

LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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**Celebrating
400 Years of the King James Bible**



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Observations by the Editor

Disasters

The world has been reeling the past few months from disasters — both natural and man made. First came the outbreak of revolutions all across the Middle East. And then came the gigantic earthquake in Japan and the subsequent tsunami and nuclear melt-down crisis.

Our office has been inundated with requests that we produce articles concerning the prophetic implications of these events. My response has been that there is no need for new articles because we have been talking about these events for years, pointing out that the Bible clearly prophesies that in the end times there will be wars between nations and rebellions within them (Matthew 24:7) and that there will be an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural calamities (Matthew 24:7-8 and Luke 21:11).

In short, we are seeing Bible prophecy fulfilled before our very eyes.

The Bible makes it clear that God has spoken through signs of nature throughout history. He pounded ancient Egypt with plague after plague until Pharaoh was willing to release the children of Israel from captivity (Exodus 7-10). Before they occupied the Promised Land, God warned the children of Israel through Moses that if they were not faithful to Him, He would afflict them with natural disasters like drought and crop failures. In the book of Joel we are told about a locust invasion that God sent to call the Jewish people to repentance. In like manner we are told in the book of Haggai that when the children of Israel ignored rebuilding the Temple after their return from Babylonian captivity, God sent drought, hail, and mildew until they turned to Him in repentance.

On the day that Jesus was crucified, the significance of the event was underscored by a great earthquake and darkness (Matthew 27:45-54). And we are told that when Jesus returns, the earth will be afflicted with huge hail stones and will experience the greatest earthquakes in its history, causing every mountain and island to be moved (Revelation 16:20-21).

In like manner, the Bible teaches that wars and civil unrest are often punishments of God for rebellion against Him.



Dr. David R. Reagan

One of the greatest examples of this truth is to be found in the book of Habakkuk. The prophet had grown weary of calling the people of Judah to repentance, and so he began to cry out to God to vindicate his message by putting the nation under some sort of discipline. The Lord responded by telling him that He was sending the Babylonians to attack the nation. The prophet was astounded at this news. His response was to point out to God that although his nation was bad, it was not as bad as the Babylonians. He asked, "How can You punish those who are evil with those who are more evil?" The Lord's response was the same one He has given throughout all of history to anyone who questions Him: "The righteous shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). In other words, "Stop questioning and start trusting."

Jesus is about to return. God is proclaiming that fact through signs of the times that are prophesied in His Word. God does not want the return of Jesus to surprise anyone because He does not wish that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). The chaotic events that characterize the world today are designed to motivate people to repentance so that they will be ready for the return of God's Messiah (Isaiah 26:9b).

This Issue

I was really blessed by the research I did for our feature article about the *King James Bible*, and I hope you will be equally blessed by the article itself. May it give you a greater appreciation for the sacrifices that were made to get the Bible translated and published in the English language. God's Word is our most precious possession, apart from Jesus Himself. ✚

Celebrating 400 Years of the King James Version

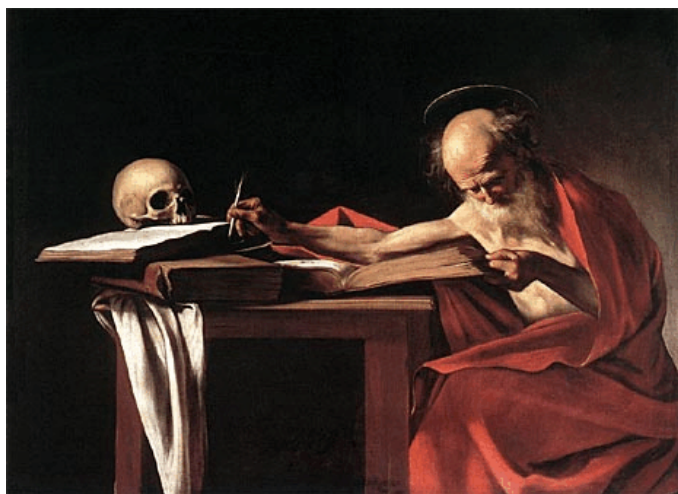
Dr. David R. Reagan

The King James Version of the Bible was published 400 years ago in 1611, and it served the English-speaking world very well during the 250 years of its peak acceptance (1700 to 1950).

It was not really a new and fresh translation of the Scriptures. Rather, it was primarily a revision of previously existing translations. And for that reason, it cannot be fully appreciated apart from a history of the English translations of the Bible.

The Latin Vulgate

The first point that needs to be made clear is that the Bible used in the Western world for almost 1200 years prior to the King James Version was the *Latin Vulgate* (vulgate means the Latin that was commonly spoken).¹ This translation was produced between 382 and 405 A.D. by Eusebius Hieronymus, better known as St. Jerome (c. 347-420 A.D.).² He worked from Greek texts to produce his New Testament translation. When translating the Old Testament he resorted to Hebrew texts and is generally regarded as the first to do so. All previous translations of the Old Testament had been based on the Septuagint, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures which was produced in the 3rd Century B.C.³



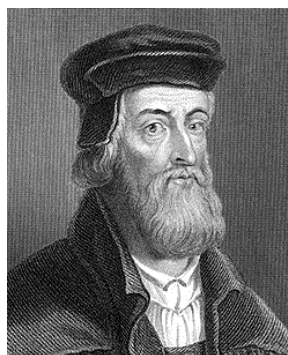
“St. Jerome” by Carvaggio (1571-1610). Monks used skulls as an aid to meditation, to remind them of their mortality.

By the time of the King James Version, Latin had ceased to be the common language of peoples in Western Europe. It was understood primarily by the educated, and Latin Bibles were confined to libraries and churches. The average person was illiterate and had little knowledge of the Bible. Basically, all they knew about Christianity is what the Roman Church taught them, and much of that was thoroughly unbiblical.

The Wycliffe Bible

The story of English translations begins in the 14th Century with an Oxford professor and theologian by the name of John Wycliffe (c. 1328-1384).⁴ He was a dissident Catholic who produced hand-written translations of the Scriptures in English, all of which were translated from the *Latin Vulgate*. Here is a sample of his translation in 1380 of John 3:16 —

For god loued so the world; that he gaf his
oon bigetun sone, that eche man that bileueth
in him perisch not; but haue euerlastynge liif.⁵



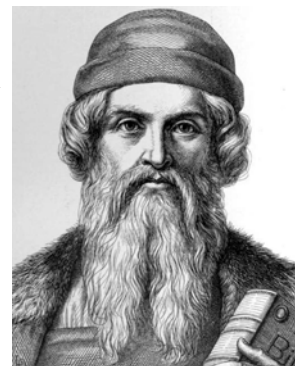
John Wycliffe

Wycliffe's efforts to get the Scriptures into the language of the English-speaking peoples enraged the Vatican. The Church fought against the Bible being translated into vernacular languages for fear it would undermine unbiblical traditions like indulgences. The rage of the Vatican was so great, that 40 years after Wycliffe had died, the Pope ordered that his bones be dug-up, crushed, and scattered in a river.⁶ The opposition of the Church

throughout this period was, in fact, so virulent that in 1517 seven people were ordered to be burned at the stake for teaching their children to say the Lord's Prayer in English rather than in Latin.⁷

Johannes Gutenberg

In the midst of all this struggle to get the Bible into the languages of the people, a profound event occurred that had to represent the perfect timing of God. A German printer and publisher, Johannes Gutenberg (c. 1398-1468), invented a printing press with movable type.⁸ Significantly, the first thing he printed was a copy of the *Latin Vulgate Bible*.



Johannes Gutenberg

Looking back on this development today, it is obvious that God was preparing the way to get His Word into the hands of the common people.

William Tyndale

The next key individual in the effort to produce an English Bible was a remarkable man named William Tyndale (c. 1494-1536).⁹ In fact, he ultimately proved to be the most important person in the whole process, as we shall see.

Tyndale was a genius who was fluent in eight languages. He was the leading scholar of Greek at Cambridge University when he decided to translate the New Testament into English. When he could not get the approval of the Church for his project, he



William Tyndale

moved to the Continent and took up residence in Germany where he finished his translation in 1525. Four years later he began translating the Old Testament.

Tyndale's translations were the first in English to be based directly on Greek and Hebrew texts. His English New Testament was the first to be printed, making it available for widespread distribution. Copies were smuggled into England, resulting in Tyndale being

declared a heretic. He further enraged English authorities when he wrote and published an attack in 1530 on King Henry VIII's divorce.

In 1535 Tyndale was betrayed by a friend and arrested in Brussels, Belgium, where he was imprisoned for a year before he was tried for heresy and then was strangled and burned at the stake. His last words were, "Lord! Open the King of England's eyes." Within four years his prayer was answered when the King ordered four translations of the Bible to be published in English, all of which were based on Tyndale's work.¹⁰

The Coverdale Bible

During the year Tyndale was imprisoned, two of his disciples completed translating the Old Testament into English. They were Myles Coverdale (c. 1488-1569) and John Rogers (c. 1500-1555). Although Tyndale has based his translation of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) on Hebrew texts, Coverdale and Rogers translated from Martin Luther's German text (completed in 1534) and the *Latin Vulgate*.



Myles Coverdale

Coverdale and Rogers took what they had done and combined it with Tyndale's complete New Testament and his partial Old Testament translations to produce what came to be called the *Coverdale Bible*.¹¹ It was published in 1535.

The Great Bible



Henry VIII

Meanwhile, King Henry VIII had broken with Rome in 1534 over his divorce of Catherine of Aragon, and he was anxious to provide an official Bible for his new Anglican Church. Accordingly, the Archbishop of Canterbury hired Myles Coverdale for the task, and he produced in 1539 what came to be known as the *Great Bible*.¹² Its name was based on its size since it measured over 14 inches in height.

This Bible was the first "authorized edition" to be published in England. The King ordered that it be distributed to every church and chained to each pulpit.

