

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

WATCH

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COMMENTARY

People Everywhere Just Wanna Be Free

by Mark Armstrong

We're all aware of the Hong Kong protests, but they may be more serious than we knew. This isn't a crowd of antifa-types, though Chinese authorities say there are thuggish elements within them. This massive uprising entails general strikes by city workers and professionals of every stripe. At this writing, it's been going on constantly for

over two months. The crowds are huge and clashes with police have resulted in lots of people being hospitalized. Strikes are in effect across many segments of society and it's threatening to grind the city to a halt.

Travel and tourism are suffering as airport workers, airline crews and pilots are participating.

All this happened because

China tried to implement a law in Hong Kong that would allow people charged with whatever crime to be extradited to the mainland for prosecution, or whatever else may happen to those charged with crimes by the communist regime. Hong Kong's female governor, Carrie Lam, presumably with approval from Chinese officials, publicly revoked the extradition



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Why Kashmir Matters

Echoes of 1999 Kargil conflict amid recent tensions as India, which has warm relations with Israel, scraps Kashmir autonomy.

by Seth Frantzman, Jerusalem post

Over the weekend, officials in Kashmir warned Hindu pilgrims of impending attacks in the area. This sent thousands of tourists and pilgrims, and even local workers, fleeing the region. Reports said that up to 220,000 workers had left, which appeared like a crisis that came out of the

blue. Now the real story appears to be a much more wide ranging decision by India to change the status of Kashmir.

According to CNN, the area was on lockdown with tens of thousands of troops deployed and politicians under “house arrest.” The Indian government

on Monday scrapped *Article 370* that gave Kashmir a special status. It is actually more complex than that. The government of India wants to also “bifurcate” the state—previously known as Jammu and Kashmir—into two new areas, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, according to the Times of India.

Article 370 is a result of conflicts that broke out after India and Pakistan were created, when British colonial India was divided in 1947. An Indian Constitution of 1950 included special status for Jammu and Kashmir. A Constituent Assembly elected in the state in 1951 created a local constitution and the article, which was initially thought to be temporary, remained. This has meant special status for Kashmir where several conflicts have been fought, particularly between India and Pakistan and between India and Pakistan-supported



The Indian Army has been carrying out cordon-and-search operations against militants in Indian-administered Kashmir since the violence broke out in 1989.



The Kashmir conflict has been an ongoing territorial dispute since 1947 and has resulted in several wars between Pakistan and India. Residents are almost evenly divided between loyalty to these two countries with a handful desiring autonomy.

militants and Islamist extremists.

Unsurprisingly, this seemingly intractable conflict seems a lot like the kinds of conflicts Israel has had with its neighbors, which were also partly the result of a failed partition plan that came out of British colonial rule. Like some of the special status concepts that were once thought applicable to Jerusalem or other areas, the Kashmir conflict is one of those legacies of colonial rule in which ad hoc ideas about easily partitioning areas led to endless tension and an inability of the sudden iron-clad notion of borders drawn long ago to be changed. What was thought

temporary, becomes permanent. In this case, it relates to forms of autonomy in Kashmir, which is also a heavily militarized region. Bloomberg notes that India's leading Bharatiya Janata Party wanted to change *Article 370* years ago.

The problem is that tensions are already high with Pakistan. Clashes in February led to an Indian fighter jet being shot down. India had sought to carry out a precision airstrike against terrorists based in Pakistan. Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan warned on Sunday that a crisis could erupt over Kashmir. He seemed to be predicting the

Article 370 tensions that arrived 24 hours later. But his warning was directed at US President Donald Trump who he asked to mediate. He said that the situation on the Line of Control, the area Pakistan occupies in Kashmir, could blow up. He has accused India of new aggressive actions, according to *The Hindu*.

Now the actions seem to come into stark contrast. The tensions are about much more than *Article 370*. India and Pakistan have larger concerns, and the crisis may boil over. This comes as the US wants Pakistan to refrain from stoking tensions in Afghanistan where the US is seeking a deal with the Taliban. It also comes as India wants to assert itself and is concerned over another round, like happened in February when its jet was shot down. India, which has close relations with Israel, has been trying to modernize its army. The Kashmir tensions therefore have much wider regional and global links.

The larger picture is that with the US distracted by domestic politics and also dealing with a trade war with China, tensions in Syria and Iran and numerous other problems, both India and Pakistan want to assert themselves in Kashmir. This has happened before during the nuclear tests in the 1990s and the Kargil War in 1999.

The question now is whether another Kargil-style conflict is upon us. □

GET TO WORK



by Michael Armstrong

Work is defined as activity involving mental or physical effort done in order to achieve a purpose or result. You probably knew that. Indeed, you probably have a great deal of personal experience with the nitty-gritty reality of working. In contemporary parlance work generally means having a business or a job, regardless of whether it puts you elbow deep in dirty dishwasher or on the top floor of a high rise office complex. Nor should we neglect to include those who devote themselves to maintaining a home, raising a family, or caring for someone who is elderly or disabled. Try it, it's work!

Maybe you don't like your work. Worse, maybe you dread and hate every excruciating moment of the mindless drudgery you've contracted to perform and every moment feels like an eternity. Maybe it has its frustrations but is typically tolerable. Maybe (ideally) it's meaningful and fulfilling in every way. The point being, however you feel about it, it is necessary. Traditionally men

worked at foraging, hunting, fishing, or farming. Today we mostly trade our labor for fiat currency, which works out great for our nation's largest employer, the U.S. government itself, but I digress... You must work to survive, to have shelter and sustenance. Unless, of course, you live in a welfare state, but I digress again...

The idea that we must work to provide for ourselves is part of the foundation of humanity. It is evident from creation, throughout the Biblical narrative, and in the Kingdom of God. From the very beginning, man was intended to be doing something. Notice Genesis chapter 2. In it God creates Adam and plants the Garden of Eden. Verse 14 says, "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." That means work. It was literally man's first job. Was it a big garden? It contained "every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food," (verse 9). Adam was told he could freely eat of every tree in the garden, except

one of course. Why? Because he worked there! He was earning his keep so to speak. Pruning, watering, fertilizing, raking leaves; use your imagination, "to dress it and to keep it" could entail quite a lot.

However difficult his duties were, things could be a lot worse, as he was soon to discover. After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree and were expelled from the garden, the amount of work they had to do to get by increased significantly. "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

"Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return" (Genesis 3:17-19).

Idleness is not good for us.

Innumerable studies link activity levels with both mental and physical well being. That being said, there are serious dangers from over-working and stress. Rest and relaxation are also necessary. Apparently, God knew what He was doing when He instituted the Sabbath day! It originates from creation after all. Genesis 2:2-3 reads, “And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.” Not only does the Sabbath day give us a necessary reprieve from our endeavors, by observing it we acknowledge God as our creator and sustainer.

Let us consider ourselves objectively. We need rest, we know that. Yet life gets busy, full of projects with no good stopping place short of completion. Chores with no end in sight. Children, pets, family, friends, all needing assistance and attention. Would you really take a whole day off every week, a full 24 hours, sunset to sunset, if you didn't have to? Wouldn't you be tempted to keep working, keep going just a little bit longer? Thankfully, God COMMANDS you to rest! He “sanctified” the seventh day, setting it apart and making it Holy for a divine purpose that just so happens to benefit you!

Now, if there is one special day you are required to rest what do you think you should be about

on the other six days? Let's not guess, God thought it was important enough to write in stone after all. The fourth commandment, as stated in Exodus 20 verses 8-11, says, “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six

cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

“And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengtheneth man's heart.

“The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted;

“Where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies.

The idea that we must work to provide for ourselves is part of the foundation of humanity.

days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.”

Isn't that great? Work six days, rest one. Honoring God is good for you in many ways. It's a total win-win situation. Interestingly, the seven day week is not based on any observable astrological phenomenon like the day, the month, or the year. Thus the need for us to *remember* the Sabbath day.

This theme, this requirement to work, continues throughout the Bible. Psalm 104, enumerating the glories of God's creation, mentions many natural wonders, animals and their habits, and even man. Verses 14-24 read, “He causeth the grass to grow for the

“He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down.

“Thou makest darkness, and it is night: wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth.

“The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth, they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

“Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening.

“O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.” Man, working all day, is part of the natural order of things.

There are many quotable verses from the Proverbs on this matter. Such as chapter 18:9, “He

also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.” Also chapter 14:23, “In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury (poverty).” Though the necessity to work is stated over and over, emphasis is constantly laid on how we go about it. Riches and wealth are not to be the culmination of our desires. Proverbs 16:19 reads, “Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.”

We must tread carefully in our endeavors. We labor for gain but we do not covet the increase. It’s a conundrum that must be solved by every individual, as the Lord put it, “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:14). Nor does our duty end once our physical needs are satisfied. Salvation is given to us freely. Nothing you can do in life will earn it. No one truly deserves it, yet through the grace of God we

have received it. What then is our responsibility? Paul wrote, “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

These good works should define your life in a way that no one should have to ask, are you a Christian? It should be obvious! Even at the menial job you detest? Yes! Colossians 3:22-25 says, “Servants, obey in all things your masters according to

“Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

“He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

“He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.”

