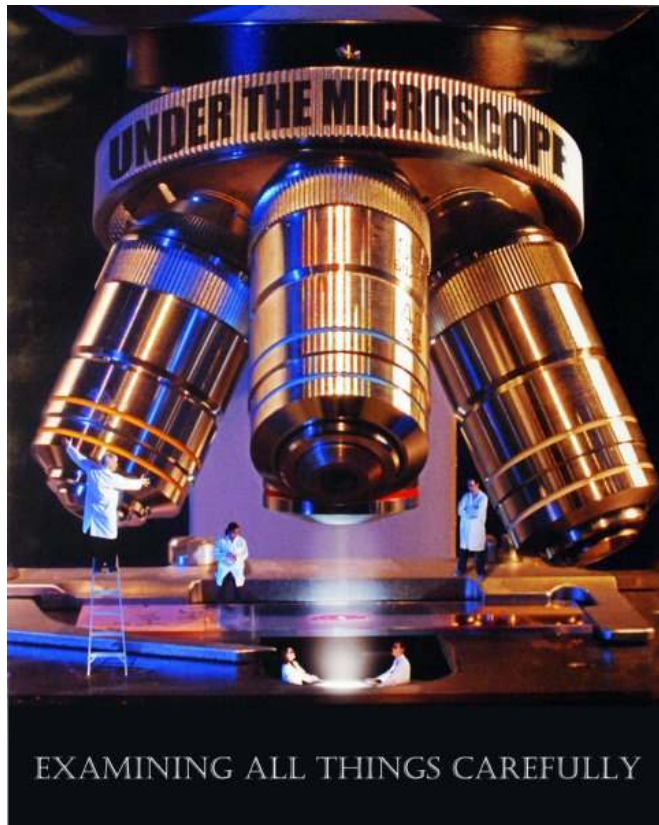


Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Joseph Herrin (04-18-2011)



I Thessalonians 5:19-21

Do not quench the Spirit; do not despise prophetic utterances. But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good.

II Timothy 3:13

But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

We live in an hour when people are bombarded by a steady stream of thoughts and ideas. The Internet has truly changed many things. Ideas are now streamed worldwide in an instant. Even the most wildly preposterous claims are picked up by others, rebroadcast, and have the ability to become a viral phenomena in a very short time.

That mankind is prone to deception, and many act intentionally or unintentionally to deceive others, is not a new phenomenon. In 1841 a Scottish man named Charles Mackay wrote a history of popular folly. His book was titled *Extraordinary Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*. One

hundred-seventy years ago Mackay wrote about economic bubbles, alchemy (the attempt to transmute base elements into gold), crusades, witch-hunts, prophecies, fortune-telling, popular follies of great cities, and man's tendency to romanticize thieves and criminals, among other things.

Two well known quotations from this book are as follows:

"Men, it has been well said, think in herds; it will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they only recover their senses slowly, and one by one."

"Of all the offspring of Time, Error is the most ancient, and is so old and familiar an acquaintance, that Truth, when discovered, comes upon most of us like an intruder, and meets the intruder's welcome."

I find much to agree with in these statements. Over the course of the years that I have had an Internet ministry, I have encountered much error. Many, having their error pointed out to them, respond to the truth as a very unwelcome intruder. Men tend to be wed to their fables, holding them dearly with an unreasonable bias.

I have at times embraced popular delusions myself. I was thoroughly chastened when the world's systems of computers and processors did not all come to a screeching halt when Y2K occurred. I worked in the computer field at that time, and had no concern for what might occur in the internal workings of computers as they failed to handle the date change to a new century. That is, I had no concern until a couple from our church invited my wife and I to supper, and afterward showed us a video from The Prophecy Club that was focused on the Y2K Bug. A fire was lit. I was convinced that dire things were about to occur, that the government knew about it, and was failing to warn the population knowing that it would lead to a societal meltdown.

I didn't sell all I had, and move to some remote wilderness area with a stockpile of food and supplies, but I bought into the hysteria and helped to spread it. I was absolutely sincere in my convictions, and just as absolutely in error.

Afterwards, I cried out to the Lord, asking Him why He permitted me to be carried away into such error. I was greatly chastened to have spoken to many people about the dire things I thought were coming, but they did not come. I asked the Father why He did not open my eyes sooner, for I did not want to be

like the boy who cried wolf. I did not want people to discount my words when the Father did have some word of warning to declare through me.

The Father let me know that I would survive. I had just begun an Internet ministry at that time, and it was not a very auspicious beginning. I felt that integrity required that I post a public apology to the well trafficked prophecy site that I had used to broadcast my words of warning. Although I was not alone in speaking error in the run-up to Y2K, I stood quite alone, being the only person on the site who posted a public apology. Through it all I learned a very great lesson. I learned the importance of dividing between soul and spirit. I saw the necessity of testing all things, and waiting patiently upon the Father to affirm those thoughts that had entered my mind.

I say that I learned these lessons at that time, but in truth, I am still learning them to this day. It might be more appropriate to say that I was made aware of the need to examine all things carefully at that time; to know whether some thought in my mind had its origin in the mind of God, or whether it originated in some lesser source. The inclination of the natural man is to be impetuous, to run with a message before it is thoroughly tested. I have found that I need to exercise self-restraint, ruling over this impulse. Self-restraint is a godly characteristic, and all who would be numbered among the firstborn, and walk as overcomers in Christ must have the fruit of self-control evident in their lives.

In the years since, I have been growing in this area of testing all things carefully. It is a very necessary practice in this hour, for deception does abound. The Internet has given the most remote and unworthy voices an instantaneous worldwide forum to broadcast any thought that arises in their soul. Many seek to intentionally deceive. I cannot tell you how many Christians I had to inform that they were not going to receive a check in the mail from Bill Gates simply by forwarding an e-mail to everyone on their mailing list. Other deceptions, are a bit more creative, but their embrace by Christians reveals the lack of thorough vetting of a matter before forwarding it on to others. Have you ever receive an e-mail with the following picture in it?



This, and a number of other pictures, have circulated the Internet for years. They are accompanied by some story of a giant skeleton being discovered in Saudi Arabia, or Turkey, or some other far off place. They are cited as evidence of the existence of the Nephilim spoken of in the Bible. Although the Nephilim were surely real, these photos are not. The above picture was taken from WORTH1000, a website devoted to people showing off their skills at manipulating photographs. In these days of Photoshop software, and green screen technology, seeing is not the same as believing. We must go beyond sight and hearing to discern truth. Isaiah prophesied the following of the coming Messiah:

Isaiah 11:3

And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears...

How are we to judge a matter if not by sight and hearing? We are to test all things carefully, both in the natural and spiritual realms. Many a deception can be discovered by careful scrutiny of the natural evidence. Yet, some things can only be discerned as we receive revelation from the Father.

I Corinthians 2:11-15

Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is

spiritual judges all things...

In recent years I have received scores of e-mails from the people of God asserting all manner of alarming things. Some of the most common contain confident assertions about matters as diverse as HAARP, the Large Hadron Collider, Chemtrails, and Planet X, Nibiru, and Comet Elenin. I have discoursed at length on these topics with a number of saints. I am going to share some thoughts relating to them, and related subjects, with the readers of this blog in this present series on examining all things.

If you already have adopted a view on these matters, I invite you to patiently consider what I have to share. It is not my intent to offend others by sharing a perspective that may be different from their own. Rather, my desire is to encourage the saints to develop the habit of testing all things carefully. It is well to consider the arguments for and against a subject, before forming a judgment.

Proverbs 18:17

The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

Proverbs 18:13

He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

Last week I received for the umpteenth time an e-mail describing the heinous practices of some oriental cultures who are eating babies. Pictures were included. I am happy to report that these pictures are Photoshopped, and the story is false. Two good resources for checking out the legitimacy of urban legends and viral e-mails are the Snopes and Urban Legends websites.

www.snopes.com

<http://urbanlegends.about.com/>

I recommend these sites with the caveat that although I have found them immensely helpful in examining many of the claims being circulated, the sites are not infallible. The Snopes site tends to be biased toward a liberal, Democratic base, as is evidenced in their articles on Barack Obama's birth certificate. Nevertheless, these sites have proven hugely beneficial as I have looked for various sources to test many of the claims circulating the Internet.

I am not so skeptical as to disbelieve every wild claim that comes along. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. For example, just yesterday a brother in Christ forwarded me a link to a video that reveals that restaurants and caterers have for more than a decade been using “meat glue” to make scrap pieces of meat into what passes to be prime cuts. This meat glue is often made from the coagulants extracted from pig and cow blood. This is a very appalling thought to me, knowing that the Bible forbids the eating of blood.

The actual name of this bonding product is Transglutaminase. You can watch a video on it here:

<http://au.todaytonight.yahoo.com/article/8989315/consumer/meat-glue>

According to the Wikipedia article on Transglutaminase, this product is widely used in seafood products, such as imitation crab meat, fish balls, and reconstructed steaks. It is also used in sausage and hot dogs, to make milk and yogurt creamier, and noodles firmer. While this product is used primarily in restaurants and by caterers, the FDA does not require it to be included on a product label. See link:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transglutaminase>

It is absolutely necessary in this hour to examine all things carefully. Appearances are most definitely deceiving. What looks good and wholesome may be far from it, and what is declared to be evil may actually be falsely vilified.

Consider the way statistics are often used to support an argument. It is possible for a statistic to be absolutely true, while at the same time being completely irrelevant. This is brought out in the following farcical review.

The Dangers of Bread

1. More than 98 percent of convicted felons are bread eaters.
2. Fully HALF of all children who grow up in bread-consuming households score below average on standardized tests.
3. In the 18th century, when virtually all bread was baked in the home, the average life expectancy was less than 50 years; infant mortality rates were unacceptably high; many women died in childbirth; and diseases such as typhoid, yellow fever and influenza ravaged whole nations.

4. More than 90 percent of violent crimes are committed within 24 hours of eating bread.
 5. Bread is made from a substance called "dough." It has been proven that as little as one pound of dough can be used to suffocate a mouse. The average American eats more bread than that in one month!
 6. Primitive tribal societies that have no bread exhibit a low occurrence of cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and osteoporosis.
 7. Bread has been proven to be addictive. Subjects deprived of bread and given only water to eat begged for bread after only two days.
 8. Bread is often a "gateway" food item, leading the user to "harder" items such as butter, jelly, peanut butter and even cold cuts.
 9. Bread has been proven to absorb water. Since the human body is more than 90 percent water, it follows that eating bread could lead to your body being taken over by this absorptive food product, turning you into a soggy, gooey bread-pudding person.
 10. Newborn babies can choke on bread.
 11. Bread is baked at temperatures as high as 400 degrees Fahrenheit! That kind of heat can kill an adult in less than one minute.
 12. Most American bread eaters are utterly unable to distinguish between significant scientific fact and meaningless statistical babbling.
- [Taken from an Internet Source]

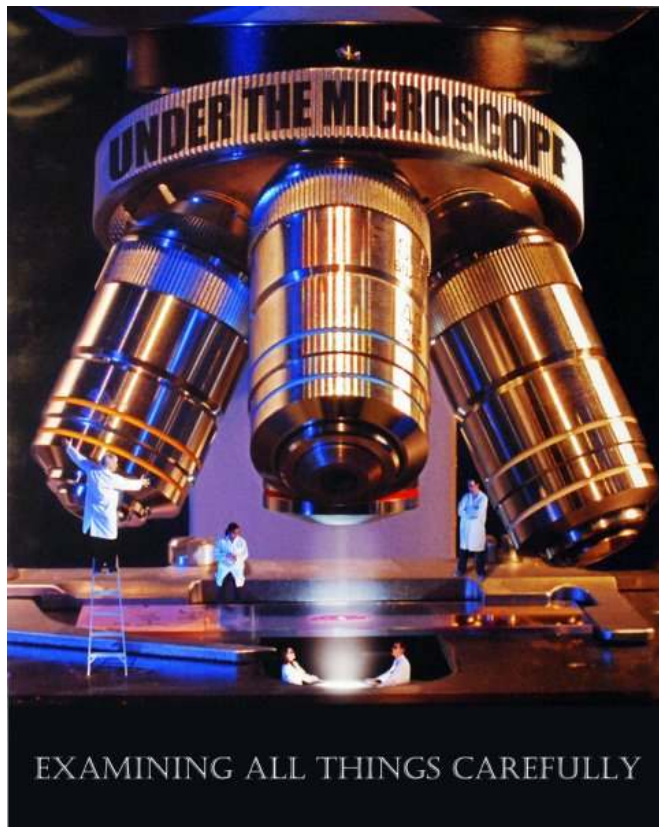
I have seen similar logic employed to vilify all manner of things, or to "prove" some speculation as truth. As sons of God walking in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, let us all strive to walk as Christ commanded.

Matthew 10:16

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

More to come...

Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Part II - Critical Thinking
Joseph Herrin (04-20-2011)



For years I have been getting e-mails forwarded to me from Christians that attribute all manner of natural disasters to man. Hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes have been declared with much authority to be the work of evil men using technologies such as HAARP, or the Large Hadron Collider. If you do not know what these things are, or only have a vague notion about their design, purpose, and capabilities, you are not alone. Most people have very little comprehension of the physics and design of these installations, including myself, which makes them ideal targets for speculation. Since so few understand these facilities, or the science behind them, even the most outrageous claims can appear plausible.

I am reminded of a statement I came across many years back. It was a quotation from a renowned archaeologist who was the overseer of a museum in Chicago. There were many exhibits in the museum relating to the evolution of man, and life on earth. This man was himself an evolutionist. His statement was surprisingly candid. He said, "The depictions of evolutionary progress are limited only by the imagination of the theorist and the gullibility of the

hearers.”

I did quite a bit of research into evolutionary claims when I was in my twenties. I found much deception evident. A classic example is Nebraska Man. In 1922 a single molar tooth was unearthed in Nebraska. Professor Henry Osborn, the head of the Department of Paleontology at the American Museum of Natural History, claimed that the tooth belonged to an early hominid. From this one tooth, an artist's depiction was drawn up of what this early man looked like. The illustration was published in the *Illustrated London News*. The reconstruction was described as “the expression of an artist's brilliant imaginative genius.”



Nebraska Man

In my research I discovered that the depictions of prehistoric man are based upon very little evidence. A tooth, a fragment of a jawbone, a piece of skull, may be all that the archaeologist discovered. The entire body of the alleged prehistoric man is reconstructed from a fragment. From a tooth, the scientists come up with an idea of what the jaw might have looked like. From the jawbone, they then hypothesize about what the other cranial features might have been. From their conjecture on the skull, they then postulate about what the rest of the bodily frame and structure must have resembled. In the case of Nebraska Man, all this was done from one tooth.

