

The DEFENDER - August 2014

“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: Failing the Test

The test was to see if the Palestinians could live peaceably, like other civilized people. In 2005, under the direction of former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon, the Jewish settlements in Gaza were replaced by Palestinian neighborhoods in another attempt to trade land for peace. Is there any doubt, while looking at the condition of Gaza today, that the Palestinians have failed the test? I know not all Palestinians are linked to Hamas, the terrorist organization that filled the vacuum left when the Jews departed. But it was widely reported that Gaza would become a training ground for terrorism once Israel handed over the land. And many Palestinians, while perhaps not aggressively hostile, are still in favor of a one state solution in the region, the one state being recognized as Palestine. So in order to achieve that objective, they were willing to allow Hamas free reign in bringing it about.

Trading land for peace doesn't work when one side wants all the land but without the peace. I also might add that God gave that land (and much more) to Abraham for God's chosen people Israel. But the Muslim jihadists won't be satisfied until all the Jews are wiped off the face of the earth. Jesus said in Matthew 6:24 that man cannot serve two masters. Apparently Muslims feel the same way. Their ultimate goal is a worldwide caliphate, with everyone bowing the knee to Allah and the teachings of their prophet Mohammed. To them there is no two deity solution any more than there is a two state solution. It's all or nothing. They want it all and they're willing to die for their cause. And this is a mindset, or a worldview, that the West has great difficulty in understanding. We who love freedom believe everyone else should too. We who have a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, believe everyone else would like that too. And so it doesn't make sense to us when people who have been in bondage to theocratic rule for over a thousand years turn down our offers to bring them representative government. To them Sharia Law trumps the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and the Bible. It doesn't make sense to us in the West that some people love death more than we love life. You can't defeat a people who want you to kill them, allowing them to die for a cause which they believe is greater and more important than life itself.

Israel may indeed defeat Hamas in Gaza. But that won't stop the greater Islamic caliphate. That won't change the centuries old worldview of total global domination. Someone else will come in and fill the void. They certainly don't lack for candidates. There are so many active terrorist organizations on the map that there's not enough room here to list them all. Many names, however, such as al-Qaeda, Hizbollah, Boko Haram, ISIS, and the Taliban are recognizable. And Iran of course is behind it all. They are in the process of fulfilling Bible prophecy, spoken of by the prophet Ezekiel. He tells of a future time (perhaps not too distant) in Ezekiel 38 and 39 when Persia (current day Iran) will join forces with Russia, Turkey, Libya, and others to rain nuclear weaponry down upon Israel. That time may be quickly approaching.

The good news, of course, is that God's people Israel will be saved. He is their God and they are His people. True believing Christians will also be saved, as we believe the Body of Christ will be raptured prior to the Great Tribulation. It's everyone else who will be in harm's way. Jesus Christ came to redeem the lost. His shed blood is sufficient to cover your sins. That's an indisputable fact. The test is whether or not you believe it. Don't fail the test.

Rev. David Lewis

The Forbidden Book – Part I Divine Authorship Through Human Instruments

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89)

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of God will stand for ever.” (Is. 40:8)

“For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Matt. 5:18)

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matt. 24:35)

“But the word of the Lord endureth forever.” (1 Peter 1:25)

The word bible has its root in the Greek word for the plant papyrus from which a form of paper can be made. The scarcity of the earliest manuscripts results from the necessity that scripture was painstakingly copied by hand and the inherent fragility of the paper. Sheepskin proved the most durable but the skins of a small flock were required for just one Bible. There is also the sad fact that Bibles were burned during the many persecutions.

Our God did some writing with His own finger on tablets of stone demonstrating the permanency He intended for His Word (Deut. 10:1-5). Also, to the same point, God called His prophets to faithfully preserve His Word as did Isaiah who was instructed, “Now go, write it ... in a book that it may be ... for ever” (Is. 30:8). Likewise with Jeremiah who was moved to record, “Thus speaketh the Lord God ... Write .. that I have spoken ... in a book” (Jer 30:2, 36:2).

Minor prophets were similarly directed by God to permanently secure access for His children to His everlasting Word. Habakkuk penned, “... the Lord answered ... write the vision ... upon tables that he may ... readeth it” (Hab. 2:2). God repeatedly charged men to set His word to writing to preserve it for all generations (2 Pet. 1:21). Moses on one occasion was commanded to “write this for a memorial in a book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua” (Ex. 17:14) and also to read God’s Word, “... in the audience of the people” (Ex. 24:4a, 7). God gave to Moses the blessing of recording the incomparably marvelous creation account and of His choosing and sanctifying a people for His name and for setting down laws and prophecies. Graciously God permanently secured the Bible’s life-giving words that are still enlightening minds and saving souls in our time (Rom. 10:5-11, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:19-21). We may have full assurance of life eternal when the supernatural gift of faith is made operative and we are thereby enabled to BELIEVE, and is confirmed to our spirit by the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 14:17; 1 John 5:13; John 20:31; 1 Cor. 3:16).

