influential patriarchs was a monk named Fa-tsang (AD 643-712). "Fa-tsang did not shrink from paradoxes.... he viewed the cosmos as already being identical with the mind and body of the Buddha Mahavairocana.... All that remains is to continue contemplating the emptiness and functioning of phenomena. Tranquility meditation, according to Fa-tsang, means viewing phenomena as empty.... Like most Mahayanists, Fa-tsang viewed it an act of selfishness for a bodhisattva to enter nirvana. However, he went further than most Mahayanists in decreeing an unconditioned nirvana a theoretical impossibility..." (Robinson and Johnson, 192)

The Buddha-nature and new texts: One of the Chan masters, Shen-hsiu (AD 606-706) and his fellows, "...adopted much of the meditative terminology used by Chih-i, the great T'ien-tai systematizer, but gave new meanings to many of the terms. The most important doctrine for the school was the teaching of the Buddha-nature immanent in all things." (Robinson and Johnson, 200-201) One of his students, took things a little further and produced some of his own ahistorical texts: "Shen-hui [AD 684-758] insisted that the doctrine of the essential purity of the Buddha-nature meant that mental impurities were nonexistent.... Shen-hui produced new and more dramatic stories of Bodhidharma to support his campaign..." (Robinson and Johnson, 201)

Negation of core Hinayana doctrines: In some Mahayana schools, the Buddha-nature supposedly in all beings is identified as the all-pervading essence remaining from the awakening of the Buddha. This is said, "...to have the four perfections...of eternity, bliss, self, and purity, an assertion that has led some to question whether the...[Buddha-nature] teaching might expound a form of Hindu monism, in which case it might contradict such fundamental Buddhist doctrines as ANITYA (IMPERMANENCE), ANATMAN/ATMAN (NO-SELF/SELF), and DUHKHA (SUFFERING)" (Grosnick, 827).

Trying to Find a Basis For Morality and Relationships

In Hinayana Buddhism, relationships cause attachment, and thus are a hindrance to nirvana. At the layman level though people still seek to address their prayers to a "person" and so have their houses filled with idols of the Buddha, Hindu idols, and deities invented by Mahayana Buddhism as well. In China, this natural hunger for relationships also resulted in the invention of Taoist deities. Philosophical Taoism claims there is an ever present impersonal force (the Tao), and claims that "non-action" is the way to be in harmony with this nature of things, but religious Taoism still seeks for personal deities. In Mahayana Buddhism the situation is not much different, claiming an ever present impersonal Buddha nature, while seeking personal deities. The impersonal "no-self" doctrine of Hinayana is untenable for personal beings made in God's image, who have a built-in social capacity. To suppress healthy relationships is unnatural, but to divert this social capacity towards imaginary deities, which are not based in reality, also misses the mark. We need Jesus, who is rooted in history, and who has proven through His resurrec-

tion from the dead, that He is powerful to save.

The question is not, "Do Buddhists have good relationships with others, and have good morals?" Many people follow the "in-built, God given compass" even when it contradicts the teachings of their faith, and they desire to do good in order to "earn" their way to heaven. The problem is rather, that in the foundational teachings of the Buddha there was no basis for pursuing healthy relationships, and having good morals. In the 3rd century AD Chinese intellectuals were struggling to find a basis for morality and a government that was in harmony with "the principles underlying nature" (Robinson and Johnson, 171). The fall of the Han dynasty (206 BC- AD 220) triggered serious questions, such as, "Why had the dynasty failed even though it had been run in accordance with the I Ching, the traditional book of divination, and the Confucian classics?" (Robinson and Johnson, 178) This lack of a basis for morality would be a problem that would continue to resurface in the history of Buddhism—how can impersonal karma have a preference for one type of morality over another, and if everything is "empty" or if everything is at one with the Buddha already, why does it matter anyway? These and similar questions would continue to result in much debate and attempted justifications, but without an ultimate and authoritative answer, because the only basis that could be produced was the opinion of a non-omniscient human being, who by his own teachings, was an ever-changing being with no permanent self, and who then was extinguished by his parinirvana! No wonder that Mahayana Buddhism attempted to "resurrect" him in a cosmic, spiritual sense, but to no avail, since such ideas and attempted justifications were gleaned from altered states and from creative, but forged monastic imaginations to produce "holy" texts.