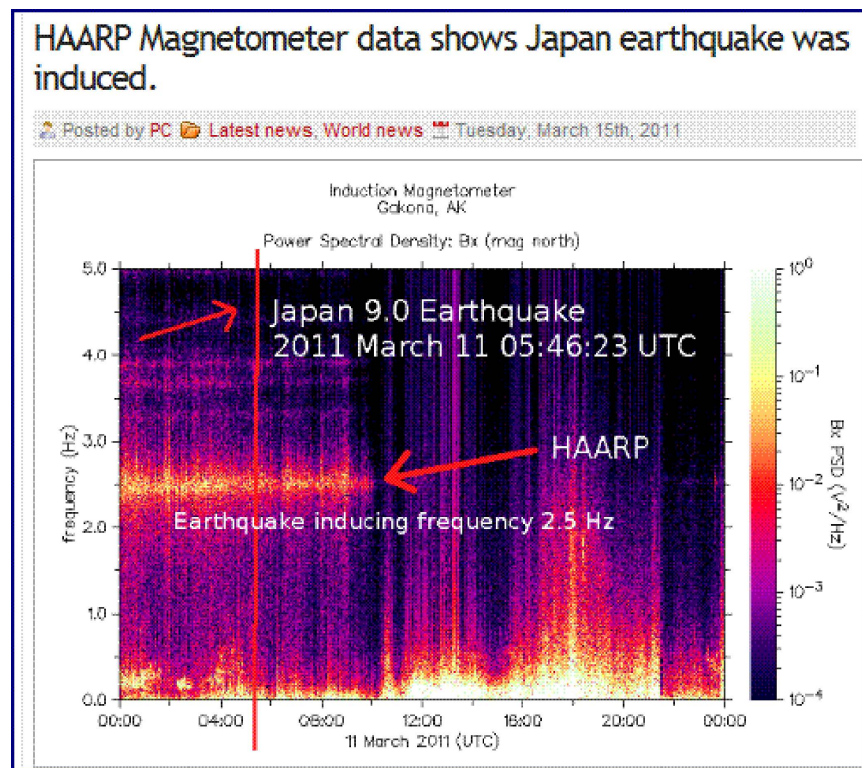
Six years after the tooth was found, it was discovered that it actually belonged to an extinct pig. The reconstruction may have been hailed as “brilliant” and “genius,” but in hindsight it was hardly worthy of such accolades. The drawing that appeared in *Illustrated London News* does not look like any pig I have ever seen. Truly, much that is passed off as truth, whether originating among

the scientific community, or outside of it, is limited only by the imagination of the theorist and the gullibility of the hearers.

These same words apply equally to the multitude of theories today being set forth about the cause of natural disasters. Not surprisingly, a person can find a myriad of voices at this very hour that are declaring that the recent earthquakes in the world, including the 8.8 magnitude quake near Concepcion, Chile; the devastating earthquake in Haiti; the Christchurch, New Zealand quakes; and the Japanese earthquake of March 11th of this year, are caused by various mysterious, and little understood forces. Some of these forces are attributed to man, and some to natural sources such a comets.

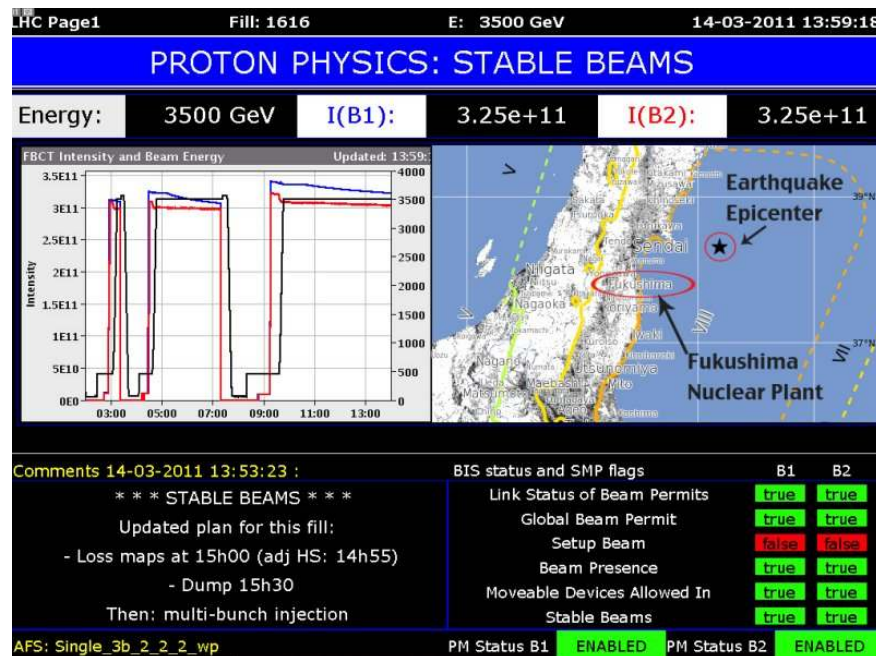
HAARP Caused the Earthquakes

http://beforeitsnews.com/story/20/951/Are_We_in_a_HAARP_Earthquake_War.html



The Large Hadron Collider Caused the Earthquakes

<http://www.cerntruth.com/?p=231>



Comet Elenin, Nibiru, Planet X Caused the Earthquakes

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmzxfvEke_s

The image shows a YouTube video player interface. The video title is 'Ring of Fire Earthquakes Caused by Comet Elenin? The Daily Doom - March 18th 2011'. The video is from the channel 'TheDailyDoom' and has 15 videos in the playlist. The video player shows a globe with a green ring of fire around the Pacific Ocean. The video has 4,329 views. To the right of the video player, there are suggestions for other videos, including 'Elenin Comet (Dwarf Star)', 'Elenin Simulation 2011', 'Planet Elenin - Nibiru - Brown Dwarf Star Is Co...', 'Japan Earthquake in USA warns Russia, Madrid fa...', and 'Nibiru Tracker 2012 NOW Comet Elenin C2010 X1 I...'.

I have provided only one link and one image relating to each theory. Dozens of examples could easily be provided. Naturally, there are variations from one website, or video, to another. Some people write with great conviction and

authority, assured that they have the truth, while others allow for the possibility that they may not be seeing things with absolute clarity. They believe, however, the matter is both important and plausible enough to share with others.

There are people from each of these camps who are persuaded that they have discovered the cause for the earthquakes occurring along the Ring of Fire. They support their theories with graphics, videos, data, and what they believe are convincing arguments. Many people who have been exposed to the arguments find them persuasive, and become alarmed. In turn they share their concern with others. In a short amount of time, these theories become viral, and ultimately they end up in my inbox, and perhaps yours as well. In an hour when great confusion and deception abound, how is a Christian to test these matters to tell what is true and what is error?

The Role of Critical Thinking

Many Christians today have denigrated the need to think critically. Some believe that employing logic and reason are in some way antithetical to faith and walking by the Spirit. Consequently, many Christians have never developed the ability to think critically.

God is not opposed to man employing the mental capacity that he was created to possess. It sounds almost ridiculous for me to even have to write such a statement, but it is necessary. More than most Bible teachers today, I have laid much emphasis upon the need of the Christian to be led of the Spirit. I have stressed the need to divide between soul and Spirit, that we might know the source of our thoughts. It is not my contention, however, that the soul has no value, or role to play in the life of the Christian.

God has created man to be a tripartite being. Man consists of body, soul, and, if he has been born again, spirit. The spirit is designed by God to be the most ascendant part of the new creation man. The soul of man is to submit to the spirit, even as the flesh is to submit to the soul. Even though I have been born again of the Spirit of Christ, I still possess a body, and I employ it. Even now as I am sitting here at the computer my body is acting as the servant to my soul, which in turn is the servant to my spirit. God has called me to serve as a teacher to His people. My spirit man delights to do the will of the Father, and has in turn instructed my soul to enter into this work. My soul in turn controls the body. I am an entire man in the service of the King.

Even as it would be ridiculous to think I no longer needed my body since I am now a spiritual creation, it is equally folly to think that I am not to employ the capabilities of my soul in the service of God. The soul is not to rule, or lead, but it is absolutely necessary in carrying out the will of the Father. One of the capacities God has placed in the soul of man is what we call reason.

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, and let us reason together," says Yahweh.

Isaiah 41:21

"Present your case," says Yahweh. "Bring forth your strong reasons," says the King of Jacob.

The Bible reveals that the human faculty of reason is not to be ignored. Rather, it is to be brought under subjection to the spirit of man, who is in turn subjected to the Spirit of God. Paul serves as an example of a minister who skillfully employed reason in carrying out what is arguably the most effective ministry recorded in the New Testament outside of Christ.

Acts 17:2-4

Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths *reasoned* with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were *persuaded*...

Acts 18:4

And he *reasoned* in the synagogue every Sabbath, and *persuaded* both Jews and Greeks.

Reason alone is insufficient to lead any man to faith in Christ. Yahshua testified that no man could come to Him unless the Father draws him (John 6:44). At the same time, God has chosen the "foolishness of preaching" to save men (I Corinthians 1:21). The apostle Paul in this latter passage declares that the message of the cross is foolishness to the natural mind. There are many things the natural mind would never arrive at, or accept, apart from the intervention of God. Nevertheless, God calls His people to appeal by sound rational arguments to those who do not yet know Christ. Those appointed to salvation will be granted the grace to receive the word.

In these things we see that body, soul and spirit are all involved in carrying out

the will of God. Even as a man can be hindered in performing the will of God by not making sure his physical body is as fit as it can possibly be, so too can the saint be hindered if he does not take care to the functioning of his soul.

Let me stress this last point, for it is an extremely important matter. We develop patterns and habits in our souls as surely as we do in regard to our physical bodies. I can tell you from personal experience that if you feed your body junk food, and do not maintain proper discipline over it, or provide it with proper exercise, your body will suffer. It will be hindered in its performance. The same is true regarding our souls.

Consider the effect produced on the soul by watching endless hours of television, reading pulp magazines and filling the mind with romance novels and fiction. The impact upon the soul is no different from the man who feeds his body junk food. If a person has never developed the habit of feeding on truth, whether it be the Bible, or books, magazines and other media that provide knowledge and understanding, they will lack the inner resources needed to think soundly, or to judge correctly. I have encountered numerous Christians who find it difficult, and even unpleasant, to think rationally, or to apply themselves to investigate or understand a matter. It is so much easier to sit in front of the television, for no effort is required, nor any discipline.

If this has been your life, there is yet hope. Even as a person can change their diet, and begin exercising and manifesting discipline over their natural body, experiencing positive improvement, so too can people make much progress in their ability to think rationally, and critically. It will not happen by accident, however. Self-control must be embraced, and daily, habitually, decisions must be made that will promote sound thinking.

The Bible actually has much to say about this subject of applying ourselves to gain wisdom and understanding. Solomon understood the value these things. He declared that they were only attained by focused pursuit. In the book of Proverbs he wrote:

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of Yahweh, and find the knowledge of God.

Observe the pattern here. At the end of this passage we see the goal. It is understanding and knowledge. Specifically, it is the understanding and knowledge of God. Yet, what is written is true of all areas in which we seek understanding and knowledge. We must pursue it. In these five verses Solomon speaks of listening attentively; applying our heart to understanding; crying out for discernment; seeking it as if we were looking for silver or hidden treasure. All of these things imply activity, and focused effort.

If a person never applies themselves to learning, if they do not practice the disciplines necessary to educate themselves on a subject, they will remain ignorant. Wisdom and understanding do not come through wishing. One thing health professionals will at times recommend to someone with dietary caused problems, such as obesity, or diabetes, is that they keep a food journal. They are instructed to write down everything that they eat throughout the course of a day. This would be a very practical exercise for the saints to do as it relates to what they feed their soul.

How many saints spend hours on FaceBook, playing games, watching television, reading novels, or vain magazines, or randomly surfing the Internet? When was the last time you spent time educating yourself about some subject in which you lack understanding? On my shelves I have books on Biblical astronomy, chemistry, physics, ancient Hebrew, butterflies and birds, wild edible plants, and an array of biographies, histories, and Bible study resources. This is a great change from my reading habits in my younger days when I spent hundreds of hours reading science fiction and other forms of escapist entertainment.

I came across a news article the other day on Sarah Palin. It related how she became flustered when a television interviewer asked her what magazines and newspapers she read regularly. The reporter said she was seeking to understand what sources of information helped shape Sarah Palin's world view. Mrs. Palin was clearly disturbed to be asked the question, and waffled in her reply, not naming a single source of information. It was not an unfair question, however. The ability to think critically is required of one who would be a national leader. You are not going to gain this ability by reading *Redbook*.

If a similar question were put to you, what would it reveal? Are the things you fill your mind with promoting an apprehension of truth and encouraging critical thinking?

Beyond the type of material we feed upon, we must also learn how to reason properly. We must be able to examine various teachings and claims to discover errors, and inconsistencies that we might arrive at the truth. Christians are called to be lights in the world. Light scatters the darkness and bring illumination to those who are in the dark. We cannot teach others truth until we have comprehended it ourselves.

To advance to a position of leadership among the body of Christ, a man is required to demonstrate an ability to teach.

I Timothy 3:2

An overseer, then, must be... able to teach.

In a broader sense, all who would be bond-servants of Christ must be able to teach.

II Timothy 2:24

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach...

To teach, a man must be able to think critically, and reason soundly with others. This is what Paul did in the course of his ministry. Numerous examples could be cited from his life where he presented some well reasoned discourse before his hearers. To be a skillful teacher, a man must understand the subject he is teaching, and know how to present it in a logical manner. As Christians, we must apply ourselves to understanding and to explanation of the truth.

II Timothy 2:15

Study to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

It is a sad fact that many Christians today barely know what is contained in the Scriptures. Having had access to the Bible all their lives, few have studied it with any diligence, or consistency. Fewer yet are able to give a defense of their beliefs, setting forth sound arguments that are well reasoned. This lack of study and the ability to reason soundly is manifested not only in their inability to arrive at the truth of God's word, but it is revealed in their failure to test and examine worldly matters, such as those mentioned at the beginning of this post.

The previous post ended with a ridiculous argument about the dangers of bread. It contained the following statements:

1. More than 98 percent of convicted felons are bread eaters.
2. Fully HALF of all children who grow up in bread-consuming households score below average on standardized tests.
3. In the 18th century, when virtually all bread was baked in the home, the average life expectancy was less than 50 years; infant mortality rates were unacceptably high; many women died in childbirth; and diseases such as typhoid, yellow fever and influenza ravaged whole nations.
4. More than 90 percent of violent crimes are committed within 24 hours of eating bread.

If a person were to use such statements to declare bread to be dangerous, they would be laughed at. Yet, statements identical in form to the above are used regularly by those who are proponents of the various conspiracy theories, and doomsday declarations that are being widely broadcast. Don't misunderstand me. I believe conspiracies exist, and I believe days of great calamity, more severe than the world has ever known, are close at hand. The Bible supports both of these facts. Yet, not every conspiracy theory is true, nor every doomsday forecast accurate. We must test all things.

The above statements are recognizably absurd because bread is something with which we are very familiar. However, if similar statements were made about a matter in which you lack familiarity, would you be able to discern that the facts presented are meaningless statistical babble, or that they do not prove anything? Coincidence does not prove cause. Consider the following argument.

If the animal eats poisoned food it will die.
The animal is dead.
Therefore, the animal ate poisoned food.