Psalm 15:1-3

the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God;

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

“But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

Conquer every frustrating problem or situation as a living example of faith in Jesus Christ. Every obstacle is an opportunity to demonstrate the very power of God’s Holy Spirit, dwelling inside of you, to overcome. Isn’t the change that has been wrought in you truly a notable miracle? Your family, friends, and coworkers have probably heard the name of Jesus. The way you live your life can show them His power! “In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that can-

not be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:7-8). Preaching the gospel, doing the work of God, starts with the evidence that God is working in you.

endeavors of those who keep His commandments. Moses said, “He is the Rock, His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

The effort spent on others, helping, instructing, or even just listening or being nearby, is never wasted.

Our lives are passed in laboring for the most part. Hopefully there is joy in it, at least a certain satisfaction of accomplishment or resolution to persevere on to some goal. The effort spent on others, helping, instructing, or even just listening or being nearby, is never wasted. It is an adornment to the crown that awaits you, a powerful testimony to the sincerity and dedication of your faith. Part of the covenant God made with Israel was to bless the

If the work we must do to provide for ourselves and our families is tedious or seems meaningless, know that it is the way we go about it that truly counts. Our net worth does not matter. The accolades men have created to award one another do not matter. It is the quality of your character that matters. Your dedication to the truth and the example set for others. Do the works of God, and in so doing accomplish the work of God. □

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OUR AWESOME UNIVERSE

by Garner Ted Armstrong and Paul W. Kroll

When you look up into the starry heavens on a clear night you can see about 6,000 to 7,000 stars with the naked eye.

Where did those stars come from?

Why are they in existence? Who or what regulates those stars—and the entire universe?

The universe is an AWESOME entity.

Most astronomers accept what is thought to be a proven observation—that the universe is expanding. When one realizes the distances astronomers tell us of, it's frankly bewildering. The human mind must struggle to grasp its size.

SPANNING COSMIC DISTANCES

Have you ever wondered just how large are even short distances in the universe? Or how large the earth is in comparison to other astral bodies? How large, for example, is the earth in comparison to the sun—which itself is just a second-rate star? Let an astronomer explain:

“Suppose we make a scale model where the distance of the earth to the sun, ninety-three million miles, is just under

one-quarter of an inch.

“Now take a dime [or a sixpence] out of your purse.

“On the scale of our model the orbits of the four inner planets Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars fit comfortably on this coin with the orbit of Mars represented by the circumference.

“The orbit of Neptune, the outermost large planet, will be fourteen inches across.

“And on the scale of our model where will the nearest star be? Exactly one mile away from the dime. This is the closest star. The center of our star system or galaxy, would be over six thousand miles [or the distance from Los Angeles, California to London, England] from the dime, and the millions of other galaxies very much further away.” (*This Universe of Space*, Peter Millman, pages 15, 16. All emphases ours throughout article.)

JOURNEY TO THE PLANETS

When we travel to work or to shop, we usually judge distance in terms of how long it takes us to get to a certain place.

Let's plan out a few journeys. We'll make a cosmic trip to

the sun—and beyond!

We climb into a jet plane. Soon we're winging along at the speed of sound—750 miles per hour. How long would it take for us to reach the sun?

FOURTEEN YEARS!

We increase the speed to three times that of sound—or 2250 miles per hour. Our destination is Saturn or Neptune. But we'd better forget about going. We'll never make it—because it would take us over a hundred years to get there.

We try a new means of travel.

According to scientific experimentation, light travels approximately 186,000 miles per second in our solar system. To find out the distance light travels in one year, we multiply:

$186,000 \times 60 \text{ seconds} \times 60 \text{ minutes} \times 24 \text{ hours} \times 365 \text{ days}$.

That means light—at least in our solar system—travels 5,865,696,000,000 miles per year—approximately six trillion!

Astronomers, of course, must assume that the laws of physics, as observed in our solar system, hold true for all parts of the universe. They must assume that the speed of light is constant

across space and time, and that no unobserved physical phenomena ever enter the picture.

But are astronomers measuring these immense distances correctly? Or are factors involved which they don't understand?

Will astronomers once again need to seriously revise cosmic distances as they did in 1952—a revision which one author labeled about as serious to astronomy as the stock market crash was to the world economy in 1929!

Now, we're ready for a new kind of ride—a space ship that roars through space at the speed of light. (Of course, it's totally imaginary!)

"Instead of fourteen years, it would take us only eight minutes to reach the sun.

"In a half hour we would arrive at Jupiter, in one hour at Saturn, and at the end of five hours we would pass the outermost planet, Pluto" (*Design of*

the Universe, Fritz Kahn, page 132).

Still a long time—at that speed!

ON TO THE STARS

But the sun and the planets are our virtual "neighbors." In cosmic terms, the distance to the sun and planets are merely inches and less.

Our solar system, for example, is merely one tiny part of the Milky Way galaxy. The sun, astronomers claim, is around 30,000 light years from the center of the Milky Way—if your mind can conceive of such immense distances.

Our sun is but a dwarf star among a spiral of over a hundred billion other stars of varying size—all in our galaxy. This Milky Way galaxy—100,000 light years in diameter and 20,000 light years thick at the center—is only one of billions in

the universe.

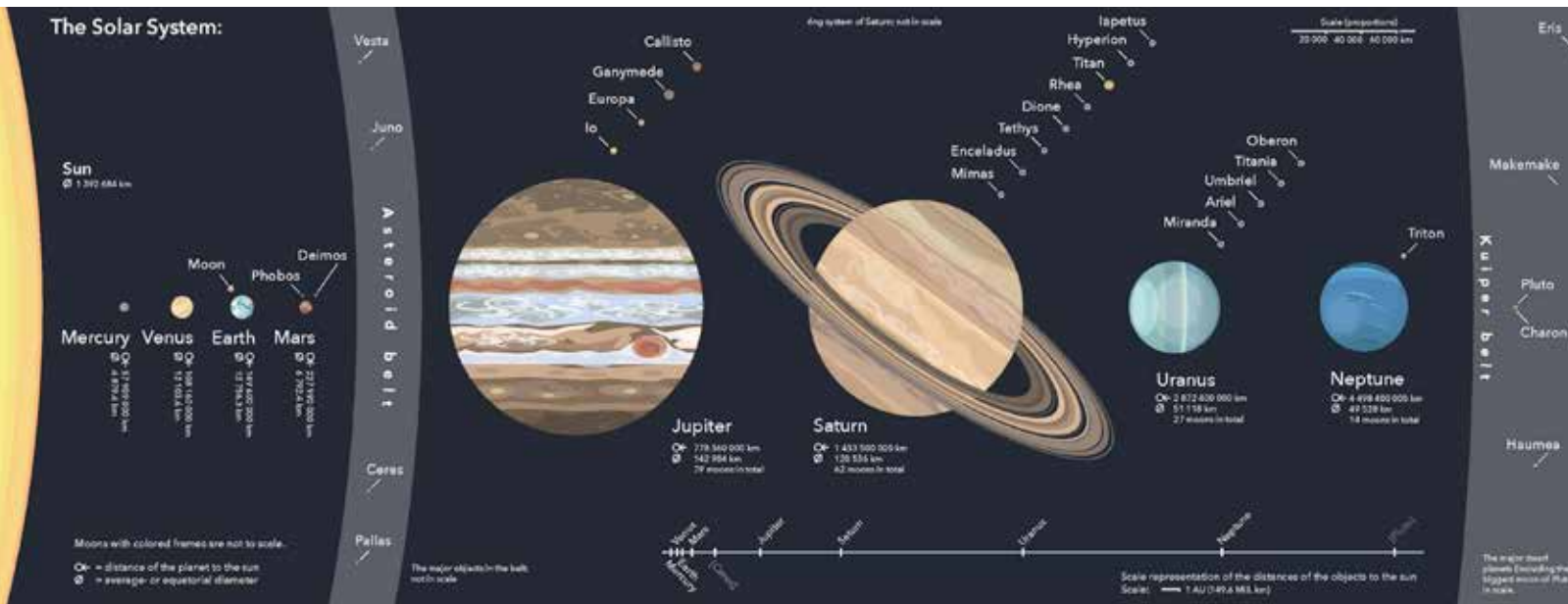
But let's continue our 186,000 miles-per-second journey through space. We want to travel far beyond the planets to some of the "nearer" stars.

"We settle down, unpack our books, open our typewriter and begin a report on the solar system. We have dinner, we play cards, we grow tired at our usual bedtime and go to sleep.

"The next morning we look out the window again. Alpha Centauri is not a bit brighter...we begin to worry. 'How long will it take us to reach Alpha Centauri?' 'Four and a half years' is the reply.

"Four and a half years—traveling at a speed of 186,000 miles per second—will bring us only to the nearest star! 'And when do we get to Sirius, the brightest of our neighbors?' 'Eight and a half years from now.' 'And Alderbaran?' 'Fifty-five years.'