He also ordered that a reader be provided so that the illiterate could hear the Word of God.¹³

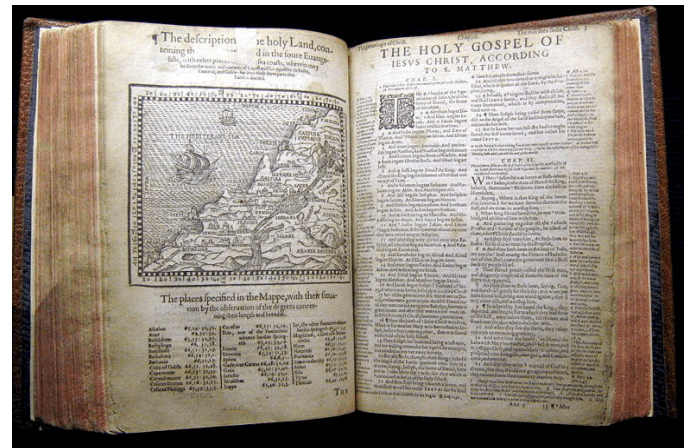
The Matthew-Tyndale Bible

Coverdale's collaborator on the *Coverdale Bible*, John Rogers, who operated under the pseudonym, Thomas Matthew, continued working on the Old Testament, determined to produce an English text based solely on Hebrew sources. He combined his work with the New Testament produced by Tyndale and published the *Matthew-Tyndale Bible* in 1549.

This was the first English language Bible to be based entirely on Hebrew and Greek texts.

Four years later, in 1553, the eldest daughter of King Henry VIII ascended the throne determined to restore England to Roman Catholicism. She was crowned Queen Mary I, and she immediately launched a severe religious persecution which ultimately resulted in almost 300 dissenters being burned at the stake, including John Rogers.¹⁴ "Bloody Mary's" attack on the Reformers prompted a mass exodus to Europe.

The Geneva Bible



Many of those who fled Mary's fury went to Geneva, Switzerland where John Calvin granted them asylum. There they began working on a new English translation. William Wittingham (c. 1524-1579) headed up the effort and oversaw the work of a skilled team of translators and biblical scholars which included Myles Coverdale.

In 1560 they produced the *Geneva Bible* which became one of the most historically significant translations of the Bible into English.¹⁵ It served as the primary Bible of the Protestant Reformation Movement and was the Bible used by William Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, John Milton, John Knox, John Donne, and John Bunyan. It was the first Bible to be brought to America, being transported across the ocean on the *Mayflower*.

The text of the Bible was not much different from the English versions that preceded it. In fact, more than 85% of the language came from Tyndale. What set it apart was its format and the study aids that were incorporated into it:

- It was the first English Bible with text that was divided into numbered verses.
- Extensive cross-referencing of verses was supplied.
- Each book was preceded with a summary introduction.

- Visual aids like maps, tables, and woodcut illustrations were added.
- It contained topical and name indexes.
- It featured an elaborate system of marginal notes designed to explain the meanings of verses.

Because of all these features, *The Geneva Bible* has often been referred to as the first study Bible. It was enormously popular, and it quickly replaced all other Bibles. Its popularity continued for decades after the King James Version was released in 1611.

The Bishop's Bible



Elizabeth I

But the *Geneva Bible* was not popular among the rulers of England. Queen Mary had been succeeded by her sister, Elizabeth I, who returned England to the Protestant fold, but Elizabeth was a devout believer in the Divine Right of Kings, and the marginal notes of the *Geneva Bible* were strongly opposed to both monarchy and the institutional church. This led to the production in 1568 of a new authorized Bible called the *Bishop's Bible*, which was a revision of the *Great Bible* of 1539. The *Bishop's Bible* was never able to gain much acceptance among the people.¹⁶

The Douay-Rheims Bible

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Church had decided to give up its resistance to translations. Realizing they had lost the battle, they decided that if the Bible was going to be available in English, they might as well produce an official Catholic version.

They used the inaccurate *Latin Vulgate* as their source text, and in 1589 they published what was called the *Douay-Rheims Bible*.¹⁷ The New Testament was published in 1582. The Old Testament was completed over 30 years later in 1610. This version contained notes that were very polemical in nature, designed to counter the claims of the Protestant Reformation.

The King James Bible



James I

Queen Elizabeth was succeeded in 1603 by Prince James VI of Scotland who became King James I of England. The King inherited a church that was deeply divided between the Conformists and the Puritans. To try to settle the differences, the King called a conference in January 1604. The conference failed to produce peace between the contending groups, but it produced a call for a new authorized version of the Bible.

The plea was accepted by King James. Like Elizabeth, he hated the *Geneva Bible*, but he recognized that the *Bishop's Bible* was inferior. He desired to have a high quality English Bible that all his subjects could

embrace.

A group of 47 translators were assembled, all from the Church of England. Detailed instructions were issued to guide the translation. Marginal notes were outlawed, except for the explanation of Hebrew or Greek words. The translation had to reflect the episcopal structure of the Church of England.¹⁸

The translators were authorized to consult other English translations, and they did so. In fact, their work turned out to be more of a revision of existing translations than it was an original translation. They acknowledged this fact in the preface they attached to the Bible:¹⁹

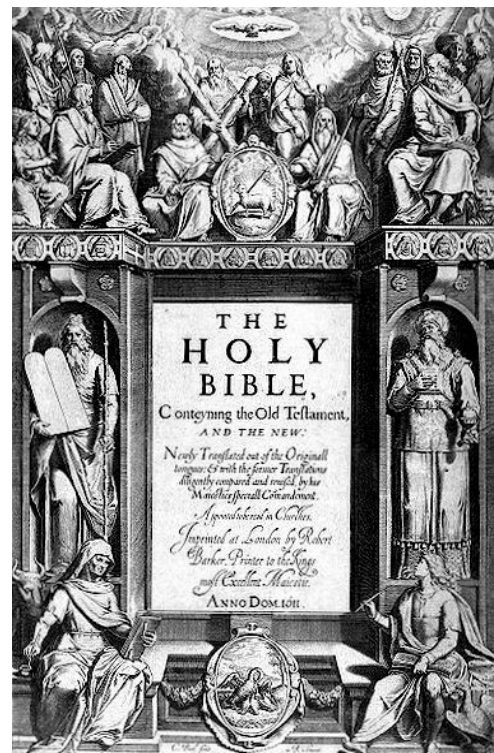
Truly (good Christian reader) we never thought from the beginning, that we should need to make a new Translation, nor yet to make of a bad one a good one . . . but to make a good one better, or out of many good ones, one principal good one . . .

Again, like all the previous English versions, the *King James Bible* retained 85 percent of the New Testament text of Tyndale. And biblical expert Edgar J. Goodspeed contends that 19/20ths of the King James Version was borrowed from previous translations.²⁰

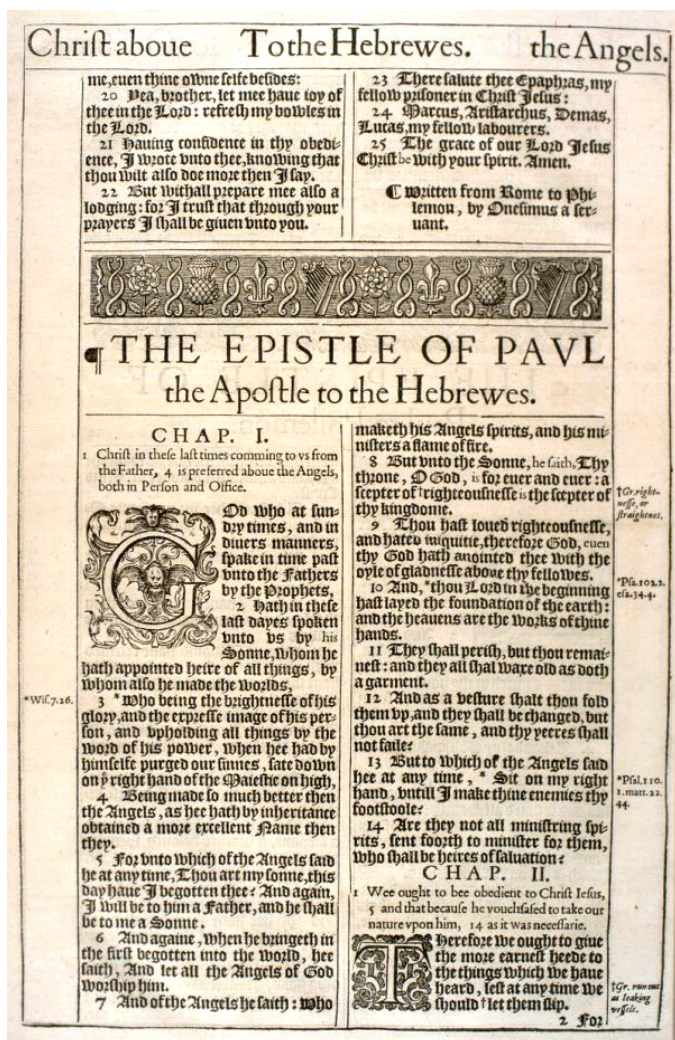
In obedience to their instructions, the King James translators did not provide any marginal interpretations of the text. They did, however, provide 9,000 cross references and 8,500 notes regarding alternative renderings or variant source texts.

The Ascendancy of the King James Bible

The *King James Bible* did not become the predominant Bible overnight. Scholars stuck with the *Latin Vulgate* and abandoned it slowly over the course of the 18th Century. The general public clung to the *Geneva Bible* for decades.



Title page of the first edition of the King James Version in 1611.



The first page of the book of Hebrews as it appeared in the original 1611 edition of the *King James Bible*.

The turning point for acceptance of the *King James Version* occurred after the death of King James in 1625. His successor, Charles I, appointed an Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, who immediately banned the printing of the *Geneva Bible* in order to bring about a uniformity of Bibles. At first, this caused no problem because copies could easily be imported. But Laud later issued a further edict forbidding the Bible's importation. The last printing of this great Bible was done in Amsterdam in 1644.²¹

With no continuing competition, by 1700 the *King James Version* had become the sole English translation for use in the Protestant Churches.

Over the years that followed, the *King James Version* went through many revisions. Most of these were to correct spelling errors and typographical errors. By the mid-18th Century the misprints had reached scandalous proportions. It was then decided that an attempt should be made to produce a standard text.

