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Philippians 3:12-14

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This Genocidal Eschatology

The odds in the Middle East conflict (Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Libya) are shifting back and forth. Russia is now well entrenched (see "Gog and Magog" in Ez. 38-39); Iran will be ready soon to flash its nuclear 'sword', with the ayatollah openly predicting that in a few years' time Israel will have ceased to exist. "Islamic State" (so called) and its absolutely ruthless army of young warriors from many nations are armed to the teeth with ultra modern weaponry. They are ready to give their lives for the cause, even by suicide. In the mean time they evict and massacre all that's in their way - all that holds a different ideology. They take pride in beheadings, crucifixions, burning or burying people alive, raping and selling women and girls into sex-slavery - faithfully following in the Prophet's footsteps.

Their leader of the Caliphate, 'Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi', announced plans to march on Rome, Spain and New York. In Spain there is no feverish preparation to give Islamic State a proper reception. But why Spain, you might well ask. Rome, considered by them the seat of Christianity, must, of course, be brought to its knees. An Islamist would hardly know anything of Revelation 18, but still, he sees himself as Allah's instrument to bring about what John's vision predicts.

New York, on the other hand, symbolizes everything they hate about America and the Americans. The success of 'jihadists' in bringing down the twin-towers was only a foretaste of things to come.

So Spain...? Spain to an Islamist is Allah's country. Most of it, or parts of it, were occupied by Islam from AD 711, when they invaded from what is now Morocco, right up to 1492, when the last Muslim ruler surrendered his last stronghold, the Alhambra in Granada. That 'reconquest' of the country started with Charles Martel in France and came to its conclusion with Fernando & Isabel in the year that Columbus discovered America. It is a shameful stain on Islam's record, which **MUST** be removed.

Israel, obviously, is the Islamists' prime target, but, for the time being, that is on hold. They will first have to deal with the (more moderate) Muslim governments on Israel's borders: Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Cairo. Islamic State is at war with Damascus - once they take Damascus, so close to the Israeli border, it will spell heightened danger for Israel, which already has its hands full with Hamas and Hezbollah.

Interestingly, Damascus figures in Islam's eschatology. According to Muslims, Prophet Jesus will return to assist their 'Mahdi', the last Imam, who will be from Muhammad's family. Jesus will refute the Bible's claim that he is God's Son and was crucified. He will kill the Antichrist and his followers - mainly Jews and women, He will break all crosses on the planet and kill all pigs. He will subject the **whole world** to Islam and to Sharia Law. He will suddenly appear - in yellow garments - at the 'white minaret' in Damascus. He is to perform the compulsory pilgrimage to Mecca and salute Muhammad at his grave, who in turn will salute him. He will be on earth for 40 years, the last 19 married with children.

This is the genocidal eschatology that motivates Iran and 'Islamic State'! They are preparing the ground for Prophet Jesus, who will finish their job...!

Jesus said: **"But when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is near!"** (Lk. 21:28).

Key differences between the Bible and the Qur'an

Understand Your Muslim Neighbor Better! And Love Him More!

Bible

Man was created on Earth, in the Garden of Eden (Gn. 2:8).

The Bible describes clearly what was made on each day of Creation Week.

All things were created through Christ and for Christ. He was pre-existent to Creation (e.g. Gn. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Micah 5:2; Jn. 1:1-3, 10; 3:13; 6:62; 8:35, 58; 17:5, 24; Ro. 11:36; 1 Co. 8:6; Col. 1:16-17; Hb. 1:2).

Christianity is monotheistic (Dt. 6:4), but Trinitarian (Gn. 1:26; Is. 43:10; 44:6-8; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 14:26; 2 Cor. 13:14).

Jesus is God; God's Son made flesh (Mr. 1:1; Jn. 1:1; Col. 2:9).

He received his instructions and calling directly from God, the Father (Mt. 3:17; John 5:19).

Jesus never killed or even fought. He restored life.

Jesus was crucified (1 Pet. 2:24).

Jesus rose from the dead (Jn. 2:19-20).