When God was taken out of the picture and the truth suppressed, the ladder was kicked out from which a solid basis could have been had. We need the truth. We need reality. Made-up ideas might belong in a Spider-man movie, but not in texts which are supposed to direct us in life's ultimate purposes—foremost of which is to know God our Creator.

Unburden the Elephants

The founder of Yogacara (a school of Mahayana), the 4th century Asanga, was chided by his brother with these words: "Alas, Asanga, residing in the forest, has practiced meditation for 12 years. Without having attained anything by this meditation, he has founded a system, so difficult and burdensome, that it can be carried only by an elephant" (Schopen, 496).

The debates surrounding emptiness, the Buddha-nature, the role of Buddhist saviors, and the nature of nirvana have continued to produce floods of heavy texts. Forget about an elephant or a team of elephants to carry all of these-- all we need is the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, who carried the heaviest burden of all for us on the cross—our sins. His salvation is available to all and is based in historical reality. His power was proven in the resurrection.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

(stay tuned for part III in this series on Chinese Buddhism)

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ARCHITECTURE OF RELIGIOUS MANIPULATION



A window into the tactics of false teachers

If you are reading this, it is possible you enjoy a healthy church and always have. It is also possible you either escaped a bad church or you know someone who should. All that I have learned about discernment and the recognition of good and evil came from experiencing the twisted side of the faith first, and then seeing the beautiful side later. I wish I could say that I had a wonderful upbringing in fantastically accurate theology, but it is in fact the opposite. I know what is right because of my long-standing experience and exposure to that which is wrong. Consequently, the gift is to be able to identify certain false doctrines more readily.

The following is not written from the perspective of a higher critical academic analysis of sociological constructs in relation to cults and Christian sects. While the historical and in-depth study of toxic religious systems is a valuable and well-explored branch of theological study, the intent of this narrative is to provide a first-person account of my own experiences which harmonize with the experiences many have shared with me. It is also important to note that everything I share is confirmed in principle by the broader observations of academic analysis. What follows is both a reflection on life experience, and a focus upon a more specific sub-topic which lurks in dark and lesser-seen recesses of toxic churches; namely the predictable and deliberate way in which the manipulation of people is systematically executed in a church culture. The focus of this piece is on the subtle and almost undetectable way control is executed.

Those whose roots are from healthy families and churches might be surprised to consider the idea that there is a “formula” or “architecture” of sorts for how to control and manipulate individuals and groups; the steps are not always sequential, but invariably if there is dysfunction in a church there are specific methods that can be detected as being in force. Since cults and toxic churches are systematic and organized, their approaches are nearly standardized. Like weaknesses in a computer program that are exploited by a computer virus, there are exploitations of our human and fallen natures that can be systemic, and by proxy this makes their approaches predictable. Simultaneously, cult tactics remain almost invisible to the unsuspecting and trusting. The points of this discussion will be presented in a sequence that I believe conveys them in the most understandable way, but they may occur in varying degrees of intensity or in various combinations. One thing I can assert with confidence is that if your church engages in these practices you will recognize them immediately and you have reason to be concerned. Indeed, if you are reading this article and what follows rings true to you, you will have memories flashing through your mind of “that time when...”

I have had correspondence with several people, all of whom echo my sentiments. Their descriptions are alike to such a degree that I notice it doesn't matter where in the world these experiences happen since they all follow a human pattern that

transcends culture. The following is a defense of a healthy Christ-centered church through the exposition of destructive and unhealthy teachers and churches.