The first attempt was by Cambridge University scholars in 1762. Another effort was made in 1769 by Oxford University, and that edition became the standard text that is still in use today.

The Oxford edition of 1769 differs from the 1611 text in 24,000 places. Spelling and punctuation were standardized. The

“supplied” words not found in the original languages were greatly revised and extended as a result of cross-checking against the presumed source texts. And in many places minor changes to the text itself were made.²²

The Decline of the King James Bible

The *King James Bible* remained supreme for a peak period of 250 years, from 1700 to 1950. During that time it became the only book in the world to exceed one billion copies.²³

The first serious challenge to the *King James Version* appeared in 1885 when the *English Revised Version* was published in England. Its stated purpose was “to adapt the *King James Version* to the present state of the English language . . . and to the present standards of biblical scholarship.”²⁴

The *English Revised Version* was noted for being the first Bible to ever be published without the Apocrypha (14 inter-testament books). Until that time, all Bibles, both Protestant and Catholic — including the *King James Bible* — had been published with the Apocrypha.

American scholars followed suit in 1901 with the publication of the *American Standard Version*. It was nearly identical to the *English Revised Version* except for the much more frequent use of the term Jehovah in the Old Testament.²⁵

By the mid-20th Century the wording of the *King James Version* had become antiquated to the point that many words were unintelligible and others actually meant the opposite of their original meaning. This serious problem prompted an explosion of new translations and paraphrases during the second half of the century.

Recent American Translations

The *Revised Standard Version* of the New Testament appeared in 1946. The Old Testament text came out in 1952.²⁶ This version was denounced by conservatives as a “liberal translation.” Particularly controversial was its translation of Isaiah 7:14 where the word previously translated as “virgin” was changed to “young woman.” This Bible was quickly adopted by most of the mainline denominations.

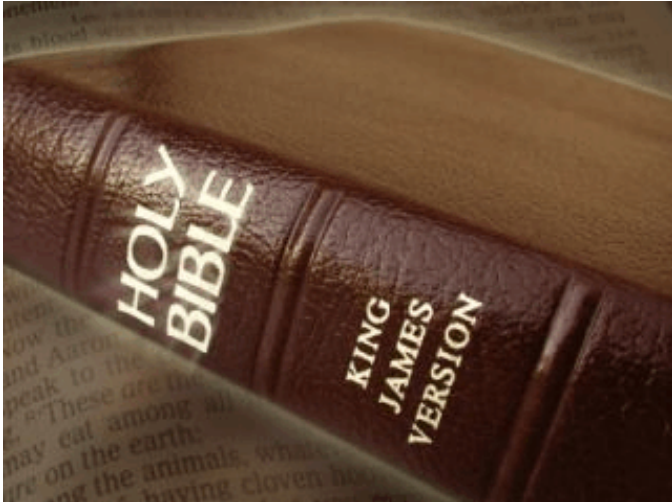
In 1971 the complete *New American Standard Bible* was published.²⁷ It constituted an extensive revision of the *American Standard Bible* of 1901. It was quickly adopted by Evangelicals because it is considered by many to be the most accurate word-for-word translation that has been produced in the English language. It was updated in 1995 to make it more readable.

The *New International Version* was published in full in 1973.²⁸ It offered a “dynamic equivalent” conservative translation, meaning it sought thought-for-thought accuracy rather than word-for-word. It was also aimed at a junior high school reading level. It was ridiculed by Fundamentalists as the “Nearly Inspired Version,” but it has quickly become the best-selling modern-English translation.

The *New King James Version* appeared in 1982.²⁹ It attempted to keep the basic wording of the old *King James Version* in order to appeal to King James loyalists. It replaced most of the obscure words and the Elizabethan “thee, thy, and thou” pronouns. There was also an attempt to update grammar, spelling, and word order.

The dawn of the 21st Century saw the publication of the *English Standard Version* in 2002.³⁰ It represents a major attempt to bridge the gap between simple readability and the precise accuracy of the *New American Standard Bible*. And like the old *Geneva Bible*, the *English Standard Version* has been issued in the form of a phenomenal Study Bible (2008) that is full of charts, maps, diagrams, and explanations that run 2,750 pages in length!

The Response of King James Defenders



As you can see, there has been a flood of new translations since 1950, and the listing above does not contain paraphrases that range from the conservative (*The Living Bible*) to the liberal (*The Message*). Nor have I listed a number of very liberal translations. When you consider the sudden appearance of all these translations, there can be no doubt that people are seeking Bibles they can easily understand.

All these new Bibles have promoted King James users to dig in their heels. They greet every new version with derision and harsh criticism. Often their attacks get out of hand as they dub the new versions “Satan inspired.” Some even argue that the *King James Version* is a sacred, inerrant translation and that it is therefore the only “perfect” translation that exists today.³¹ Any survey of the history of English Bibles like the one I have presented above makes the King James perfection claim a laugh.

The more responsible critics usually point to what they call the “erosion” of the New Testament by the modern translations. They argue that the Greek text for the New Testament that was compiled by Erasmus (1466-1536) and published in 1516 is the only proper basis for a New Testament translation, and they point out that it was what was used for the *King James Version*. This text became known as the *Textus Receptus*.

They then attack the modern translations for abandoning the *Textus Receptus* and relying instead on the Greek text compiled by B. F. Westcott and F. J. A. Hort and published in 1881. They



Erasmus

argue that although the Westcott and Hort version is based upon much earlier manuscripts than those used by Erasmus, the manuscripts are unreliable because they are “Catholic manuscripts.” This accusation is based on the fact that one of the manuscripts was found at a Catholic monastery in the Sinai desert and the other at the Vatican in Rome.



These attacks on the Westcott-Hort text are really irrelevant, for although the Westcott-Hort text was the “standard” critical Greek text for a couple of generations, it is no longer considered as such, and it has not served as the New Testament text for any of the modern translations. The standard text today is the Nestle-Aland text (1st edition in 1898; 27th edition, 1993).

The truth of the matter is that none of the Greek texts are perfect. They represent a pasting together of segments of the most ancient manuscripts. Erasmus did his best, but there have been thousands of manuscripts discovered since he put together his compilation, and many of those are much older than anything he had to work with. Furthermore, none of the differences in the compilations have any effect on the basic doctrines and truths of the New Testament.

The King James defenders need to keep in mind that the major purpose of the new conservative translations is twofold: greater accuracy and easier to understand language. How can you fault those aims? Here’s how one person has summed it up:³²

We must remember that the main purpose of the Protestant Reformation was to get the Bible out of the chains of being trapped in an ancient language that few could understand, and into the modern, spoken, conversational language of the present day. William Tyndale fought and died for the right to print the Bible in the common, spoken, modern English tongue of his day . . .

Will we now go backwards and seek to imprison God’s Word once again exclusively in ancient translations?

Thanks to the King James Version

The *King James Version* was a great Bible for its day and time. It has served the English speaking peoples well for several centuries. The time has come to lay it to rest with honor and dignity and with heart-felt thanks. It has stamped our language indelibly. It has inspired many generations. Most important, it has opened the door to God for millions of people by delivering them from spiritual darkness into the light of the glory of Jesus Christ. ✚

Notes:

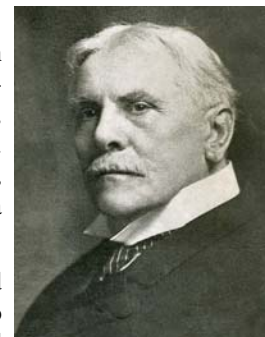
- 1) Wikipedia, “Vulgate,” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vulgate>.
- 2) Wikipedia, “Jerome,” <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerome>.
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The Scofield Study Bible

The most successful study Bible ever printed first appeared in 1909. It was called *The Scofield Reference Bible*, and it was published by the Oxford University Press. A revised edition, supervised by Scofield, was published in 1917. A revision committee issued another revision in 1967.

One hundred years after its first publication in 1909 the Scofield Bible is still going strong. The first million copies had been printed by 1930. Both the 1917 and 1967 editions are still being printed today by the Oxford Press. Today, it is called *The Scofield Study Bible*, and it is available in four versions: the King James, the New International, the New American Standard, and the New King James. It is also available in seven languages other than English.

Cyrus Ingerson Scofield was born in Michigan in 1843. He was in Tennessee when the Civil War broke out, and he joined the Confederate forces. After the war he moved to St. Louis, Missouri where he married and had a family of two daughters and one son.



C. I. Scofield

Scofield began to study law and was admitted to the bar. He moved to Kansas where he practiced law, served in the state legislature, and was appointed U.S. District Attorney by President Grant. He began to drink heavily and his life started to deteriorate. His wife left him and divorced him.

Meanwhile, in 1879 a friend had witnessed Christ to him, and he had become a Christian. He put alcohol behind him and started studying the Bible fervently. He was ordained by the Congregational Church and, in 1882 he was called to serve a struggling mission church in Dallas, Texas. He remarried in 1884, and his church began to grow rapidly, reaching a membership of 812 in 1896.

In 1888 he published his first book, *Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth*. He then went to work preparing a correspondence course that was turned over to the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago in 1914.

While participating with A. C. Gaebelein in a summer Bible conference in 1901, he shared his idea of preparing a study Bible. Gaebelein liked the concept and agreed to raise financial support. In 1904 Scofield and his wife went to England where he intended to do research on his study notes. While there, a friend who was a publisher, introduced him to the head of the Oxford University Press. When Scofield shared his idea about the study Bible, his concept was given preliminary approval for publication by Oxford. Thus, an unknown Texas preacher miraculously gained acceptance of his idea by one of the world's most prestigious publishers! Scofield died in 1921.

Today the *Scofield Study Bible* is approaching five million copies in sales and is available in many different languages. ✚

(Note: Most of the material in this article was taken from an article by Dr. Glenn R. Goss entitled "The Scofield Bible" (www.rayofhopechurch.com/scofield.htm).

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- 29) Wikipedia, "New King James Version," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_King_James_Version.
- 30) Jeffcoat, "English Bible History," page 9.
- 31) For an example of a "KJV Only" article, see: James L. Melton, "How I Know the King James Bible is the Word of God," www.avi611.org/kjv/knowkjv.html.
- 32) Jeffcoat, "English Bible History," page 9.