The Holy Spirit is the third person in the Godhead. He indwells God's people (Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-15).

Salvation is by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9).

The devil, a fallen angel, was the 'serpent' in Eden (Gn. 3; Is. 14:12-15).

After the Fall, Adam and Eve continued on Earth, but they were barred from Eden (Gn. 3:23-24).

Man is a fallen, lost sinner (Jn. 3:19; Ro. 3:23; Eph. 2:1-2).

Death is an 'enemy', that entered when Adam sinned. (Gn. 2:17; 3:19; Ro. 5:12, 17; 1 Co. 15:21-22, 26).

Disciples were called Christians (Acts 11:26).

Christians meet for worship (in any venue) on Lord's Day (Ps. 118:22-24; Jn. 20:19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Co. 16:1-2).

Jesus performed numerous miracles to demonstrate He was the Messiah (Jn. 20:30-31; 21:25).

Numerous prophecies are recorded in 17 Books of Prophecy and Psalms, Books of Moses and Revelation.

Jesus fulfilled many prophecies to the letter. Others are in the process of being fulfilled.

Jesus was sinless. He could, and did, forgive sinners.

Jesus inscribed the 10 commandments on the stone tablets with his finger.

Jesus did not own slaves.

Jesus remained single.



Jesus treated women of all ages (and standing) lovingly and respectfully. He spoke well of them.

Jesus Christ is Lord - the one universal Judge: "The Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son..., the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth." "The Lord Jesus Christ... will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom" (Jn. 5:22-30; Acts 17:31; 2 Ti. 4:1).

Qur'an (& Hadith)

Man was created in Paradise ('janna'), not on Earth. First couple later banished to Earth, e.g. Qur'an 2:36.

No clear details of each creation day. Some vague clustering of the days in 41:9-12.2.

Jesus Christ was a created being (3:59). 'The similitude of Jesus before Allah is as that of Adam; He created him from dust ...'

Islam is monotheistic (5:73; 112:1-4); it denies the Trinity (5:73).

Jesus is not God; he was God's prophet (5:17, 75; 9:30).

Muhammad was God's last prophet and received his 'message' from an angel, in the darkness of a cave.

Muhammad fought with, and killed many, many people.

Jesus was not crucified (4:157).

Jesus did not rise from the dead.

The Holy Spirit is the angel Gabriel (2:97; 16:102).

Salvation may be granted upon sincerity and works (3:135; 7:8-9; 21:47; 49:14; 66:8-9).

The devil is not a fallen angel, nor the serpent, but a fallen 'Jinn' (2:34; 7:12; 15:27; 55:15).

Adam and Eve were shifted from Paradise (not on Earth) down to Earth (7:24, also 2:36).

Man is basically good.

No reference to death being an 'enemy'. Death is rather an integral part of the original created Earth.

Disciples declare themselves Muslims (5:111).

Worship is in the 'mosque' on Fridays (62:9).

No miracles, though Qur'an is claimed to be a miracle.

No prophecies.

Muhammad, strikingly, fulfilled the **Bible** prophecies that predict false prophets and teachers.

Muhammad, a sinner, hoped for forgiveness (40:55; 48:1-2).

Most Muslim scholars are agreed that Muhammad was illiterate all his life.

Muhammad owned slaves.

Muhammad had more than twenty wives (33:37; 50:51; 66:1-5). When he was 50, he married Aisha who was 6. She was 9 when he consummated the relationship (Hadith: Muslim 8:3309, Bukhari 58:234).

To Muhammad, women were simply objects of pleasure, they were half as smart as men (Hadith: 3:826; 2:541), and will be the majority in hell (Hadith: 1:28, 301; 2:161; 7:124).

Muhammad, a sinner (47:19), died in AD 632, was buried in Medina, and is awaiting judgment (Hadith: 5:266).

In Galatians 1:7-9, the apostle Paul issued his stark warning against any 'different gospel', even if preached by "an angel from heaven".