ARCHITECTURE OF A FALSE TEACHER

1 – Deconstruct and Reconstruct

Matthew 7:15 - “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”

If you are seeking to control a group or organization, you don't need to try to control the entire group. That would be a recipe for disaster, because at some point the group will recognize the disruptive change being perpetrated and will react after they realize that they outnumber the agent of change. A “good” cult leader knows that they cannot overcome from a top-down perspective. But in contrast, if someone can control a single individual, in a consistent and repeatable way, that leader realizes that they can eventually control a massive group. Every person enters a church and comes to faith with a world-view and a set of memories and beliefs. The false teacher knows this, and the cult leader seeks to detect this. These views and memories are a treasure to be tapped into by those seeking unilateral control of an organization because if one can wield the emotions of a people group, one can control the masses. At some point early in the formation of a relationship with those he contacts it will be necessary for a false teacher in a toxic church to sanitize the thinking of the population that he oversees. This is harder to do with an established group, so they often start small. On a practical level it starts with the individual and will require breaking people down and reconstructing their thinking.

Assimilation is the goal; assimilation into the mindset of the person in control, and assimilation must look in part like the pattern expected by the group. It must be asserted with bible and arguments must be peppered with bible verses. When a false teacher enters a culture, he will seek to ascertain its strength and weakness. He will listen, wait, watch, and seek to tap into emotions of pain and joy. He will laugh with people, cry with them, seek to tie the expressed feelings of those he contacts to scripture, and then try to make the next step of tying scripture directly to himself as the arbiter of scriptural interpretation. The false teacher realizes that past experience and affections will be a competitive force in their quest for control, so they understand it will be necessary to convince people that there was no good in their life prior to arrival at “this church” and that they never had real and abundant life until they were in it. They must make a person see their connections with this group as preeminent to gain hold of their world view. To do this the cult leader wants to start early in the faith of a person and to give them a new identity in the organization.

2 Timothy 3:13 – “While evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

You will very rarely find an experienced Christian who also comes from a healthy background as a ready-made victim of manipulation. The reason for this is that their foundation is solid. We are told in the bible that it is critical to train a young child in the way he should go and there is both a human and spiritual reason for this. God has designed us to trust our parents implicitly and has charged the parent with imprinting the Word of God on the hearts of children while the time is right. At some time in the future they harden under the sin that is implicit with their relation to Adam, but prior to this point, the parent is to set forth the spiritual principles that their children should follow while they are young and malleable.

ble. This notion doesn't only have a worldly application to genetic family, but it also has a spiritual application for babes in Christ. New Christians naturally trust the person who led them to Christ more than others by the nature of their involvement in their new spiritual birth. So, it stands to reason that if the person who shows them Christ is a false teacher/cult leader, this person will be able to accept the real Christ, but their leader have a natural advantage in the breeding of their doctrine by reason of their connection as a spiritual parent (1 Tim 1:2). Therefore, the best target for a cult leader is a new babe in Christ. They trust the one who brought them to the faith to help them discern good and evil more than they will any other person. They are at this point naturally inclined to reject outside influence. While newly born and learning daily, they absorb and internalize the teachings of their spiritual guide as sources of milk and meat. If the trust of a person can be garnered during this time, it is almost a guarantee that the converted person will view the words of that man as being from God and authoritative.

2 – Isolate People

Matthew 23:15 – “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves.”

Once trust is gained it is critical to a cult leader to get a person to abandon their connections and to take direction on who to associate with. The reason is that there can be no competing voices for influence as far as the leader is concerned. The false teacher needs to know that his voice is of preeminence in the mind of a follower and will often ask testing questions to check from time to time. They set as their goal to make the ears of a follower to distrust anyone critical of the doctrines they learned, and to run to the leader when they come across a question that they cannot answer. The leader and the congregation must be the sole authority on information or they know that the individual might awaken to the abusive nature of the culture they are in. This is done through preaching, “mentoring,” “discipling,” and by plugging a person into the hierarchy and making them feel like they belong to the extent that it is felt that if they do not assimilate they cannot function, and the church cannot function either. It begins with affectionate acceptance and after this period of elation passes, it turns into expectation and obligation.

