



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 2.10.2

Series 2 of the Parables Bookshelf contains a variety of writings covering a wide range of topics related to the Kingdom of God. These writings originally appeared as posts on the Heart4God website, or the Parables Blog, both of which are the websites of Bible teacher Joseph Herrin.

Divorced From Truth

Divorced From Truth - Part 4 **No Perfect Bible Translation**

After sending out the first part of this teaching series, a sister in Christ wrote to me to ask me to provide further information on Bible translations. Some have wanted to know specifically what errors are present in various translations, and some have requested that I recommend a good translation to use for study.

I have found that many Christians tend to become very emotionally attached to a particular translation, although they reasons for doing so are usually erroneous, or poorly considered. Perhaps

you have encountered people who held to the opinion that the King James Version is the only accurate translation, suggesting that all other translations are demonically influenced and to be avoided at all cost. I have sought to reason with some who held this view. I have asked them to consider the following points.

The King James Version of the Bible was not produced until 1611. If the KJV Bible is the ONLY translation authorized and approved by God, what did the church

use for the 1600 years prior to its writing? Did the church have only demonically inspired Scriptures?

If the King James Version is the ONLY Bible authorized and approved by God, then what do the Christians of the world who do not speak English use? Must the Chinese church use the English KJV Bible even when they do not speak English? Or how about the Russian church, or the French church, or the German church, or the Spanish church?

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I have found that much of the reasoning of those who staunchly defend the KJV Bible is tragically tainted by nearsightedness. Those who espouse such a view are all English speaking Christians who have lived after the writing of this translation. The vast majority of church history occurred without any KJV Bible in existence, and even today English speaking Christians are only a portion of the entire body of Christ.

The arguments suggesting that the KJV is the only translation authorized and approved by God is therefore seriously misguided. It is merely a manifestation of religious prejudice. The KJV Bible is itself filled with errors, which can be easily discovered by anyone who wants to do even a cursory study of the matter. The following letter is part of a correspondence I had with a brother who wrote to tell me that he believed the KJV was the most accurate translation available.

Dear Brother,

I would agree with you that there are some serious problems with many of the translations today, but I haven't found the KJV to be a better translation, but in most cases to be a much more flawed translation. Please don't think this is just some prejudice of mine. This conclusion comes from my own research into translations and I will share with you the reasons why I believe this to be true... All of the popular English translations are full of translation errors...

Following is an excerpt from a writing by Gary Amirault that reveals some of the information he found on the KJV Bible in doing his own research.

It was extremely painful for me (Gary Amirault) when researching Bible translations to come across the fact that in 1851 the American Bible Society compared six different editions of the King James Bible and discovered over 24,000 variations between the editions of the same Bible translation! How could there be an inerrant King James Bible when even the different editions of the King James Bible had ten's of thousands of variant readings!? I was told by tradition not to question the inerrant King James Bible. No one ever told me that even in the very first year of the King James Bible, two different printings of the very same King James were not the same. No one ever told me that the editions of the KJV up until the 19th century contained 14 additional books not in today's editions. We have an exact reprint of one of the 1611 printings that contains books such as: The Idole Bel and the Dragon, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees, The prayer of Manasseh, Tobit, Judith, the Song of the Three Children, Baruch, etc.. Can you find these books in a present edition of the King James Bible? If the Doctrine of Biblical Inerrancy is a true doctrine, which of the many editions of the KJV is the inerrant one? The original one contained books no longer in the present editions. Have these publishers "taken away from the Word?" Will the plagues of Revelation be on your head because you are using a KJV missing 14 books?

The Bible Inerrancy Camp and the King James Only Camp teach that we have a perfect Greek text or imply it. It is called the "Textus Receptus" by the KJV camp which is Latin for "Received Text." They teach this text was available to the King James translators which allowed them to produce an inerrant English translation. Historical records regarding this "Textus Receptus" proves their view to be totally false.

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First of all, the term "Textus Receptus" first appears in a second edition of Stephanus Greek text produced by the Elzevire Brothers in 1633, twenty two years after the King James Bible was printed! It was an advertising pitch as false as most commercials are today. The so-called Textus Receptus began its debut in 1516. It started as a work which took a self-proclaimed "humanist" Roman Catholic monk only several months to, in his own words "throw together rather than edit." One critic in England called it the "least carefully printed book ever published." Erasmus in trying to be the first to get a Greek text in print, threw together in a few months what it took his competitors at Alcalá de Henares University many years to assemble. The University's text came to be known as the Complutensian Polyglott. Erasmus only had a handful of very late manuscripts to work from, none of which contained the complete Greek New Testament, so he filled in the gaps from the Latin Vulgate. That is why the Textus Receptus has words that do not agree with any known Greek text. He corrected his text in 4 subsequent editions.