The King James Code

Dr. David R. Reagan

There has been much hoopla recently considering Bible codes. Some claim they exist. Others deny it. But there can be no denial that the *King James Bible* contains a code that was devised by the translators themselves, and which, unfortunately, has been carried over into almost all translations since that time. I say unfortunately because I believe the *King James Bible* code has robbed the Bible of some of its meaning and impact.

The Reasons for the Code

The code was based upon the Jewish tradition of never pronouncing the name of God. The rabbis felt that God's name was so holy that when they came to it in the Hebrew scriptures, they refused to pronounce it. They would, instead, substitute for it the Hebrew word, Adonai, which means Lord.

Another motivation for refusing to pronounce the Lord's name was to keep from violating the third commandment, "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain" (Exodus 20:7). They believed that if they never pronounced God's name, they could never violate this commandment.

God's Personal Name

The name of God is Yahweh. Bible scholars refer to this name as the "tetragrammaton" (meaning "[a word] having four letters"). No one knows for certain that this is the true name of God, but that is the consensus of opinion by scholars. The reason there is doubt is because the name is rendered in Hebrew as YHWH. There were no vowels in biblical Hebrew, so the correct pronunciation cannot be determined from the text, and since the Jews developed a tradition of not pronouncing the name, its pronunciation was lost over a period of time.



The Tetragrammaton as represented in stained glass in an 1868 Episcopal Church in Iowa. (Source: Wikipedia.)

Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 12:2; and Isaiah 26:4). They used the name three times in titles given to God, such as "Jehovah-jirah" in Genesis 22:14 (see also Exodus 17:15 and Judges 6:24).

The Revelation of God's Name

Yahweh first appears in the Bible in Genesis 2:4 where it is used in conjunction with Adonai. It appears in the Hebrew text as Yahweh Elohim (Yahweh God) and is translated into English as LORD God. The first use of the name alone is in Genesis 4:1 where Eve is quoted as saying the birth of Cain was due to the help of Yahweh. In English translations, the statement appears as follows: "I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD."

In Exodus 3 we are told that God spoke to Moses from the burning bush and told him to go to Pharaoh and demand the release of the children of Israel from captivity (Exodus 3:1-12). Moses responded by asking what he would say when Pharaoh requested the name of his God (Exodus 3:13). God told Moses to tell Pharaoh that he had been sent by "Yahweh the God of your fathers." The English translation is "The LORD, the God of your fathers" (Exodus 3:15).

Later, God spoke to Moses again and said, "I am Yahweh, and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as El Shaddai [God Almighty], but by My name, Yahweh, I did not make Myself known to them" (Exodus 6:2-3). The English translations usually read: "I am the LORD, and I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by My name, LORD, I did not make Myself known to them." Notice how much more meaningful this statement is when the actual name of God — Yahweh — is used. In fact, the statement really doesn't make any sense unless Yahweh is used.

This statement in Exodus 6 makes it clear that God did not reveal his personal name to anyone before the time of Moses.

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The Tetragrammaton is shown at the left in three scripts:

- 1) Paleo-Hebrew (10th century B.C. to 135 A.D.).
- 2) Old Aramaic (10th century B.C. to 4th century A.D.).
- 3) Square Hebrew (3rd century A.D. to the present).

When transliterating Hebrew into English, another tradition developed of substituting the letter J for Y. Thus, Yerushalayim became Jerusalem, Yosef became Joseph, Ya'acov became Jacob, and Yeshua became Jesus. The translators also converted the Hebrew W into V. So, they took YHWH and transformed it into JHVH, and then they added vowels to produce Jehovah as the name of God. But again, the consensus of scholarly opinion is that the name of God was pronounced Yahweh. And therefore, a term like Jehovah-jirah (Genesis 22:14), meaning "The Lord my provider," should really be pronounced Yahweh-yirah.

In the *King James Bible*, the translators actually used the word Jehovah for the name of God in four places (Exodus 6:3;

Therefore, when the name is used in Genesis, it appears there because those passages were written by Moses who applied the name retroactively to a period of history when it was unknown.

The King James Code

Now, to avoid the use of the sacred, personal name of God, the King James translators developed a code that is still used in most versions today, even the modern ones. The code is as follows:

- 1) Elohim is rendered as God (Genesis 1:1).
- 2) Yahweh is rendered as LORD — all in capital letters (Genesis 4:1).
- 3) Adonai is rendered as Lord — a capital L followed by lower case letters (Genesis 18:27).
- 4) Adonai Yahweh is rendered as Lord GOD (Genesis 15:2).
- 5) Yahweh Elohim is rendered as LORD God (Genesis 2:4).

So, every time the personal name of God — Yahweh — appears, it is rendered as LORD unless it appears in conjunction with Adonai, in which case it is rendered GOD. But either way, its presence is always indicated by all capital letters.

To say the least, it is very confusing. And, as I have already indicated with Exodus 6:2-3, the code can rob the passage of its meaning.

A Solution

It would be a blessing if modern translators would drop this confusing and misleading code and simply translate the personal name of God as Yahweh.

I'm glad to report that the new *Holman Christian Standard Bible*, published in 2004 and sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention, uses the name, Yahweh, in crucial places where it is necessary for a passage to make sense. The first edition did this in 78 places. The second edition, which appeared in 2009, expanded the use of Yahweh to 495 places. The tetragrammaton actually appears 6,828 times in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Think of it this way — Would you want someone who loves you to always call you by a title? Would you want them to say, “I love you madam,” or “I love you mister”? Or would you want them to use your name?

Intimacy Requires a Name

God has a personal name. The biblical writers who had a personal relationship with Him used that name repeatedly in adoration and praise of Him. Why shouldn't we? He desires intimacy with us (John 4:23).

Before I had a personal relationship with God's Son, I always called him by His title, Christ (Messiah). But once I came to know Him, I started calling Him by His personal name, Jesus (Yeshua). Which do you think He would prefer to hear: “I love you, Christ” or “I love you, Jesus”? I don't think there is any doubt. ✚

God spoke further to Moses and said to him, “I am Yahweh . . . My name is Yahweh.” (Exodus 6:2-3)

Bible Blunders

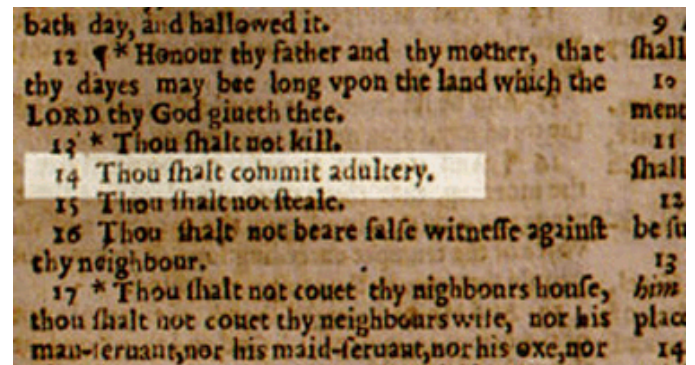
There is no printing in all the world that is more important than the printing of a Bible. And for that reason, proofreading is of the utmost importance.

If you have ever done any proofreading, you know how difficult it is. The mind tends to gloss over errors by automatically correcting them. Proofreading has got to be one of the most tedious jobs in the world.

There is a company in Peachtree City, Georgia that specializes in Bible proofreading. It is called The Peachtree Editorial and Proofreading Service. Several years ago they rescued a major new translation from referring to “sour ancestors” instead of “our ancestors.” The same translation used the word “fractions” for “factions.”

The Peachtree staff of 17 persons was responsible for proofreading the new *Holman Christian Standard Bible*. They combed the manuscript for two years looking for transposed letters, missing letters, extra letters, punctuation mistakes, and other typos.

The most infamous typo in the history of English Bibles is one that appeared in a *King James Bible* printed in 1631. In its listing of the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17, it misstated verse 14 to read: “Thou shalt commit adultery.” The Bible was quickly dubbed “The Wicked Bible.” The blunder was considered so severe that the publishers were given a hefty fine and then had their printer's license revoked.



Other Famous Bible Typos

- “Blessed are the place-makers” instead of “peacemakers.” (Matthew 5:9)
- “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall [instead of “shall not”] inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Corinthians 6:9)
- “Printers [instead of “Princes”] have persecuted me without a cause.” (Psalm 119:161)
- “Go and sin on [instead of “no”] more.” (John 8:11)
- “The fool hath said in his heart there is a [instead of “no”] God.” (Psalm 14:1)
- “Let the children be killed” [instead of “filled”]. (Mark 7:27)
- “He who hath ears to ear [instead of “hear”], let him hear.” (Matthew 11:15) ✚

(Source: Associated Press article dated May 29, 2004)

Bible Facts

The Bible is not one single book. It is a collection of 66 books written by 40 different authors over a period of 1500 years in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). Yet the book shares a common story line — the creation, fall and redemption of Mankind.

The middle verse of the Bible is Psalm 118:8 which reads, “It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in man.” This verse is preceded by the shortest chapter (Psalm 117) and is followed by the longest chapter (Psalm 119).

The longest name in the Bible is Mahershalalhashbaz. Try saying that quickly two or three times! The name means “Swift is the booty, speedy is the prey.” You can find the name in Isaiah 8:1.

The longest prayer in the Bible is one attributed to “the Levites.” It was prayed on the occasion of the first celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles after the Children of Israel had returned to their homeland from Babylonian captivity. The prayer is recorded in Nehemiah 9:1-38. The translators of the Septuagint attributed this prayer to Ezra.

The longest verse in the *King James Bible* is Esther 8:9 (78 words); the shortest is John 11:35 — “Jesus wept.” In other versions, the shortest verse is Job 3:2 — “Job said.” (The King James translates it as “Job answered.”)