Do you perceive the error in the argument above? There are many ways an animal might die. Eating poisoned food is just one cause of death. Because an animal is dead, and poison kills animals, we cannot conclude that a dead animal was poisoned. The animal might have died of old age, or of numerous other causes. The above argument is an example of a false deductive argument. Following is an example of a true deductive argument.

All men are mortal.
Socrates is a man.
Therefore, Socrates is mortal.

It may seem unusual for me to place any emphasis upon using sound principles of logic in a Blog that is usually devoted to Christian discipleship, but God has given men and women the ability to reason. I am persuaded that He would have us to employ this reason as we seek to walk wisely in a day of confusion and deception. Reason is as necessary in rightly dividing the word of God, as it is in dividing between what is accurate and what is spurious in the daily issues we are confronted with.

Examining Other Views

I cannot conclude this post before addressing one more area of importance as we seek to examine all things carefully in order to arrive at truth. It is necessary as a believer to examine all sides of an issue. If we merely read arguments in support of a particular conclusion we will often find that we have deprived ourselves of key information, or arguments needed to arrive at the truth. The following two Scriptures reveal the importance of patiently examining arguments for and against a matter.

Proverbs 18:17

The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

Proverbs 18:13

He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

Many Christians are biased in their views on a subject. They have a predisposition to believe a certain way, and this clouds their ability to judge rightly. Their bias causes them to favor arguments and facts in support of their adopted view, while ignoring, or rejecting evidence that would refute it, or call it into doubt.

If we are to walk in integrity before God and men, we must lay aside this bias, and judge impartially, desiring only to arrive at truth. There are many things that can lead a person to adopt a particular prejudice on a subject. They may have family members that share a view, and they want to be loyal to them. They may belong to a group, and organization, or a church that espouses a

certain view, and they place loyalty to the group above personal integrity to seek truth and walk in it. The person may have publicly supported a view, and are embarrassed to admit they were in error. No matter the motive, intellectual bias is always detrimental to arriving at the truth.

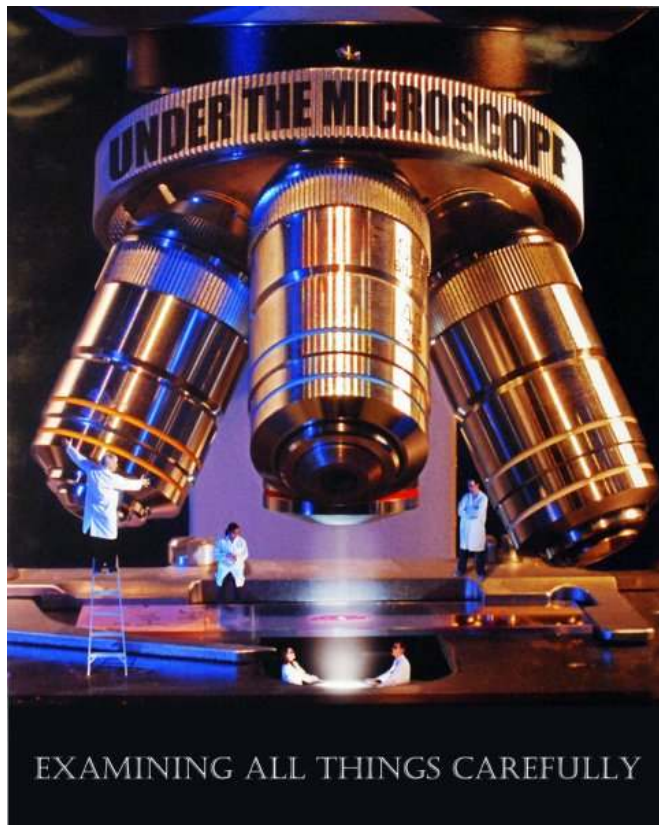
When some new claim is brought before me, I determine to seek out arguments both for and against the claim. I know a matter cannot be judged unless all sides are heard. Many times I have discerned some fatal flaw in what appeared on the surface to be a convincing argument as I have examined opposing arguments.

We must also be quick to confess our error when we find that we have been espousing a wrong point of view. Back around the year 2000 when I discerned that I had erred in forecasting dire things to occur at the change of the century due to the Y2K computer bug, I was brought to consider what I should do. I felt the conviction of the Spirit that the only response God would honor was to confess and repent publicly, without making excuses. Walking in the truth required that I admit that I was wrong when I had misspoken publicly about a matter.

The Father has impressed upon me since then how very important this is. He has revealed to me that those who hide their errors, refusing to admit them publicly, who put reputation before truth, will be given over to greater error. Yet, if we confess our error, God will grant us grace and mercy and lead us in the path of truth.

Having a fear of God is a necessary thing. It has caused me to confess openly when I have erred, and I am convinced that it is because I have done so that the Father has kept me from being swept away by even greater deceptions as they have come forth. We live in an hour of great deception. We all need God to deliver us from lies and error. The more humble we are, proving ourselves to be lovers of the truth, the more He will help us.

Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Part 3 - Loving Truth and Others
Joseph Herrin (04-21-2011)



A few weeks ago I had correspondence with a brother in Christ who suggested that the earthquakes around the world are not acts of God signifying the time of birth pangs foretold by Christ and His apostles. Instead, he described them as the acts of men, suggesting that those who are commonly called the New World Order, were behind them. I wrote back to him the following:

Dear Brother,

I am familiar with some of the views advocating that man may be causing the earthquakes, but from a Biblical, revelational, and practical perspective I have not been able to accept them. I will share with you my reasons, not to denigrate your opinions, but to encourage you to further consideration.

Yahshua testified clearly to His disciples that there would be signs on the earth, equating them to birth pangs, before His return. He specifically named earthquakes, and what better representation of the contractions of birth pangs could there be than earthquakes? If man were able to duplicate such things,

then it seems likely that the Lord would have warned His disciples to beware of false labor pangs, and to have disclosed that Satan would be mimicking such signs in the last days, but there is an absence of any such warnings in the Scriptures. We are simply told that earthquakes, and the roaring of the seas and the waves, would be signs preceding the return of Christ.

On a revelational level, the location of the quakes has been very significant. From the 8.8 quake in *Concepcion*, Chile, to the two recent temblors that devastated *Christchurch*, and all of these recent ones being on *the Ring of Fire*, there is a profound testimony coming forth. I see no reason to attribute these earthquakes to man when Yahweh has always been the one to whom such events have been attributed. Even the secular world calls them "acts of God."

On a practical level, I have heard much theorizing about things like HAARP, and the Large Hadron Collider being able to generate earthquakes, but I have never seen any evidence, only speculation. It seems to me that the theory of evil men causing these disasters is appealing to the mind of man and has given such hypothesis traction in this hour. I certainly do not contest the evil of which man is capable, but I have very sincere doubts about man's ability to control, or cause, such enormous events as the recent Japanese earthquake.

I encourage the saints to guard against such speculations. I know how easy it is to be allured by them, but we are called to proclaim the truth of God. I find in myself the need for much self-restraint in writing and speaking of the causes and meanings of the world events that we are observing.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

Joseph Herrin

This led to further discourse between this brother and myself. In reply, he wrote the following to me.

Hi Brother Joseph,

I fully appreciate your position, however, what do we do with the US Military admitting they caused certain disasters? For example the U.S. Navy admitting to helping cause the Northridge earthquake in California in 1994 after too many questions were raised - their final reasoning was that their

intent was to relieve stress on the San Andreas fault. Or the modern quake in Sumatra in 2004.

Brother, while our faithful and true Savior is still in charge it would be an interesting study for you to view the research of Nicola Tesla - evidence is overwhelming and accepted by the scientific community on his ability back in the 1920's to split the earth in two - he caused an earthquake in New York City in 1898 so severe the authorities were involved in making sure his machinery did not do it again.

Then we have the evidence of Hurricanes being "enlarged" - such as Katrina - the first Hurricane in U.S. history to reach Category 5 status after nearly dying out in the Gulf of Mexico.

You might research the Air Force Document: USAF 2025 - Weather As A Force Multiplier.

There are a plethora of facts available to prove not only is man tinkering with nature he is and has been causing many "natural" disasters.

[End Excerpt]

Following is my response:

Dear Brother,

It is with kind intent that I write the following. You have many astounding claims, and you write as if you believe it would be right and proper for me to accept the claims you make as truth. Yet, you are not giving me the information and evidence needed that I might be led to adopt the things you are writing as truth. A rational man would like some evidence to support the things that are being asserted. For example, consider the following. You wrote:

what do we do with the US Military admitting they caused certain disasters? For example the U.S. Navy admitting to helping cause the Northridge earthquake in California in 1994 after too many questions were raised - their final reasoning was that their intent was to relieve stress on the San Andreas fault.

If we take just this one claim and look at it, I would ask you whether you have presented to me anything solid or substantial upon which I could be able to

judge your claim, and thereby possibly be persuaded? Where are the citations? Where is the evidence? What one normally finds on the Internet is that people making such claims assume that you will believe them because they say some other person has said it is so, though they most likely did not provide any solid evidence of these things either. One wild claim gets passed along ad infinitum, with little consideration to provide those who wish to test the accuracy of the claims with any real tangible evidence.

You go on to mention various things like the government document on "weather as a force multiplier." I read it several weeks ago. I read it very carefully. You know what I found? Those advocating using weather modification said that it had "potential," while admitting that it could only work in very limited and ideal circumstances, and even then the results would not be assured. Reading through the details it seemed that about the only thing they thought the military might be able to do is cause some rain or a thunderstorm to occur over an enemy location, but only in the right climates, when the wind was blowing in the right direction, and when there was adequate moisture and other atmospheric conditions to make it work.

Brother, because I did read that document, I know that it is a very shaky piece of evidence for you to give to support your contention that men are masters of the world. The document actually reveals man's great impotence in these things.

I also have a book on Tesla in my library. I have been fascinated by his research and genius for many years. At the same time, I have observed that there has arisen vast amounts of hyperbole, speculation, and false claims about what he truly was able to accomplish. Men have taken his modest achievements, as brilliant as they were, and concocted all types of myths and fables that would make very good comic book material.

Again, I would ask, "have you provided me with any substantial proof, any CREDIBLE citations, or any supporting evidence to back up your claim that he was able to split the earth in two, or that he caused a powerful earthquake in NYC in 1898? You merely say "evidence is overwhelming and accepted by the scientific community..." If the evidence is credible, and overwhelming, would you mind sharing this evidence with me? I will examine it if you will provide it, but I cannot accept such grand claims without anything more than a personal endorsement that you believe this to be so.

Brother, I would not expect you to accept something as fact simply because I endorse it. In what you have written there are no names mentioned, no dates, no locations, no citations from scientific journals, magazines, newspapers, or broadcasts. There is no evidence presented that there actually were members of the scientific community at that time who accepted these things. You have not shown me that these experts in the scientific community, if they did exist, had the qualifications to know what they were talking about.

It would be unreasonable for me to expect anyone to receive such a testimony from me. I would not ask you to do so. If you want to write me back again on these same subjects and provide the information needed for me to be able to test these things, then I will gladly do so. But the evidence needs to be credible, not third hand rumors and repeated claims that have no verifiable evidence to support them.

In an hour when deception and deceivers are rampant, it is necessary for the sons of God to exercise an added diligence as they test all things. It is my desire to examine all things carefully.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

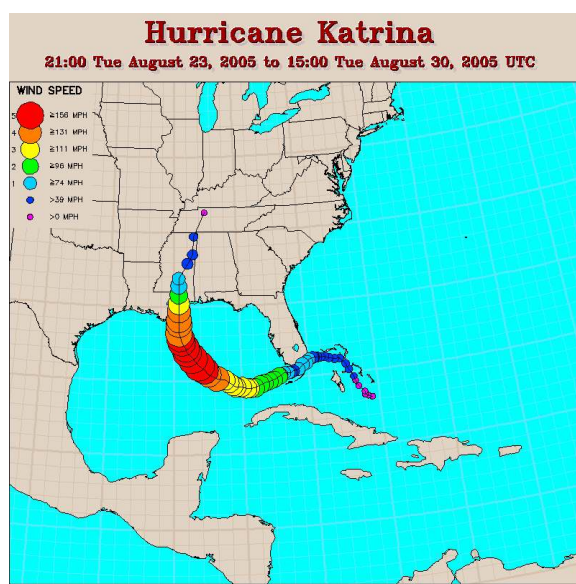
Joseph Herrin

The brother I was writing to assured me he would look through his files and send me the supporting evidence that I requested. To date, he has not done so. I share this correspondence, not to malign a brother. I have intentionally withheld his name, for it is not my desire to embarrass another. If what he wrote was unique, and isolated to him alone, I would not share it at all, for it would have no benefit to others. What he wrote, however, is fairly typical of many of the e-mails I have received for years. There are numerous claims contained in his e-mail that if true would be truly world shaking (pun intended), but nothing substantial was presented to back them up.

Because I had done some research into a number of the things he cited, I knew that much of what he wrote was personal opinion, not fact. Some of the claims could be easily checked and refuted, while some would require more time to delve into. I had followed Hurricane Katrina closely, and wrote extensively about it, so I found his statements regarding the hurricane to be inaccurate. He stated:

Then we have the evidence of Hurricanes being "enlarged" - such as Katrina - the first Hurricane in U.S. history to reach Category 5 status after nearly dying out in the Gulf of Mexico.

This is evidently a reference to the belief of some that the HAARP installation of the U.S. government is being used to alter the weather. The data on this hurricane is readily available online from many reputable sources. It was being tracked continuously, with its barometric pressure and wind speeds sampled at regular intervals. It was constantly observable on radar and satellite, and it never came near to dying out in the Gulf of Mexico. After it crossed Florida, it immediately began strengthening over the warm waters of the Gulf.



Wikipedia summarized Katrina's progress in the following way:

The storm weakened over land, but it regained hurricane status about one hour after entering the Gulf of Mexico. [2]

The storm rapidly intensified after entering the Gulf, growing from a Category 3 hurricane to a Category 5 hurricane in just nine hours. This rapid growth was due to the storm's movement over the "unusually warm" waters of the Loop Current, which increased wind speeds. [7] On Saturday, August 27, the storm reached Category 3 intensity on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, becoming the third major hurricane of the season. An eyewall replacement cycle disrupted the intensification, but caused the storm to nearly double in size. Katrina again rapidly intensified, attaining Category

5 status on the morning of August 28 and reached its peak strength at 1:00 p.m. CDT that day, with maximum sustained winds of 175 mph (280 km/h) and a minimum central pressure of 902 mbar. The pressure measurement made Katrina the fourth most intense Atlantic hurricane on record at the time, only to be surpassed by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma later in the season; it was also the strongest hurricane ever recorded in the Gulf of Mexico at the time (a record also later broken by Rita). [2]

[Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_katrina]

I have made it a habit to fact check people's claims. This should be something we all do. There is much error and deception being constantly bandied about. We should not trust that others have checked the accuracy of things, especially if we are passing the information along to others. We need to perform due diligence ourselves in checking the accuracy of information. I have not been perfect in this, and we should all manifest grace to one another. We should, however, not develop patterns of carelessness in these areas. If we do not apply ourselves to discern truth from error, it will eventually prove costly.