In the mid 1500's a man named Stephanus took Erasmus' text, and combined it with the Complutensian Text. He produced several editions making changes along the way. The Stephanus text, which the King James translators used, differed from the self-proclaimed "Textus Receptus" in 287 places. There are no known Greek manuscripts that agree "inerrantly" with either the Textus Receptus or the Stephanus text. Erasmus, the originator of the so-called "inerrant" Greek text later to be called the "Textus Receptus" dedicated his work to Pope Leo X who later would condemn Luther and the Reformation. For a full account of this sad chapter of church deception, read "The Text of the New Testament" by Bruce Metzger. Foundation Press in Anaheim, California also has some valuable information.

The teaching that the King James translators had a perfect Greek text is denied by the translators themselves. In the original edition of 1611 are marginal notes as follows: Note on Luke 17:36, "This 36th verse is wanting in most of the Greek copies." Note on Acts 25:6 where their text reads: "When he had tarried among them more than ten days," they inserted the following marginal note: "or, as some copies read, 'no more than eight or ten days.'" Unfortunately, notes such as these as well as much other information contained in the Original KJV have been removed to support the "Inerrancy" fraud. Enough . . . of this sad chapter of Bible translating...

There was a time when Bible writing was strictly in the hands of the church. The end result was the church put the Bible into a "Sacred" language called Latin which common people in latter times could not and were not allowed to read. It was called the Vulgate. The common people could not read the Scriptures in their native tongue of English, German, French, etc.. Getting caught with any portion of the Scriptures in your native language could get one killed by the church! Please believe us. This is true. The Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox churches did not want Christians or non-Christians reading the Scriptures.

When the first Common Language Bibles began to appear in the languages of the world, the state and church still had much control over the wording, who could read it, and which translations one could read. An Anglican Protestant was not allowed to read a Lutheran Bible. King James did not want the people of England to read the English Geneva Bible produced by John Calvin and his associates. Church leaders used the notes in the Geneva Bible as Scriptural support to tell the King how to rule. Before James the first was king of England, he was King James the sixth

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of Scotland. The Presbyterians caused him much trouble and their favorite Bible was the Geneva Bible. King James commissioned the King James Bible because of political reasons, not because of a love of the Creator. The English were strongly being influenced by the marginal notes in the Geneva Bible which states that the people of a monarchy had the right to overthrow that monarchy if it did not line up with Scripture. King James believed in the "Divine Right of the King." He called the Geneva Bible "seditious." Therefore, he commissioned the King James Bible.

He gave the committee 15 rules which they had to abide by while translating his Bible. Several of those selected for the committee resigned because of these stipulations. This list is printed in most well researched Bible translations reference books. We will mention just a couple to show you that this version was not going to be pure nor "inerrant." "1. The ordinary Bible read in the Church, commonly called the Bishops Bible, to be followed, and as little altered as the Truth of the original will permit." (Doesn't sound like a "new" translation, does it?) "3. The Old Ecclesiastical Words to be kept, viz. The word church not be translated Congregation &c." (This was to insure the old Roman Catholic\Anglican rituals, ordinances, and doctrines be not altered. They couldn't change the word baptize into immerse, for example.) "4. When a Word hath divers Significations, that to be kept which hath been most commonly used by the most of the Ancient Fathers, being agreeable to the Propriety of the Place, and the Analogy of the Faith." (In others words, they must abide by the "traditions of the elders." Remember Jesus' words, "You have made the word of God of none effect by your traditions?")

These examples should be enough to show one that the King James translators were not

"anointed by God" to produce an authentically original translation free from political and denominational bias. They were "appointed by James" for political and monetary reasons. King James didn't put a penny into the project, but he could make money out of the project since it was his Bible...

The translator's have this to their credit. They noted in the preface to the reader that they only took previous men's work and hoped to make a better one, knowing others would follow them and produce even a better one yet. This preface has been also removed from present day King James Bibles because it does not conform to the fundamentalist's "inerrancy" teachings. That is why the translators preface is no longer printed in current King James Bibles... We mention here, only a few points to clearly show that the teaching of an "inerrant" KJV is a pure myth.

In 1611 two separate editions of the KJV were printed. They came to be known as the "Great He Bible" and the "Great She Bible" because one printed Ruth 3:15 as "he went" and the other printed "she went." These two original King James Bibles, printed in the first year this Bible was issued, had several thousands differences. When asked to endorse the KJV, Hugh Broughton, foremost Hebrew scholar of England at that time said he would rather "be rent to pieces by wild horses than have had any part in the urging of such a wretched version of the Bible on the poor people."

It is vital to understand that when the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Russian Orthodox church removed the Scriptures from the common people, these churches were then able to bring in hundreds of pagan doctrines, idols, and false religious rites. The mythologies of the Romans, Greeks, Teutons, Norse,

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Druids etc. were incorporated into church teaching which produced great darkness. Read about the dark ages of Europe which were brought about by Christian leaders, the popes, bishops, cardinals, and kings appointed by the pope.