A number of verses in the *King James Version* contain every letter in the English alphabet except one. For example:

- Ezra 7:21 contains all but the letter j.
- All the following verses contain every letter except q: Joshua 7:24; 1 Kings 1:9; 1 Chronicles 12:40; 2 Chronicles 36:10; Ezekiel 28:13; Daniel 4:37; and Haggai 1:1.
- Two verses contain every letter except x: 2 Kings 16:15 and 1 Chronicles 4:10.
- Galatians 1:14 contains all but the letter k.

The original biblical manuscripts were not divided into chapters and verses. Cardinal Hugo de Sancto Caro is often given credit for first dividing the Latin Vulgate into chapters, but the chapter divisions that exist today were created by his fellow cardinal Stephen Langton in 1205. Robert Estienne (also known as Robert Stephanus) was the first to number the verses within each chapter, his verse numbers entered printed editions in 1551 (New Testament) and 1571 (Old Testament). The concept of putting the word of Jesus in red came from Louis Klopsch, the editor of *The Christian Herald* magazine in 1899, and red letter editions of the Bible were first published in 1900.

There are 8,674 different Hebrew words in the Old Testament and 5,624 different Greek words in the New Testament. In the *King James Version* there are 12,143 different English words (Old Testament and New).

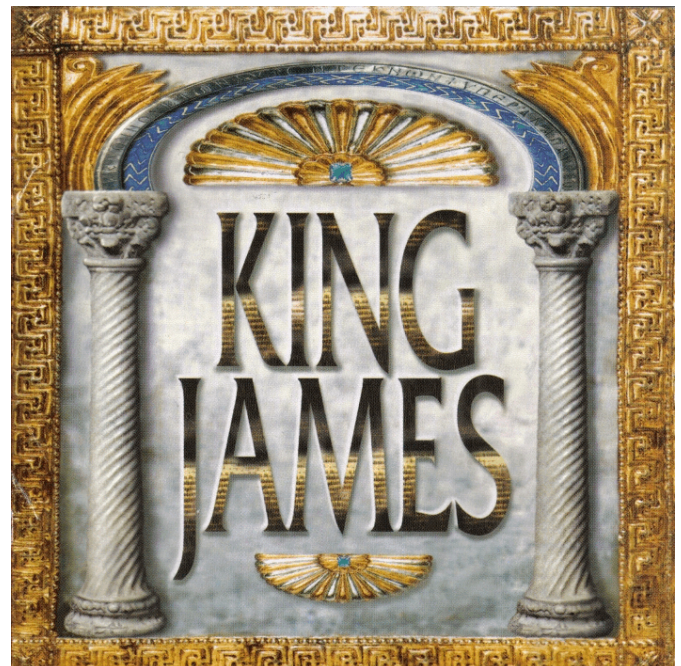
The Bible has been translated fully into 457 languages, representing all the major languages of the world. Portions have been translated into over 2,500 other languages, most of these being tribal languages. Approximately 340 million people out of the world’s population of 6.5 billion do not have scriptures in their language. ✚

King James Phrases

The *King James Bible* must certainly be considered as the greatest literary work in the English language. And most of it must be attributed to William Tyndale. Not even the writings of Shakespeare have had as much of a lasting impact on the way English-speaking people talk today.

Here are just a few examples of famous English phrases that come from the *King James Version* (Source: *The Dallas Morning News*, August 6, 2005):

- “A fly in the ointment” (Ecclesiastes 10:1)
- “At wit’s end” (Psalm 107:27)
- “Can the leopard change his spots?” (Jeremiah 13:23)
- “Crystal clear” (Revelation 21:11)
- “Eat, drink, and be merry” (Luke 12:19)
- “Eye to eye” (Isaiah 52:8)
- “Far be it from me” (2 Samuel 20:20)
- “Fell flat on his face” (Numbers 22:31)
- “From time to time” (Ezekiel 4:10)
- “Gird one’s loins” (2 Kings 4:29)
- “Heap coals of fire upon his head” (Proverbs 25:22)
- “Hold your peace” (Exodus 14:14)
- “Holier than thou” (Isaiah 65:5)
- “In the twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:52)
- “Labor of love” (Hebrews 6:10)
- “Land of the living” (Job 28:13)
- “Man after his own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14)
- “My brother’s keeper” (Genesis 4:9)
- “Put words in his mouth” (Exodus 4:15)
- “Rise and shine” (Isaiah 60:1)
- “Run for your life” (1 Kings 19:3)
- “Sick to death” (2 Kings 20:1)
- “Sign of the times” (Matthew 16:3)
- “Stand in awe” (Psalm 4:4)
- “The fat of the land” (Genesis 45:18)
- “The root of the matter” (Job 19:28)



(Image from www.firestreamvault.com)

How's Your Bible Knowledge?

Dr. David R. Reagan

At Lamb & Lion we begin each day with a devotional. One staff member reads from the Bible, another reads from a devotional book, and then all the staff members join together in prayer, praying for each other and for the prayer requests we have received by mail, telephone and email.

The devotional book we use is "Our Daily Bread," which is published by RBC Ministries in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The devotional for October 18, 1991 began with this story:

A pastor asked a class of Sunday School children, "Who broke down the wall of Jericho?" A boy answered, "Not me, sir!" Upset, the pastor asked the teacher, "Is this typical?" She replied, "I believe this boy is honest, and I really don't think he did it." The pastor went to the head deacon. "I've known the boy and the teacher for years," said the deacon, "and neither of them would do such a thing." Aghast, the pastor went to the Christian Education Board. "Pastor," said the chairman, "let's not make an issue of this. Let's just pay for the damage and charge it to the upkeep."

This humorous story, which 20 years ago would have been considered ludicrous, has become a reality in the modern day church. Biblical knowledge among professing Christians has become abysmal.

The Extent of the Problem

A person who has spent much time studying this serious problem is Gary M. Burge who serves as a professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. Wheaton is one of Christendom's premier Evangelical colleges.

For the past four years Burge has been testing incoming freshmen on their knowledge of the Bible. What he has found is alarming. Keep in mind that most of the students entering Wheaton come from strong Evangelical churches and have a long history of Christian involvement in youth groups, camps and missions. They use the Bible regularly, but few seem to have any in-depth knowledge of what it says.

Burge has concluded that we in America definitely live in a post-biblical era, and he points to the results of his tests to prove his point. One-third of the freshmen could not put the following in chronological order: Christ, Abraham, Pentecost, and the Old Testament prophets. Half could not sequence these events: Isaac's birth, Judah's exile, Moses in Egypt, and Saul's death. Incredibly, one-third could not identify Matthew as an apostle from a list of New Testament names. When asked to locate the biblical book supplying a given story, one-third could not find Paul's travels in Acts, half did not know that the Christmas story was in Matthew or that the Passover story was in Exodus.

When Burge began to survey high school students at strong Evangelical churches, he discovered that they could average only 50 to 55 percent correct on his simple 25 question exam. Fully



A MINOR PROPHET PROTEST

80 percent could not place Moses, Adam, David, Solomon, and Abraham in chronological order. Only 15 percent could place in order the major events of Jesus' and Paul's lives; and only 33 percent could find the Sermon on the Mount in the New Testament. A whopping 80 percent did not know where to find the Lord's Prayer.

It leads you to wonder what is being taught and preached at Evangelical churches today. Are preachers delivering warmed over inspirational talks from the *Reader's Digest*? Are Sunday School teachers using the Bible at all? Is the Bible the least read best seller of all times?

A Sample Test

How is your knowledge of the Bible? Try testing it with the following test composed by Mr. Burge (the answers can be found on page 13):

- 1. Which one of these books is not in the Bible?**
a. Isaiah; b. Jude; c. Hezekiah; d. Amos; e. Song of Solomon
- 2. Who was Israel's first king?**
a. Saul; b. Solomon; c. David; d. Samuel; e. Moses
- 3. Sarah and Abraham had a son in their old age and named him "laughter." What was his real name?**
a. Samuel; b. Moses; c. Isaac; d. Jacob; e. Ishmael
- 4. Which of the following is not an Old Testament prophet?**
a. Elisha; b. Elijah; c. Aaron; d. Isaiah; e. Joel
- 5. Place these events in their biblical order:**
a. the giving of the law at Mount Sinai; b. Creation; c. the Fall; d. the Exodus led by Moses; e. the flood of Noah
- 6. Place the following characters in their biblical order:**
a. Moses; b. Adam; c. David; d. Solomon; e. Abraham
- 7. Which of the following books is from the New Testament?**
a. Judges; b. Malachi; c. Deuteronomy; d. Hebrews; e. Isaiah
- 8. Who wrote Philemon?**
a. Philemon; b. Paul; c. Peter; d. Onesimus; e. John
- 9. Which one of the following was among Jesus' 12 apostles?**
a. Paul; b. Matthew; c. Luke; d. Timothy; e. Silas

10. Whom did Pontius Pilate release during Jesus' trial?

a. Barnabas; b. Peter; c. Silas; d. Barabbas; e. Paul

11. How many temptations did Jesus face in the wilderness?

a. one; b. two; c. three; d. four; e. five

12. Place the following events in their biblical order:

a. The Holy Spirit descends on Pentecost; b. John has a vision on Patmos; c. Jesus is baptized in the Jordan River; d. Paul, Barnabas and Mark are sent out on a mission by the church; e. Peter denies that he knows Jesus

13. Place the following events in their biblical order:

a. Paul's arrest in Jerusalem; b. Mary's song; c. Nicodemus' conversation about rebirth; d. Peter's denial of Jesus



"I bet the Reader's Digest got the idea of condensing the Bible from him . . . he's been leaving things out for years!"

14. Where would you find the Ten Commandments?

a. Isaiah; b. Exodus; c. Genesis; d. Numbers; e. Matthew

15. Where would you find the first Passover?

a. Genesis; b. Numbers; c. 1 Samuel; d. Exodus; e. 2 Kings

16. Where would you find "Create in me a clean heart, O God"?

a. Proverbs; b. Ezekiel; c. Psalms; d. Deuteronomy; e. Luke

17. Where would you find the Lord's Prayer?

a. Matthew; b. Acts; c. Ephesians; d. Malachi; e. Isaiah

18. Where would you find "in the beginning was the Word"?

a. Acts; b. Isaiah; c. John; d. Leviticus; e. Romans

19. Elizabeth and Zechariah were the parents of:

a. Jesus; b. Samuel; c. Paul; d. Timothy; e. John the Baptist

20. Jesus was crucified during:

a. Passover; b. Hanukkah; c. Tabernacles; d. Sabbath; e. Purim

How about asking your pastor to print this test in your church bulletin? Perhaps it would help motivate people to start studying their Bibles. ✚

Note: Much of the material in this article was taken from an article by Gary M. Burge entitled, "The Greatest Story Never Read" which was published in *Christianity Today* (August 9, 1999, pp. 45-48). The test drawn up by Mr. Burge was taken from *The Dallas Morning News*, November 27, 1999.