"We cannot believe our ears.



The Sun, planets, dwarf planets and moons are at scale for their relative sizes, not for distances. A separate distance scale is at the bottom. Moons are listed near their planets by proximity of their orbits; only the largest moons are shown.

Fifty-five years!”

“No hope of arriving there and coming back to tell about it.

“But Rigel is much brighter and seems to be closer. So we question him about Rigel. The man with the time-table in his hand answers us sternly: ‘Rigel? You won’t get there. We will get there in five hundred and forty three years.’...and still we would not have left the immediate neighborhood of our own village” (*Design of the Universe*, Fritz Kahn, page 132, 133).

There are, declare astronomers, millions of stars, separated by many light years, in our own galaxy alone. And our galaxy is only one among an estimated ten billion! Each galaxy is itself thought to be separated by a million light years.

As one author stated, an ant

determined to crawl across the United States has more chance of accomplishing its task than man has to even BEGIN to cross the universe!

It’s no wonder Job cried out, speaking of God, “Who alone spreadeth out the heavens... who makes Arcturus, Orion and Pleiades” (Job 9:4-9).

AT THE OUTER LIMITS

Astronomers have been shocked to realize that man is approaching the outer limits of his ability to measure the universe.

“Out there” is a vast region to which man cannot penetrate.

One author put it aptly, when he admitted:

“Our knowledge is confined not only in space but also in time. Techniques of radio astronomy

are developing and they will soon reach out to this boundary wall, but without hope of going beyond it.” (*The Limits of Science*, Pierre Rousseau, page 176, 177.)

But what remains on the “other side”?

Astronomy remains silent.

“We have reached the unknown, our terminus,” he continues. “We sought the end of the universe and it has none. Our most powerful techniques leave us face to face with the unexplored void...we do not know what lies beyond the frontier of the perceptible universe” (page 180).

Yes, man’s mind is limited!

He is reaching the barrier of his observable universe.

THE BASIC QUESTIONS

How does this universe—as



The Milky Way galaxy, containing an estimated hundred thousand million stars, as well as interstellar gas and dust, as viewed at La Silla astronomical observatory in Chile.

infinite as it appears to be—operate on mysteriously lawful principles?

Where did the matter in this “infinite” universe come from? Who or what was responsible for bringing this universe into existence? Or was it “always” here? Where is the universe headed?

These are the basic questions. Yet, science has no answer!

You’ve just read a few facts concerning the size of the universe. It’s staggering, awesome—even what little we can grasp of its size. But size is just one factor.

Rotations of astral bodies and their interrelationships can be mathematically predicted. There are laws that guide and direct the functioning of this universe.

Could this all have evolved? Did it always exist? Did matter mysteriously come out of “nothing”?

These are basic questions you need to know the answers to. And believe it or not—you CAN find the answers.

We humans are normally inquisitive. The whole impetus of scientific research—especially in the fields of geology, astronomy, biology and many, many of their more special studies—is that of a thirst for knowledge.

Basically, it is a desire to understand the origin of things.

We want to know why, from our earliest moments. We want to know how a certain household machine works. We want to know who made certain things. Little children began asking where they came from, much to the flustered embarrassment of many youthful

parents.

Perhaps answering these more simple questions is not so difficult.

And yet—even that childish wonderment—taken back to the earliest beginnings of the human race, deals with the origin of mankind.

But here we find a great paradox!

Man must admit he does not know, by himself, where all this vast universe, with the solar system and life on this earth, came from.

Man, in all his sciences, must finally admit he does not know, by himself, where all this vast universe, with the solar system and life on this earth, came from.

So he invents lame excuses.

Why? Because he is driven by a motive.

WHAT MOTIVATES MAN’S “KNOWLEDGE”

He doesn’t even recognize what these motives are.

But let’s hear from a famous evolutionist. Here is a shocking admission about motives. About reasons for denial of supernatural origins. Reasons for rejecting a special creation of everything, and for seeking to explain creation WITHOUT a Divine Creator!

“I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning; consequently assumed that it had none and was able without any

difficulty to find satisfying reasons for this assumption...

“For myself as, no doubt, for most of my contemporaries, the philosophy of meaningless was essentially an instrument of liberation...from a certain system of morality. We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom; we objected to the political and economic

system because it was unjust... There was one admirably simple method of...justifying ourselves in our political and erotic revolt: we could deny that the world had any meaning whatsoever. Similar tactics had been adopted during the eighteenth century and for the same reasons....The chief reason for being ‘philosophical’ was that one might be free from prejudices—above all prejudices of a sexual nature.”

The author concluded: “It was the manifestly poisonous nature of the fruits that forced me to reconsider the philosophical tree on which they had grown.” [Emphasis ours.] (Aldous Huxley, *Ends and Means*, 1937, pp. 312, 315, 316, 318.)

There you have it!

That is a remarkable fulfillment of Bible Prophecy.

The Bible plainly states why atheistic thinkers wish to keep

consciousness of God out of their minds! There is an underlying motive as the Bible reveals.

Listen. “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge [that is, in their education], God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness,

huge vanity, will not recognize any supreme authority over his life!

He resents God as His Ruler! He doesn’t want any God telling him what to do—how to live—laying down codes of conduct, and enforcing penalties for broken laws!

The true motives in atheism, and a desire to be “willingly

“They [the philosopher-educators of the ancient world] say that fire and water, and earth and air, all exist by nature and chance...and that as to the bodies which come next in order—earth, the sun, and moon, and stars—they have been created by means of these absolutely inanimate existences...after this fashion and in this manner the whole heaven has been created...not by the action of mind, as they say, or of any God, or from art, but as I was saying, by nature AND CHANCE ONLY” (Plato, *Dialogues*, Laws X, section 889).

Is this any different from the ideas today? Absolutely not! Except for modern, scientific garb.

Today, most scientists refuse to accept the possibility that there is a Creator God—even though they admit they cannot explain the origin of matter or the existence of laws.

Notice what one scientist dogmatizes:

“It is the business of science to offer rational explanations for all the events in the real world, and any scientist who calls on God to explain something is falling down on his job.

“This is one piece of dogmatism that a scientist can allow himself” (*The Mystery of the Expanding Universe*, William Bonnor, page 119).

Did you catch that?

Scientists dogmatically assume that the existence of the universe has a rational—and that means a physical—explanation.

But can the existence of the universe be physically explained? Is it possible to account for the

But then, where did matter, energy, laws—the universe—come from? Science says it doesn’t know.

covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents...” (Rom. 1:28-30).

What a blistering indictment!

God says it is obvious He exists by looking at His handiwork.

He said, “...that which may be known of God is manifest [EVIDENT] to them; for God hath shown it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen [by looking at the creation, the material universe; the marvelous, interdependent life forms on this earth!], being understood by the things which are made...” (Rom. 1:19-20).

But the human, carnal mind does not like to acknowledge God. Why? Because man, in his

ignorant” (II Pet. 3:5) are the motives of intellectual vanity and human lust!

Too many people have a totally false concept about evolutionists!

Many seem to assume these men to be completely objective in their approach. It’s assumed evolutionists first tried the Bible; that they studied it, pondered it, read it, wondered about it—sincerely looked into it—and then found it lacking!

Not so!

They reject it without allowing their minds to wonder whether it could be so.

And the same holds true for the ancient pagan philosophers who helped perpetuate the lie of “no God.” The only difference is their motives were clear to all!

ALL BY CHANCE?

Notice what Plato asserts:

universe's beginning on the basis of laws now in existence?

Remember, most scientists assume that the universe has always been as it now is—guided by the same laws (where did they come from?) as it is today.

SCIENTISTS ADMIT IGNORANCE

But do astronomers offer any real answer for the origin of the universe? After all, it DOES exist! And we want to know why.

If it is superstitious to accept the existence of God for the creation of the universe, then we need another reasonable and thoroughly provable explanation of the origin of the universe.

But here science remains silent!

True, if it vociferously rejects the idea of a Creator God. But in the same breath it admits, “We have no idea of how the universe originated.”

Let's examine a few ideas of the scientists themselves, as they admit, en masse, “We just don't know.”

Robert Jastrow, director, Goddard Institute For Space Studies, admits:

“Science offers no satisfactory answer to one of the most profound questions to occupy the mind of man—the question of beginning and end” (*Red Giants and White Dwarfs*, page 53).

George Gaylord Simpson, eminent paleontologist, states very frankly:

“The theory just outlined [evolution] obviously does not yet answer all questions or plumb all mysteries...it casts no light on

the ultimate mystery—the origin of the universe and the source of the laws or physical properties of matter, energy, space, and time.

“Nevertheless, once these properties are given...” (*This View of Life*, page 21).

“Properties?” What properties? How can serious-minded scientists casually wave aside the WHOLE QUESTION of the origin of the universe by calling the vastness of it all, the myriad laws, the intricate design, the breathtaking powers and forces working within it all, “properties”?