When the Reformation began, the minds of Christian leaders were so cluttered by superstition and false doctrines that the progress they made in breaking away from the total darkness of Romanism was really only a small step out of darkness. We forget that the Anglican Church began, not because of Godly reasons, but from political and personal ones. Also don't forget, King James was much more interested in a Bible to support his view of the "divine right of the king" than to produce an inerrant Bible. Church historians have glorified the Reformation far beyond what was really accomplished. Today, we still have a long way to go.

Today, most Bibles are produced by merchants. The church proved it only perverted the "Word of God" when she was sole guardian of it. She hid it, then changed it. Now merchants produce most Bible translations which must be sold for a profit which usually means giving the market what they want. Over 350 English translations of the New Testament have been marketed to date. The most popular and accepted translations are, of course, those which can be used to support Christendom's doctrines. Pastors will push those translations which work for them the most.

When a major Bible translation is undertaken by a publisher or some other institution, the directors are not only responsible for getting the text translated; they must also make sure that the resulting work will, over time, pay for the cost of translation and make a profit. In

other words, they are under a directive to make sure that the completed Bible supports the majority view of Christendom's doctrines. The market first, accuracy to original texts second. The bottom line of present day Bible translating is: It must sell!

[End Quote by Gary Amirault]

D., this reveals just some of the things I have found about Bible translations as I researched them. It is also often overlooked by people who support the superiority of the KJV that this was the same king of England that persecuted those who disagreed in any way with the Anglican Church of England. He would even imprison men and confiscate their houses, leaving their women and children to struggle for survival. Is this the heart of someone who really loves God and who loves the children of God? It was this same King James that persecuted those we know as the Pilgrims and he tried to keep them from leaving England. Eventually they did flee to Holland to escape his tyranny, and later they sailed to America.

Is it not a conflict that we venerate these early pilgrims for their desire to worship God in Spirit and in truth, and we feel pity for all the hardship they faced, yet we also venerate the King who caused the hardship and we declare that the translation of the scriptures that he authorized is a superior translation? Somehow the church's prejudices have disconnected them from the truth. King James was a tyrant and he was by no means a godly ruler. Yet many in the church staunchly defend the Bible that he ordered written for political and monetary reasons.

Again, I don't share these things with you to antagonize you, and I hope you are not offended that I have shared them. These are

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things I have learned as I have done my own studies, and I believe it is the Spirit of Yahweh that has led me to these things. I want to walk in truth and to avoid error so I weigh carefully the things people speak to me. Paul praised the Berean believers for doing this very thing.

May you be blessed with the wisdom and understanding that is in Yahshua our Lord,

Joseph

I would like to append some more information here to this page, as there are many more things that I have come across in my study of Bible translations. Adlai Loudy, in support of the Concordant Literal Version of the Bible, made some of the following observations.

In John 20:1, the King James reads: "The first day of the week . . ."

It is little known to Christendom that this is a "bogus" translation foisted upon the church by the translators, a "camel" that has been swallowed by scholars and students alike. The writer had a well-meaning brother in the Lord, who became so concerned about me and my teaching that he traveled a long distance to go over the matter with a view to readjusting me in the truth. After patiently listening to all that he had to say, I suggested a few things to him, one of which was the fact that the Scriptures, correctly translated, knew nothing about "the first day of the week." He threw up his hands in astonishment that I would make such an irreverent indictment of the "Bible!" After facing the facts. He apparently preferred "error" to the truth, as he made no attempt to reply and quit the subject without any explanation whatever.

*The original, in all three of the oldest manuscripts, reads: *mia ton sabbaton, ONE OF THE SABBATHS*. Our translators presumed to know more than the great Author and corrupted the word of God. They altered "one" to read "first," inserted the word "day," for it is not in the original and is not needed in the translation, and changed "sabbaths" to the singular "week." Can one imagine a more perfidious and deceptive act of man? It truly is repugnant to those who reverently regard the original as the very word of God, and want it to speak to them as He was pleased to give it...*

*The Authorized Version renders Romans 7:24 thus: *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Since the King James "Bible" was made, this question has been read and reread by the saints of God, but the answer has been lacking. THE CONCORDANT VERSION, following the editor of Sinaiticus, restores the answer that has been lost all these years. It reads:

A wretched man I am! What will rescue me out of this body of death? Grace! Now I am thanking God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord...

These examples could be multiplied many times, but this will suffice to show that we should be very careful about building divisive articles, dogmas and doctrines on such imperfections, as are manifest in these older versions. Since the King James "Bible" was issued in 1611, some forty new dictionaries have been issued to keep pace with the growth and changes in the English language. The English and American revision committees made 36,191 changes — rectifications — of the King

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James Version that more closely conform to the original, after which President Schaff said the work was still far from perfect!

