

# PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



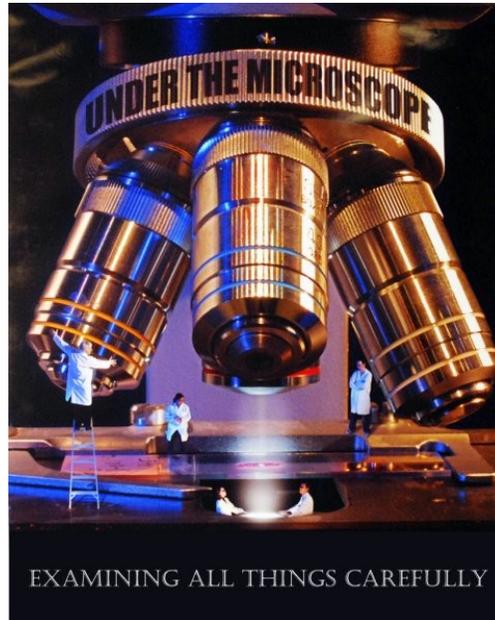
Psalms 78:2-4

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

## Parables Bookshelf - Series 2.17.1

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.

### Under the Microscope—Examining All Things Closely



#### 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

#### Parables Newsletter

- Series 2.17.1
- *Under the Microscope—Parts 1-3*
- Heart4God website ([www.heart4god.ws](http://www.heart4god.ws))
- Parables Blog ([www.parablesblog.blogspot.com](http://www.parablesblog.blogspot.com))

## Under the Microscope

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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.

## Parables Bookshelf

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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.

## Under the Microscope

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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://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.

## Parables Bookshelf

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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 av-

erage 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]

## Under the Microscope

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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 exhib-

its 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.”



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

# Parables Bookshelf

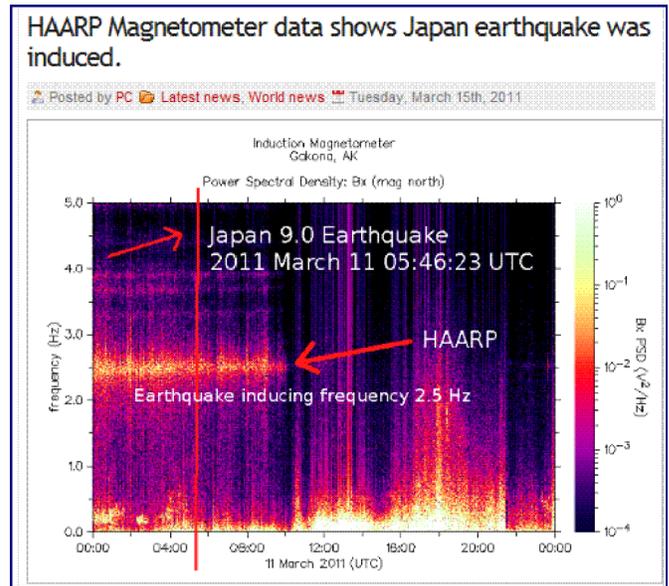
have been. From their conjecture on the skull, they then postulate about what the rest of the bodily frame and structure must have resembled. In the case of Nebraska Man, all this was done from one tooth.

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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

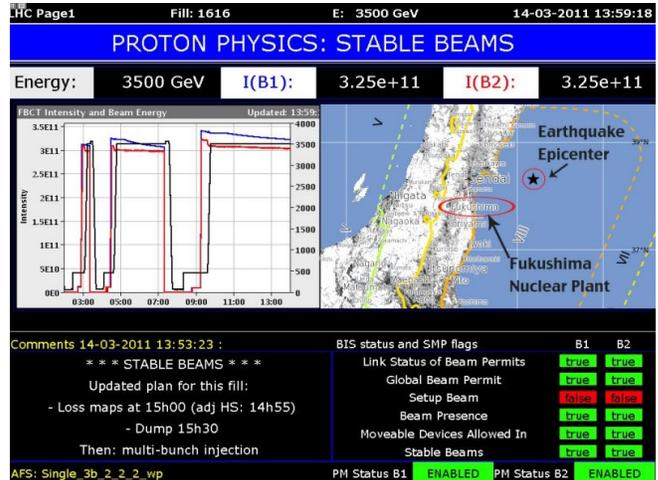
## HAARP Caused the Earthquakes

[http://beforeitsnews.com/story/20/951/Are\\_We\\_in\\_a\\_HAARP\\_Earthquake\\_War.html](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>



# Under the Microscope

## Comet Elenin, Nibiru, Planet X Caused the Earthquakes

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmzxfvEke\\_s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmzxfvEke_s)



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 spiri-

## Parables Bookshelf

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tual 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

## Under the Microscope

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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

## Parables Bookshelf

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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 brings 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:

## Under the Microscope

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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 Scrip-

## Parables Bookshelf

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tures 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 ap-

peared 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

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## 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.

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*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

## Under the Microscope

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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

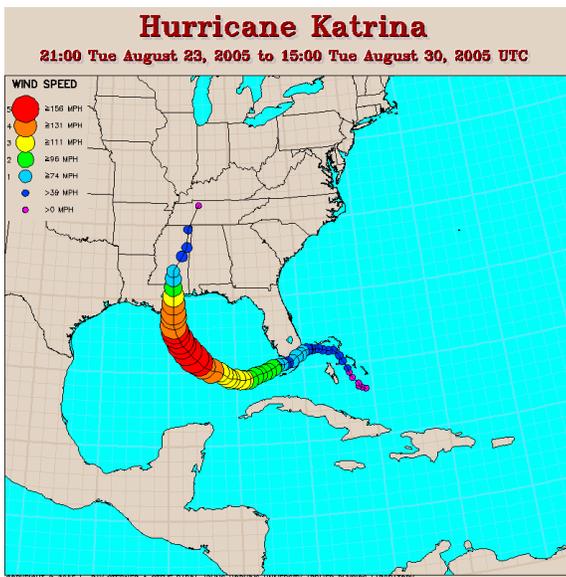
The brother I was writing to assured me he would look through his files and send me the supporting evidence that I requested. To date, he has not done so. I share this correspondence, not to malign a brother. I have intentionally withheld his name, for it is not my desire to embarrass another. If what 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.

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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](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.

# Under the Microscope

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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

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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

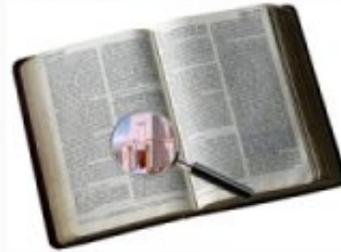
But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

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.

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