But they try.

Then, having waved aside

the whole question they're trying to answer, they go on to explain, how “once these properties are given” they can use various guesses as to the origins of the solar system, the earth, and ultimate life upon it.

But we have proved in past articles—and will in future—that even once these properties are given, evolution has as much, if not much more of a problem, explaining the creation.

But then, where did matter, energy, laws—the universe—come from? Science says it doesn't know. But it allows itself to dogmatize that it couldn't be created.



Helix Nebula NGC7293, also known as the “Eye of God,” is made of the ejected gas of a dying star, viewed by the Hubble telescope.



The famous “Pillars of Creation,” stretching almost five light years tall, are just one part of the massive “Eagle Nebula,” a star-forming nebula composed of interstellar hydrogen gas and dust (pictured opposite page with well known areas highlighted).

MORE ADMISSIONS

But let's continue with some further admissions:

Lincoln Barnett, writer of science books for the layman, tells us:

“Cosmologists [those who try to answer why the universe is as it is and where it came from] for the most part maintain silence on the question of ultimate origins, leaving that issue to the philosophers and theology” (*The Universe and Dr. Einstein*, page 108).

But cosmologists and astronomers tell us that it is superstitious to accept a Creator God. Yet, they maintain silence.

Why?

Because they don't know. And what they know points to the irrevocable truth—as some privately admit—that there HAD to be a Creator God, having supreme mind, that brought the universe into existence.

James A. Coleman, professor of science and popular science writer startles us with these words:

“Modern cosmology and cosmogony, like other branches of science, are concerned with investigating the laws of the universe. They DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ANSWER questions relating to an Original Cause—that is, where the laws of the universe came from or how they came into being” (*Modern Theories of The Universe*, page 197).

As a teacher, Dr. Coleman must face students, who ask, “Where did matter come from?” After all, it's a logical question.

Dr. Coleman admits, “When giving a lecture on the origin of the universe, a scientist usually finds it difficult to handle questioners who persistently demand to know WHERE the material originally came from which now makes up the universe” (*Modern Theories of the Universe*, page 198).

Yes, scientists probably find it difficult to “handle” questioners who would be so persistent! But you can believe—many of them are “handled.” Many a college student, asking embarrassing and persistent questions of biologists, paleontologists, astronomers, ecologists and the like, are quite handily handled.

Subjected to ridicule, referred to the “Scopes’ trial,” or simply told to shut up about

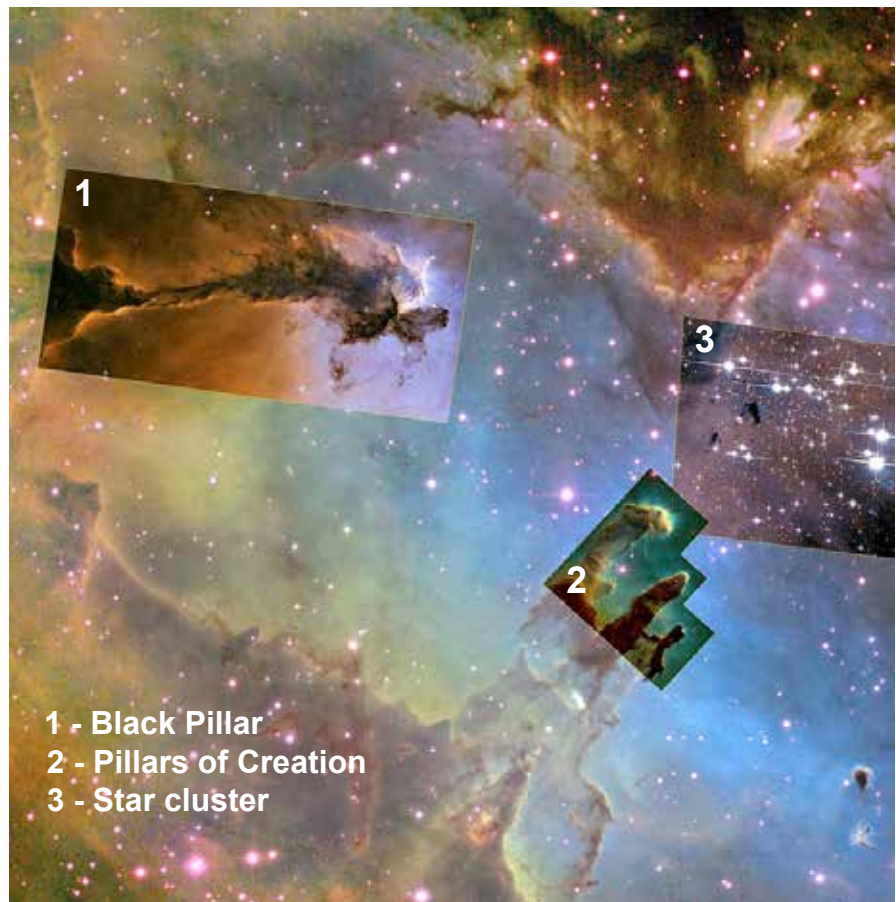
it, these eager questioners soon learn how to avoid the bad grades and embarrassing classroom scenes. They're “handled” all right—as shocking as it may sound to the uninitiated.

By the thousands, young collegians are told to forget all belief in God; to cast aside all traditional values and “absolutes.” They are subjected to a great deal of intellectual pressure to simply be quiet about religion and God in scientific classrooms.

ASKING “WHY” IS MEANINGLESS?

Fred Hoyle, famed astronomer, says that even asking questions as: “Where did matter come from?” is meaningless.

“There is an impulse to ask WHERE originated material



comes from. But such a question is entirely meaningless within the terms of reference of science.

“Why is there gravitation? Why do electric fields exist? Why is the universe?”

Evolution colors all scientific thinking, including the realm of astronomy. But it has not led to any satisfying answers!

“These queries are on a par with asking where newly originated matter comes from, and they are just as meaningless and unprofitable.”

But, why? Is it really logical to reject an answer when no other is forthcoming?

He continues:

“If we ask why the laws of physics...we enter into the territory of metaphysics—the scientist at all events will not attempt an answer...WE MUST NOT GO ON TO ASK WHY.” (*Frontiers of Astronomy*, page 342.)

But is it really meaningless to ask why? Or does the author want you to think it is, so you won't?

SCIENCE CANNOT ANSWER “WHY?”

Scientists don't know why there are laws, why there is matter, why there is a universe, why there is life. And they admit it!

Sir Bernard Lovell, famed astronomer and Director of the Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories, Jodrell Bank,

reviews the problem of the origin of the universe.

“Any answer lies outside the scope of scientific observation and theory and...the answer to the cosmological problem

may well contain other factors than observational astronomy and theoretical cosmology” (*Our Present Knowledge of the Universe*, page 73).

What are the “other factors?” None other than the Creator God!

Harlow Shapley, one of America's foremost astronomers, made an amazing admission. Although science knows something about what the Universe is composed of, and a certain amount about how it works, Shapley confessed, “But when it comes to ‘why’ we're stuck. All we can say is ‘God only knows.’ And the information is classified.

“Science has found the basic hydrogen atom, but who made the hydrogen atom? Science comes up against some things which are unanswerable as yet.”

WHEN THERE IS NO PROOF—ASSUME!

What do scientists do when they cannot prove a theory?

The very first thing to do, seemingly, is assume!

A college textbook on geology declares, without the slightest

hint of blushing, “Since the problem of the ultimate origin of the universe may be beyond the reach of human science, it is better for us to commence our discussion with the assumption that certain arrangements of matter and space are already in existence” (Stokes, *Essentials of Earth History*, p. 127).

Notice! Where do scientists begin? Where do they start? With assumptions! With matter already in existence.

Since accounting for the origin of the universe is too painful a scientific headache for most astronomers, they conveniently start with just a smattering of theory about the origin of matter, and then proceed to an already full-blown, fantastic universe complete with stars, planets, galaxies, and everything else!

OUTSIDE SCIENCE?

Evolution colors all scientific thinking, including the realm of astronomy. But it has not led to any satisfying answers!

Scientists themselves admit, when pressed, “We are today under the spell of the evolutionary thinking begun 150 years ago by Kant and Laplace in astronomy, by Thomas Vuckle and Herder in history, by Buffon, Lamarck and Darwin in biology.” They confess, “We the children of these generations automatically think in terms of evolution, assume that everything had a beginning, and that this beginning was ‘chaos.’”

And then, striking at the root of the problem, they are beginning to wonder, “The question

now arises as to whether astronomical problems can be solved by evolutionary trains of thought” (Kahn, *Design of the Universe*, p. 202).

Dr. Jesse L. Greenstein, astrophysicist at the California Institute of Technology, said in regard to the origin of the universe, “It is a terrible mystery how matter comes out of nothing.” He asked, “Could it have been something outside science?” Dr. Greenstein confessed, “We try to stay out of philosophy and theology, but sometimes we are forced to think in bigger terms, to go back to something outside science.” (*Los Angeles Times*, July 30, 1961.)