The above comments are all by Mr. Loudy. I personally have not found any translation that would merit a stamp of approval as the single best and most accurate translation. Perhaps this has been God's will to keep His children ever seeking, and ever knocking, that they might find that truth is a person, and much more than mere words on a page. Yahshua said "**I Am** the Way, **the Truth** and the Life" and He has sent us His Spirit to guide us into all Truth. If we had a single inerrant translation many would fall into the habit of spending far too little time seeking the mind of the Spirit, believing that they could comprehend Truth through mere mental ascension.

The present state of Bible translations forces the seeker of the mind of Christ to come to the throne of God time after time, asking the Father to lead us to Truth through the working of His Spirit in us. Choosing a Bible translation is one of the thornier issues among Christians today, and many have exhibited a decided lack of grace and love toward their brothers who should disagree with some favorite translation. Nowhere is this more evident than those who have camped out around the KJV Bible, yet as we have seen, it was not divinely inspired in its translation, and has had thousands of revisions and changes, and is still full of so many errors and prejudices as to make it difficult to rely upon.

The church today resembles very much the Corinthian church that Paul derided for their carnality. They had divisions among them based upon who their favorite teacher was, Paul, Apollos, Peter, and even Yahshua. The church today still has its divisions, and one source is

found in arguments over which Bible translation is the best. I believe there is no "best" translation, and the serious student would do well to compare many translations and to do research of their own. A great help to me is in comparing how a word was used in other instances by the same author, or by other authors of the time. By comparing in this manner we can see what a word's actual meaning was, and we can see if the translators have altered it in certain places to fit their own views. Time after time this has led me to discover some alteration of the Scriptures that served to obscure truth from the readers.

Let us not be saints that adopt some prejudiced view of which Bible translation is the best, but let us seek to urge one another to a pursuit of the truth and to expose error wherever we find it.

[End Article Excerpt]

Bible translations have always been subject to the fallacies of man. At times errors are introduced simply due to a lack of understanding. A far more grievous occurrence is being manifested today by Bible publishers who are making wholesale changes to Scriptures due to a lack of integrity. They are changing the wording of Scriptures because they believe they know better than God how the Bible should be written. I previously mentioned one such egregious example of this type of error is being manifested by the publishers of the NIV Bible. They have produced a new, gender neutral Bible translation called the New International Version Inclusive Language Edition (NIVI). This Bible translation manifests the pride and arrogance of man who are seeking to transform the Bible into a form that is "politically correct" and does not offend the liberal minds of some who call themselves Christians. Much information can be found online concerning

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this trend by doing a search on a variety of key terms.

<http://www.bible-researcher.com/inclusive.html>

The International Bible Society, the publisher of the NIV and a number of gender neutral translations, hired Virginia Mollenkott to work on these translations. Virginia Mollenkott is a lesbian, pro-abortion, a feminist, and under her influence the International Bible Society removed the term “sodomite” from their Bible translations. In fact, Mollenkott has completely redefined what it is that God calls aberrant homosexual behavior. Another contributor to the NIV Bible was Dr. Marten Woudstra. He oversaw the Old Testament Committee, acting as its chairman. He too was an admitted homosexual.

<http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/twohomosexuals.htm>

<http://www.jesus-is-lord.com/woudstra.htm>

Understanding that Bible publication is a big business, and it is under the influence of many corrupt pressures and influences, that ungodly men and women are employed in the work of translation, is there not great reason to be very careful in our examination and study of Scriptures?

It is not hard to research some of the controversies surrounding Bible translations, or to discover how error is being introduced into the church through the corrupting of the Bible itself. Just consider, if Satan can get the people of God to do all of their reading from Bible translations he has introduced demonic doctrines into, then he will certainly find success

in leading people astray into error. It is like making structural changes to a foundation of a building. Everything that is built upon the foundation is affected by the changes at the lowest level.

One of the fundamental changes made to English Bible translations is in the rendering of divine names. Can you imagine someone translating a work of the Holy Spirit where men moved by God were led to record the name Yahweh 6,828 times in the Old Testament, and 49 times to record the name Yah. Yet the translators decided it was inappropriate to refer to God by His memorial name He used to reveal Himself to mankind? Instead, they removed every occurrence of the name of God and replaced it with a title such as Lord, or God. Many Christians think the name of the deity they worship is Lord, or God, but these are generic titles, not names.

I do not have space here to speak comprehensively of this erroneous practice of the translators of all of the popular English Bibles, but I will include a link here to a more lengthy writing I have posted on this topic.

The Usage of Divine Names:

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id210.htm>

There are times when the translators have rendered certain Hebrew and Greek words in a manner that is erroneous due to their own lack of understanding, or out of a desire to maintain the orthodox rendering that is most familiar to Christians and Bible teachers. You can imagine that if the translators rendered certain words in a manner that was uncommon, or unknown to a large percentage of the body of Christ, even if accuracy demanded they do so, that few people would buy their Bible transla-

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tion.