THE BRIDE AND HER FRIENDS

Jim vH

There are three most interesting 'wedding pictures' in the Old Testament, which give us some insight into different aspects of the eventual Wedding of the Lamb, that glorious union of the Lord Jesus Christ and his Bride. It is *that* event which all of creation is holding its breath to behold and celebrate.

In reality, of course, 'wedding pictures' is rather a misnomer - we are not shown any wedding-ceremony... It is a matter of 'typology' and we look at three weddings of three different men in the Old Testament who are 'types' of the Messiah. There are details in their weddings that throw light on the Lamb's wedding.

1) Adam in Genesis 2:18-25 is God's son (see Lk. 3:38), roughly in **4000 BC**.

The animals, on that Sixth Day, had all been created with a mate, but no female companion was found for Adam. So God provided for Adam in a very special way: Eve is fashioned out of Adam's rib, while he is fast asleep. The word for sleep in this instance points to "sleep of death", or "coma".

Thus, in Eve's unique creation, we find an indication that New Life must spring from 'death'! Christ "has fulfilled the law" (Lk. 24:44) and that includes Genesis 2. From the (symbolic) 'death' of the "First Man" springs new life, how much more from the (real) death of the Messiah, the "Second Man" (1 Cor. 15:47)! There could not be an eternal **Bride of the Lamb**, if the **Lamb** had not been **slain from the foundation of the world** (Rev. 13:8)! So Eve is a 'type' of the Bride - she is created **from HIM** and **for HIM**! It is **LIFE from death, conquering DEATH!**

Christ, the Second Man, says of her, as Adam did of Eve: "**This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh**". "Both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one" (Hb. 2:11). Paul declares: "we are members of his body, **of his flesh and of his bones**" (Eph. 5:30).

2) Isaac in Genesis 24 is Abraham's son, roughly in **2000 BC**.

In this chapter, Isaac is forty. Only some 15 years earlier had he lain on the altar, ready to be sacrificed. He was "**obedient unto death**", just as it was said of Christ (Phil. 2:8).

Isaac, just as Abraham before him and Jacob after him, was instrumental in bringing into the world God's special people, Israel. That meant that Isaac could not marry a Canaanite woman. As Eve had to be drawn from the Bridegroom's **body**, so Isaac's wife **must** be drawn from the Bridegroom's **family**.

This chapter affords a beautiful illustration of God, the Tri-Unity: Just as Abraham is a type of GOD the Father, so Isaac pictures GOD the Son. And then there is the faithful, but anonymous, steward. He is chosen to actually go into the far country and there to look for a bride for the son. Then he must persuade her to go with him, protecting her on the long and dangerous journey and providing for all her needs. Though not named here, he may be Eliezer, ment-

ioned in chapter 15. He is a wonderful type of GOD the Holy Spirit, who does all **entirely** in the interest of his Master. To persuade Rebekah, the potential bride, the servant shows her the treasures of the bridegroom. Then, through many dangers, toils and snares, he takes her right to where Isaac has been patiently waiting for that thrilling moment...

Before, the two were 'poles apart'; but *now*, with their wedding imminent, and, then, as "one flesh", they are never to be separate again:

LOVE from a distance, conquering DISTANCE!

3) Solomon in Psalm 45 is King David's son, roughly in **1000 BC**.

"You are the most excellent of the sons of men. Grace has anointed your lips, therefore God has blessed you forever. Strap your sword on your thigh, mighty one: your splendor and your majesty.

In your majesty ride on victoriously on behalf of truth, humility, and righteousness. Let your right hand display awesome deeds. Your arrows are sharp. The nations fall under you, with arrows in the heart of the king's enemies.

Your throne, God, is forever and ever. A scepter of equity is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness, and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

All your garments smell like myrrh, aloes, and cassia. Out of ivory palaces stringed instruments have made you glad. Kings' daughters are among your honorable women. At your right hand the queen stands in gold of Ophir..."