Oftentimes similar claims to those above are addressed to me, presented with much confident assurance. Some are offended if I do not accept some claim based upon their word. To be offended because another man has not adopted some view we espouse when we have not provided him the means to examine things and test them is nothing less than a manifestation of pride. To be Christ-like, we must have a different attitude. If we are confident that we have arrived at some important truth that our brother needs to know, then we must manifest a spirit of love by patiently and gently setting forth the evidence before him. This is the pattern revealed in Scripture for one who would instruct others in spiritual matters, and it applies to natural matters as well.

II Timothy 2:24-25

And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth...

Christians fall terribly short of this standard as they converse with others today. Pride, arrogance, contentiousness, slander, reviling, insults, and anger are very often the response received from a brother or sister when their opinions or claims are not embraced by another. This should not be so. The apostle Paul said, "And though I... understand all mysteries and all knowledge..., but have not love, I am nothing" (I Corinthians 13:2-3). Love

requires that we are gentle with one another, seeking to convey our thoughts with patience. Love will not be easily provoked, nor seek to provoke others. Love does not behave rudely (vs. 5).

People of God, I want to emphasize the following point. Some, in desiring to avoid conflict, and to keep from offending another, refuse to tell others when they are unable to agree with some claim, or idea, they are espousing. We are to always seek to guard love of the brethren, but love does not demand that we avoid speaking honestly with our brothers and sisters. We are commanded to “speak the truth in love.” Some speak the truth without love, and others seek to maintain peace by sacrificing truth. Neither of these actions are satisfying to the Father.

I get a large volume of e-mail. Spurious claims and erroneous comments are common among the things sent to me. In hundreds of instances I have pointed out to others that there is some error present in what they have sent out. I do not do so to be unkind, but because I love the truth and I want to see others walking in truth.

III John 4

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

It would not be love for me to observe a brother or sister embracing, or passing along error, and to show no regard for them doing so. I seek to be discerning in knowing when to point out error, especially where kingdom doctrine is concerned, for a child cannot be fed meat. I don't want to choke people who are not yet ready for some truth. God is patient and has a time for everything. Yet, in regard to the myriad of claims relating to this natural world, every saint should be testing these things, examining them to see if they are true.

When I share with others that there is error in what they have forwarded, or written to me, I realize that there is always the potential that some will be offended, or angered. Pride is usually the culprit, for it is present in everyone who has been born of Adam. Pride exists in my flesh. We must be diligent to buffet our bodies and keep them under subjection. We must not let our words and actions be motivated by pride, but put on a spirit of humility.

I know that not all with whom I correspond will respond in the Spirit of Christ. Many are easily provoked. Love has not been perfected in them. If this is the

case, I may attempt to share with them further, but if I observe that they are close-minded, and combative, not open to consideration, then I will desist. This too is wisdom, and the instruction of Scriptures.

II Timothy 2:23

But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.

Titus 3:9-11

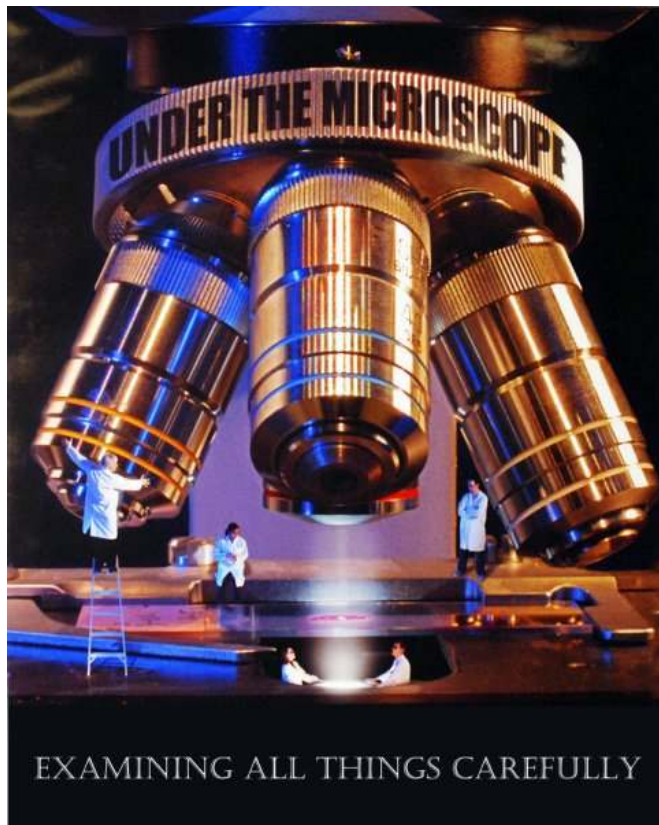
But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

The conclusion of the matter is that we should all manifest love of the truth and love for one another. Speak the truth in love. Do not avoid truth for the sake of peace, but neither should we continue to cast pearls before those who are divisive, manifesting a spirit of pride. To do so is vanity.

Romans 12:9

Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Part 4 - When the Truth Offends
Joseph Herrin (04-22-2011)



I do not believe there is any greater hindrance to an apprehension of truth than having a closed mind. The refusal to consider something as true has sealed the fate of many. The Jewish rulers, Priests and Pharisees refused to consider that Yahshua was the Messiah prophesied in Scripture. Though He performed mighty miracles before them, even raising the dead, they would not permit the light of truth to enter their minds, for this man before them was not what they wished Him to be.

The Jewish leaders were looking for a Messiah who would vindicate them, declaring them to be the rightful rulers of the world because of their natural heritage as descendants of Abraham. Instead, Yahshua exposed their lack of relationship to Abraham. They did not believe God, nor honor Him with the obedience of Abraham. They were unable to rule themselves, much less others.

The Son of God is called "the Truth" (John 14:6). Though Truth was standing directly in front of the Jews, and providing many attesting signs, and fulfilling

every prophetic word, the Jewish leaders and those who followed them staunchly denied the Truth. They rejected the Lord of glory, ridiculing and mocking the Truth.

Men continue to do the same thing today. Sadly, even Christian men and women refuse to give truth a hearing. This was prophesied to be the state of the church in the last days before the return of Christ.

II Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when *they will not endure sound doctrine*, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and *they will turn their ears away from the truth*, and be turned aside to fables.

What do these words mean, “they will not endure sound doctrine”? It is testifying that men in the church will not permit truth to be heard. They will resist truth fervently, preferring lies. They will embrace that which is false, and do so with great defiance and zealously.

Although Paul had in mind doctrines of the Kingdom of God and His Christ, his words apply equally to other areas of truth. Paul is describing an attitude of men’s hearts in the last days. They will be stubborn, hardened, willful, violent, and proud. It requires patience, humility, and gentleness to receive truth, especially when the truth does not vindicate us, nor appear in the manner we would wish.

Someone has said, “Don’t trust information given in a discourteous or slanderous spirit.” There is some wisdom in this advice, for a discourteous or slanderous spirit may reveal the presence of a prejudiced mind that will act with enmity and violence to every opposing thought, no matter its worthiness. However, a person’s courtesy, or lack thereof, should not be taken as sure evidence of truth or error. At times rude people can have truth, and there are many pleasant liars in this world.

I believe one characteristic of all who will be judged as overcomers in Christ is that they will have a deep love of truth. They want truth, even if the truth offends them, or is not what they would wish it to be. This devotion to truth was revealed in Peter, and the core group of disciples Yahshua had chosen (excluding Judas).

In John chapter 6 we read of an encounter between Christ and the multitudes who had joined themselves to Him. Christ knew that most of them were following for the wrong reasons. They wanted the bread and the fish He had multiplied. They wanted someone to lead them who would satisfy their carnal desires. Christ wanted followers who were passionate for truth.

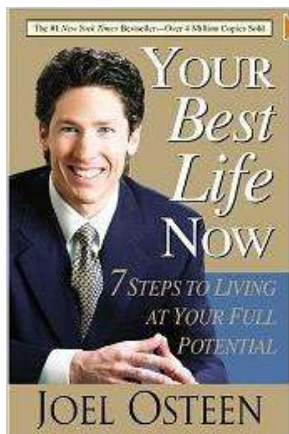
In this encounter we find Christ speaking some difficult sayings to the people. The sayings offended them. Consequently, the multitudes dispersed, including many who had been disciples. Christ turned to the twelve and asked them, "Do you want to leave as well?" Peter's response is revelatory:

John 6:68

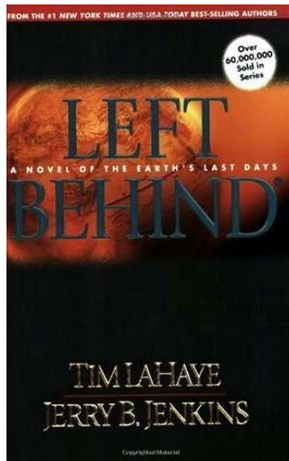
But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Peter and the rest of the disciples were surely offended by Christ's words, as were the others. The words Yahshua spoke were difficult, and hard to understand. Peter and the rest of the twelve saw Christ driving away the multitudes, and this surely did not please their souls. They most likely were gladdened that Christ's followers were increasing, and they were numbered among the inner circle of His followers. This provided them honor, and prestige, and they could envision this increasing as the whole nation began to follow Christ. When Christ drove the multitudes away, the twelve were surely confused and disappointed, prompting Christ to ask what He did of them.

I have found this to be a great error of the church today. The church seeks to attract people to Christianity by alluring them with things other than truth. They present a distorted gospel, devoid of the cross. They proclaim a message of prosperity and blessing to those who would follow Christ. They entice them with false doctrines of a full and satisfied life now,



and rapture out of this world before tribulation arrives.



In effect, the church is attracting people through a message that appeals to the flesh.

Christ gave a very consistent invitation to those who would be His disciples. He said, “Come and die.” “Come, take up your cross, and follow Me.” Christ did not appeal to the flesh. He offended the flesh. Christ’s appeal was in revealing that He alone was the Way, the Truth and the Life. Those who loved truth would come to Him despite the offense His message presented to the flesh. This would assure that it was those who loved truth who were following Him.

What the church has done in removing the offense of Christ’s message, and seeking to allure carnal people into the embrace of the church, is to take unto herself multitudes of people who do not love truth.

A sister in Christ came to visit with her husband some weeks back. As we were talking I began to speak of the afflicted path that leads to life. This sister asked a very sincere question. She asked, “How will people be drawn to Christ if we focus on affliction and the cross? Won’t such a message drive them away?” I was mindful of the approach of most Christians and churches today. They seek to attract people by offering them what the flesh wants. They have Christian rock concerts, flashy entertainment, short motivational messages, and programs, programs, programs. There is something to appeal to every group among the church; for those sports obsessed, to the shop-a-holics. The churches offer softball teams and trips to the outlet malls. For the more well-to-do, there are the ever present Christian cruises with the banquet tables open 24 hours a day.

I shared with this sister that we are not to seek to draw others to Christ through fleshly enticement. The type of bait you use will determine the fish that you catch. If you allure people with that which appeals to the flesh you will end up with a bunch of carnal people who have no real love for the truth. Instead, we must present Christ as the Truth, not avoiding the mention of the disciple's cross, or the afflicted path. If we use Truth as bait, then we will catch those who are lovers of the truth.

Understanding that the vast majority of Christians today have been allured to embrace the Christian religious system through carnal enticements and sensual doctrines, I am not surprised when I encounter such a high percentage of professing Christians who manifest no real love for truth. It was not truth that drew them to Christ. It was a promise of receiving a get-out-of-hell-free-card. It was the programs and entertainments of the church, along with its no-cost message that drew them.

There is only a remnant today among the body of Christ who love truth, and who were attracted to Christ because He is Truth. The message of the cross does not appeal to the flesh. Many have canceled their subscription to this blog when the message was offensive to them. When I spent time writing about the afflicted path, many who were attracted by the blogs speaking prophetically of the parables in current events fell away. Some are titillated when they hear some sign proclaimed of the end of the age and of the soon return of Christ, but they are offended when they hear of the suffering they must pass through.

I have not gotten sidetracked from my initial message here. There is a tie-in between what I have shared about following Christ even when His message offends us, and these current events and theories that we are discussing. If you love truth, you will not close your mind to evidence that leads to a conclusion your soul does not desire; You will be open-minded, willing to embrace truth, even when it offends, or is not what you wished, or anticipated.

Already I am receiving comments and e-mails from professing Christians who are offended by this current teaching series. In two comments yesterday I was characterized as "hypocritical" and "shallow and unenlightened." Although the presence of such discourtesy is not conclusive proof that the writers are in error, it does not give testimony to the fruit of Christ being present in their lives. The focus of yesterday's post was being patient and gentle in setting forth our arguments in a manner that is helpful to a brother, being able to lead

him to truth. The need to manifest love in our words and actions was stressed, yet the comments received were insulting and disparaging.

People of God, if Christians are to be offended and begin to insult one another over some matter as mundane as the latest conspiracy theory, then what will they do when they are faced with the offense of suffering reproach, loss, imprisonment, beating and even death for His sake? Truly we will see fulfilled in these days Christ's words that "many will betray one another," and "many will fall away."

I challenge you, as you set your mind to discourse with others on topics such as the ones named in this series, to observe your words and attitude. Are you offended because someone disagrees with you? Are your words disparaging toward the other person? Are you impatient? Have you manifested a willingness to carefully consider arguments contrary to your own view? Do you desire for all parties to arrive at truth more than to prove yourself right? Do patience, love, gentleness, and humility characterize your writings?

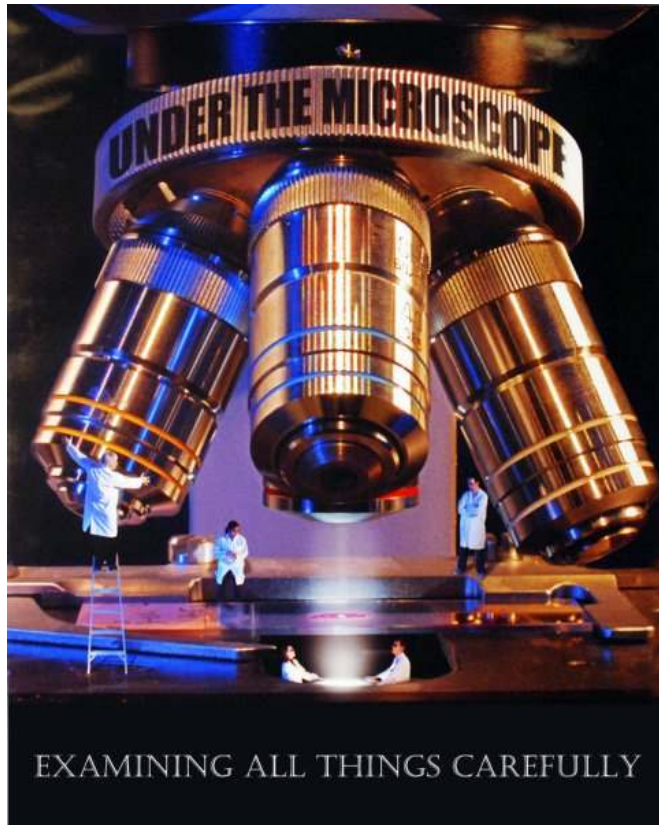
Christ said we would know those who are His by their fruit. Are the fruit of the Spirit being manifested in your words and in your conversations with others? Be aware of the presence of personal offense when you are discoursing with others. Personal offense is a tell-tale sign of some selfish motive. It reveals that a man or woman has let their soul take over the conversation, and they are no longer being led of the Spirit. Personal offense is never approved by God.