You have now read with your own eyes the problems astronomers face. God is rejected as Creator.

But cosmologists have no substitute for Him. They admit that the origin of the universe cannot be explained.

ORIGIN OF UNIVERSE A MYSTERY

Science has no answer for the origin of our universe.

Yet, much of science dog-

matically insists on rejecting the only possible answer—that of special creation by the great Architect of all that exists!

God has not left science without a witness!

Scientists should be the most awestruck of all men about God! Scientists, with their various apparatuses for observation, measurement, and experimentation, should be men of deep spiritual conviction, absolutely thunderstruck by the magnificence of the things they study!

Some are. By no means is all science completely atheistic. Many leading scientists have come to see the hand of a Divine Creator in our material creation—but they are vastly outnumbered by those who deny that powerful hand.

So—admitting they have NO ANSWER—they fall back on an ancient superstition.

And superstition it is.

Strange as it may seem, atheistic science stands guilty of the very thing for which it accuses “Creationists.” It stands guilty of incredible dogmatism—

repeated insistence on doctrines not proved—not tested—not observed; and it stands guilty of clinging to some of the most ancient superstitions ever to be hatched in the demented minds of savages of dim ages past—that this material creation “evolved” by accident, and that man came from animals!

This orderly universe operates on laws. It is upheld by laws. It exists for a great purpose—a purpose so far beyond the wildest imaginings of most professing Christians it would take their breath!

The very One who did all the creating came to this earth with a message about that great purpose. But men rejected His message—while professing to accept His person.

But this Work of God accepts the whole message of Christ! We do NOT deny the accurate, measured, carefully proved scientific data of this modern age—we welcome it enthusiastically! But we DO most seriously reject myth and superstition. And evolution is precisely that. □

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**WORLD NEWS
BRIEF**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

FINALLY, A STARK ADMISSION

The *New York Times* is regarded as a flagship media organization. Its stories are carried by dozens if not hundreds of other publications. Television networks assemble panels of “experts” to analyze what is written in the *New York Times*, and it drove coverage of the “Russia Collusion” story until it finally collapsed.

Now comes the startling admission from the Editor in Chief of the *New York Times*, Dean Baquet, who proudly admitted that they “built their newsroom to cover one story, and we did it truly well.” So they took fake news and used it as a backdrop, coloring everything else they reported and misinforming millions, intentionally!

But now there’s a new angle. The nation’s flagship media outlet has admitted that they’re going to “shift resources,” and, “use all our muscles” to double down on flinging “racist” accusations as a focal point of everything we’ll hear for some time to come. Get used to it. Either get on board with every shifting politically-correct demand, or be accused and smeared by the flagship newspaper that is rewriting American history with the stated intent to make everything about racial division. The mainstream media has become nothing more than deceitful propaganda. And they’re so proud of themselves.

MILLIONS OF MARTYRS

We’ve known for years that the “diplomatic” statements that come from the likes of Israel’s ene-

mies don’t often reflect what they’re saying to their followers. The so-called “president” of the Palestinian Authority let fly in a speech at a refugee camp near the town of Ramallah that got our attention. He’s calling for “millions of fighters” to swarm Jerusalem, killing the Jewish residents and destroying everything they’ve built. Just so you get the drift, here’s a quotation confirmed to be accurate by the Middle East Media Research Institute known as MEMRI. “To Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions!” (I thought you had to already be dead to be a martyr, but they might turn out to be martyrs if they try to carry out Abbas’ threat.) “We shall enter Jerusalem—millions of fighters! We shall enter it! All of us, the entire Palestinian people, the entire Arab nation, the Islamic nation and the Christian nation. They shall all enter Jerusalem!”

It seems like they tried this in the Six Day War back in 1967 when they attacked from all sides. From Egypt, from Lebanon, from Jordan and Syria. Their brave fighters threw down their guns, ditched their boots and ran for their lives. In fact, that’s when they lost everything from East Jerusalem to the River Jordan. Ever since, they’ve tried to portray themselves as the world’s foremost victims. They deny the Holocaust ever happened, that way they can claim victim-hood that surpasses anybody else on earth, especially the Jews who they want dead or gone.

The utterances of Abbas to his Palestinian audience, which by now has coursed through the entire Arab world and even appears in the American

press, sound vaguely prophetic. You know, the part about Jerusalem being surrounded with armies...In fact, it's just another example of an attempt to encourage terrorism as if it's the path to the realization of a great cause. Abbas' speech went on to defend the payments that are made to the families of dead terrorists and those wounded trying to realize their bloodthirsty dream. "We will not accept their designation of our martyrs as terrorists...All the money will go back to them, because the martyrs, the wounded and the prisoners are the most sacred things we have." He might be right about that last part, because nothing about their murderous cause is "sacred."

THE CLIMATE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY OR HIDE THE HOCKEY STICK!

Don't hold your breath waiting for the mainstream media to inform the public of this major disaster for their "climate emergency" agenda. Michael Mann is a climatologist from Penn State University, and the creator of the infamous "hockey stick graph." His "findings" have been used by the UN to support predictions of an imminent worldwide climate disaster unless nations (particularly the U.S.) rearrange entire economies to "fight climate change." Six years ago Mann sued Dr. Tim Ball on the basis of libel and defamation for disputing Mann's data. Mind you, this is the data upon which "90 some percent of scientists agree," composing the supposed "consensus" the media lectures about endlessly. It was invoked heavily in Al Gore's badly misnamed *Inconvenient Truth* movie.

Suing Dr. Ball probably seemed like a good idea six years ago, but not anymore. It seems that Mann defied the judge's orders, and REFUSED to produce the data that led to his "hockey stick" graph which supposedly proved that worldwide temperatures have gone up dramatically since the industrial revolution, proving "man-made climate change."


Not only was Mann's case thrown out, the Judge in British Columbia has ordered him to pay the attorney's fees of Dr. Ball, which after six years must be a tidy sum. Now Dr. Ball is expected to file a legal action accusing Mann of acting with "criminal intent," having used public funds to commit cli-

mate data fraud. Not only that, but his "work" has been used as a major basis for world leaders (the pope, Emmanuel Macron, presidential contenders galore...) to constantly lecture us about the need to panic and give up freedom and financial security to "save the planet."

Somehow, the mainstream media managed to get through the East Anglia debacle without informing the public that the whole "man-made climate change" agenda was a hoax, though it clearly was. We'll see how they try to hide or misinterpret this little gem. Oh, and by the way, there are more legal actions coming. Dr. Ball isn't the only one Mann sued. Another action against Mark Steyn is pending and expected to be decided by the Canadian Supreme Court. Dr. Ball may not be finished with Mann either. Maybe we won't have to get rid of the cows and airplanes after all! And Michael Mann, one of the primary creators of the supposed "scientific consensus," will finally go down in flames.

ROOTING FOR RECESSION

We got a heavy dose of the "bond yield inversion" news that accompanied the worst day the stock market had all year, down some 800 points or 3%. Network reports said that the "bond yield inversion" was a reliable indicator of a coming recession. What they didn't say is that this phenomenon has occurred several times before, when it didn't lead to a recession. But several figures in media and entertainment have opined that a failing American economy might be the only way to rid the White House of President Donald Trump.

That's what the media is selling now. Trade war with China has been deeply unpopular with the mainstream media. We've been subjected to all manner of dark suppositions about farmers being unable to sell their goods, and a global financial catastrophe just around the corner. It seems the media would like nothing better. That, as we've heard from pundits and entertainers, is the one way to make absolutely sure that Trump doesn't win another election. So batten down the hatches and prepare for a dark economic future. That's what the media is reporting, and that's what they desperately want to bring to pass. 

BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*

“Once Saved...”

Once a person is saved, is that person always saved, no matter what happens? It is clear that God supports all called brethren with total divine commitment. Jesus truly loves us and supports us. No one can doubt that commitment. Note the following verses.

Romans 8:30, “Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (NKJV)

This verse demonstrates that God has great plans for us. God plans on glory for those who are saved and most men will be saved. God would not want to waste all the billions of people through failure in Gehenna fire which burns to ashes. He plans to glorify us and some are even predestined to be in the first and best resurrection!

Romans 8:38-39, “For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

God so loves us that He will allow nothing to derail our journey toward salvation, except for ourselves. We can derail ourselves. God will not force anyone to be in His family. We alone can undermine our road toward salvation. No one can pull you away from God but you, yourself. The Apostle Paul knew this truth.

2 Tim. 2:12, “If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.”

Further, Paul understood that he needed to discipline himself so that vanity or various other carnal things did not undermine his salvation. He plainly stated this as a lesson for us all.

1 Corinthians 9:26-27, “I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.”

Note the great Apostle Paul knew that he had to control himself or he would become a castaway. The man who wrote most of the New Testament knew he was at risk. He could undermine his own salvation. God loved Paul so much that He allowed him to be afflicted on a somewhat regular basis in order to keep him humble. This affliction helped Paul to be more effective and safe. He would not fall to human vanity and pride and lose out on salvation even though he had more revelations than all the other Apostles.