As Solomon's greatness is eloquently expressed in this psalm of the 'sons of Korah', so the reader is duly impressed. But then, if attentive, he becomes aware that the beautiful language is not just poetic: it is prophetic! It points not so much to Solomon, as to the One "greater than Solomon", the greater "Son of David" (Mt. 12:42). In other words, we are looking at a 'Messianic psalm' that gives us glimpses of the 'military' prowess and invincibility of the Messiah himself, of his majesty and splendor, of the whole of his entourage, and then, to crown it all, there at his right hand, is his queen, **all in gold!** So this passage, even more than the preceding ones, gives us an awesome picture of what the future holds:

LIGHT from darkness, conquering DARKNESS!

The Bride, in the Song of Solomon, tells her Beloved: "**The day breaks and the shadows flee away!**"

But who was Solomon's bride? She was a gentile, she was Egyptian and she was the daughter of Pharaoh. Yet, surprisingly, she is nameless, in contrast to Eve and Rebekah. However, she does remind us of another 'daughter of Pharaoh', some 600 years earlier - nameless also. When Abraham's children, God's chosen nation, were at the very bottom of the abyss, in the merciless Egypt of a cruel,

callous Pharaoh, it was a daughter of that Pharaoh who, though clueless, was used by Israel's God to set in motion their redemption. How? By adopting baby Moses. Israel was eventually raised from that abyss. Then, centuries later, as Israel arrives at the very pinnacle of its national history, who is the queen standing at the right hand of Israel's greatest king? She is Pharaoh's daughter!

If the other two passages show us glimpses of the Life that conquers death, and of the Love that conquers distance, then here, indeed, we have the Light that conquers darkness. Egypt is pictured in the Bible as the kingdom of darkness. Yet, as a trophy of God's grace, the very daughter of the king of darkness, stands at the right hand of the King of Light!

So, Psalm 45:2-9 show us the Bridegroom, while 10-15 show us the Bride, but verses 16 & 17 show us their progeny, the 'princes' to be born: **"Your sons will take the place of your fathers. You shall make them princes in all the earth. I will make your name to be remembered in all generations. Therefore the peoples shall give you thanks forever and ever."** These princes, in Revelation 20, are shown their seats: thrones prepared for them to reign with Christ on earth.

In the first passage (2-9), the Bride is already seen as the 'Queen', at the right hand of the invincible King - before, during and after his worldwide campaign - when He conquers the nations. It is a preview of *future* reality, described by John in Revelation 19. Now, however, we are still in the *present* reality, i.e. the Bride is still preparing for her Marriage.

That present reality also includes one of Satan's masterpieces, a false bride, called "the Great Harlot". As soon as she is judged and removed, the real Bride takes the stage (Rev. 19:2-3, and chapters 17 & 18).

Simultaneously, Psalm 45:16-17 lead us to focus on what immediately **precedes** the heavenly Wedding, while she is **not yet** crowned as queen. She is still on earth; "the princess" - busily preparing for that incomparable event:

"Listen, daughter, consider, and turn your ear. Forget your own people, and also your father's house. So the king will desire your beauty, honor him, for he is your lord... The princess inside is all glorious. Her clothing is interwoven with gold. She shall be led to the king in embroidered work. The virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be brought to you. With gladness and rejoicing they shall be led. They shall enter into the king's palace."

The Bride must not only be from the Bridegroom's body, and from his family, she must also represent the Bridegroom's universal realm, including the gentile nations! So, who is this **"all glorious"** Bride? She is not the Church (exclusively), nor Israel. A 'composite entity' emerges: many millions of redeemed sinners are part of the Lamb's Bride! All those saved by God's grace through the centuries, have been (*and are being*) added, or 'incorporated', and **together they are the Bride!** (The Father's instructions to his "daughter" are listed again at the end of this article.)

When you meditate on "the Bride and her Companions", what comes to mind? Exactly! The Lord's parable of Matthew 25. Can there be any doubt that Psalm 45 was on his mind, when He told his disciples the story of the Bridegroom arriving at midnight, and of the ten young girls waiting for him with their oil-lamps, and of the wedding that started as soon as the **'virgins, the bride's companions'**, entered? From the psalm we learn that **they also belong**: They too are "brought" - with great "rejoicing". They too "enter the King's palace".