3 – Get people to build their lives around the congregation’s culture

Matthew 7:24-27 – “Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.”

Very quickly after, a person is compelled to dedicate their free time, and life activities around the priorities of the congregation without realizing that it is in fact the priorities of the leadership. This is the place where some people awaken to realize something is wrong and flee, but if they do not they will trustingly abandon family, friends, and all who will not do as they do. This is the place where new friendships are made and encouraged. Once a person has centered their life around a congregational culture, they will see their salvation and its maintenance tied to continual

works-based activity in that congregation. To fail to participate in events will breed anxiety and result in phone calls and questions interrogating an individual. Since those who subscribe to this thinking will have fewer close connections outside of this environment, they will naturally only have deep friends within the group and thereby have no means of checking the validity of the doctrinal claims made against them and will naturally gravitate to each other by design.

4 – Command Activity and Spending

Luke 22:26 – “But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves.”

Once a person has endured the first three phases of this approach, they are now primed to be told how to live. They are now vessels with holes in them that seek meaning in the context of the group, not of Christ. They want to know how to live because they are stripped down to feeling as they are nothing unless they feel useful to the group. They need to know how to live by their human nature. This is not about godly living anymore, although it might certainly be a part, but this is about another person making career decisions, deciding how one spends money, and even when someone can go on vacation/holiday. It can be so bad as to tell a person who they can marry, date, and when to have children; I have witnessed it personally. A person who is embedded this deeply is often seemingly hopelessly lost in the group to anyone observing events from the outside. Such a person does not have an identity outside of their church anymore and the leader and his minions are well-aware of their control. A well-behaved person is now broken down and assimilated, and as a result is an asset to the leadership. The energy of the follower can now be tapped to feed their power structure and priorities under the guise of serving God.

5 -Control the flow of information.

Proverbs 29:2 – “When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.”

There will be times people leave or defy commands. A skillful cult leader will understand that this is part of the nature of the organization. Therefore, in anticipation of such occurrences, a structure is in place to alert leadership as soon as possible. Usually it is accomplished via a hierarchy of reporting that leads to the top leadership, and other times it can manifest by making public examples of others who fail to alert leaders of a “problem.” When information gets to the top quickly there is a mobilization and reward for loyalty, but when it does not there is punishment. Most people will be met with in person if they are deviating from the doctrinal norm and will be warned to stop questioning leadership doctrine and to align better with the culture. But if not, they are quickly cut out and never trusted again. Followers are told they “fell away” from the faith. This is the worst punishment that can be forced upon a person who has built everything around acceptance by a false teacher and his congregation. Imagine being born again via the auspices of a cult and then coming into conflict with those who brought you to the faith.

6 – Crush any Opposition

Matthew 5:10-12 – “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

If someone were to dare to try to break out of the system described above they would be maligned, spoken ill of, and congre-

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gants would be commanded not to speak to this person. It is called “shunning” and uses our innate human need for acceptance to coerce compliance. The idea is that leadership speaks for God and this person rejects leadership therefore they reject God. Verses will fly from the pulpit on false brethren, and church discipline. Anyone seeing it happen a single time will know it can be done to them if they question the way things are. Subconsciously they avoid behaviors that will make that likely.