2 Corinthians 12:7-9, “And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

“For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

BIBLE STUDY

“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”

If Paul had been exalted above measure and puffed up with pride, he would have fallen into the trap of Satan and possibly lost his salvation and eventually become a castaway.

WARNINGS OF THE POTENTIAL DANGERS TO SALVATION

James, Peter, Paul and John sent many epistles to the church members warning of a number of things that could cost them their salvation. These great Apostles certainly knew that being baptized and saved did not mean you now faced no dangers. They knew that salvation was contingent on fighting a number of things that could drag them (and us) into undermining our own salvation. God would always be on our side, but would we always be on God’s side? They warned of being seduced away from God. James gave a blunt, plain warning to all believers:

James 2:17-20 “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone [*by itself*].

“Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

“But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”

James is saying we know you have faith by your actions. However; if someone or some desire alters your actions to turn you away from God, you would lose your salvation. So says James!

1 Peter 5:5-9, “Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time:

“Casting all your care upon Him; for he careth

for you.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

“Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.”

Peter warns the brethren about our spiritual predator, Satan, who can lead us astray and cost us our salvation. Peter tells believers to resist! If we have no danger of losing our reward, why the need to resist?

2 Peter 2:4, “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;”

2 Peter 2:19-21, “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

“For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.”

Peter makes it clear that if we allow a deceived or false teacher to convince us that we are free to openly disobey God, that kind of false liberty will ultimately cost us our salvation. He says we would be better off to have never been converted in the first place. If we allow ourselves to be misled, we will lose our salvation. Peter is very clear on this matter. Paul also gives a stern warning to all believers.

Hebrews 10:23-27, “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one

Continued next page

BIBLE STUDY

another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

“But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”

The Apostle warns all of us not to waver. We should not neglect attending Sabbath services with other believers. We must keep encouraging and being encouraged by others, lest we ourselves fall away. Paul says we need weekly exhorting of one another and even more as the evil day comes closer. Otherwise some might become willful sinners. This means a *defiant* sinner.

Most of us, when we sin because of weakness, repent and ask God for help. God will then forgive us and help us. All of us need to keep encouraging each other to repent as needed like adding salt and pepper as needed to a dish. God will take care of us. But one who sins defiantly and does not care, will lose his salvation in the lake of fire, unless he repents.

Jude 1:21, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

V. 24, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”

John knew that we need to keep ourselves with God’s mercy and use His help to keep us from falling. Obviously John knew we *could* fall.

WHY “PUT OUT” A BROTHER IF HE COULD NOT BE LOST?

Paul put a man out of the church to shock him back into obedience so he would not lose salvation. His bad example could possibly cost others their salvation as well. Clearly Paul knew that once saved does not mean always saved.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5, “It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such forni-

cation as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father’s wife.

“And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.

“For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged [or, determined] already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed,

“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ,

“To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the Day of the Lord Jesus.”

It did work. We learned in the next letter to the Corinthians that the man repented and thereby would be saved. He was not lost, thanks to Paul’s strong actions.

GOD’S LOVE IS PATIENT

God does not want us fretting and worrying all the time about whether or not we are good enough to be saved. No one is good enough! We are saved because of the grace of Christ and the love of God. God will help us get through this life. We need to trust God and do our part.

Philippians 2:12-13, “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.”

Jesus Christ, our high priest and advocate, will help us see the truth and give us the will power to want to obey the truth. We need to cooperate, but it is Christ working in us that brings us to salvation and the truth of God in this dark age.

God is love. He wants us to succeed. He will help us to succeed but we must stay alert. Read Matthew 24 verses 42 through 51. We could lose out on salvation by sleeping spiritually and slipping unaware back into the evil world. □



Illegal Immigrant Bought Baby for \$80 in Guatemala to Get Priority Release in US

by Charlotte Cuthbertson for Epoch Times

WASHINGTON—Children are being rented, bought, kidnapped, and recycled so that single adults, mostly men from Central America, can gain quick release into the United States after crossing the border illegally.

The cost of renting a child varies.

“We’ve had indications... that it could cost anywhere from a few hundred—or even in some cases, less than \$100—up to \$1,000 or more,” said Kevin McAleenan,

acting secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), during a congressional hearing on July 18.

McAleenan said in one case, a 51-year-old illegal alien had purchased a 6-month-old baby



Supervisory Border Patrol agent Marlene Castro speaks to a group of illegal aliens who just crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico into the U.S. in Hidalgo County, Texas.

Continued next page

for \$80 in Guatemala so that he could easily get into the United States. The man, a Honduran national, confessed to border agents when he was faced with a DNA test.

“We’ve seen all manner of smuggling organizations communicating to potential customers and to those crossing the border how to bring a child with them to be allowed to stay in the United States,” McAleenan said. “They’ve been active in advertising, literally on Facebook and on the radio in Central America.”

Homeland Security Investigations, a division of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), sent 400 agents to El Paso and Rio Grande Valley, Texas, in mid-April to interview families that Border Patrol suspected were fake. In the past eight weeks, HSI special agents have identified 5,500 fraudulent families—about 15 percent of all cases referred.

McAleenan said agents have uncovered 921 fake documents, and 615 individuals have been prosecuted for trafficking or smuggling a child.

“That tells me that we might be scratching the surface of this problem and the number of children being put at risk might be even higher,” he said.

“Everybody knows that if they bring a child, they’ll be allowed to stay in the United States—they call it a ‘passport for migration.’ I heard that directly from a gentleman from Huehuetenango, the westernmost province of Guatemala.”

He said almost every



A Border Patrol agent apprehends illegal aliens who have just crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico into Penitas, Texas, on March 21, 2019.

case summary he has seen mentions the same thing: “The subject stated that he made the attempt because he heard in his hometown that anyone traveling to the United States with a child will be released.”

The southern border has become so overwhelmed that most illegal aliens don’t even claim credible fear for asylum anymore, knowing they’ll still be released expeditiously into the United States—especially if they have a child.

In Yuma, Arizona, less than 10 percent of illegal aliens make an asylum claim, sector Chief Anthony Porvaznik said on April 17.

300,000 CHILDREN

Since Oct. 1, 2018, more than 300,000 children have crossed the southern border, according to McAleenan. Most of them entered as part of a family unit, but 67,000 also entered as unaccom-

panied minors. Family units increased by 469 percent from the first nine months of the 2018 fiscal year to the same period in the 2019 fiscal year.

The legal loophole that is fueling the sharp increase in family units was opened in 2015 by a California judge, who amended the Flores Settlement Agreement to prohibit the detention of families for more than 20 days. Previously, the 20-day rule was applied to unaccompanied minors only.

An immigration case can’t be adjudicated within 20 days, so families who cross the border illegally are now released by Border Patrol within days, with a future court date that most fail to honor.

One of the most telling statistics is that of men crossing the border with a child. In 2014, less than 1 percent of all men apprehended by Border Patrol in the

Rio Grande Valley Sector had a child with them. That number now sits at 50 percent, according to Rodolfo Karisch, chief Border Patrol agent for that sector.

McAleenan said smugglers pair up adults and children.

“If they have an individual who wants to go to the United States and someone else has a child that they might want to make some additional money renting [out], or they want the child delivered to a relative in the United States,” they’ll buy fake documents and then get smuggled to the border.

“There’s a whole fake document operation in all three countries,” McAleenan said, referring to Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

“The vulnerabilities in our legal framework [are] incentivizing smugglers and families to put children at risk. The recycling problem is maybe the worst man-

ifestation of that,” he said. Recycling refers to when a child is used by an adult to get across the border easily as a “family unit,” then sent back to be used again.

“ICE now has three significant cases, multiple cities around the country, where they’ve identified a small group of children—say five to eight children—who are being used by dozens of adults to cross our border, seeking release into the United States.”

The adults involved in fraudulent family claims are prosecuted by the Department of Justice for federal crimes including immigration crime, identity and benefit fraud, alien smuggling, human trafficking, and child exploitation.

CHANGING FLORES

McAleenan said Congress could make the biggest impact—“not only on the flow, but on protecting children”—by

making a change to the Flores agreement.

He said that prior to the 2015 change to Flores, the Obama administration started detaining families together for the duration of their immigration case, which takes around 45 days. The flow of illegal immigrants slowed in response, as those with meritless asylum claims were deported.

“If people are not successful in coming with a child being released, they’re actually getting a decision from an immigration judge resulting in repatriation for the vast majority, that would mean others would not try to come,” McAleenan said.

Although almost 90 percent of those who claim credible fear when presenting themselves at the border pass the initial screening, less than 20 percent are granted asylum relief by an immigration judge. For Central Americans, that number is less than 10 percent.

Rep. Katie Hill (D-Calif.) told McAleenan at the hearing that a Democrat-controlled House won’t amend the Flores agreement, nor will it provide funding for more detention beds.