The bride as such may not be mentioned in the parable, but really wouldn't that be expected if in fact all those that belong to the Bridegroom **ARE** the Bride - altogether? In this parable, one of the very last He related before leaving them, He shows his concern that so many 'so-called disciples' will be trying to enter the Wedding at the very last minute, **without having any relation to The Light!** They may be 'friends of the Bride', but that is not good enough; they **must** belong! If they do not **belong** to the Bridegroom - **thus being part of the Bride** - then there's only one thing He can tell them: **"I don't know you!"**, and the door will remain closed!

And so, the marriage of the Lamb takes place in glory. John, the apostle, heard **"the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, 'Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife has made herself ready'. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints"** (Rev. 19).

In Revelation 21, the chapter of **"the Bride adorned for her husband"**, "the Lamb" is mentioned five times. The first quote is about **the Bride, the Lamb's Wife** (9); the last one is about the **Lamb's Book of Life** (v. 27). We must conclude that whoever is **in the Book**, is **with the Bride**. Historically, Abel was the first one ever to sacrifice a lamb and God gave testimony to that gift (Hb. 11:4), signaling his acceptance. Since then, all those trusting in the Lamb of God - the One who takes away the sin of the world - have had their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. They are part of the Lamb's Bride!

The city's twelve pearly gates represent the Twelve Tribes of Israel. On the other hand, its twelve foundations, identified as precious stones, bear the names of the Twelve Apostles, representing the universal **EKKLESIA**.

From the beginning of the Old Testament to the end of the New, **all** of the redeemed of the Lamb are brought in, taking their place either in the 'foundations', or in the 'gates'. All are equally vital and valuable in that holy city.

Then, once again, these are the five instructions given by the 'Father' to his 'daughter', the Bride - i.e., to you and to me:

- 1) **Listen**, daughter,
- 2) **consider**, and
- 3) **turn your ear**.
- 4) **Forget your own people...** So the king will desire your beauty,
- 5) **honor him**, for He is your Lord...! (Psalm 45).

And the Bride's activity right now? **"The Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!'"** (Rev. 22:17)

KEEP ON GOING

Howel
Jones

Lessons from 2 Thessalonians

Paul writes a second letter to the Thessalonians about six months after the first. He is still anxious for their welfare, but thankful that their faith is growing and their love for one another increasing. Their positive testimony is such that he has taken to boasting about them to other churches as examples of those who stand firm despite constant persecution and afflictions.

He interprets that firmness as evidence of an exemplary witness. Indeed God clearly regards them as worthy of His kingdom and vindicates them by granting them relief, while punishing those who afflict them, partially now, and fully at His second coming. They are a living testimony to God's power and purpose. Not only is their salvation of personal benefit to them, but their belief and behavior is such that it represents something of God's purpose. He chose them and called them to this grand privilege of being His exemplar people echoing what he would later say to the Ephesians that *"God's wisdom is made known by the church"*. Aware of this divine purpose being fulfilled, Paul prays that God will continue to make them worthy of that high calling, strengthening them by His power, so that through their strong testimony God will be glorified.

While this experience began with their acceptance of Paul's message, the overriding motivation was an anticipation of the Second Coming, for, they had *"turned from idols to worship the living God and to wait for His Son from heaven"* (1 Thess. 1).

But, that had its drawbacks in the form of a misleading distortion of the facts and misunderstanding of the implications. It seems that there were rumors around that the coming had already taken place (removing some of its motivational force?) Some of these rumors were wrongly purported to have come from Paul.

To counter this, Paul spells out the sequence of events. The 'departure' will come first; then the appearance of the 'man of lawlessness', who *"exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship"*. He will (eventually) desecrate the temple and proclaim himself to be God. Arising from Satanic activity, there will be false signs and wonders; many will be taken in and be deluded as a consequence of refusing to believe the truth and being saved.