Think about this for a minute; imagine the plight of someone who has endured all of what I describe and suddenly realizes there is a problem with their church. Most of the time they will be unable to break free because they were taught that doing so is to go to hell. Plus doing so means abandoning your own identity – who you are. They literally gave up their lives for the cause of the church they are in. They cannot imagine having sacrificed so much for a lie to the point that it is less painful to ignore it or to rationalize it. So even questioning or contradicting a teaching can be dangerous. Therefore, it is hard for certain people in certain groups to break free. It is a dastardly architecture aimed at manipulating God’s design of our social natures, as well as the emotions and cognition of a person. It is so dangerous because it occurs within the context of church, Jesus, and the gospel. It is evil to its core and deserves to be exposed. In contrast, manipulative leaders hate being faced with the truth, they fear those who know more than them, and they flee someone brave enough to confront them without the safety of their social construct. The best defense against such men is the Word of God, and knowledge. Don’t be afraid to challenge evil if you are in its midst.

Ephesians 1:18-21 “I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come

What distresses me most about what I am writing is that I am actively trying to reach out to former brethren in my own former sect of the hardline Church of Christ and I find it to be nearly impossible. The problem is that if you are reading this article right now there is a high probability that you are in a healthier theological state than I have described thus far, or at least that you have identified the issues of your church and are actively struggling with your awareness of these tactics in churches related to your own personal history. But what about those who would not see this because the blinders have been laid? Their soul matters and I would beg that if you know someone you believe to be in a cult, theologically toxic church, or a place where false teaching abounds, that you consider sharing this newsletter and other teachings from Moriel with them. Let them struggle with its content. You never know. God might use you to help another soul escape the clutches of a church poisoned by Satan.

**In Him,
Walker Freely**

Questions? Comments? Email me at rockinmyshoe2@protonmail.com

See blog at <https://wordpress.com/view/rockinmyshoe-stoneinmymath.wordpress.com>

Dear Friends and Family

Greetings in Jesus from the UK where I am speaking and visiting family and friends. Unfortunately I am having a few difficulties typing as I have had a bleed inside my eye in front of my optic nerve and I have only partial sight, so your prayers are welcome and please pray for my trip back to South Africa and following treatment.

It’s been quite a cold winter at the mission and we are coming to the end of our wood pile, however the buds of Spring are coming through and the passing of the annual bike race across the farm is a sure sign the weather is changing so its busy busy busy on the farm side of things as we head quickly towards Christmas.

It’s not only the weather that’s changing. More than ever this nation needs prayer as the political forces continue to move against the white minority. Murders and especially farm murders rapes and robberies are up, the statistics are worrying. It may be good for you to watch the following link to a teaching by Jacob concerning these issues.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iLkK1imZk4Q>

Praise God that the area where the mission is located has only had a few incidents and is fairly secure however now is not the time to drop our guard but remain vigilant.

The kids and the team at the mission are doing well. HIV blood checks have come back good and everyone is working hard. We had an issue with Jo who pulled a muscle while building the new piggery but praise God after a couple of weeks rest he finally healed.

Prudence has gone back to work and Tombi has become Noah’s designated carer with oversight from Lyn. Noah is coming along really well he’s such a happy little fella.



Please continue to pray:

- For the good health of everyone
- For my eye condition
- For additional help at the mission
- For our ongoing safety in violent times
- The continued development of the mission

Let us now continue with the technicalities of Homiletics from the notes I put together from the former missions college.

**Blessings in Jesus
Dave and Lyn**

HOMILETICS

INTRODUCTION

Q: What is Homiletics? A: It is the study of the theory and practice of preaching.

In our study on Homiletics we will cover the three main types of sermons, namely:

The TOPICAL sermon

The TEXTUAL sermon

The EXPOSITORY sermon

We will delve into the mechanics of sermon construction, have a look at the basic steps in preparing a sermon outline and for those who wish, put into practice their new-found skills with a sermon workshop. By the end of the course you should be able to construct a sermon which is clear to the listener, practical and above all biblical in content.

This is not to say that you will have to trust first and foremost in the Lord for illumination of the scriptures to be able to minister to the needs of His people, but it will help you to be more practical in your approach and will help prevent the dangers of concentrating on pet subjects.