McAleenan pushed back, saying he’s not ready to accept that a system that worked under the Obama administration five years ago wouldn’t be accepted by Congress today. Then, he said, families were kept together for 40 to 50 days in a campus-like setting with education, recreation, medical care, and courtrooms on site.

“We’re not seeing success-



Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan testifies at a House hearing in front of the Committee on Oversight and Reform, in Washington on July 12, 2019.

ful results in immigration cases when anyone is released from being detained in custody, but especially for families—they're more likely to cut off their [tracking] bracelets; they're less likely to show up for hearings; they're less likely to respond to a final order of removal," McAleenan said. "So being able to address that at the border in an expedited and fair way, with due process, is a much better solution than what we're doing now."

He said he's already discussing bipartisan options with the Senate Judiciary Committee, but he'd like to start a discussion in the House.

67,000 UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

McAleenan is also concerned about the increased number of unaccompanied minors coming across the border and the legal loopholes that prevent them from being sent back home.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) has been established for years to help victims of trafficking; however, a loophole prevents the United States from returning children back to their home countries unless they are from Canada or Mexico (contiguous countries).

McAleenan said even if Central American countries want their children back, U.S. law prohibits it.

"We've had all three ambassadors from the Northern Triangle countries assert that those governments should have some say in what happens to that



Border Patrol apprehends illegal aliens who have just crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico near McAllen, Texas, April of 2019.

unaccompanied child," he said.

Instead, an unaccompanied child gets moved from Border Patrol to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which then finds a sponsor in the United States to place the child with.

Currently, around 11,000 unaccompanied minors are in the care of HHS, creating a proxy foster care system. The vast majority (88 percent) hail from the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Most are aged between 15 and 17.

"The number of unaccompanied minors entering the United States during this fiscal year has risen to levels we have never before seen," Jonathan Hayes told the House Judiciary Committee on July 25. Hayes is responsible for the unaccompanied minor program within the HHS's Office and Refugee Resettlement department.

Hayes said that as of June, the average length of time that a child stays in HHS custody is approximately 42 days—a "dramatic decrease" from late November 2018, where the average length of care was 90 days.

McAleenan said it's often a parent, who is already in the United States illegally, who pays a smuggler to deliver their child up to the border.

"I don't think most people realize that most of these unaccompanied children are being released to parents or relatives in the United States who are also here unlawfully, who may not have permission to work in the United States," McAleenan said.

New restrictions, placed by Congress in the latest round of appropriations, include a provision that illegal aliens in a household with an unaccompanied minor are now exempt from deportation. □

How Conveeenient!

by Mark Armstrong



You've probably heard or seen some of the reports coming out of the UN. Cows, they claim, are destroying the planet. In one of the most bizarre fantasies ever, global warming fanatics claim that the bodily emissions from bovine herds are contributing to "global warming," or "climate change," take your pick. Goldsmiths University of London has banned the sale of hamburgers on campus, supposedly to reduce its carbon footprint.

Do college officials really believe they can alter weather patterns by such an act? They must know better. But these things don't need to actually work or make sense. They've just got to get the urgency of the climate crisis through our thick heads, and of course virtue-signal that they're taking concrete action to "save the planet." And that makes them much more virtuous than you.

The "conveeenient" aspect (intended to be spoken in "church-lady" parlance) is the August release of a UN study that suggests that eating meat contributes to climate change, and therefore the "destruction of the planet." You may think these headlines are made up, but they're real, as a quick search on

your device will confirm.

From *Time* magazine, "United Nations Climate Report Suggest People Should Eat less Meat." The BBC ran with, "Plant-based diet can fight climate change." From NPR, "To Slow Global Warming, UN Warns Agriculture Must Change." The *Telegraph UK* says, "Eat less red meat to reduce climate change." The *New York Times* published this, "Climate Change Threatens the World's Food Supply."

AP wire service wrote, "UN climate report: Change land use to avoid a hungry future." *The Guardian* ran the headline, "Huge reduction in meat-eating 'essential' to avoid climate breakdown." MSN wrote, "Humans must adopt vegetarian or vegan diets to stop climate change, UN report warns." And they don't just mean meat. They also want us to stop eating eggs and drinking milk. Maybe that seems like overkill on the headlines, but it's just the tip of the iceberg. They go on page after page as you'll see when you check your device. Even *National Geographic* wrote, "Eating meat has 'dire' consequences for the planet, says report."

You're starting to get the picture. Nearly every outlet of

information on earth has gone forward with the "dire" UN report that says we either forgo meat and dairy products, or accept responsibility for "destroying the planet."

And here's where it really gets special. You know who the number one investor is in the field of meatless meat? Yep. Al Gore. Mr. Gore instigated dozens of headlines when he publicly went "vegan" back in 2013. He's reportedly the top investor and partner in a company called "Beyond Meat." No doubt restaurants and fast-food franchises will be pressured to carry their meat-less meat products or be accused of contributing to the planet's destruction. Millions may already have been shamed into announcing that they no longer consume meat, and are now helping to "save the planet."

Now it's all over TV. Burger King has introduced the Impossible Burger, and the actors claim it tastes just like a Whopper. Never mind that it has 22 ingredients that include things you probably would never eat. The confluence of the UN report, the promotion of "Beyond Meat" and Mr. Gore's involvement is beyond coincidence. □

People Everywhere

Continued from page 2

rule but it was too late.

Residents of Hong Kong, having long enjoyed the freedoms and protections of British custom and law, feared that their lives and freedoms were about to be subsumed by the brutality of the communist regime. The Chinese legal system doesn't have the best reputation, to put it mildly. Hong Kongers, as they call themselves, expect to be able to live under a system of relative freedom at least until 2047 when Hong Kong is due to revert to full Chinese control.

Reports show that these demonstrations have brought out young adults who will only be middle-aged by 2047 and believe that now is the time to stand up to the communist Chinese regime. They've blocked subway entrances, major boulevards, and congregated around government



A sign lists the demands of the Hong Kong protesters for the future of the “one country, two systems” relationship with China.

buildings. With the strikes now targeting travel, tourism, and city boulevards, the Chinese government is showing signs of getting tough.

Most think of Hong Kong as being the busy Lantau Island that is home to the international airport and financial center, and Hong Kong Island. The New

Territories, however, is included under the British treaties, and entails part of the Chinese mainland only separated by a border. Recent reports indicate a build-up of Chinese military forces along that border. This has been reported even by the White House, which says the situation is being carefully monitored.

No one has forgotten the brutality with which the Chinese dealt with the protests in Tienanmen Square in 1989, and there are fears that another brutal military crackdown may be in the offing, treaty or no treaty. The protesters show no sign of backing down, and neither does the communist regime.

Hong Kong Airport was shut down as demonstrations paralyzed operations August 12. The Chinese Foreign Ministry claims the unrest is the handiwork of the United States, and that American faces have appeared within the crowds. Chinese troops are said to be in Hong Kong, on standby,



Protesters held signs and handed out pamphlets explaining their plight to travelers at the Hong Kong International Airport.

keeping a low profile. But for how long?

Even though the U.S. has no involvement or direct interest in what is going on in Hong Kong, some of the protesters are carrying the American flag and singing the national anthem. President Trump has said only that he wants everything to work out and expressed the hope that, “nobody gets killed.” ABC News reports that the State Department has called for restraint on all sides, “but has vocalized more support for the protesters than Trump, saying

the U.S. is ‘staunch in our support for freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly in Hong Kong.’ ” But Chinese officials want to blame the United States for instigating the ongoing debacle.

Far from instigating the perilous situation in Hong Kong, Americans are feeling helpless to do anything about resolving a situation where 7 ½ million residents are facing the loss of freedoms they have known from a Chinese government that exerts ruthless control over access to information and freedoms

of every kind. “What are we supposed to do? Invade Hong Kong?,” asked the President in response to media questions.

The trade situation is still in flux between the U.S. and China. President Trump has come out with the statement that China must deal with the Hong Kong situation humanely if they want a workable trade deal with the United States. Now Chinese officials will at least have to consider those ramifications in whatever actions they take to restore order. Other than that, this looks like it may not have a solution. □



Hong Kong, China, 16 June 2019— In the largest ever protest in Hong Kong, nearly two million people have taken part in a mass demonstration against Communist Chinese rule.



Can Brexit Be Accomplished?

by Mark Armstrong

The G7 meetings in Biarritz, France have brought the leaders of the world's largest economies together for a summit. We've seen the little snits. President of France, Emmanuel Macron, wanted to stress "gender studies" (whatever that means), income inequality and global warming. President Trump's aids have said that it wasn't much more than a lame attempt to try to embarrass him at a conference that was supposed to tackle global economic concerns. None of Macron's issues seem to factor in, unless of course we're talking about wrecking the global economy on the basis of the Climate Change

hoax. Top White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow warned that France, as host of the conference, had attempted to hijack the conference with "politically correct bromides." As a result, he complained that trade and economic issues of great importance were getting "short shrift."