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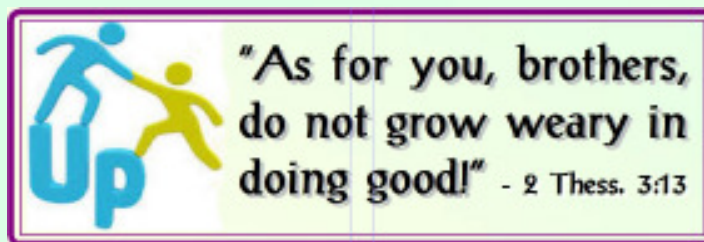
Prevalent though this lawlessness is, and will be, it will eventually be destroyed by the 'breath of his mouth' when Jesus comes again. In the meantime they have even more adverse conditions to encounter and in which to survive.

And, that is what they were doing: standing firm as those whom God has chosen to be firstfruits, *"to be saved through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth"*. Theirs is a privileged responsibility to be worthy of that calling. So, Paul, already thankful, prays that God may continue to give them that enabling and to *"comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word"*.

What they had received had come through a deliberate mission of taking the message *"to the uttermost parts"*. Paul was engaged in that but was conscious that, as he had been opposed in Thessalonica (and neighboring towns) he would still be subject to opposition wherever he went. So, he asks them to pray for him that the word might speed on its way and that he (and his fellow workers) would be protected.

But, sadly, hindrance was coming from 'friendly' as well as 'hostile' sources. It seems that, for some, the prospect of the second coming took away any sense of current responsibility. Some were wallowing in idleness and thus totally disregarding both Paul's

example (when he lived among them) and also any teaching that he brought. Paul warns them to disassociate from such and from those who refused the teaching. It was something that was



in danger of tarnishing their testimony.

Utilizing the teaching they had received and the example they had to follow they were to continue without growing weary in doing good. Or, anticipating the second coming, they – like Moses – should continue *"as seeing Him who is invisible"* (Hb. 11).

What do we learn from this short letter, coming as it does so soon after the first? One very clear lesson is that a good testimony needs to be actively maintained and believers should be wary of distractions that come from distortions of the truth. One safeguard against that is adherence to basic teaching and to exemplar practice. It also reminds us that strong Christian testimony, even within adverse circumstances, is not just personal achievement but is a demonstration of the purpose of God: that in our behavior we represent Him and His ongoing mission, grounded on the saving truth of the gospel and motivated by the prospect of fulfillment at His coming again. If they, as young believers in an hostile environment, flourished, so should we.



The 'high-and-mighty' theologians of The Vatican, from the pope on down, refuse to believe what Moses wrote in Genesis. Well, "that's them", you may think, "we Evangelicals ain't like that!" If that's what you think, **think again!** Who could be more Evangelical than John Stott, NT Wright (both Anglicans), Pat Robertson (Pentecostal Baptist) and Tim Keller (Presbyterian), just to mention four? Which magazine is more 'Evangelical' than 'Christianity Today', founded by Billy Graham? Yet the cream of 'Evangelical' theology is now opting for 'science' (so-called) over the clear declarations made by Christ, Moses, Paul and others. All of these 'Evangelicals', and many more, try desperately to mold Scripture into things it doesn't say, instead of allowing Scripture and God's Spirit to mold their understanding.

For instance, if 'science' decrees that creation was not realized in the six days of Genesis chapters 1-2, then, surely it must mean that these 'six days' are 'allegorical' and stand for 6,000 years, or, even better, 6,000,000 years, or whatever. All the millions and billions of 'creatures' that walked the earth in those very long periods of 'evolution', wherever they came from, they all must have experienced hunger, pain, rivalry, violence, suffering **and death!** Among them some 'microbes' had arisen from nowhere, that eventually produced fish. Then, fish eventually, after more millions of years, produced mammals, and, lo and behold, after more millions of years, there arose 'hominids', a sort of 'ape-men'. These 'hominids', however, had no conscience, no reason, no language, no religion. Killings among them were a 'normal' occurrence.