Lets begin by having a look at the:

TOPICAL SERMON

Q: What is a topical sermon? A: It is one in which the main divisions of a sermon are derived from a topic independently of a text.

In other words the main divisions of the sermon must be drawn from the topic itself. The person ministering begins with a set topic, not necessarily a set portion of scripture. The main parts of the sermon will thus consist of ideas that come from the subject itself.

Q: What do we need to be careful to do when preaching a topical sermon? A: We must ensure that we start with a biblical subject or topic.

Let us use 'Reasons for unanswered prayer' as our biblical topic. We need to draw out our main divisions from this topic.

Q: How do you think we should go about doing this? A: Firstly we must discover what the bible says on the reasons for unanswered prayer.

Once we have searched the scriptures we would have come across, along with others, the following scripture references.

James 4:3, Ps 66:18, James1:6-7, Matthew 6:7, Proverbs 28:9, and 1Peter 3:7.

Q: What will our next step be? A: We must list the cause of unanswered prayer according to each scripture.

James 4:3 Asking amiss

Ps 66:18 Sin in the heart

James1:6-7 Doubting Gods Word

Matthew 6:7 Vain repetitions

Proverbs 28:9 Disobedience to the word

1Peter 3:7 Inconsiderate behaviour in marriage relations

You may not realise this but you have already formed a basic topical outline in which each main division has been drawn from the topic. Each division has also been supported by a verse in scripture.

Q: What is of utmost importance when we form each division? A: Each division must be supported by a word of scripture.

UNITY OF THOUGHT

Have you ever begun a bible study on a particular topic only to find other topics of interest coming to the fore as you page through the word? I am sure that you have been tempted to delve into these new topics of interest immediately only to find that by the time you have finished your study, you have a lot of small points about a large array of topics. Obviously this is not a very effective way to do a bible study and neither is it a very practical way to prepare a topical sermon. As you begin to study about prayer under the topic we have looked at, you will probably come across other very interesting topics related to prayer, such as the meaning of prayer, how we ought to pray, the importance of prayer, the power of prayer and so on. Remember a golden rule before you fall into this trap: **STICK TO YOUR TOPIC!** You may want to jot down ideas that come to mind and study them for a later occasion.

Q: What must we be careful to do when preparing a topical sermon? A: We must be careful to limit the entire outline to the one idea contained in the topic.

Our topic would thus limit us to deal with factors that hinder prayer being answered,

KINDS OF TOPICS

The Bible has an inexhaustible array of topics. But to know which topic to select, we must obviously seek the leading of the Lord. This will be given to us as we take time out in prayer and in meditation on the word. (One good book on Biblical meditation is by Campbell McCalpine called *The Practice of Biblical meditation*. Published by Marshalls 1981)

Although we do not base this type of sermon around a specific text, a verse of scripture may be the starting point for an idea from which we can construct a topical outline.

Read Galatians 6:17. Here Paul says 'Finally, let no one cause more trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus'. The New American Standard Version translates this verse saying, 'I bear on my body the brand marks of Jesus'. No doubt Paul here is referring to the scars left on his body by his persecutors for the sake of Christ. Extra-Biblical sources reveal that when Paul wrote these words, not only were animals branded, but slaves and soldiers who wanted to prove their devotion to the general under whom they served. Obviously these marks could never be erased.

Q: If you were going to prepare a sermon under the topic 'Life long marks of a dedicated Christian' and use the information above, What do you think would be a good title and outline for this sermon?

TITLE: The marks of Jesus.

TOPIC: Life long marks of a dedicated Christian.

Let's have a look at this suggested outline.

Like a slave, the dedicated Christian bears the mark of ownership of the master to whom he belongs. (1Cor 6:19-20, Rom 1:1)

Like a soldier, a dedicated Christian bears the mark of devotion to the commander whom he serves. (2Tim 2:3, 2Cor 5:15)

Like a devotee, a dedicated Christian bears the mark of a worshipper of the Lord whom he adores. (Phil 1:20, 2Cor 4:5)

Q: Would you say this is a good outline based on the information gathered? A: Why or why not?

BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR THE PREPARATION OF TOPICAL OUTLINES

The main divisions should be in logical and chronological order.

We should aim to develop the outline in some form of progression, either logical or chronological. This must be determined by the nature of the topic.

Say for example, we choose our theme, vital truths concerning Jesus Christ. We have decided to organise our material into three main points.

- He is Saviour of the world
- He is coming King
- He is God made manifest in the flesh

Q: In what order would you arrange these points? A: -

- He is God made manifest in the flesh
- He is Saviour of the world
- He is coming King

Why have we arranged the points in this order? Because Jesus first became incarnate, then He went to the cross and gave His life to become our Saviour and some day He will return as our coming King. Obviously when we arrange topics into theme the outline should reach its climax in its last division.

B) The main divisions may be an analysis of the topic.

To analyse a topic we need to break it down into its component parts with each part contributing to the completeness of the topic. If we choose 'Main facts in the Bible about Satan' as our topic and spoke of Satan's origin, his power, his activity and his destiny, but failed to mention his fall, it would not be a satisfactory analysis of the topic.

C) The main divisions may present the various proofs of a topic.

Take for example the topic 'Knowing Gods Word.' Each of the following main divisions confirms the topic.

- Knowing Gods word makes one wise unto salvation.
- Knowing Gods word keeps us from sin
- Knowing Gods word produces spiritual growth
- Knowing Gods word results in successful living

D) The main divisions may treat a subject by analogy or contrast with something else in scripture.

A believer may be compared to salt for example or a clay vessel.

E) The main divisions maybe expressed by a certain fixed word or phrase of scripture repeated throughout the outline.

Things, which God is able to do for example, could be divided as:

- He is able to save
- He is able to keep
- He is able to...and so on

THE DOCTRINAL SERMON

The topical method is very well suited to doctrinal sermons. The doctrine selected furnishes the topic. If we were to minister on redemption, it would be well suited to arrange it in the form of a topical sermon.

PREACHING A SERIES

Can you see how preaching a series becomes easier when we begin to arrange our study into main points around a certain topic? There are two important rules to follow when we present a series.

The series should be brief, the congregation is likely to lose interest if the series is presented over to long a period.although going to a lengthy series over a prolonged period of time is an option

The series should also show evidence of order or progress. A haphazard arrangement of related sermons is not as effective as one that is carefully planned in an appropriate and progressive order.

SUMMARY

We have seen how we can present a topical sermon and arrange it into an outline that will be meaningful both to ourselves and to those who listen to it.

GROUP EXERCISE

Prepare a topical sermon using your own topic. Support each main theme with appropriate scripture. Be careful to follow the principle discussed.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Braga J, How to prepare Bible messages (Multnomah press 1981)
- Lloyd-Jones, M DR, Preaching & Preachers (Zondervan 1971)
- Stott JRW, The Art of preaching in the 20th century: between two worlds (Eerdmans 1982)
- 1 Tertullian



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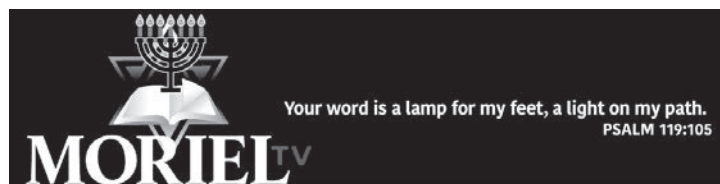
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MINISTRIES

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MISSION PHOTOS

HERE ARE SOME PHOTOS OF THE NEW BUILDING GOING UP FOR THE MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES. GOD WILLING WE CAN BE FINISHED BY CHRISTMAS OR AROUND THE NEW YEAR. PLEASE PRAY ALL GOES WELL.