Ezra the Prophet was led of God in 536 B.C. to assemble all God inspired sacred Hebrew scrolls which we now call the Old Testament. In the New Testament era (A.D. 210) Origen

assembled the group of writings that met the strict tests for canonical acceptability. In 315 A.D., the orthodox churchman Athanasius listed the 27 books accepted as “God-breathed” and so belong in the New Testament. Faithful scribes preserved these for us.

In 382 A.D. Jerome, after mastering the Hebrew tongue, received a commission to translate both Testaments into Latin which was then a widely understood language. Jerome was the first to place an asterisk next to the apocryphal books as being inferior to the 66 canonical books. Only writings by men universally regarded as unquestionably guided by the Holy Spirit or taught by Jesus Christ merit being called God’s Word. By 400 A.D. the scriptures had been translated into hundreds of languages, but by 500 A.D. it was legal (by Church edict) in Latin alone. Sadly, this arbitrary ruling effectively led to denying Christ’s teachings to the laity. The light and liberty Christ died for on Calvary’s cross became dim and all but completely obscured in the days of the spiritual and intellectual declension of the Dark Ages (400 A.D. to 1400 A.D.) and the relegation of the masses of people to serfdom (Is. 61:1-3; John 8:32; Rom. 8:21; 2 Cor. 3:17; James 1:25).

Chapter divisions were first added to the Bible at the University of Paris around 1200 A.D. and verse divisions around 1500 A.D. In 1480, the first printed Bible came off the Guttenberg press – in Latin – all non-Latin languages were still forbidden. There were many languages but only one allowed by the autocrats that ruled in the “Holy” Roman Empire. Common people were perennially relegated to abject servitude because the language of learning was confined to Latin. Another ill-omened development of the Dark Age was the ever increasing concentration of social, political, economic and ecclesiastical power in the hands of the select few – especially in “Divine Rights” kings, emperors and popes.

The “very good” of Christ’s creation and later sacrifice that brought light and life to ALL men (Gen. 1:31; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17; Ep. 3:9; Heb. 1:1-2) was plunged into a thousand years of darkness. During these centuries of religious and academic retardation in Western Christendom, the light of Christ’s teachings was obscured by the intrusion of extra-biblical doctrines and dogmas, regulations and rites under which all classes suffered. In place of Christ’s commandments and simple Gospel message came the works-righteousness neo-pagan concepts such as adoration of “saints” and the forbidden production of their icons or images, meritorious pilgrimages to shrines, penances, purgatory, confession, priestly absolution, et. al. The Biblical plan of salvation was submerged by superstitions, and man-centered forms and ceremonies. Clerics no longer relied solely upon the fully “finished” work of Christ at Calvary and God’s unmerited GIFT of faith alone by grace alone (John 6:44-47, 19:30; Ep. 2:1-10; Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 2:8-15, 20-22).

By the 16th Century, a great recovery of Christ’s teachings had been obtained and the unscriptural additions to the Lord’s Supper (the bread was called God and was bowed down to) were corrected. The tokens of bread and wine were to be a reminder only of the broken body and shed blood of the “Lamb of God” of the New Covenant that Christ substituted for the lamb used in the Passover (John 1:29; Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Scripture nowhere commands or gives power to any man to transform bread into the very flesh of Jesus Christ. The bread is to remind us that Christ is NOT on the Cross but right now, as one reads this, sitting on the right hand of God making intercession for us (Ex. 20:4-5a; Ep. 2:8-10; Heb. 9:11-15, 25-28, 10:10-14).

During the Dark Ages, the period of a “famine,” not of bread but of God’s Word (Amos 8:11) there arose the non-biblical practice of granting indulgences from sins for a set sum of money. Church offices and benefices were sold to the highest bidders. A hundred and fifty years before the great corrective of the Protestant Reformation, occurred the “Babylonian Captivity” of the Church. Two Popes were elected in 1377, one in Italy and one in France, and a general Council met at Pisa to remove the scandal. Their solution? Elect a third Pope and excommunicate the others.

Christ had plainly warned His Apostles that they were NEVER to become exalted rulers (Matt. 20:25-28; Luke 22:25-26; Rom. 12:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:5-6). Our marching orders are always subordinate to God’s Word and commands and not to man’s ideas alone (Jer. 17:9-10; Rom. 3:10-23).

Throughout human history God has exercised His right to change the hearts of kings and mere men to become His faithful servants. One such was Columba in 560 A.D. who founded a Bible College on the Island of Iona off Northwest Scotland. His influence to spread the Bible and its teachings lasted 700 years. He and his compatriots, called Culdees, were eventually forced underground when the exalted Church Rulers brought condemnation and persecution.