In the book *God's Plan of the Ages*, I have written of one particular instance of this happening, and how in doing so the translators have hidden the actual meaning of one of the most fundamental of Bible doctrines. It has been so obscured that most Christians upon hearing it taught correctly immediately suspect that some heresy has been committed. In fact, they themselves have been taught error, and embraced it, due to the errors incorporated into popular English Bibles by the translators. I will cite a section from the aforementioned book as it speaks of the horrendous way in which the translators have rendered the Hebrew word *Olam*, and its Greek equivalent *Aion*.

[Begin excerpt]

J. Preston Eby writes:

The Hebrew word OLAM and its Greek equivalent, AION, mean a limited time, an age, and their plural means ages...

Let us look at how the word AION is used in a number of passages. About 37 times in the New Testament it is rendered "world," twice as "worlds," twice as "ages," and once as "course." Every place where the word "eternal" appears, with but one exception, it is a translation of this word AION or its adjective form AIONIOS. Twice it is rendered "evermore." Every place where the word "everlasting" appears, but one, it is this same word or its adjective form. With but thirteen exceptions, every place where the word "ever" appears it is the same word or its adjective form. And aside from all this confusion, the word also appears in the plural, and in a number of confusing combinations, such as "the aion of the aion," "the aion of the aions,"

and "the aions of the aions," etc.

Some of the passages where AION is found will give us added information concerning it. In Ephesians 2:7 we find, "in the ages (aions) to come." In Colossians 1:26 we find, "the mystery which has been hid from ages (aions)." In Ephesians 2:2 we find "you walked, according to the course (aion) of this world." In Hebrews 1:2 we find, "by whom also He made the worlds (aions)." In Hebrews 11:3 we find, "the worlds (aions) were formed by the Word of God." In about fifteen instances, such as Matthew 12:32, 1 Corinthians 1:20, etc., we find it rendered "this world (aion)." Twice we find "this present world (aion)." In Galatians 1:4 we find, "deliver us from this present evil world (aion)." In Ephesians 6:12 we find, "the rulers of the darkness of this world (aion)." In II Corinthians 4:4 we find, "the god of this world (aion)." In I Corinthians 2:6 we find, "the wisdom of this world (aion)." In Luke 16:8 we find, "the children of this world (aion)." In Mark 4:19 we find, "the cares of this world (aion)." How much more understandable it would be if the translators had used the word age instead of world!

In Mark 10:30 we find that there is not only this present aion, which is evil, but also "the world (aion) to come." In Luke 20:35 we find, "but they that shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world (aion), and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage." In Hebrews 6:5 we find, "and have tasted the powers of the world (aion) to come." And in Luke 1:70, John 9:32, etc., we find that the aion had a beginning: "since the world (aion) began."

I would like to jump in here in the middle of Mr. Eby's discourse to actually do what he sug-

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gested. I would like to render the Greek "aion" here in these passages as "age" and we will see how wonderfully the passages make sense.

Eph. 2:7 "in the ages (aions) to come."

Col. 1:26 "the mystery which has been hid from the ages (aions)."

Eph. 2:2 "you walked, according to the age (aion) of this world."

Heb. 1:2 "by whom also He made the ages (aions)."

Heb. 11:3 "the ages (aions) were formed by the Word of God."

Gal. 1:4 "deliver us from this present evil age (aion)."

Eph. 6:12 "the rulers of the darkness of this age (aion)."

II Cor. 4:4 "the god of this age (aion)."

I Cor. 2:6 "the wisdom of this age (aion)."

Lk. 16:8 "the children of this age (aion)."

Mk. 4:19 "the cares of this age (aion)."

Mk. 10:30 "the age (aion) to come."

Lk. 20:35 "but they that shall be accounted worthy to obtain that age (aion), and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage."

Heb. 6:5 "and have tasted the powers of the age (aion) to come."

John. 9:32 "since the age (aion) began."

(Now, back to Mr. Eby.)

And now in reviewing the Scriptures we have just quoted we note that this aion is something which has a king; it has princes; it is in darkness; it had a beginning; it has an ending; it is evil; it has wisdom; it has children who marry; it has cares. The aions we find were

made by Christ, simply through His spoken Word, and we also find in Colossians 1:26 that the mystery of Christ in us, the hope of glory, has been hidden from these aions.

Now, if AION means ETERNAL, consider how ridiculous the Word of God would be! The Holy Spirit would be found saying, "the mystery which has been hid from eternities;" "the mystery of Christ which in other eternities was not made known;" "in the eternities to come;" "You walked according to the eternity of this world;" "by whom also He made the eternities;" "the rulers of the darkness of this eternity;" "now once in the end of the eternities has He appeared;" "the harvest is the end of the eternity;" "since eternity began;" "in the eternities to come," etc. etc... Suffice it to say here that there have been "aions" in the past, there is this present "aion," and there are "aions" to come. And these all combined make up TIME, encompassing the whole of the progressive plan and program of God for the development of His creation.