At a certain point then, in this long 'history', God picked out one pair of hominids and called them Adam and Eve. He gave them reason, conscience, language and religion. They were God's masterpieces, glorified animals!

However, after all that, after Adam and Eve had arrived on the scene, and after death had been rampant for millions of years, it's **not** 'scientific' to say that it was Adam and Eve's disobedience ("the original sin") that brought death.

Now, you may find that, although the Stott-Wright-Robertson-Keller kind of preachers, have made up their minds to choose the Myth of Evolution over the Bible, they may still say that a Savior was needed to save from sin, curse, death and condemnation... And their followers may swallow the compromise now... Increasingly though, they will see through it. They will dismiss the Bible and the Gospel altogether, saying: "Give me the old-time humanism/secularism/evolutionism, that's good enough for me!"

But, praise God! There **are** those who reconsider and repent. RC Sproul (Presbyterian), famous like the others, now says: "I have changed my mind. I now hold to a literal six-day creation... Genesis says that God created the universe and everything in it in six twenty-four-hour periods... One must do a great deal of hermeneutical gymnastics to escape the plain meaning of Genesis 1-2."

What Messiah Jesus said was this: **"If you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. BUT IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE HIS WRITINGS, HOW WILL YOU BELIEVE MY WORDS?"** (John 5:46-47).



My (Truly) Amazing Discovery: *Evidence for Creation*

David Spannenberg grew up in the Newcastle area of New South Wales, Australia. He enjoyed science and avidly followed scientific documentaries. He was also involved in a local church for much of that time, but never heard that there was evidence for biblical Creation until he was in his late twenties. He told his story recently at a public meeting when introducing the scheduled 'CREATION' speaker:

"I attended public (i.e. government) school and in my science classes learned how people evolved from ape-like creatures. I was also told that the embryos of various animals looked similar because they were all related by Evolution, and that layers of rocks formed slowly - over millions of years. I liked watching nature documentaries by David Attenborough on the ABC Channel, and from them I heard more about the Evolution of people and animals. I just believed Evolution was true because that is all I ever heard...

It wasn't until I was about 28 that I first heard any mention of evidence to back up **Creation** and a young earth. It hadn't occurred to me that there might be a problem with believing in 'millions and billions of years' of Evolution.

But then I heard the testimony of a man from the church I was involved in. Brought up in the church, he went to Newcastle University to do a science degree, lost his faith in God and the Bible as a result of evolutionary teaching, and then majored in evolutionary studies himself. But when challenged with scientific evidence of biblical Creation, it had the effect of leading him back to the Bible and eventually making a true Christian of him! He now incorporates 'Creation science' into his class instruction as a science teacher in a Christian school.

From him I found out about "CREATION Magazine" and started to receive my own copies. Initially I got really annoyed through what I was reading. Not because it was bad, but because it was good. **Why hadn't I been taught anything about this evidence for Creation over the last 30 years of church attendance?**

I got to the point of developing a passion for the topic and was really concerned about the evolutionary currents in the Church. I fasted and prayed for the Church as a whole to stop compromising on the topic of Evolution versus Creation.

At that time I read a book called, "THE YOUNG EARTH", by Dr. John D Morris (a geologist) which was really good at showing how geology and the Bible go together. As I read this material during those years, the information gave me confidence to share the Gospel with people, even while I worked as a tradesman. Solid Bible teaching at my new church, and my 'Creation resources' stood me in good stead. **Creation.com** website, which I regularly visit, is full of interesting topics that continue to help build my faith in God and the Bible.

I have a passion now for promoting Creation Ministries' speakers in my home town, all because I love the Church and the Word of God. I long for my fellow Christians to be equipped with knowledge so they can stand for truth in the face of the present onslaught, and under the increasing pressure to compromise, with all the moral implications that go with it."