The mainstream media had its nineteenth nervous breakdown when Trump failed to appear for the session on "climate change." A "senior government official" attended in his stead. While they were talking about what to do in regard to the Amazon fires, Trump had already sent a 747 fire-fighting jet to get

to work. But what about "gender inequality"? We'll leave Macron and members of the European Union to wring their hands.

Then came Trump's working breakfast with newly minted British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. Both laughed together and expressed optimism that the U.S. and UK would soon be able to ink the largest trade deal in the two nation's history. Trump said that working with the UK while it remained a part of the EU was like them negotiating with "an anchor around their ankle." Both expressed optimism that Boris would be able to work out a British exit from the EU and go forward to a profitable trade arrangement. Who knows, maybe the prospects of a great trading relationship with the U.S. may even help with a reluctant British Parliament.

Queen Elizabeth has agreed with PM Johnson to prorogue—or suspend—Parliament for a short time, so as to proceed with Brexit without further delay, whether or not the EU agrees to a better deal. Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the Labor Party, is threatening to upend the plan by a vote of no-confidence, thereby collapsing the government and calling for national elections. We'll see who's outmaneuvered whom. □



Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson meets U.S. President Donald J. Trump during the G7 summit in Biarritz, France.



BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON ONE: GOD

GOD is the eternal, omnipresent, all-powerful, supreme Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe. God is one, composed of spirit and comprising a family revealed as presently consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. God is a loving, kind, merciful being who wants to share His magnificent existence by reproducing Himself through man.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT:

The most fundamental need facing mankind is to recognize the existence of God and to understand His character, personality and master plan. Man will continue to flounder without real knowledge of the purpose of life until he gains an accurate and clear picture of his Creator.

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW:

The question of whether God's existence can be proved is one that has troubled mankind throughout millennia, stirring heated debate with arguments on both sides. Unfortunately, the form most of these debates have taken is for one person to try to forcibly "prove" God's existence to another by attempting to formulate arguments or logic so airtight as to exclude any other possibility. This approach does not work. No argument, no matter how carefully thought out or logically constructed, can absolutely "prove" God's existence to one who will grasp at virtually any other unlikely explanation or remote possibility. No person can make another person believe in God!

Nevertheless, God's existence can be totally proved to oneself. One who has individually and personally experienced the biblical miracle of conversion, or who has received miraculous answers to

his prayers, has truly and irrefutably proved God's existence to himself and cannot be shaken from this proof by any argument, whether theological or philosophical, as long as he stays in this contact with God.

God's existence is also powerfully demonstrated by creation. The reality of the material universe, the existence of life and the interdependence and sustenance of the laws governing this matter respectively require a Creator, a Life-Giver and a Sustainer. Thus David said: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handywork" (Psalm 19:1). Likewise, Paul records that, "the invisible things of Him [God] from [looking at] the creation ... are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).

The Bible reveals that the one God is a family composed of two members—the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. John's gospel states that these two have dwelt together from eternity and that they share power, glory and majesty, although Christ is second in authority. From the biblical revelation we infer that God resembles man in certain aspects but is composed of spirit instead of flesh (John 4:24), radiating spiritual energy and power. The few

references to God's "appearance" emphasize His incredible brilliance (Revelation 1:14-16; Daniel 7:9-10).

God is the total embodiment of love; He is the originator of law and the giver of every good and perfect gift. His many titles and names (Creator, Counselor, Healer, Self-Existent One, Father, Almighty, etc.) reveal His special qualities of character and personality. Yet it is God's mercy and compassion that are paramount in giving full hope and confidence to fallible human beings who are sinners all.

Perhaps the most outstanding single characteristic of God is His total, unselfish love. This one quality is so much a part of God's entire makeup that He is in actuality its total personification and hence "is love" (I John 4:8). God has demonstrated His love for us in many ways: through the sacrifice of His son (John 3:16), by forgiving our sins, by strengthening our will and determination in the face of trials, and in countless other ways. But perhaps the single greatest expression of God's love is that He has devised a plan to share Himself by reproducing Himself through man.

This master plan is indeed the greatest imaginable truth and the very reason why the entire universe was created. All human beings from all times shall have a full opportunity to become members of God's family. Mankind has been created in God's image (Genesis 1:26) and put on earth to reject evil and thereby to build character so that each human being can be spiritually born into God's kingdom and family. Thus God's family of two revealed persons shall grow to billions, and

God's greatness shall be multiplied by as many times as the incredible number of sons God shall add to His family.

The God of the Bible is both cosmic and personal. He is the Creator of the universe and at the same time is concerned for each human being. He sustains galaxies and controls the full scope of human history at the same time as He focuses His intense concern on each man, woman and child who seeks Him. God is involved with the whole of mankind: in the rise and fall of governments, in the sweep of generations, in the ultimate direction of human society. Yet this same being is intimately involved in the personal lives of human beings of every social stratum, race and intellect. God is merciful to sinners; He is compassionate and deeply desires that we attain the greatest possible happiness and success.

I Thessalonians 5:9 asserts, "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 8:19 states that the entire creation "waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God." God intends for all mankind to succeed at sonship. For now, God rules the spiritual and material universe from His throne in heaven, although His mind and Spirit reach everywhere. Beside Him sits His Son, Jesus Christ, and the two of them, surrounded and aided by myriads of angels of differing ranks and authority, direct the working out of their master plan. Eventually, God's throne will be moved to the "new earth" of Revelation 21 from where He and His billions of sons will rule His Kingdom and the unfathomable vastness of the infinite universe for all eternity. □

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SUMMARY:

- Read these scriptures in your own Bible:
- **Romans 1:20**—The physical Creation proves that a great designer God has made this universe including all mankind.
- **Genesis 1:26**—We are made in the physical image of the Creator God.
- **Romans 8:19**—The entire universe waits for the sons of God to be born into his spiritual family.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:9**—God wants all of mankind to eventually succeed.

QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):

1. How many members of the God Family are revealed in the Bible? 1, 2 or 3?
2. Jesus Christ is God. True or False?
3. Is the word “trinity“ found anywhere in the Bible? Yes or No?
4. God’s number one purpose is to _____ [do what?]
5. No person can make another person believe in God. True or False?
6. God’s existence can be totally proved to _____ [whom?]
7. What major thing that is all around us can prove God’s existence?
8. Creation requires a _____ [what?]
9. Laws require a _____ [what?]
10. David said in Psalm 19:1, “The _____ declare the glory of God, and the _____ showeth his handywork.

11. God is a _____ [what?]
12. God in form resembles _____ [what?]
13. God is a family presently composed of _____ members. [how many?]
14. According to 1 John 4:8, God is _____ [what?]
15. Mankind has been created in whose image?
16. Is God going to add to His family in the future? Yes or No?
17. Not everyone who has ever lived will have an opportunity to be in the Kingdom of God. True or False?
18. Which scripture shows that God has a plan for us and wants us to succeed?
19. Romans 8:19 states that the entire creation, “waiteth for the manifestation of the _____ of _____.”
20. God is presently ruling from heaven. In the future He will rule the Universe from _____ [where?]

LESSON ONE — ANSWERS:

15. (God’s)
16. (Yes)
17. (False)
18. (1 Thes. 5:9)
19. (Sons of God)
20. (Earth)

8. (Creator)
9. (Lawgiver)
10. (Heavens, Firmament)
11. (Spirit)
12. (Man)
13. (2)
14. (Love)

1. (2)
2. (True)
3. (No)
4. (Reproduce Himself)
5. (True)
6. (oneself)
7. (The creation)



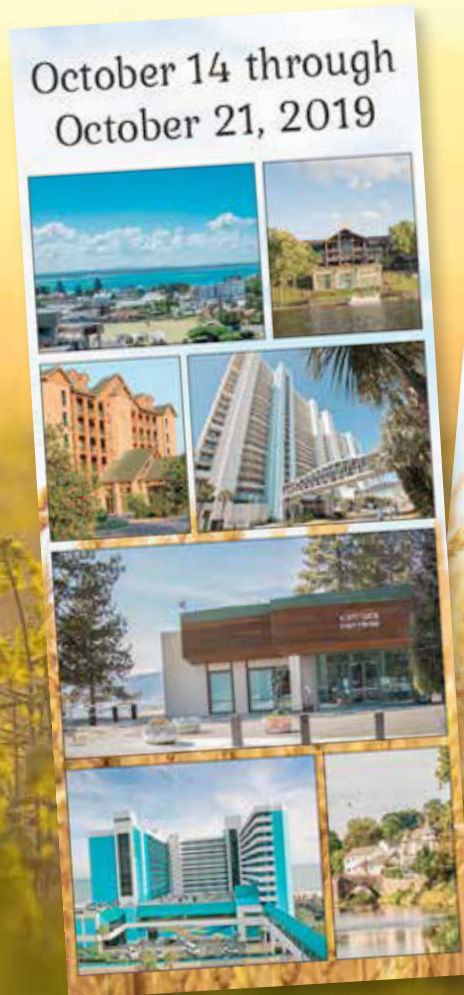
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