[End Excerpt]

Due to the inaccurate manner in which these two words have been translated, the church has formed doctrines that are not only founded upon error, but these doctrines have shaped the way Christians view God Himself. I encourage any Christian who has not yet done so to read the book God's Plan of the Ages with an honest heart, examining all things carefully. I am confident that many will be shocked at how they have been led astray into false doctrine, and have failed to discern God's plan to reconcile the entire creation back to Himself through the cross of Christ. The book can be found here:

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id195.htm>

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What I have shared here is intended to reveal to the child of God the need to STUDY to show themselves “approved, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of God.” You will not be able to divide truth from error if your approach to the study of Scriptures is casual. Most Christians do no more than read popular translations, and even this is done sparingly. Their lack of careful examination and focused study is a measure of their own lack of interest in knowing the truths and mysteries contained in the Bible.

The Scriptures contain the wisdom of God revealed by the Holy Spirit through holy men of old. There is no greater vocation a man or woman can pursue than to know God in spirit and in truth. Should not our pursuit of the knowledge of God be conducted with the greatest measure of excellence we can bring to the endeavor? God knows those who earnestly desire to apprehend truth. He does not bestow His treasures indiscriminately. Those who yearn for truth, wisdom and understanding, who cry out for it, and pursue it passionately, will be granted that which they seek.

Proverbs 2:1-6

My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of Yahweh and discover the knowledge of God. For Yahweh gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

Divorced From Truth - Part 5

Ecumenicism - Another Jesus, Another Gospel

II Corinthians 11:3-4

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

In this present series of writings we have been looking at the evidence that the church today is receiving a message of “another Jesus” and are embracing “a different gospel” from that which was preached by the apostles and revealed in the pages of Scripture. Satan’s methods have not changed substantially since he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden. He is the father of lies and the great deceiver.

Satan has led frontal assaults upon the people of God before, seeking by force and intimidation to get them to deny the God who has chosen them. Such overt coercion and persecution tends to strengthen the church. Those who have no root fall away in a time of persecution, but those whose roots are established in Christ draw more life from the One who is their source. The end result is that spiritual life flourishes in times of persecution.

Satan comes only to kill, steal and destroy. In his wrath, Satan sought to destroy the church while it was still in its infancy. He enraged reli-

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gious and political leaders to imprison, rob, and even murder the people of God. The result was much like a man who seeks to put out a fire by stomping on the blaze. The result of Satan's fury was that the burning embers that comprised the body of Christ were scattered, and everywhere they fell they ignited new blazes. In a time of great persecution Christianity spread throughout the entire Roman Empire.

Severe persecution has tended to strengthen the body of Christ. Those who were not pure in their devotion to Christ would fall away leaving behind a core of believers who had counted the cost of following the Son of God, and were willing to pay the cost. These ones who loved Christ more than their own lives burned brightly in their devotion to Yahshua. They made an impact upon people everywhere they went. They appeared as lights in a dark world. They were as salt that retained all of its flavor and potency.

When a particular approach does not bear the desired results, Satan will change his tactics. Our adversary knows the power of deception. He knows that a people who are confused, or unsure of the true doctrines of the gospel of Christ, will be more likely to compromise and even to fall away from the faith in a time of persecution, than those who have been firmly grounded in truth.

Satan has accomplished much through the use of subtlety. He has been adding the leaven of falsehood to the doctrines of the church. Bit by bit he has been eroding the foundation that Christians stand upon. Satan has sought to distort, skew, twist, manipulate, and obscure the knowledge of Christ. He has done the same with the gospel of salvation.

God is viewed by millions of professing Christians today in a distorted manner. He is all love, tolerance, and compassion. His wrath, justice, holiness, and consuming nature are ignored, and even denied. The remolded image of God and His Christ have emboldened multitudes of professing Christians to continue in sin, having no fear of the consequences of doing so. The gospel has been altered to appear as some sales pitch of prosperity on earth and a promise of heaven later. There is little mentioned about Christ having come to destroy the works of the devil, or to set men free from sin.

The new God and His Christ are not feared today. Christians commit far greater trespasses against the Spirit of Christ than Ananias and Sapphira who forfeited their lives for their transgression.

Acts 5:11

And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

The church does not fear God today, for He has been recast into an image which provokes no fear. He is no longer seen as a holy judge who requires integrity and righteousness from His children. I am appalled at the absence of the fear of God manifested in the lives of Christians today. I regularly witness Christians speaking and doing things that I would tremble at the thought of doing. My fear of God leads me to seek to be constrained in word and deed knowing that I will have to give an account. Many act and speak with little evidence of any concern that they will also be called to account. I am persuaded that this is due to having embraced an image of a God who does not punish His children; an image of a God who winks at sin and does not discipline His sons and daughters.

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There is a purpose behind the deceit of Satan. He is removing all fear of God from the minds of Christians so that when he begins to rage against God and to speak blasphemous things against His Son, multitudes of believers will be cowed before his fierce anger. Having no fear of God they will embrace every lie. Having no fear of God they will suppose it is okay to deny that Christ is the only way to the Father. They will tolerate the suggestion that Yahshua is merely one manifestation of God, and that Allah, Buddha, Confucius, Shiva, etc., also are holy and their worshipers are “people of faith” as much as those who espouse faith in Yahshua the Messiah.