Answers: 1. c; 2. a; 3. c; 4. c; 5. b, c, e, d, a; 6. b, e, a, c, d; 7. d; 8. b; 9. b; 10. d; 11. c; 12. c, e, a, d, b; 13. b, c, d, a; 14. b; 15. d; 16. c; 17. a; 18. c; 19. e; 20. a

Classic Hymns

Dr. David R. Reagan

The discussion of classic Bible translations brings to mind the great hymns of the Church that have survived for many years and continue to be sung today in worship services.

These hymns were identified recently in an article in *Christianity Today* magazine ("The Hymns That Keep On Going" by Robert T. Coote, March 7, 2011). To be considered, a hymn had to be written in the late 1800's or earlier and had to appear in at least 26 of 28 modern-day hymnals that were consulted. Christmas carols, choruses, and service music were not included in the analysis. Also, only the hymnals of six major Protestant denominations were included since a comparable series of hymnals from Evangelical denominations dating from the late 1800's does not exist. The churches included were the Anglican, the American Baptist, the Congregational, the Evangelical Lutheran, the United Methodist, and the Presbyterian.

There were a total of 27 hymns that passed the test. Some of the better known ones, and their ranking, were as follows:

- 1) "Abide With Me" (H. Lyte, 1847)
- 2) "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (E. Perronet, 1779)
- 4) "Crown Him With Many Crowns" (M. Bridges, 1851)
- 6) "Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah" (W. Williams, 1745)
- 7) "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" (R. Hebner, 1826)
- 8) "How Firm A Foundation" (J. Rippon, 1787)
- 11) "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (C. Wesley, 1747)
- 13) "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (I. Watts, 1707)
- 14) "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (M. Luther, 1529)
- 17) "Just As I Am" (Charlotte Elliott, 1836)
- 19) "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (C. Wesley, 1738)

Again, keep in mind that this list does not include Christmas hymns like "Silent Night," nor does it include hymns written in the 20th Century.



Horatio Spafford

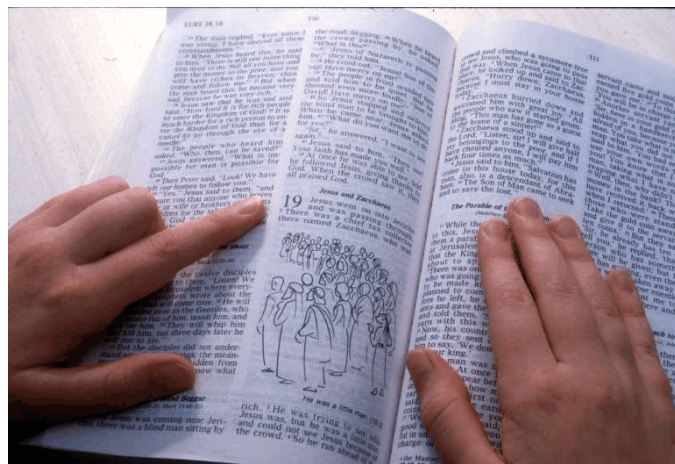
My all time favorite hymn, "It is Well With My Soul," did not make the list. It was written in 1876 by Horatio Spafford, an American businessman, and it was written, amazingly, in response to the news that his four daughters had drowned when the ship they were sailing on across the Atlantic was hit by another ship and sunk.

Hymns have fallen on hard times today. They have been eclipsed by choruses that often are very shallow as compared to the deep theology of most hymns. But God is resurrecting the art of the hymn through the efforts of people like Keith and Kristyn Getty (www.gettymusic.com). They are the composers of the great new hymn, "In Christ Alone." ✚

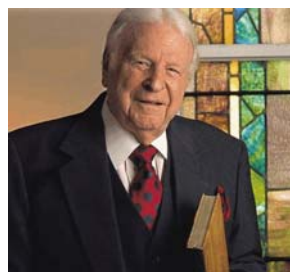
Thoughts About the Bible

The Diary of a Bible

- January** A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. They kept me busy for two weeks. They have forgotten me now.
- February** My owner used me for a few minutes last week. He had been in an argument and was looking up a reference to prove his point.
- March** Grandpa visited us. He kept me on his lap for an hour as he read 1 Corinthians 13. I was used a lot by Grandpa.
- April** I had one busy day. My owner was appointed leader of some project at church, so he used me. Got to go to a church service for the first time this year . . . on Easter.
- May** I have a few new green stains on my pages. Some early spring flowers were pressed in me.
- June** I look like a scrapbook. They have me full of clippings from the newspaper. One of the girls got married.
- July** They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we are off on a vacation. I wish I could stay home because I know I'll be in this dark thing for the whole time.
- August** I'm still in the suitcase.
- September** Back home again in my old place. Have lots of company. Two romance novels and four comic books are on top of me. I wish I could get the attention they get.
- October** They used me a little today. One of them is very sick. At this moment I'm shined up and on the middle of the coffee table. The pastor must be coming.
- November** I'm back in my old place.
- December** They are getting me ready for Christmas. I'll be covered with wrapping paper and presents. Well, I always have the new year to look forward to . . .



"The vitality of the Church is not dependent upon a particular translation of the Bible. It is dependent, instead, upon members who are reading their Bibles and pastors who are preaching the Bible rather than the wisdom of Man." — Dave Reagan



W. A. Criswell

"There are people who believe the Bible is inspired only in spots and that they are inspired to pick the spots." — Dr. W. A. Criswell (1909-2002) former pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas.

"Coming to the Bible through commentaries is much like looking at a landscape through garret windows over which generations of unmolested spiders have spun their webs." — Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York.

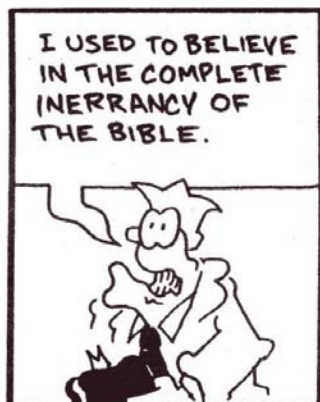
"Most people are bothered by those passages of Scripture they do not understand, but the passages that bother me are those I do understand." — Mark Twain (1835-1910)

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." — George Washington (1732-1799)

"It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom." — Horace Greeley (1811-1872) editor of *The New York Tribune*.



Pontius' Puddle



© Joel Kauffman

June Conference

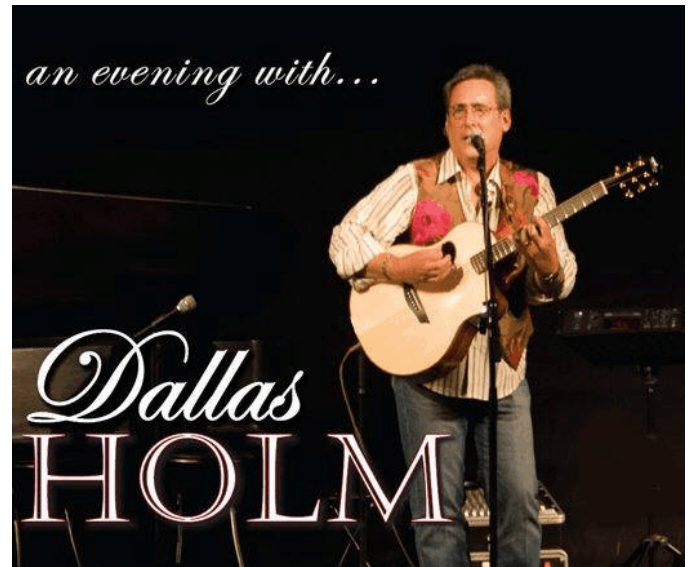
Register Now!

We are currently taking reservations for our June Bible conference. We can accommodate 700, and we are expecting to have a full house. So, if you are interested in attending, you need to call and register now.

The conference is scheduled to begin Friday evening, June 24th, and will conclude Saturday afternoon, June 25th. The cost is free of charge. There will be a banquet Saturday evening at which Dr. Reagan will speak. It will cost \$35 per person. You can register for the conference and/or the banquet by calling 972-736-3567.

The theme of this year's conference is "Christianity Under Attack." It will feature the following presentations:

- "The Challenge of Islam" by Kerby Anderson
- "The Challenge of Humanism and Atheism," by Ron Rhodes
- "The Challenge of Evolution," by John Morris
- "The Challenge of Apostasy," by James Walker
- "The Challenge of Government," by Frank Wright
- "The Promise of Victory" by Dave Reagan



The conference will begin on Friday evening with a concert by the renowned Christian musician, Dallas Holm. Music during the rest of the conference will be supplied by Jack Hollingsworth, the ministry's featured singer on its television program.

The conference will be held at the Marriott Courtyard Hotel in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas. Hope to see you there! ✚

Missions Report

Activities Around the World

Our Web Minister, Nathan Jones, is scheduled to travel to Nicaragua in early May to visit with Donald Dolmus, the young man who translates all our articles into Spanish and posts them on his website at www.edefensadelafe.org. In addition to getting personally acquainted with Donald, Nathan will be speaking at his church in Managua.

We have provided thousands of dollars recently to two pastors in Nigeria. One of them, a senior pastor named Standfast Oyinna, needed funds to rebuild homes that were destroyed in his village when they were attacked by militant Muslims. All their personal possessions were stolen, and their church building and homes were burned to the ground. Through the money we supplied, they were able to rebuild many of the homes.



Burned and looted homes in Nigeria.



A rebuilt home in Nigeria.