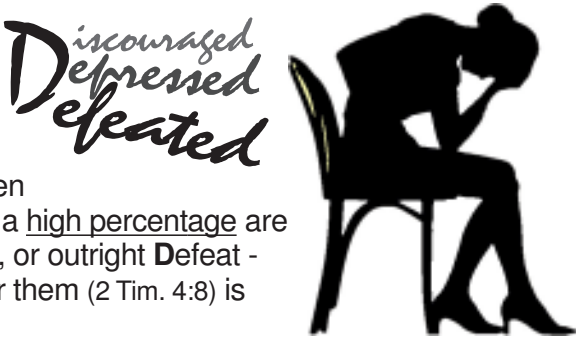


Dear reader,

We think and we hope that you will enjoy this latest issue of **PRESSING ON!** Like every other true Christian, you're in the "race", in the spiritual one. And you know that after a while it's easy to start dragging your feet, lose sight of the "finishing line", get side-tracked, faint, even turn back. **Pressing On!** is here to inform you, to encourage you and to challenge you about **counting on God's grace for all of the race...**

As Philippians 3 informs us, there's the **goal** and there's the **prize** that are set before us, but then Hebrews 10 tells us that the "**considering**", the "**stirring up**", the "**exhorting**" are the things **all** of us are involved in: "**Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching**". It will be obvious to you that the 'considering, stirring up and exhorting' have everything to do with the "assembling". Jesus says that two or three in his name are sufficient for him to be very much present in the midst of them with all that He has to offer. It is absolutely basic for fruitful encouragement and challenge, that you and I plus other 'runners in the race' do so very humbly around HIM, looking to HIM and his open word. You too can be wonderfully used for your fellow "athletes". **Pressing On!** prepares and encourages the encouragers, and can prove to be a very worthwhile tool in your hands...

Picture yourself traveling round the planet, say from Canada, to Croatia, to Cameroon, to the Comoros, to Cambodia, to the Cook Islands, to Colombia or to Cuba. In every one of these countries you'll find true Christians. You may find some big groups, meeting in churches, and you'll find there are small groups, meeting in homes or wherever, even in prisons, but as you get to know them, you'll also find that among them a high percentage are feeling the effects of Satan's 3-D strategy - **Discouragement**, **Depression**, or outright **Defeat** - Christian "athletes" falling, or fallen, by the wayside. The crown laid up for them (2 Tim. 4:8) is receding and could be taken from them (Rev. 3:11).



Not in every country can such folks read English. In many of the 75 countries to which we send **Pressing On!**, English is not even the second language. However, there usually are individual Christians who know sufficient English to grasp the message. And some of these are receiving up to 30 or 40 copies for regular distribution.

We are fully persuaded that you too can become a most valuable encourager of the brethren! And we want you to plainly realize that **PRESSING ON!** is entirely at your disposal to help you, in other words, free of charge!

Please, consider the form below, pray over it, then fill out what applies and send it to us:

- ☐ I can be a regular distributor to Christian individuals, house church(es) or other Christians in **my** region. I need ___ free paper copies of future issues (even of this one too if available).
- ☐ I have access to professional-quality production facilities. I only need a print-ready PDF copy to become a printer-distributor of **PRESSING ON!** in my region (at my own cost). I need info about the format to be printed.
- ☐ Regardless of having the printed copy (copies) sent snailmail, I'd also like you to send me the **pdf** e-copy, so I can easily forward it by email to my Christian friends.
- ☐ Separately I am sending you names, addresses and e-addresses of Christian friends who have confirmed they would like to be on your mailing list, either for email or snailmail.
- ☐ If the Lord should make it clear I must contribute in some other way, I'll let you know, so you can tell me how to go about it.

YOUR INFO: Name _____

Address _____

Country _____ E-address _____@_____

Signature _____

- OUR INFO:**
1. Print this form, fill out what applies, sign it, then mail to:
Apartado 31, 29700 Vélez-Málaga, Spain. **Or:**
 2. Once printed and filled out, scan and email the form to:
pressingonstill@gmail.com

"And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward" - Mt. 10:42.