Having gotten the majority of Christians to compromise on the foundational truths and doctrines of the kingdom of God, Satan will then proceed to the next step, which is to set himself up as the only god to be worshiped. He will perform many lying signs and wonders, and will deceive many. He will speak blasphemous things against the God of heaven, and he will persecute the remnant who remain faithful.

Revelation 13:6-9

And ***he opened his mouth in blasphemies against God, to blaspheme His name and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven. It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them***, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. ***All who dwell on the earth will worship him***, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. ***If anyone has an ear, let him hear.***

People of God, if you would stand firm in that hour, you need to guard against all encroaching deception and error now. A flood of words is being poured out in the earth to reshape opinion and to lead many away from truth. Most Christians do not study the word of God, and they fail to test the things they are hearing every day.

I Thessalonians 5:21-22

Examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Satan’s plans are much further advanced than most Christians have discerned. The fact that books like *The Shack* are widely embraced by evangelical Christians today is evidence of a falling away from truth. Yesterday, a sister in Christ sent me a link to an article that details a joint mission between the Roman Catholic Church and leaders of the Muslim religion. I will include it in its entirety as it is very revelatory of the forces at work to bring about a denial of the uniqueness of Christ in His role as the Son of God and the ONLY way to reconciliation with God the Father.

Catholics, Muslims Affirm Shared Mission

Say Religion a Source of Harmony, Not Conflict

VATICAN CITY, NOV. 6, 2008 (Zenit.org).- ***Catholics and Muslims agree that youth must be formed in their own religious traditions and correctly educated about other religions, to give witness to transcendent values in a secular society.***

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The recently established Catholic-Muslim Forum affirmed this in a joint declaration released today, the result of their first seminar, which began Tuesday. The forum is comprised of 29 members of each religion and was formed by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and representatives of the 138 Muslim leaders who sent an open letter to Benedict XVI and other Christian leaders in October 2007.

The theme of the three-day seminar was "Love of God, Love of Neighbor," with a specific focus on two areas: "Theological and Spiritual Foundations" and "Human Dignity and Mutual Respect."

The final statement of the forum reflected many points of similarity between the two creeds as well as resolutions for positive action to build solidarity and peace between the two.

Foundation of love

The forum recognized the specific focus of Christian love: "The source and example of love of God and neighbor is the love of Christ for his Father, for humanity and for each person. God is Love and God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God's love is placed in the human heart through the Holy Spirit. It is God who first loves us thereby enabling us to love him in return."

They continued with a summary of how love for one's neighbor in word and deed follows necessarily from the Christian's love for God. This love imitates Christ's sacrificial love, and

includes every human person, even enemies.

Turning to the Muslim perspective on love, the declaration affirmed: "Love is a timeless transcendent power which guides and transforms human mutual regard. **This love, as indicated by the holy and beloved Prophet Muhammad, is prior to the human love for the one true God.** [...] God's loving compassion for humanity is even greater than that of a mother for her child; it therefore exists before and independently of the human response to the One who is "The Loving,"

In regard to love of neighbor, the statement added some Muslim beliefs similar to those of Christians: "Those that believe, and do good works, the Merciful shall engender love among them. [...] Not one of you has faith until he loves for his neighbor what he loves for himself."

Given these common foundations of love for God and neighbor, participants in the seminar recognized the gift of human life and the need to protect it. They asserted the belief that human dignity is based on each person's creation "by a loving God out of love." Thus every person deserves recognition of "his or her identity and freedom by individuals, communities and governments, supported by civil legislation that assures equal rights and full citizenship."

The declaration acknowledged God's creation of human personas as male and female, and noted the commitment of the forum to ensure "that human dignity and respect are extended on an equal basis to both men and women."

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Religious differences

Members of the forum wrote that love of neighbor includes respect for each person's choices regarding religion. They affirmed that religious minorities are to be respected and that sacred figures, symbols and places should not be ridiculed.

They acknowledged: "As Catholic and Muslim believers, we are aware of the summons and imperative to bear witness to the transcendent dimension of life, through a spirituality nourished by prayer, in a world which is becoming more and more secularized and materialistic. [...]"

"We are convinced that Catholics and Muslims have the duty to provide a sound education in human, civic, religious and moral values for their respective members and to promote accurate information about each other's religions."

A source of peace

Seminar participants recognized that plurality in God's creation is a richness and should not be a source of conflict. They professed the belief that "Catholics and Muslims are called to be instruments of love and harmony among believers, and for humanity as a whole, renouncing any oppression, aggressive violence and terrorism, especially that committed in the name of religion, and upholding the principle of justice for all."

They challenged individuals from any religion

to come together to help the needy, and to work toward upstanding financial systems that will consider the needs of the poor and relieve individual or national suffering.