We also provided the funds to enable a young pastor named Chidi Abuwa to purchase more than 700 Bibles for his congregation. The Bibles (complete Old and New Testaments) were supplied through an American missionary organization called Oasis International (<http://oasisint.net>).

Violence in Juarez, Mexico continues unabated, making it difficult for Hands of Luke Ministries to operate in their normal manner. Please pray for the safety of the ministry and their leaders, Dr. Marco Samaniego and his wife, Carmen. The drug cartels have already tried to shake them down for "protection money." This is a ministry that feeds over 800 children a day, many of whom live on or around the Juarez garbage dump. They also provide housing for many orphans and single moms. You can find details at www.handsofluke.com. ✚

New Programs

We have continued to shoot new television programs at a very rapid pace.

Below are photos with some of our guests.



Dr. Reagan is shown above between Jean Eason on the left and Orpah Hicks on the right. They were interviewed about their new book that provides an overview of biblical essentials.



Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones with Caryl Matrisciana. Caryl is an expert on Eastern religions. She resides in California.



Dr. Reagan and Nathan Jones with August Rosado in the center. August is the founder and director of Today in Bible Prophecy Ministries based in Corpus Christi, Texas.

“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

National Networks

Daystar Network DirecTV Channel 369 DISH Channel 263 On cable networks throughout the nation.				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Wed. 4:00pm	Wed. 5:00pm	Wed. 6:00pm	Wed. 7:00pm

Inspiration Network Available on cable networks DirecTV Channel 364 DISH Channel 259				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Mon. 8:30pm	Mon. 9:30pm	Mon. 10:30pm	Mon. 11:30pm

The Church Channel DirecTV Channel 371				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sat. 6:30pm	Sat. 7:30pm	Sat. 8:30pm	Sat. 9:30pm

National Religious Broadcasters Network DirecTV Channel 378				
Zone	Pacific	Mountain	Central	Eastern
Day Time	Sun. 2:00pm	Sun. 3:00pm	Sun. 4:00pm	Sun. 5:00pm

Regional Networks



“Christ in Prophecy” is broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the **Family Vision Network** at various times. See: www.kajn.com/familyvision.



New Mexico Family Stations is a network consisting of two stations in Albuquerque: KAZQ, Channel 32 and KTQS, Channel 36. Our program is broadcast on Thursday at 11:00pm and on Saturday at 3:00pm.

The Internet

You can access our weekly television program through our website at www.lamblion.com. Go to the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and click on “Current TV Show.” You can also watch our TV programs on the Tangle website at www.tangle.com/lamblion. ❖

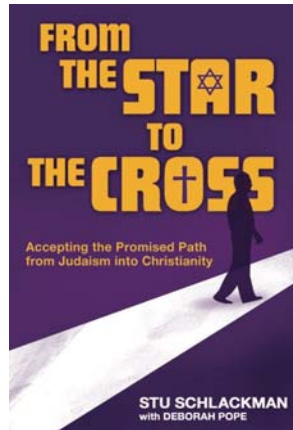
New Books and Videos We Highly Recommend

Stu Schlackman's book, "From the Star to the Cross," is the highly entertaining story of his journey from an Orthodox Jewish upbringing in Yonkers, New York, to an Evangelical faith in Dallas, Texas. You will be roaring with laughter one moment and thinking deeply the next about the Christian faith.

It is the story of the effectiveness of quiet and patient friend evangelism. And it is an illustration of the powerful transforming impact of the Holy Spirit when a person gives his heart to Jesus.

This is an inspirational book that would bless any Christian reader. But more important, it is a great witnessing tool for Jews.

Illustrated with photos. 185 pages; \$10 plus the cost of shipping.

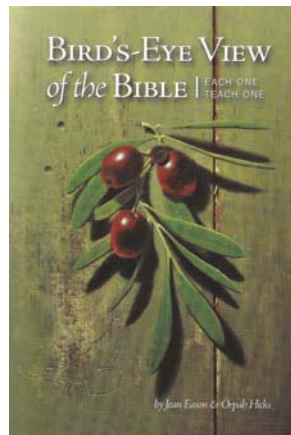
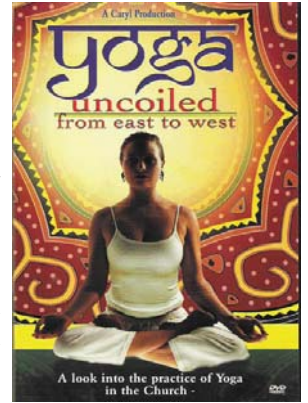


Many well-meaning Christians have gotten involved in Yoga, thinking it is harmless. It is not. It is very dangerous because its techniques open the practitioner to demonic influence. It is, in fact, a form of meditation that is completely incompatible with Christianity.

This video was shot in India and includes interviews with Yoga masters.

The producer of the video, Caryl Matrisciana, has produced over 50 documentary films during the past 30 years.

80 minutes; \$15 plus the cost of shipping.



This is an excellent study book or teacher's manual concerning the basic fundamentals of the Christian faith. It was written by two seasoned teachers of the Word from Lexington, Kentucky — Jean Eason and Orpah Hicks.

It provides an easy to understand overview of the great themes of the Bible, and in the process, it incorporates many insights from Dr. Reagan's writings.

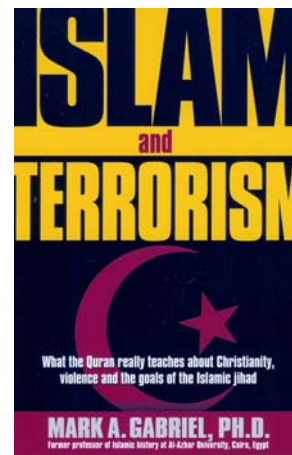
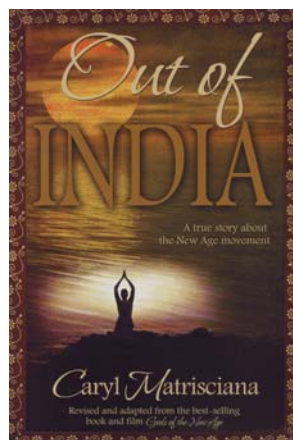
One of the most fascinating parts of the book is the section of personal testimonies by a great variety of people regarding the impact of Jesus on their lives — a Jew, a Buddhist, a homeless person, a drug addict, a homosexual, a Mormon, a Jehovah's Witness, a skeptic, and a New Age rock musician.

174 pages; \$10 plus the cost of shipping.

Caryl Matrisciana was born in India of British parents and was exposed at an early age to Hinduism. She moved to England as a teenager where she became deeply involved in the New Age Movement, which she discovered had many similarities with Hinduism.

After moving to the States, she was introduced to Jesus at a Bible study, and her life was totally transformed. This is the fascinating story of her spiritual pilgrimage.

Illustrated throughout. 246 pages; \$15 plus shipping.



This is Dr. Mark Gabriel's best selling book about the true nature of Islam. Before his conversion to Christianity, Dr. Gabriel was a professor of Islamic history at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt. He was also a Muslim imam.

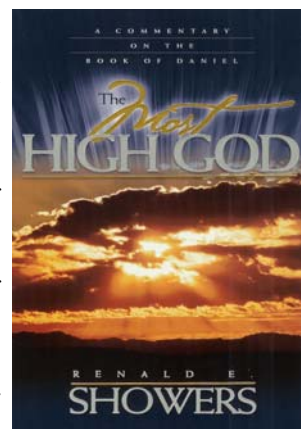
No other book contains such valuable information about the nature of Islam and its fundamental differences with Christianity. It is easy to read and is illustrated throughout. This book is must reading for anyone who wants to understand the Muslim faith and its danger to the world today.

Dr. Gabriel pulls no punches as he describes the true nature of Islam. 234 pages; \$15 plus shipping.

This book by Renald Showers is the best commentary in print on the book of Daniel. It presents a down-to-earth, easy to read, verse by verse commentary on the entire book of Daniel, showing how Daniel fits together with the book of Revelation like a hand in a glove. He clearly shows that it is not possible to understand the book of Revelation without first comprehending Daniel.

The author is a gifted writer who knows how to express complex ideas in the simplest of terms. He currently serves as a researcher, writer and teacher for a Messianic ministry called The Friends of Israel. 218 pages; \$15 plus shipping.

Note: to order any of the items above call 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm Central time, Monday through Friday, or order them through our website at www.lamblion.com. ❖



Cataclysms —

The Bible says that natural calamities will be like “birth pangs” in the end times, meaning they will increase in frequency and intensity (Matthew 24:8). Thus, there will be more frequent earthquakes, tornados, and tsunamis, and more intense ones.

Even the secular world is waking up to this reality. At the end of 2010, two Associated Press writers released a study of natural disasters during that year which they titled, “2010’s World Gone Wild: Quakes, Floods, Blizzards.” They said that 2010 was the year that “the Earth struck back” and the term, “once in a 100-years” lost its meaning. And a recent issue of *Newsweek* made the same point about the continuing rate of gigantic natural disasters in 2011.



Newsweek issue of March 28 & April 4, 2011.

A Confused President —

Last December over 50 members of Congress sent a letter to President Obama reprimanding him for a speech he made in November 2010 at a university in Jakarta, Indonesia. What they were upset about is the fact that he identified the national motto of the United States as *E pluribus unum*, meaning “out of many, one.” They pointed out to the President that the official motto of the nation, adopted by Congress in 1956, and signed into law by President Eisenhower, is “In God We Trust.”

They also mentioned the fact that every time the President quotes the Declaration of Independence, he does so incorrectly. What he says is, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights . . .” What the Declaration actually says, of course, is “that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable rights.”

The sad fact is that our President just cannot bring himself to acknowledge God, and in doing so, he is begging for the wrath of God, both for himself and our nation.

Denying the Word of God —

Lawrence O’Donnell, host of the MSNBC nightly show called “The Last Word,” made the following comment recently about the book of Revelation: “The book of Revelation is a work of fiction describing how a truly vicious God would bring about the end of the world. No half-smart religious person actually believes the book of Revelation.”