James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Part 5 - Scrutinizing the Inscrutable
Joseph Herrin (04-25-2011)



Winston Churchill once made the statement:

I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma...

Many people are similarly daunted at the challenge of understanding the various reports and technical and scientific claims that are being passed around en masse across the Internet today. How is a non-technical person to decipher whether some claim is true concerning HAARP, the Large Hadron Collider, far off comets, the claims that the government is using chemtrails to poison the masses, or a myriad of other subjects? To become expert at all these areas would be impossible. Scientists and researchers tend to be specialists today, for knowledge of all areas is increasing exponentially. They must pick a specific field, or a subset of one field, and devote themselves to becoming expert in that area.

The Father has not called me to become a scientist, nor to seek to attain advanced degrees in such a broad range of study. I am called to be a minister, teaching and shepherding the people of God. I would have to abandon my call as a minister to give adequate attention to attain to the level of knowledge and understanding to work professionally in these fields. Some thought should be given to how much time the Father would have us to spend in attending to these myriad of issues, rumors, speculations, and theories.

Many people devote an inordinate amount of time to the exploration and discussion of conspiracies, doomsday reports, and the latest prophetic utterances of calamity and collusion. Such people become like the proverbial ambulance chaser. They have never met a calamity, or startling claim, that did not excite their interest. There are well known Christian ministries that are predominantly focused on disaster warnings. There is always a risk of getting out of balance in one's focus. We must consider how much time God would have us devote to investigate these matters.

Part of my reason in writing this series is to provide a reference that I can point people to that might answer questions that I receive frequently. More importantly, I would like to encourage the saints to test all things, and develop the habit and ability to find the answers themselves. I have found myself spending a lot of time answering people's queries about various claims and reports. In a span of a few days I had half a dozen people ask me what I thought about Comet Elenin. I believe there is merit in seeking to understand whether various reports are true or false, but I would rather teach the saints how to fish, testing matters themselves, than have to give them a fish every day.

At first glance, the task of discerning what is really going on at an installation such as HAARP might seem daunting. HAARP stands for the High frequency Active Auroral Research Project. It is described on its government homepage as "A premier facility for the study of ionospheric physics and radio science." I don't know about you, but I am a little rusty on ionospheric physics, and my knowledge of radio science doesn't go much beyond turning on the radio and tuning in a station. How can you or I possibly fathom all the science and engineering involved in an installation such as HAARP? The answer is, "We cannot, but we don't need to."

When we encounter some claim, or conspiracy theory relating to an installation such as HAARP, what we really need to examine are the

arguments set forth by the person originating, or forwarding the report. Are their claims founded upon solid evidence and accurate logic? Do they provide specific, verifiable data as evidence to demonstrate that they have tested the matter themselves, and to provide the reader the ability to do the same? Are the examples and testimonies they provide in support of their claims credible?

Although you or I may not be able to divine all the science behind a subject, we do possess the ability to fact check a report, and to test the logic of the arguments being set forth. We should be able to recognize speculation when we see it. HAARP has been reported to be a covert government installation that has been accused of being instrumental in mind control experiments on the population, causing volcanoes to erupt and massive earthquakes to occur, as well as being an instrument of weather modification. As revealed in a correspondence I shared from a brother in Christ, some are attributing Hurricane Katrina, and other destructive weather events to HAARP.

It was an easy thing to fact check the brother's claim that Hurricane Katrina nearly died out over the Gulf of Mexico, but then mysteriously strengthened due to the government using HAARP to control the weather. The data is available on the Internet from an array of sources.

The burden is always on the person promoting a conspiracy theory to provide the evidence to support it. I have not found credible evidence in relation to the viral e-mails and posts all across the Internet that decry the calamities caused by HAARP. What evidence is provided is vague, irrelevant, lacking in specificity, and generally useless with regard to establishing any type of credible link. For example, more than one brother sent me a link to a government document titled "*Weather as a Force Multiplier*." The subtitle was conveniently left off, which reads, "*Owning the Weather in 2025*."

<http://www.fas.org/spp/military/docops/usaf/2025/v3c15/v3c15-1.htm>

The document contains a study presented to the Department of Defense in 1996, examining the "potential" for using weather to shift the balance toward America in an armed conflict. Following is a quote from the published study.

Technology advancements in five major areas are necessary for an integrated weather-modification capability: (1) advanced nonlinear modeling techniques, (2) computational capability, (3) information gathering and transmission, (4) a global sensor array, and (5) weather

intervention techniques...

Current technologies that will mature over the next 30 years will offer anyone who has the necessary resources the ability to modify weather patterns and their corresponding effects, at least on the local scale...

In the United States, weather-modification will likely become a part of national security policy with both domestic and international applications. Our government will pursue such a policy, depending on its interests, at various levels...

In this paper we show that appropriate application of weather-modification can provide battlespace dominance to a degree never before imagined. In the future, such operations will enhance air and space superiority and provide new options for battlespace shaping and battlespace awareness. "The technology is there, waiting for us to pull it all together;" in 2025 we can "Own the Weather."

[End Quote]

On the surface, this appears to lend credence to the arguments that the government is using HAARP to create massive hurricanes, and other types of weather. However, a careful reading of the above words reveals that no such technology exists at present, and the authors of the study are predicting technologies that did not at that time exist, nor exist today. As a person reads through the study, it is realized that what is forecast in the above very optimistic words is far less than the ability to create and steer hurricanes.

The report goes on to suggest that by the year 2025 the technology might exist to create localized rain, and thunder storms, or to dissipate fog, but anything larger is considered untenable. Following is a quote from the report:

Extreme and controversial examples of weather modification-creation of made-to-order weather, large-scale climate modification, creation and/or control (or "steering") of severe storms, etc.-were researched as part of this study but receive only brief mention here because, in the authors' judgment, the technical obstacles preventing their application appear insurmountable within 30 years.

[End Quote]

A short distance below this, the author's state, "*The weather-modification*

applications proposed in this report range from technically proven to potentially feasible. They are similar, however, in that none are currently employed... Although the author's predictions of what might be possible in weather modification thirty years in the future may prove accurate in some degree, it is very obvious that there is no assurance that even their modest forecasts will be attainable.

Such technology to create massive weather systems, and steer them accurately, certainly does not exist at this date. With millions of dollars invested, and a legion of men and women devoting their lives to the study of meteorology, weather forecasting is still very primitive, extremely near-term, and fraught with error. There are advances occurring, but they are incremental, not paradigm changing. The report continues...

Two key technologies are necessary to meld an integrated, comprehensive, responsive, precise, and effective weather-modification system. Advances in the science of chaos are critical to this endeavor. Also key to the feasibility of such a system is the ability to model the extremely complex nonlinear system of global weather in ways that can accurately predict the outcome of changes in the influencing variables. Researchers have already successfully controlled single variable nonlinear systems in the lab and hypothesize that current mathematical techniques and computer capacity could handle systems with up to five variables. Advances in these two areas would make it feasible to affect regional weather patterns by making small, continuous nudges to one or more influencing factors. Conceivably, with enough lead time and the right conditions, you could get "made-to-order" weather.
[End Quote]

Can you perceive that what is forecast in these words is very tenuous? There is nothing certain. There are too many variables whose interplay in the creation of weather are not clearly understood. At best, the author's are predicting that man by the year 2025 might be able to influence to a small degree as many as five factors that effect weather. How many factors exist? The answer is unknown, but certainly far greater than five.

The report expresses other caveats throughout its length.

Critical to the success of any attempt to trigger a storm cell is the pre-existing atmospheric conditions locally and regionally. The atmosphere must already be conditionally unstable and the large-scale

dynamics must be supportive of vertical cloud development. The focus of the weather-modification effort would be to provide additional "conditions" that would make the atmosphere unstable enough to generate cloud and eventually storm cell development. The path of storm cells once developed or enhanced is dependent not only on the mesoscale dynamics of the storm but the regional and synoptic (global) scale atmospheric wind flow patterns in the area which are currently not subject to human control.

[End Quote]

This is an excellent document. It contains a multitude of references to other studies and scientific reports. There is an extensive bibliography at the end, providing the reader the ability to fact check statements.

What this document does NOT do is provide evidence that HAARP is being used for weather modification. Nor does it support the claim that the government manipulated Hurricane Katrina, turning it into a super storm and steering it toward New Orleans. In fact, the report provides much evidence AGAINST such a claim.

People of God, this report was one of the *best* pieces of evidence provided to me by individuals claiming a link to HAARP and weather modification. Much of the remaining evidence I have seen is mere conjecture. It is often presented by people who are not expert in the field. It lacks citations, contains poor logic in the arguments, and it contains very dubious scholarship. This report stands out as a rare exception, but in the end it simply does not support the claims of those who insist HAARP is being used by the government for the purposes they claim.

There is a section of this report that actually does touch upon what HAARP may one day lead to. It presents a model of technology developed to make changes to the ionosphere. The study of the ionosphere, and the ability of man to make changes to it, is the stated domain of HAARP. The government is not being secretive about this. Over 100 professional papers have been published by scientists, professors and their students who have used the HAARP facility. The HAARP website provides a link to some of these published sources, establishing that this is the function for which the facility is being used.

The following information is listed on their Q&A page:

Where can I read about the research that is conducted at the

HAARP Facility?

Research conducted at the HAARP Observatory is generally published in peer-reviewed scientific journals such as the Journal of Geophysical Research, Geophysical Research Letters, and Radio Science. Since the first research campaign at HAARP in 1999, well over 100 scholarly papers have been published in these and other scientific journals. While the best place to search for results of HAARP research is at a university library, some of these journals provide an on-line search engine for their own publications. For example, to search for HAARP research published in one of the journals of the American Geophysical Union, go to their on-line search site:

<http://europa.agu.org/?view=search>

Enter the search term "HAARP" and press the search button.

Who are the people that conduct research at HAARP?

The scientists who conduct research at HAARP are university physicists, their students, government scientists and scientists from commercial firms having an interest in communication and radio science theory and applications.

What Universities have participated in the HAARP program?

Several universities have played a major role in HAARP from its inception to the present time including the University of Alaska, The Leland Stanford University, Penn State University (ARL), Boston College, Dartmouth University, Cornell University, Virginia Tech, University of Maryland, University of Massachusetts, MIT, Polytechnic University, UCLA, Clemson University and the University of Florida. The development of the program objectives and initial design concept, selection of the prime contractor, development of diagnostic equipment, and the planning of research campaigns have all been heavily dependent on university involvement. University students and professors make up the majority of attendees at the annual Ionospheric Interactions Workshop where progress in ionospheric research is reported.

[Source: <http://www.haarp.alaska.edu/haarp/faq.html>]

Rather than being the secretive facility that conspiracy theorists imply, this is

a facility whose research, and researchers, are very public. Have any of those who are espousing that HAARP is a secret facility to create earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and to modify the weather, read the reports published in professional journals and scientific publications that have come from those who have performed experiments there? I doubt it. The writings and videos on this subject that I have seen reveal a glaring absence of critical review of the evidence.

In the study on weather modification I have been citing, there is a section that clearly relates to the HAARP facility today. The section follows:

Several high-payoff capabilities that could result from the modification of the ionosphere or near space are described briefly below...

Ionospheric mirrors for pinpoint communication or over-the-horizon (OTH) radar transmission... The major disadvantage in depending on the ionosphere to reflect radio waves is its variability, which is due to normal space weather and events such as solar flares and geomagnetic storms. The ionosphere has been described as a crinkled sheet of wax paper whose relative position rises and sinks depending on weather conditions. The surface topography of the crinkled paper also constantly changes, leading to variability in its reflective, refractive, and transmissive properties.

Creation of an artificial uniform ionosphere was first proposed by Soviet researcher A. V. Gurevich in the mid-1970s. An Artificial Ionospheric Mirror (AIM) would serve as a precise mirror for electromagnetic radiation of a selected frequency or a range of frequencies. It would thereby be useful for both pinpoint control of friendly communications and interception of enemy transmissions.

Besides providing pinpoint communication control and potential interception capability, this technology would also provide communication capability at specified frequencies, as desired. Figure 4-2 shows how a ground-based radiator might generate a series of AIMs, each of which would be tailored to reflect a selected transmission frequency. Such an arrangement would greatly expand the available bandwidth for communications and also eliminate the problem of interference and crosstalk (by allowing one to use the requisite power level).

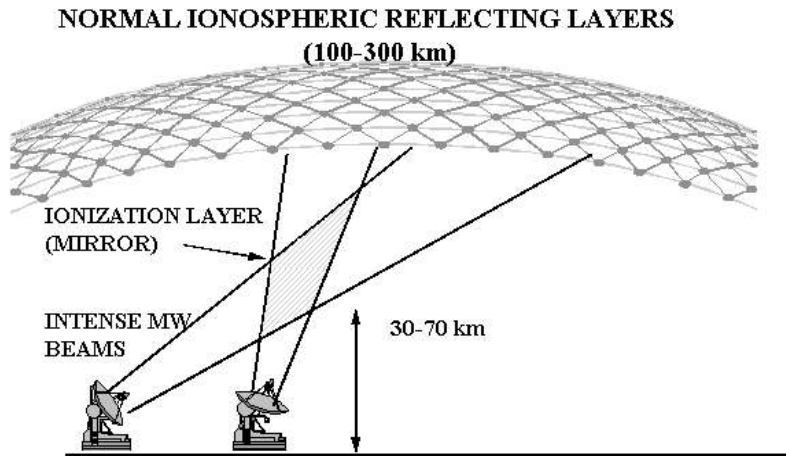


Figure 4-2. Artificial Ionospheric Mirrors Point-to-Point Communications

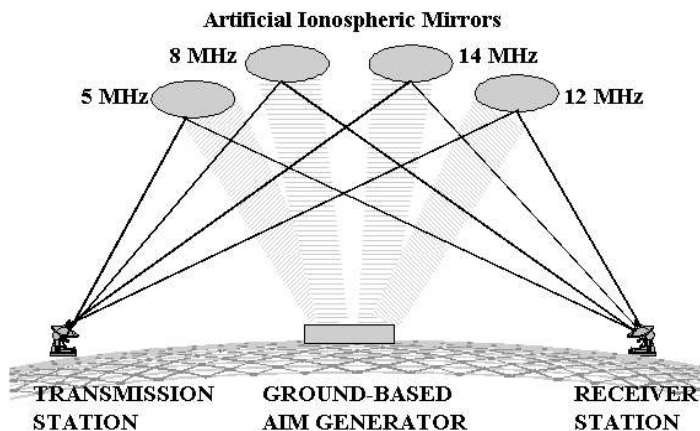


Figure 4-3. Artificial Ionospheric Mirror Over-the-Horizon Surveillance Concept.