Forward looking

*The joint declaration recorded the conviction that young people are the future of the religious communities as well as societies. **It asserted the necessity of forming youth, in their own religions as well as in the understanding of other cultures and religions.***

*The statement closed with a plan to hold a second seminar in two years, in a Muslim-majority country. **Benedict XVI received the members of the forum in an audience, and participants ended the seminar by expressing gratitude to God for the fruitful dialogue among them.***

[Full text: www.zenit.org/article-24175?l=english]

People of God, what it being done by the Roman Catholic Church is also coming to the protestant churches. Indeed, a similar mentality is already far advanced. Note that one of the core understandings is that youths should be formed "in their own religions." This will soon lead to an open condemnation of proselytizing, and evangelism of people of other faiths. Already at present there are many "evangelical Christians" who say that people of other faiths, such as Jews, should not be singled out for Christian evangelism. The list of those making such statements is too large to enumerate.

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It is evident where things are heading. In this article we see that “a spirituality nourished by prayer” has become the acceptable standard by which to judge a person’s righteousness. There is no mention of there being salvation and forgiveness of sins only through Christ. There is no mention of the need to be born again of the Spirit of Christ. One must simply be a person of faith, any faith, and a person who prays. If one also does kind and charitable works, then so much the better.

This Catholic endorsed mission declares that Mohammed is both “holy and beloved” and that Muslims and Catholics both worship and love “the one true God.” That such a mindset is being widely embraced was evidenced when President George W. Bush told a reporter in England that he believed that Muslims and Christians worship the same God. There was no evangelical outcry over his statement. He has made further heretical statements at the annual Iftaar dinner he has hosted annually for Muslims in the White House. In his speeches given at these dinners he has repeatedly asserted that Christian, Jew and Muslim all share the faith of Abraham and all worship the God of Abraham.

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id554.htm>

<http://www.heart4god.ws/id556.htm>

I have declared in writings found at the above links, that the stage is being set for persecution of those who do not show honor for false religions. Any who suggest that their religious beliefs are alone the truth, and there is no other way to God, will be labeled as religious extremists. Their language will be labeled as “the language of hate” and they will be condemned as divisive and placed in the same category as terrorists who kill and maim. Laws will soon be written and adopted world wide which will forbid any to speak negatively of another person’s religious beliefs, or to proselytize members of another religion. Already, many countries have made it a criminal act to speak out against homosexuality. Even reading publicly certain passages of Scripture that condemn homosexuality is a punishable act. Canada and Sweden are among nations that had adopted such laws limiting what people are allowed to say, and these laws will become commonplace soon.

Matthew 10:22-23

“You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next...”

Satan is doing a profound work in the lives of Christians today so that when laws making it criminal to proclaim the gospel of Christ are enacted, many be-

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lievers will judge that it is not worth the trouble to do so. Indeed, the force of public opinion will be enough to silence many from speaking the truth. Many will fear being labeled as haters and religious extremists, and will compromise the truth. They will embrace the things we are seeing at this very hour being espoused by the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. Many will deem it acceptable to merely be a “spiritual” person who prays. They need not pray to the God of the Bible. Any god will do.

Lift up your head and open your eyes. These things are at the door. What will you do when all the world despises those who declare that Jesus Christ, Yahshua the Messiah, alone is the way to reconciliation with God?

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Bible Devotion

"Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out."

Song of Solomon 4:16

Anything is better than the dead calm of indifference. Our souls may wisely desire the north wind of trouble if that alone can be sanctified to the drawing forth of the perfume of our graces. So long as it cannot be said, "The Lord was not in the wind," we will not shrink from the most wintry blast that ever blew upon plants of grace.

Did not the spouse in this verse humbly submit herself to the reproofs of her Beloved; only entreating Him to send forth His grace in some form, and making no stipulation as to the

peculiar manner in which it should come? Did she not, like ourselves, become so utterly weary of deadness and unholy calm that she sighed for any visitation which would brace her to action?

Yet she desires the warm south wind of comfort, too, the smiles of divine love, the joy of the Redeemer's presence; these are often mightily effectual to arouse our sluggish life. She desires either one or the other, or both; so that she may but be able to delight her Beloved with the spices of her garden.

She cannot endure to be unprofitable, nor can we. How cheering a thought that Jesus can find comfort in our poor feeble graces. Can it be? It

seems far too good to be true.

Well may we court trial or even death itself if we shall thereby be aided to make glad Immanuel's heart. O that our heart were crushed to atoms if only by such bruising our sweet Lord Jesus could be glorified. Graces unexercised are as sweet perfumes slumbering in the cups of the flowers: the wisdom of the great Husbandman overrules diverse and opposite causes to produce the one desired result, and makes both affliction and consolation draw forth the grateful odours of faith, love, patience, hope, resignation, joy, and the other fair flowers of the garden. May we know by sweet experience, what this means.