The Lord is never without a witness and then appeared John Wycliffe, the “Morning Star” of the Reformation. Wycliffe had been the Master of Balliol College of Oxford, England (1362-1372), and he had reached many thousands with Christ’s gospel. He was the first to widely circulate the Bible in English, albeit handwritten. His “Lollard” preacher-boys reached the lower classes bringing many to salvation.

When Wycliffe wrote against transubstantiation as being closer to Babylonian “blood-rituals” than the teachings of Christ, Church rulers were filled with wrath. They failed to kill Wycliffe or even silence him, but 44 years after his death his bones were disinterred and burned. They also failed to stop the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeds scattered by men like Columba and Wycliffe took root throughout Europe and later in America.

Keep looking up.



Every Good and Perfect Work

By Nancy Long

Psalm 127:3-5a -- *"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them* "

James 1:17 -- *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*

James 1:2-4 -- *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

God is amazing, awesome, astonishing, astounding, marvelous, measureless, boundless, unfathomable, infinite, without end God is!!! Not only was this universe spoken into existence, by a Being, known as God, but this same universe continues to be sustained, cared for, and wrapped up in His everlasting arms of love. We have not been left unto ourselves, and thankfully so, as we travel through this thing called time. **God knows you, and me! God is with you, and me!!** We can confidently put our faith, hope, and trust in such a One as this One who saw, and knew, and had plans for our substance, as it was being curiously wrought within our mother's womb when it was yet still imperfect (Psalm 139:15-16). God has a plan and a purpose for each one of our days. Look to Him Praise Him, for we indeed are *"fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14).

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been His counselor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto Him again. For of Him, and to Him, are all things: to Him be glory for ever. Amen (Rom. 11:33-36).

Life, itself, is one of God's most precious and treasured gifts! *"Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture"* (Psalm 100:3).

"Children are an heritage from the Lord Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them", says the Scripture.

In the last six weeks, from June 13th through July 26th, my husband Larry and I have been blessed with seven major events the marriages of two granddaughters, the births of three great grandsons (one of whom was born 6 1/2 weeks prematurely, and had to stay in the hospital for a few weeks), a grandson and his family moving into their new home and lastly a son, with Parkinson's Disease, who has just endured his second back fusion surgery, We, with grateful hearts, were able to be involved, and share in all these diverse and varied situations of life.



"Every good and perfect gift is from above," the Bible teaches, as well as, *"Count it all joy, when you fall into various trials."* Three beautiful babies, precious treasures from God, all born during the month of June. Anyone would say, these are "good" gifts! Who can't but see the hand of the Lord in the miracle of each new physical birth? Two marriages, both couples beginning their lives together, with Christ at the center of their home. Who would not agree more "good" and "perfect" gifts?! Moving from one home to another packing, unpacking, organizing, etc. wonderful, exciting times, but also tiring, and possibly a bit stressful a "good" gift? Most would probably declare in harmony, "Yes."

Back surgery, though? a debilitating, neurological or nervous disorder, called Parkinson's Disease, where certain cells in the brain go awry? "good" gifts? Count it all joy? Some might need to think twice about this particular "gift" However, the inerrancy of the Word of the Almighty clearly teaches, *"These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). This world is not our home we're just passing through. Therefore, we must remember to focus, not so much on the circumstance itself, but on the Master Designer/Potter, who is above the experienced difficulty. May we never overlook, ignore, omit, or disregard the truth that

God is **always** in control governing, and constantly at work in accomplishing His plan, for our good, and His glory.

Our Sovereign God Omniscient One, whose children have been in the palm of His hand, since before the beginning of time whose thoughts are always precious toward us, and are more in number than the minute grains of sand (Ps. 139:17). Is not this knowledge too wonderful and too high for us, mere humans, to even think on and contemplate?!?! This Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Mighty God we serve, loves us with an everlasting love, and *"Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in us, will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"* (Phil. 1:6). We can claim, with assurance, His promise, that **all things** yes, **in total every thing** *"all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"* (Rom. 8:28).

Keep on keepin' on, Defenders. Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow!!

A Child's Prayer

*Dear Jesus, although I'm very small
And hardly know you much at all,
I hope that you will hear my prayer
Because in my heart I know you care.*

*Please open my eyes so I can see
Your sovereign grace bestowed upon me.
Give me ears so I can hear
Your glorious truths which are so clear.*

*So please Lord Jesus remember me!
Open my heart, you have the key.
Give me your love that is so true
And everlasting life with you.*

Linda Tyson

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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In Defense of Truth is heard in Baltimore on:

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Listen Online: <http://www.InDefenseOfTruth.org/broadcast> for details.

We are now on internet radio: www.evangelismradio.com (various times).

Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"
airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Final Outdoor Movie Night of the Summer
- Friday, August 15th, at 8 PM -

Ice Cream Social
- Saturday, August 16th, from 2-4 PM -