Disruption of communications and radar via ionospheric control. A variation of the capability proposed above is ionospheric modification to disrupt an enemy's communication or radar transmissions. Because HF communications are controlled directly by the ionosphere's properties, an artificially created ionization region could conceivably disrupt an enemy's electromagnetic transmissions... The payoff of research aimed at understanding how to control these variations could be high as both HF communication enhancement and degradation are possible. Offensive interference of this kind would likely be indistinguishable from naturally occurring space weather. This capability could also be employed to precisely locate the source of enemy electromagnetic transmissions.

[End Excerpt]

To put this quite simply, the Department of Defense has been exploring ways to improve their communications, while also looking for ways to disrupt the communications of enemy combatants. This is certainly an area of study that the government would have an interest in funding. The research proposed in this study on weather as a force multiplier is actually being carried out at the HAARP facility. The study was published in 1996. HAARPs first season of research began in 1999.

I do not doubt that some of the results from the experiments performed at the HAARP facility are classified. However, there is adequate published work from reputable sources to establish that this is indeed the focus of the facility. Its microwave heater, and its array of antennas, lose their mystery as one learns of this line of inquiry and experimentation.

It is a great leap, however, and lacking in evidence, to suggest that HAARP is responsible for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and worldwide weather events. To those who do not test all things carefully, any theory appears plausible. Even the most astonishing claims, left unverified, are adopted and passed along when they appeal to an individual's natural distrust of the government. If the message is what they want to hear, they do not trouble themselves to verify the authenticity of the claims.

People of God, this subject is not my area of expertise, but neither is it likely to be the area of expertise of the people who are sending out the claims attributing all manner of world-wide calamities to HAARP. Although I am not an ionospheric or radio scientist, I can check the sources that others say prove their point. I am able to judge whether they have accurately understood and interpreted the material they are setting forth as evidence. In the material looked at here, I believe the honest and accurate judgment is that this material does NOT support the contention of HAARP causing these events.

In an hour when deception abounds, and men and women are not demonstrating the willingness to think critically and examine all things, the saints must manifest a different spirit. It did not take me long to look through this study that was presented to me as evidence that the government is using HAARP to create hurricanes, and other earth events. In truth, I do not believe the people sending the information to me performed due diligence in reviewing the material themselves. Their minds were already made up. Their thoughts had already taken on a bias in this matter. Consequently they were seeing only what they wanted to see. They failed to observe the facts right

before their eyes.

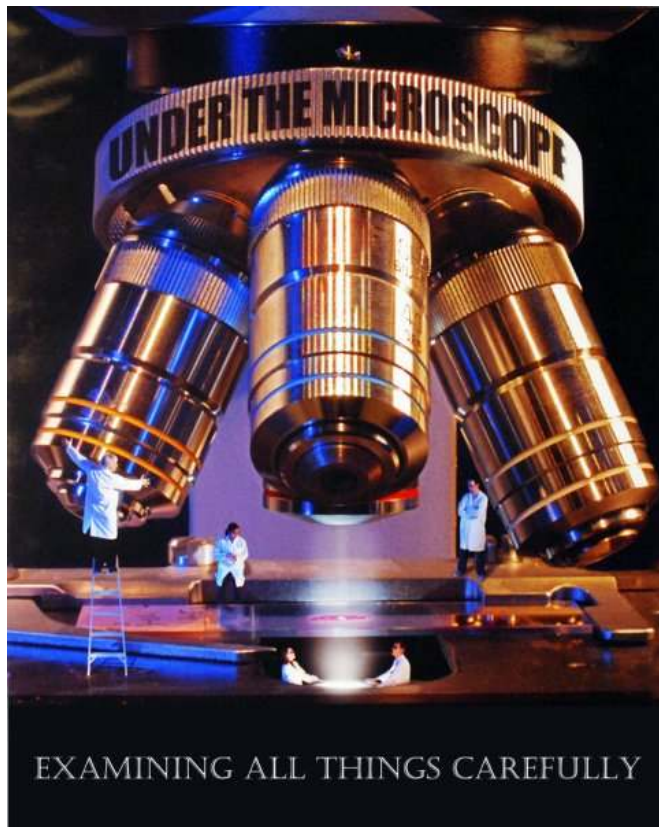
In an hour of increasing darkness, we must strive to do better. I do not have the time, or leading, to be the tester of every claim that comes along. The saints are going to have to test matters themselves. Don't be daunted. Just look at the evidence presented to you. Do some fact checking. See if the material actually says what people are suggesting. Examine the logic and the foundation of the arguments presented. Is it fact, or is it speculation?

Isaiah 8:11-13

For Yahweh spoke thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying: "Do not say, 'A conspiracy,' concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. Yahweh of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread."

There are true conspiracies, and many evil things accomplished by man, but let us test all reports. Not all are accurate. A great many are nothing more than fables. Nevertheless, they have gripped the minds of many who have accepted them without testing them first. Patience is needed.

Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Part 6 - True and False Witnesses
Joseph Herrin (04-26-2011)



II Timothy 3:13

But wicked men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and leading astray others and being deceived and led astray themselves.
[Amplified Bible]

This post will look at one more aspect of arriving at the knowledge of the truth. It is necessary to distinguish between a true and a false witness. In the court system today it is common to call in “expert witnesses” to bolster an argument. Simply because someone is proclaimed an expert, does not mean that their testimony is true. This is certainly evident in the American court system where experts have declared that homosexuality is hereditary, rather than a choice, and proclaimed that babies in the womb are not human beings. It is quite possible to find an “expert” who will say anything that a person desires.

This tendency to call out expert witnesses, or big names, is also common among those who make unfounded claims about HAARP, the Large Hadron Collider, the Comet Elenin, Chemtrails, and a host of other subjects. I have

encountered more than a dozen reports advocating that HAARP is causing earthquakes which have brought up the name of Nikola Tesla. The recent quote that I shared in one post on this series is typical of how the name of this man is bandied about as proof that HAARP is being used to create earthquakes throughout the world.

Brother, while our faithful and true Savior is still in charge it would be an interesting study for you to view the research of Nicola (sic) Tesla - evidence is overwhelming and accepted by the scientific community on his ability back in the 1920's to split the earth in two - he caused an earthquake in New York City in 1898 so severe the authorities were involved in making sure his machinery did not do it again.

Such statements as those above are quite astonishing for a number of reasons. This brother stated with great confidence that “evidence is overwhelming and accepted by the scientific community on (Nikola Tesla’s) ability back in the 1920's to split the earth in two.” This brother also writes with equal declarative force that Tesla caused an earthquake in New York City in 1898. These statements are astonishing, for if they are true, they are a tremendous revelation. To think that man has had the ability since the 1920s to create earthquakes, and to split the earth in two, is a profound matter. If a lone man, such as Nikola Tesla could split the earth in two nearly a century ago, what would prevent some suicidal terrorist from destroying the earth in this manner out of some impulse to annihilate mankind?

The statements are remarkable for another reason. I have tested these claims and found them to be false. They are the product of wild boasting initiated by Nikola Tesla himself, who was renowned, and often criticized during his life, for making wild, exaggerated, premature, and pretentious claims.

This brother who wrote to me did not originate these reports himself. I have encountered them in a myriad of sources on the Internet. His failure was not one of creating false claims, but rather of not investigating the claims to see if they were sound. The claims that Tesla could split the earth in two, and cause earthquakes back in the 1920s, appealed to the bias he had in his mind. He had already concluded that HAARP is a super weapon being employed covertly by the American government, so there was no pressing desire to probe too deeply to see if the Tesla claims were accurate. We must maintain a passion for truth, for without it, we too will fall into much error.

A sister in Christ, knowing of my interest in Nikola Tesla, sent me a biography of his life a couple years ago. The book is titled "*Tesla - Man Out of Time*." It is authored by Margaret Cheney. The author performed a prodigious amount of research. In the Introduction to the book the breadth of her knowledge of this man and his work is made evident. The author writes:

In reviewing my own interest in Tesla, since high school days I was fascinated by his high frequency, high voltage researches for which he became world known. I was disturbed, however, by the inordinate difficulty in obtaining copies of his technical writings and, as well, identifying references to writings by others about Tesla's work. This prompted what was to become a project of many years - that of producing an exhaustive catalog (published in 1979 as a bibliography...) of the writings by and about Tesla and his work. In the course of pursuing studies in electrical engineering, and continuing interest in Tesla's high frequency, high voltage researches, my inquiries eventually led me to meet those who worked for him, such as his secretaries Dorothy Skeritt and Muriel Arbus, and laboratory technicians such as Walter Wilhelm.

This biography is clearly not the product of a momentary interest in Tesla. It was produced with access to an unusual degree of sources and people intimately related to the man. On top of this, the author has training in the field of electrical engineering. It is an excellent source book for discerning the origins of the mythology that has grown up around the man.

That Nikola Tesla was a creative genius is beyond question. He is the originator of the polyphase electrical system of alternating current that powers the homes, businesses, and industries of the world. He also was a pioneer in radio, and was the first to demonstrate the potential of radio as a medium to remotely control objects. In 1897, just a few years after the invention of radio broadcast, he demonstrated its use with a radio controlled boat demonstration at Madison Square Gardens. He was a leader in x-ray technology, and fluorescent and neon lighting systems. He has approximately 700 patents to his name worldwide (many are duplicated among nations.) He has approximately 40 U.S. Patents.

I found the biography of Nikola Tesla to be highly informative. I learned much about the man's triumphs, as well as his failures, idiosyncracies, and prideful behavior. Nikola Tesla was a visionary, but many of the things he envisioned were no more than speculation. For example, he said it was an absolute

certainty that intelligent life existed on Mars, and advocated construction of some type of radio communication to make contact with the intelligent beings that lived there. When Einstein published his Theory of Relativity, Tesla said Einstein was wrong. Tesla promised to produce his own competing theory, but never did.

Tesla did not fully understand the dangers of x-rays, believing that they were therapeutic and health inducing. He often exposed himself to x-rays intentionally, believing he was receiving some healthful benefit. The author of his biography writes:

Tesla, entranced with the novel and mysterious force, was one of those who at first refused to believe there was a danger. Convinced he had discovered a way of “stimulating” his brain, he exposed his head repeatedly to radiation.

“An outline of the skull is easily obtained with an exposure of 20 to 40 minutes,” he wrote...

He noted strange effects: “... a tendency to sleep and the time seems to pass away quickly. There is a general soothing effect and I have a sensation of warmth in the upper part of the head.”

[Pages 103-104]

The claims of Tesla causing an earthquake are derived from an event described in *Tesla - Man Out of Time* in the following words:

One day in 1898 while testing a tiny electromechanical oscillator, he attached it with innocent intent to an iron pillar that went down through the center of his loft building at 46 East Houston Street, to the sandy floor of the basement.

Flipping on the switch, he settled into a straight-back chair to watch and make notes of everything that happened. Such machines always fascinated him because, as the tempo built higher and higher, they would establish resonance with first one object in his workshop, then another. For example, a piece of equipment or furniture would suddenly begin to shimmy and dance. As he stepped up the frequency, it would halt but another more in tune would take up the frantic jig and, later on, yet another.

What Tesla was unaware of on this occasion was that vibrations from the

oscillator, traveling down the iron pillar with escalating force, were being carried through the substructure of Manhattan in all directions. (Normally earthquakes are more severe at a distance from their epicenter.) Buildings began to shake, windows shattered, and citizens poured into the streets in the nearby Italian and Chinese neighborhoods.

At Police Headquarters on Mulberry Street, where Tesla was already regarded with suspicion, it soon became apparent that no other part of the city was having an earthquake. Two officers were dispatched posthaste to check on the mad inventor. The latter, unaware of the shambles occurring all around his building, had just begun to sense an ominous vibration in the floors and walls. Knowing that he must quickly put a stop to it, he seized a sledgehammer and smashed the little oscillator with a single blow.

With perfect timing the two policemen rushed through the door, allowing him to turn with a courteous nod.

"Gentlemen, I am sorry," he said. "You are just a trifle too late to witness my experiment. I found it necessary to stop it suddenly and unexpectedly and in an unusual way.... However, if you will come around this evening I will have another oscillator attached to this platform and each of you can stand on it. You will, I am sure, find it a most interesting and pleasurable experience. Now you must leave, for I have many things to do. Good day, gentlemen."
[Pages 115-116]

The author cites as her source for this story, another biography that came out shortly after Tesla's death. The biography originating this story was written by John J. O'Neill and titled "*Prodigal Genius*." I am not sure what source Mr. O'Neill used, as I do not have his book. Unfortunately, this is third hand reporting at best, most likely derived from some account that Nikola Tesla gave to a reporter, as he was frequently in the company of reporters, and widely quoted.

The television show *Myth Busters* examined Tesla's claim. They have posted a quote attributed to Tesla, though it differs in many key details from the citation above.

"I was experimenting with vibrations. I had one of my machines going and I wanted to see if I could get it tuned with the vibration of the building. I put it up notch after notch. Suddenly, all the heavy machinery in the place was

flying around. I grabbed a hammer and broke the machine. Outside in the street there was pandemonium. The police and ambulance arrived. We told the police it must have been an earthquake. I told my assistants to say nothing."

[S o u r c e :
http://kwc.org/mythbusters/2006/08/episode_60_earthquake_machine.html]

Note some of the key differences in these two reports. In the first one, Tesla is alone in his workshop. In the latter one assistants are present. In the first account there is no mention of Tesla intentionally trying to get the building to resonate. Instead, it is described as an innocent and unintentional accident. In the second account, Tesla says he was deliberately seeking to find the resonance of the building at which it would vibrate. In the first report there is mention of one piece of equipment after another beginning to resonate, with no mention of any of the resonance producing violent results. In the second we have the words, "Suddenly, all the heavy machinery in the place was flying around." In the first account two policemen arrive. In the second police and an ambulance arrive. In the first account Tesla admits that his oscillator experiment went awry. In the second we have him telling his assistants to say nothing. (In other accounts found online he tells the police it must have been an earthquake that caused the disturbance.)

In reading the book on Tesla's life, there are a multitude of examples of him declaring astonishing things, or promising extraordinary accomplishments, which he never brought to fruition. The man was given to frequent, and extreme exaggeration. Whether this account above was the product of his disingenuous boasting, or whether others embellished the story, is difficult to tell. What is evident from these two accounts, is that the stories do not harmonize (pardon the pun).