O’Donnell

TIMES and Seasons

Doctrinal Confusion —

Robert Schuller, pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California, a suburb of Los Angeles, has never been known for doctrinal orthodoxy. In fact, he has been one of the most heretical Christian leaders in

America. He retired as senior pastor in January 2006, and his son succeeded him. That did not last long. In October 2008, Schuller removed his son as pastor, citing “a lack of shared vision.” He then replaced his son with his eldest daughter, Sheila Schuller Coleman. On October 18, 2010, Sheila Coleman announced that the Crystal Cathedral was seeking bankruptcy protection.

In March of 2011 Pastor Coleman took what appeared to be a step in the right direction. It was announced that no one would be allowed to sing in the church’s choir unless they signed a document affirming “that sexual intimacy is intended by God to only be within the bonds of marriage, between one man and one woman.” At long last, it appeared that the church was going to take a firm stand in behalf of what the Bible teaches about sex.



Pastor Sheila Coleman

But when the news hit the press and a public uproar occurred, Pastor Coleman issued a “sincere apology.” The next day her father held a press conference in which he said that he strongly disapproved of the document. “I have a reputation worldwide of being tolerant of all people and their views,” he told the reporters. He added, “I’m too well-educated to criticize a certain religion or group of people for what they believe in. It’s called freedom.” And so the craziness at the Crystal Cathedral continues unabated.

An Outrageous Decision —

In February President Obama announced that his Administration would no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act, a 15 year old law that defines marriage as heterosexual unions. He said he had ordered the Justice Department to stop defending the law in the courts of the land because he considered it to be unconstitutional. Thus, a man who took an oath to protect the constitution and enforce the laws of the land, suddenly decides that he, and not the Supreme Court, has the right to determine whether or not a law is constitutional and thus whether or not he will enforce it.

Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, called the decision “a milestone in the betrayal of marriage.” Anthony Evans, head of the National Black Church Initiative, said the President “has violated the Christian faith,” and he called for black churches to “reassess their extraordinary support” of Obama. Another Black leader, Ken Hutcherson, pastor of Antioch Bible Church in Kirkland, Washington, said of Obama’s decision, “It is past arrogance. I think it’s delusional.”

The American people have no one to blame but themselves. During his campaign, Obama promised change, he endorsed the homosexual agenda, and he denounced the marriage law. ❖

Ministry News

Schedule —

Nathan Jones is scheduled to visit Nicaragua in **May** to visit with Donald Dolmus and his church (11-16). Donald is the Nicaraguan evangelist who translates all our articles into Spanish. Also in May Dr. Reagan will be holding a prophecy conference at Maranatha Fellowship Church in St. Albans, West Virginia (14-15). The ministry's entire video crew will be shooting television programs with archaeologist Jim Fleming at his Antiquity Center in LaGrange, Georgia (20-25). In **June** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to conduct a prophecy conference at Hill-N-Dale Christian Church in Lexington, Kentucky (4-5). The conference will begin on Saturday evening, June 4th, with a special concert by Larry McCoy and his singing group. They will sing portions of the book of Revelation for about 50 minutes. Then, after a break, Dr. Reagan will preach through the book of Revelation in 50 minutes. At the end of June, the ministry will host its annual Bible Conference in Allen, Texas, a suburb of Dallas (24-25). The theme of the conference will be "Christianity Under Attack." In **July** Dr. Reagan is scheduled to speak at Hikes Point Christian Church on Sunday morning, the 3rd. He will speak about the Christian heritage of America. In mid-July Dr. Reagan will take a video crew to Israel to shoot television programs (12-19). In **August** Dr. Reagan will be one of the speakers at the annual David Hocking Prophecy Conference which will be held at Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, California (5-6). Also that month Dr. Reagan will speak at the Louisiana Bible Prophecy Conference sponsored by Maranatha Ministries (12-13). It will be held at First Baptist Church in Broussard, Louisiana. Dr. Reagan will close out the month of August by speaking at First Christian Church in Scottsburg, Indiana (20-21).

Holy Land Tour —

Our next pilgrimage to the Holy Land is scheduled for October 29 through November 9. The group will spend two nights in Tel Aviv, two in Tiberias (on the Sea of Galilee), and five in Jerusalem. Also the group will spend one night in Frankfurt, Germany on the way back home to the States. Dr. Reagan will personally lead the tour, which will be limited to 52 people. To secure a detailed brochure, call 972-736-3567. Or, you can find the details about the trip on the Internet at www.discoveryworldwideministries.com/israel/reagan-10-29-2011.php. Don't miss this opportunity to see the land of the Bible and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.



Dominus Flevit Chapel on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Video Shoot in Israel —

In mid-July Dr. Reagan is scheduled to take a video crew to Israel to shoot television programs. About \$15,000 is needed to cover the cost of this trip. If you feel led to help with this project, please designate your gift for "Israel Video Shoot." Thanks!



Foreign Publications —

We have been greatly blessed to have many of our publications translated into foreign languages. We provide regular monthly support to Donald Dolmus in Nicaragua to enable him to translate our articles into Spanish. He then posts these articles on his website for Spanish-speaking people all over the world to read. You can find his website at www.edefensadelafe.org. We are currently trying to arrange for a Spanish translation of

Dr. Reagan's book, *Wrath and Glory*. This is his book about the meaning of the book of Revelation. The estimate we have received for getting this book translated by a world-class translator is \$3,200.

Wrath and Glory has already been published in a variety of languages, including Telegu, Urdu, Nepali, and Chinese.

John Ishmael in India, head of Revival Literature Fellowship in Bangalore, has started publishing an Indian edition of our *Lamp-lighter* magazine. It is costing \$400 per issue, for a total of \$2,400 per year.

Prophecy Partners —



Dr. Reagan (on the right) with Dennis and Bonnie Pieczarka, Prophecy Partners from River Falls, Wisconsin.

The financial and prayer base of our ministry is supplied by our Prophecy Partners. We currently have slightly more than 2,400 of these wonderful people who have committed themselves to be partners in our effort to proclaim the soon return of Jesus to as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

To become a Partner, you must agree to pray for us regularly and to provide a monthly donation of \$20 or more. Once you have made that commitment, you will start receiving a monthly letter from Dr. Reagan in which he will tell you about developments in the ministry and provide you with specific prayer requests. He will also send you a monthly gift, which is usually a DVD program about some aspect of Bible prophecy. Our goal this year is to surpass the 2,500 mark in our number of Prophecy Partners so that we can increase our outreach via television.

To sign up, give us a call at 972-736-3567. Thanks! ❖



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At Last!

Dr. Reagan usually opens his presentations by showing about ten unusual church signs, and for years people who have heard Dr. Reagan speak at churches and conferences have been clamoring for a video that would feature his collection of strange church signs.

Well, at long last, it is ready for distribution. It features a total of 242 church signs divided into 20 categories. They will have you laughing one moment and gasping in disbelief the next moment. Some of the categories include signs about God, Jesus, the Bible, Christian Living, Prayer, Salvation, Hell, and Christmas.

One section contains a war of signs between Catholic and Presbyterian Churches. Another features a whole series of clever signs designed by a British Pentecostal pastor who used the signs to build attendance at his church.

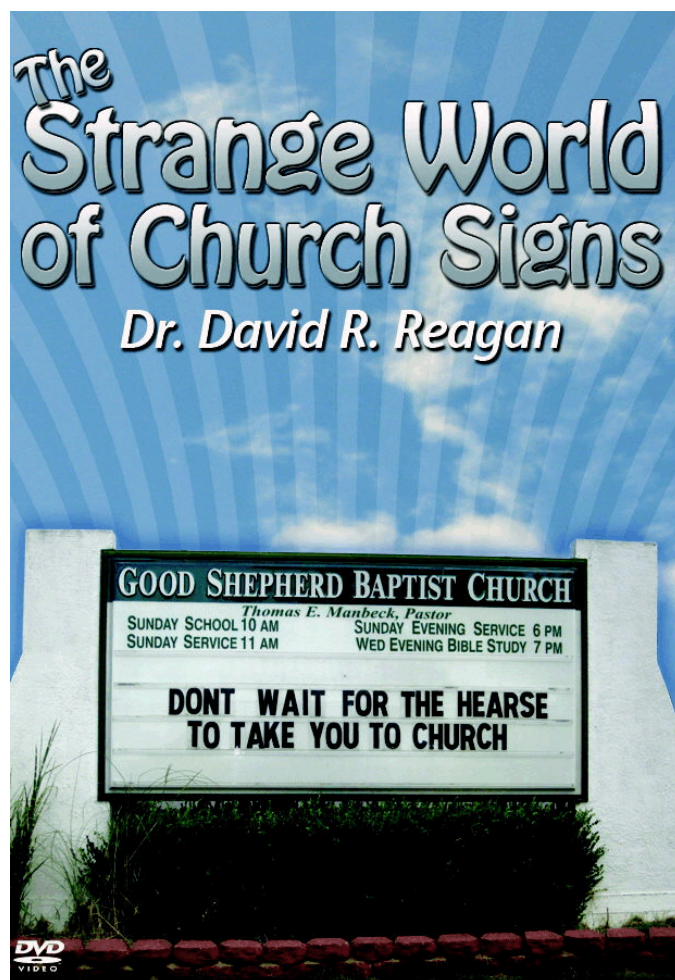
There are many signs featured in the video that just contain hilarious or weird messages. As Dr. Reagan has often said, "He never ceases to be amazed at the crazy messages that people put on church signs."

Dr. Reagan's favorite category is Strange Church Names. Many of the ones he features in this video seem to have come right out of the Twilight Zone!



At the end of his sweeping presentation of a great variety of church signs, Dr. Reagan suddenly shifts gears and begins to focus on the Signs of the Times that point to the

soon return of Jesus, ending with a strong evangelistic



message about getting right with God through faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. For this reason, this video is a great witnessing tool for non-believers. They will be hooked by the strange and humorous signs and will be caught unaware by the serious message at the end.

The video runs 48 minutes in length. You can acquire a copy by calling 972-736-3567 between 8am and 5pm, Monday through Friday. Or, you can order the video through our website at www.lamblion.com. The video sells for \$12 plus the cost of shipping. ✚