It is interesting to read, or watch, the account of the *Myth Busters* experiments. Their conclusion is that this story is false, for they were unable to duplicate anything near the results spoken of in this description. You can view the videos of the program episode and judge for yourself.

http://youtu.be/kJFp2YSk_Fw

<http://youtu.be/m95etNssy5E>

<http://youtu.be/xboBpENoV7Y>

You can also find at the following link a newspaper article written by Earl Sparling that appeared in the *New York World-Telegram* July 11, 1935. Sparling was invited with many other reporters to Tesla's birthday party in 1935, where he recounted this story to them.

<http://www.rexresearch.com/teslamos/tmosc.htm>

Tesla's boast to the reporters that he would have \$100,000,000 in two years time due to his inventions are indicative of the type of wild boasting he was prone to. Tesla died a relative pauper, while promising investors throughout his lengthy career that he would make them rich from promised inventions that were never produced.

It should be understood that Tesla's tendency to make such boasts was partially a product of his need to attract investors so that he could continue his research. Throughout his life, Tesla depended upon the benevolence of investors to continue his experiments, and was frequently begging investors for money, including J.P. Morgan, while promising them immense returns in a short amount of time. Having sold his patents for the polyphase alternating current system to Westinghouse early on, Tesla struggled for money the rest of his life.

Another motive for his boasting was that Nikola Tesla was a vain and proud man. Tesla had many legitimate accomplishments. Some of them, such as the invention of radio, were attributed to others, such as Guglielmo Marconi. This greatly chafed Tesla, who wanted to be recognized for his inventions. For many years, Thomas Edison, who was already well known and financially well off, derided Tesla's A.C. power system. Edison was staunchly in favor of direct current power. Edison waged a tireless war to discredit Tesla and A.C. power, even using such cruel demonstrations as electrocuting animals in public with A.C. currents to lead people to believe it was dangerous. Edison even electrocuted an elephant in one demonstration, filming the event to scare people away from A.C. power.

http://www.wired.com/science/discoveries/news/2008/01/dayintech_0104

Tesla's response was to become a promoter of his own achievements, both real and imagined. Tesla boasted of being able to create death rays that could

knock whole squadrons of airplanes from the sky at a distance of 200 miles. He predicted that in a short time he would be able to transmit energy across any terrestrial distance without wires, and without any appreciable loss. Tesla's claim that he could split the earth in two appeared in an article February 1912, in the magazine *The World Today*. The article authored by Allan L. Benson was titled "*Nikola Tesla, Dreamer.*"

"Tesla claims that in a few weeks he could set the earth's crust into such a state of vibration that it would rise and fall hundreds of feet and practically destroy civilization. A continuation of this process would, he says, eventually split the earth in two."

This was nothing more than another wild boast by Nikola Tesla. The same article includes quotes from Tesla where he boasts of using a turbine he has invented to power ships across the Atlantic at 50 mph, and saying he has in mind another turbine that will enable a ship to make the Atlantic crossing in 16 hours. He "guarantees" that he will adapt one of these turbines to a Wright biplane and fly it at 200 mph.

http://books.google.com/books?id=MULzEgKLoQAC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbg_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

Tesla fulfilled none of these boasts. The author of the biography I read went into some detail regarding Tesla's turbine. He never could bring it to production as the qualities of the metals available at the time were causing the turbines to fail when subjected to high speeds and stress.

The author of the biography I have in my possession recounts the things that Tesla told Allan Benson. Following is an excerpt from the book.

Nor was this all. He boasted to Benson that he could split the earth in the same way - "split it as a boy would split an apple - and forever end the career of man." Earth's vibrations, he went on, have a periodicity of about one hour and forty-nine minutes. "That is to say, if I strike the earth this instant, a waver of contraction goes through it that will come back in one hour and forty-nine minutes in the form of expansion. As a matter of fact, the earth, like everything else, is in a constant state of vibration. It is constantly expanding and contracting."

"Now, suppose that at the precise moment when it begins to contract, I

explode a ton of dynamite. That accelerates the contraction and, in one hour and forty-nine minutes, there comes an equally accelerated wave of expansion. When the wave of expansion ebbs, suppose I explode another ton of dynamite, thus further increasing the wave of contraction. And, suppose this performance is repeated, time after time. Is there any doubt as to what would happen? There is no doubt in my mind. The earth would split in two. For the first time in man's history, he has the knowledge with which he may interfere with cosmic processes!"

When Benson asked how long it might take to split the Earth, he answered modestly, "Months might be required; perhaps a year or two." But in only weeks, he said, he could set the Earth's crust in such a state of vibration that it would rise and fall hundreds of feet, throwing rivers out of their beds, wrecking buildings, and practically destroying civilization. To the relief of ordinary citizens, Tesla later qualified his claim. The principle could not fail, he said, but it would be impossible to obtain perfect mechanical resonance of the Earth.

[Pages 116-117]

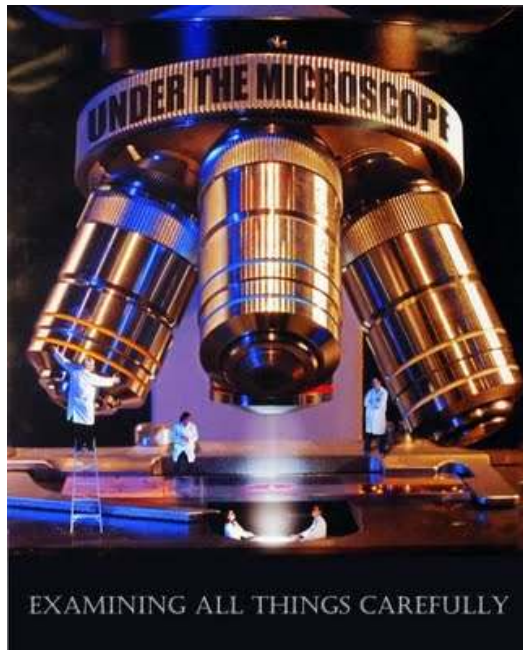
Tesla never publicly demonstrated the ability to bring a building down with one of his oscillators, much less the ability to cause the entire surface of the earth to move violently. For those who would link Tesla's claims of splitting the earth in two to HAARP, it should be noted that Tesla's oscillator that is reputed to have shaken buildings was *electro-mechanical*. It applied a mechanical force to an object to make it vibrate. His theory of splitting the earth also depended upon tremendous mechanical pressure being applied through the exploding of dynamite. The HAARP system has no such apparatus for applying a mechanical force to the earth. It has a microwave heater able to alter the temperature of localized areas of the ionosphere, but this is quite different from the technology described by Tesla to split the earth in two.

I am not advocating that everyone who encounters speculative claims about the government causing earthquakes, hurricanes, and other calamities, should spend a lot of time researching these things as I have here. What I do suggest is that the saints not embrace, or disseminate, these claims apart from fact checking the evidence, and testing the legitimacy of the arguments.

If you have the time, and the leading, then investigate these matters. If you don't, it is best to not adopt a position on them until you have done so. There are many false witnesses in the world. Even the most famous names, or the

most brilliant minds, can be fountains of speculation and false claims. I have erred in the past by being too quick to embrace some report or idea. I hope through my experience to be able to encourage others to avoid doing the same.

Under the Microscope - Examining All Things Closely
Part Seven - Comet Elenin
Joseph Herrin (09-26-2011)



Back in April I began a series titled *Under the Microscope* in which I urged the saints to test carefully the many conspiracy theories and doomsday prophecies that are so rampant in this hour. Although we do live in an hour when great judgments must come to the nations and the church, even as birth pangs come upon a woman when her hour to deliver is near, there is much being declared that is unsound. Satan always seeks to sow confusion and deception, if he might by any means direct people away from truth and a sound understanding of what God is about.

This present post comprises part 7 of this series. I had intended to write about Comet Elenin months ago, but many more matters and experiences came into my life, not the least of which was a 74 day stint in jail, and I was not able to bring to completion that which was on my heart to set forth in writing. Nevertheless, I have had many correspondences with various saints who have written to ask me about Comet Elenin, or to send me articles regarding it. These queries continue to come in many months later. I believe I have had at least four separate individuals write to me on this subject in the past few days, so I wish to set forth some information so that the saints can be better able to test this issue.

To state that the claims surrounding Comet Elenin have been spectacular, and incredible (in the most literal sense of the word), is to speak conservatively. Comet Elenin has been attributed as the cause of the 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Concepcion, Chile, as well as the successive earthquakes in Christchurch, New Zealand and Sendai, Japan. There have been many voices suggesting that the government of the United States has been involved in a massive cover-up and disinformation campaign, as they know that Elenin will produce an “Extinction Level Event” on the earth, and do not wish to panic the populace. Some of these voices suggest that the government has been preparing their own survival bolt holes, while misleading the public about the impending destruction of the earth.

Such claims sound like a Hollywood script. Indeed, Hollywood has produced movies with a very similar plot, including *Deep Impact* and *Armageddon*, both of which were about comets or asteroids that were on a collision course with the earth. Some have actually pointed to these movies to bolster their claims of impending calamity, pointing out parallels to details in the movies and the facts surrounding Comet Elenin.

For example, the discover of the comet “Wolf/Biederman” in the movie *Deep Impact* was a young boy named Leo Biederman. This is compared to the fact that Comet Elenin was discovered by a man whose first name is Leonid. Additionally, the same movie refers to the impending disaster produced by the collision of the comet with the Earth as ELE (pronounced Ellie), which stands for “Extinction Level Event.” This is compared to the theory that has the dinosaurs being wiped out by a similar impact millennia ago.

That the discoverer of Comet Elenin has a last name beginning with the letters “ELE” has been interpreted as a prophetic sign that this comet will produce a similar effect upon the earth as was portrayed in the movie.

Some extreme conspiracy websites that get into fantastical theories that are devoid of any hard science or practical skepticism, have further postulated that Comet Elenin is not a comet at all, but is actually Planet X, which is often referred to as Nibiru, or that it is a brown dwarf star. Those who ascribe to the Nibiru theory have produced a complete anagram of the name Elenin, suggesting that it stands for “Extinction Level Event - Nibiru Is Near.” Although this is clever, it is mere conjecture, and as all things, such claims need to be tested both through whatever science is available to us, as well as through more spiritual means (examining the testimony of Scripture and

listening to the voice of the Spirit.)

Elenin has been in the news for quite a long time now as it was discovered back on December 10, 2010. Conspiracy theories and doomsday prophecies have been circulating on the Internet for at least the last six months. As they have become more widely disseminated they have attracted greater speculation and more voices have begun to jump on the Elenin disaster bandwagon.

Due to this Internet notoriety, some Christians have also begun to take note of Comet Elenin, and this has led to a new wrinkle. There are some who have plotted the course of Elenin using such software programs as Starry Night which are able to project astronomical data into the future and focus in on individual heavenly bodies. They have traced the course of Comet Elenin as it would be viewed from earth, and have concluded that it will serve as a sign of great importance as it passes through the constellation Virgo (Bethulah the Virgin), where a conjunction of Saturn and Venus will also be taking place.

Various interpretations have been given of what this sign might mean. One writing that was forwarded to me came from a man with a Messianic Hebrew perspective and he suggested that it is a prophecy of the restoration of the two houses of Israel, Joseph and Judah, or the Northern and Southern kingdoms. Other writings that have shown this same transit of the comet through Virgo suggest that it is a sign of the appearance of the Manchild of Revelation 12, or the return of Christ. Some even suggest it marks the beginning of the Great Tribulation, since its appearance is coinciding with the Feast of Trumpets. As with all such things, there is always a temptation to interpret events according to our belief system and expectations. In other words, men are prone to see what they want to see in such signs.

This fact actually has formed the basis for much of what I have shared previously in this series *Under the Microscope*. I have cautioned the saints against being swayed by bias as they encounter the myriad of conspiracy theories and prophecies that are swirling about the Internet at this time. Such claims are increasing, and they are not likely to go away. It is requisite that the saint who would walk in truth while avoiding the panic and hysteria of the masses, be well grounded spiritually, patient in testing all things, and not prone to embracing every idea that comes along simply because it appeals to some bias, or desire of the soul.

I share these words of caution not with condemnation, but as one who has been chastised by Yahweh for failing to discern between truth and error in the past. Experience, if we will permit it to be so, can be a most effective instructor. The errors of our past can serve to keep us from similar errors in the present and future, if we will take the lessons to heart and apply them in humility. I have confessed openly my own foibles of judgment when I was led astray by the hype of doomsday scenarios and prophecies of calamity to come which had some appeal to my soul.

The earliest such event I can remember was the Y2K bug that a great many voices suggested would spell the downfall of modern civilization. If we do not divide between soul and spirit we will be led astray, as many were in that day who sold homes and built bunkers out in some wilderness area, stocking up with food rations and guns and ammunition. When Y2K turned out to be a non-event, the folly of many became evident, though due to pride very few prognosticators of doom ever admitted their error. The matter was swept under the rug, but the consequences of such an approach became evident over time. Those Christians who did not own up to their error and misspoken words were given over to a spirit of delusion and have become susceptible to ever increasing deceptions, seemingly lacking the ability to test anything at all. Yahweh gives grace to the humble. It is therefore ever necessary to publicly confess our error, and repent of it, when we have misspoken publicly about some event.

That there are aspects of the Comet Elenin conspiracy theories, doomsday reports, and prophecies that appeal to aspects of the soul of man is evident. There are a great many who mistrust the government today, and I admit there is very good reason to do so. The kingdoms of this world are presently ruled by the Prince of the Power of the Air, who is also known as Satan, and the Great Deceiver. The day has not yet arrived where the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ. The earth still lies in the power of the evil one. Those in positions of ruling authority in this fallen world system exemplify Satan's nature, and he is a great deceiver.

Nevertheless, it is not wisdom to attribute deception and conspiracies to governments, or anyone else, without properly testing the subject first. Mankind needs very little help in being led astray into error. Not every report from government agencies are false, nor are those outside the government known to be paragons of truth and virtue. In America, the government leaders are elected by the populace, and it is my judgment that both the leaders and

the followers are largely cut from the same cloth.

Jeremiah 5:31

The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule on their own authority;
And My people love it so!

As Solomon said, “there is nothing new under the Sun.” Corrupt nations produce corrupt leaders. To expect anything different defies common sense. Should we really expect that a nation that has murdered more than 50 million babies in the womb at the altar of convenience and sensuality; that has filled the world with images of pornography, rebellion, and violence, that champions homosexuality; and has come to endorse torture and unlimited imprisonment without legal recourse, would not have a truth problem among the citizens as well as among its leadership? It is necessary to test all things that are proclaimed whether they originate within, or without the government.

Following is a graphic I received in an article this morning. The information displayed has been passed along the Internet for many months now. The data provided is intended to suggest a link between Comet Elenin and major earthquakes that have occurred.



It is suggested that on the date of each of these earthquakes that Comet Elenin was aligned with the Earth, the Sun, and at times some other planet within our solar system. It is further suggested that these alignments have been the cause of earthquakes, though the mechanism, or science, demonstrating cause and effect has not been in evidence.

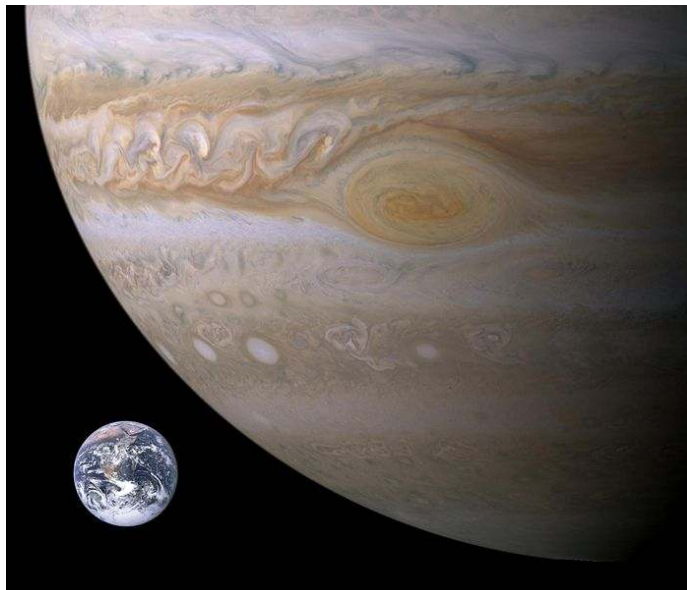
A comet the size of Elenin has very little mass. Its core may be no larger than a few meters, and even if it measured kilometers across, its mass would be so

small that it would have little influence on surrounding bodies. If gravitational attraction is supposed to be the instrument leading to such massive earthquakes, then Elenin would have to be truly massive to exert enough influence at such great distances to have any effect at all upon the earth.

Note that when the earthquake occurred in Chile, Comet Elenin was more than 6 AU distance from earth. An AU (Astronomical Unit) is the approximate distance from the earth to the Sun. In miles, one AU is about 93 million miles.

If one considers that the Moon that orbits the Earth is at its closest approach a mere 225,000 miles from the Earth, and it has a diameter nearly one quarter that of the earth, it would require a truly massive object 6 AU distance to have any measurable impact at all upon the earth. (The moon at its closest is only .0024 AU distance from the Earth.)

If the Moon were set at a distance of 6 AU from the earth, we would never have any effect from its gravitational pull. There would be no rise and fall of the ocean tides, nor any distortion of the earth's crust. The distances would simply be too great for an object of such a small mass to have any effect upon the Earth. Consider also that the largest planet in the Solar System is Jupiter. This giant planet has a mass by itself that is 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ times the mass of all the other planets combined.



Jupiter and Earth Size Comparison

Jupiter at its closest approach to the Earth is 555 million miles distance. This

is slightly less than the distance of Comet Elenin to the Earth on the date of the Chile earthquake. On the date of the Christchurch earthquake, Elenin was even further away. It is inconceivable that an object with as little mass as a comet, at such great distances, could have any impact upon the earth, either through gravitational attraction, or any other supposed force. Even if Elenin were a brown dwarf star (I know of no evidence to support such a conclusion), its mass would likely be similar to that of Jupiter, and perhaps even less. The mass of Jupiter is actually used by astronomers as a comparative unit when speaking of the mass of brown dwarf stars.

So, what effect does Jupiter have upon the Earth due to its influence less than 6 AU away? Does it cause earthquakes? Does it even effect the tides of the ocean? The answer to both questions is “no.” Even though the planet has such a great mass, it is simply too far away to have any appreciable effect. Jupiter has approximately 1/1000th the mass of the Sun, and it is nearly six times further away. If, as scientific observations have shown, Elenin is indeed a comet, and a minor one at that, its mass is infinitesimally less than that of Jupiter, and it cannot reasonably be expected to exert any influence upon the Earth.

There are ways to test this conclusion. If the earthquakes listed are the result of another heavenly body exerting a gravitational pull upon the earth due to an alignment, or close approach, then this influence would easily be observed by looking for distortions of the ocean tides. The tides are produced due to the gravitational influence of the moon. Therefore, any unusual gravitational force strong enough to cause large earthquakes would also produce an alteration of the tides. Where are the reports of unusual tides that coincided with these earthquakes, and alignments of Elenin? I have seen none. (The tsunami caused by the Japan earthquake was not the result of tidal changes. It was caused by a sudden upthrust of the Earth under the ocean. Although some people call Tsunami’s “tidal waves,” this is a misnomer. Tsunami is literally translated as “harbor wave” and they are unrelated to the ocean’s tides which are caused by the influence of the moon’s gravitational field.)

A sister in Christ forwarded to me a writing suggesting that Comet Elenin has been responsible for earthquakes, and could produce a great cataclysm tomorrow (September 27th) which the article states is also the beginning of the Feast of Trumpets on the Hebrew Calendar. Following is an excerpt.

Quakes that are produced by alignments are NOT created by gravitational

pull but rather by Electro Magnetic Troughs - which contains what is known as portals. Some active and others inactive.

The Earth is connected to the sun by one of these troughs in a fixed manner. Like wise, it appears that Elenin is connected as well, yet not fixed.

It is much like the electro magnetic globes you can buy at one of those unique gift shops. Which is actually called a plasma ball. When you place your finger to the globe it draws most the charge to your finger. When the Earth passed through this unfixed trough, forming an alignment with the Sun, it is believed that it triggered the large earth quakes.

As the distance between Elenin and the sun shortens, the trough widens as it gets shorter. The difference would be comparable to a garden hose that is 50 feet long to that of a 24 inch water main that is only 5 feet long. This trough connecting Elenin to the sun will be at it's greatest capacity on September 11th as this will be the date that it is closest to the Sun. 16 days later, on the 27th, it will come between the Sun and Earth at approximately 1/3 of an astronomical unit away.

Though the Earth will NOT be between Elenin and the sun on this alignment like the previous ones, it appears that Elenin could super charge the trough between the Earth and the sun as it passes through it. Basically acting as a syphon and thrusting huge amounts of electro magnetic shock waves to earth. Then as Elenin continues on it's trajectory, earth DOES come between Elenin and the Sun again. Having this alignment come on the 27th of September may not sound like a significant date to many but it literally falls on the feast of trumpets of Yahweh's prophetic calendar! What if this event is the actual beginning of the blowing of the trumpets in Revelation?
[End Excerpt]

According to sources I have checked (Karaite Korner, etc.) Rosh Hashanah (Yom Teruah) actually begins at sundown on the 29th, and will be observed during daylight hours on September 30th. So there is some discrepancy in the dates here.

Coming across a report such as is found in the words above, would you normally be inclined to test the statements uttered before accepting them? The author is not an expert in these matters, though he writes with a lot of confidence. One must ask whether such confidence is justified. Is the writer

merely presenting conclusions that result from his own personal bias that have led him to adopt theories and hypothesis favorable to his pre-judgment of this matter, and to make claims that are unwarranted? Christians should certainly apply themselves to fact check claims as far as possible.

All this talk of electromagnetic troughs and portals sounds mysteriously like science fiction. I decided to do a search on the words “electromagnetic troughs and earthquakes” to see if there was any science behind these claims. I found very little. There were a couple of articles that revealed that very preliminary studies are being considered and conducted to see if there is a relationship between electromagnetic fluctuations and earthquakes. The articles stated that it was hoped that studying this subject might lead to a predictive capability for earthquakes. The articles also revealed that such a link was controversial, and that the source of electromagnetic fluctuations preceding earthquakes was not assumed to be due to an outside influence (such as a heavenly body), but could be a by product of subterranean forces associated with an earthquake.

What I did not find was any scientific evidence that would support the confident assertions of the author of the piece forwarded to me. There is no body of evidence to support the contention that earthquakes are produced by electromagnetic troughs in the heavens. Also the statement that Elenin “appears” to be connected to the Sun by one of these troughs is not backed up by any evidence whatsoever. The author simply makes the claim without providing any data, or source material, to fact check his conclusions.

As I have watched this Comet Elenin story unfold over the course of many months, I have observed that the Christian community has gotten involved with it due to other websites giving the subject such heightened attention. I have had to ask whether this attention was justified. What, after all, makes Comet Elenin special? Although comets visible to the naked eye on earth are fairly rare, comets themselves are quite common. It is estimated that there may be as many as a trillion comets in the solar system. Although few are visible to the naked eye, there are many more that are observable with telescopes and other observation equipment. Every year, amateur astronomers discover more than 100 never before seen comets. Elenin was just one of more than 100 discovered in the past 12 months. Why then has it received such inordinate attention?

The attention given to Elenin cannot be due to it being spectacular in appearance. At its brightest in August of this year it was recorded as having a

brightness of 8.3 magnitude*. To put this in perspective, this is 5 times dimmer than the human eye can see. At no time has Comet Elenin ever been visible from the Earth with the unaided human eye. If Comet Elenin is to be interpreted as a heavenly sign, as some Christians are now suggesting, it must be considered a very minor sign, and in my opinion it is no sign at all if it cannot be seen by the human eye.

* http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comet_Elenin

Some men have gone to great lengths to describe Comet Elenin's passage through the Constellation Virgo. I have seen illustrations taken from various computer software programs. I have two such illustrations that follow. Both are taken from different versions of the Starry Night software. They depict the view of the heavens as seen from Jerusalem on the night of September 29th, which is Rosh Hashanah/Yom Teruah. Note that although this software does depict the location of Comet Elenin in this constellation, it does not disclose the fact that the comet will not be visible to the unaided eye. Furthermore, it has been reported in the past week or two that it appears that Elenin may have already begun disintegrating as it approached the Sun*. Therefore, there may not be anything left of it to observe, even with a telescope.

* <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/observing/home/128708798.html>

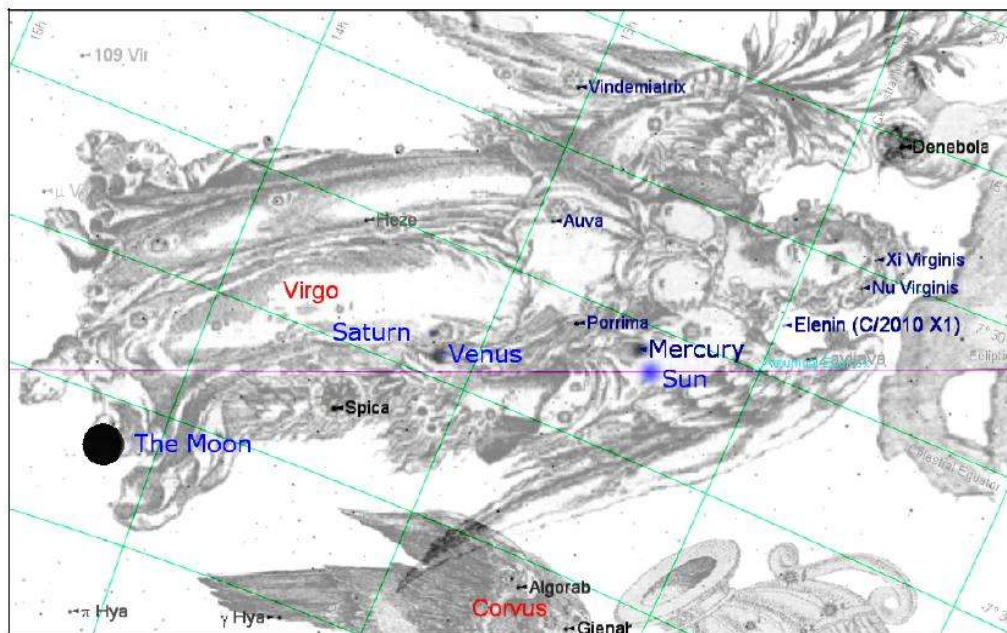


Chart 568 – Ecliptic view of Bethulah on Sept. 29, 2011 as seen from Jerusalem from Starry Night Pro 4.0.5

Note Elenin's location near the neck of Virgo.

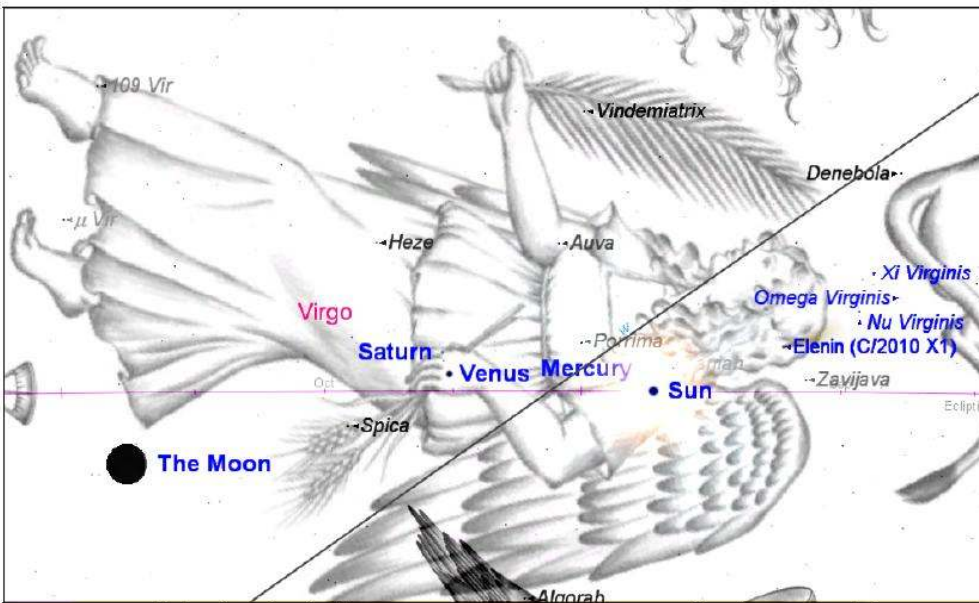


Chart 569 – Ecliptic view of *Bethulah* on Sept. 29, 2011 as seen from Jerusalem from Starry Night Pro 6.4.3

In the descriptions and interpretations of this “possible sign” in the heavens, the authors have described the moon as being under the feet of the virgin. In neither depiction does it truly appear that the moon is “under” the feet of Virgo. Rather, it is alongside the feet. There are numerous such discrepancies where things are stated to be aligned, but the reality is somewhat different.

Having considered these writings, I am not persuaded by any of the arguments that Elenin is being used by God as a sign of great things happening at this time. If Yahweh were truly indicating the restoration of the two houses of Israel, the birth of the manchild, the return of Christ, or the beginning of the Great Tribulation, I believe the heavenly sign would be observable to the human eye.

The only reason I can arrive at for so many giving such attention to a comet that cannot even be seen, and which has quite possibly already begun an intense disintegration into nothingness, is that they were caught up in the hype that has surrounded this subject. Considering that the hype was itself extremely spurious from the beginning, with the first reports appearing on very disreputable conspiracy sites, I believe we simply have an example of much ado about nothing.

I John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are

from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

People of God, I do not deny that we live in a very unique time in history. Yahweh is about to accomplish many things. There is a need to be watchful. Judgments are being loosed in the earth. Christchurch has been shaken twice now, and Christ's church must also be shaken. There will certainly be many true signs of things that are coming, and many difficult days lie ahead, but let us be patient and test all things for many false reports and claims are being circulated. The sons of God are called to be wise as serpents, yet harmless as doves.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.