

## The Bondage Of Doing



Salvation is from Christ alone, through faith in God's Word alone, due to God's grace alone. Abraham believed God and it was counted to Abraham for righteousness.

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## Was Peter The First Pope?



The Catholic church falsely claims that Peter was the first bishop of the church in Rome, and all power was handed down to the bishops or popes of that city.

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## Pope Francis declares WAR against Bible believing Christians!



A fundamentalist group, although it may not kill anyone, although it may not strike anyone, is violent. – Pope Francis

## Who is the Prince of the Covenant of Daniel 11:22 ?



One of the problems of interpretation of Bible prophecy is not knowing it was fulfilled in the past and therefore thinking it is a future event. This is why the “prince of the covenant” of Daniel chapter 11 is popularly interpreted to be the Antichrist of the future who makes some kind of peace deal with the nation of Israel. This kind of interpretation is called “eisegesis” meaning reading into the text what it is not actually saying. Eisegesis is the process of interpreting the text in such a way as to introduce one’s own presuppositions, agendas or biases. It is commonly referred to as reading into the text. That’s a no-no!

Let’s read Daniel 11:22 in context with verses before and after.

Daniel 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up **a vile person**, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also **the prince of the covenant**.

23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

It's my observation that contemporary Bible prophecy teachers confuse the prophecy of Daniel 9:27 with the prophecies of Daniel 11. They are entirely different! Daniel 9:27 was fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ and His Apostles during a seven-year period from 27 AD which was the year Jesus started His ministry of preaching the Gospel to the restored house of Israel which confirmed the Covenant God made with Abraham, the Covenant of grace through belief in God's Word. The Bible says so no less than 3 times!

Romans 4:3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Galatians 3:6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

And the Apostle Paul unequivocally says the Covenant of Daniel 9:27 was confirmed in Christ!

Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ,...

I won't discuss Daniel 9:27 further in this article because I have covered it in detail a [multitude of times on this website](#). What I want to talk about now is the problem of combining prophecies that are not related to each other.

**Commentary of Daniel chapter 11:21-22 from Adam Clarke (1762 – 26 August 1832), a British Methodist theologian.**

Daniel 11:21 And in his estate shall stand up **a vile person**, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

**In his estate shall stand up a vile person** – This was Antiochus, surnamed Epiphanes – the Illustrious. They did not give him the honour of the kingdom: he was at Athens, on his way from Rome, when his father died; and Heliodorus had declared himself king, as had several others. But Antiochus came in peaceably, for he obtained the kingdom by flatteries. He flattered Eumenes, king of Pergamus, and Attalus his brother, and got their assistance. He flattered the Romans, and sent ambassadors to court their favour, and pay them the arrears of the tribute. He flattered the Syrians, and gained their concurrence; and as he flattered the Syrians, so they flattered him, giving him the epithet of Epiphanes – the Illustrious. But that he was what the prophet here calls him, a vile person, is fully evident from what Polybius says of him, from Athenaeus, lib. v.: "He was every man's companion: he resorted to the common shops, and prattled with the workmen: he frequented the common taverns, and ate and drank with the meanest fellows, singing

debauched songs," &c., &c. On this account, a contemporary writer, and others after him, instead of Epiphanes, called him Epimanes – the Madman.

"Antiochus IV Epiphanes (c. 215 BC – November/December 164 BC) was a Greek Hellenistic king who ruled the Seleucid Empire from 175 BC until his death in 164 BC. He was a son of King Antiochus III the Great. Originally named Mithradates (alternative form Mithridates), he assumed the name Antiochus after he ascended the throne. Notable events during Antiochus's reign include his near-conquest of Ptolemaic Egypt, his persecution of the Jews of Judea and Samaria, and the rebellion of the Jewish Maccabees." – Source: Wikipedia

Daniel 11:22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also **the prince of the covenant**.

**And with the arms of a flood** – The arms which were overflown before him were his competitors for the crown. They were vanquished by the forces of Eumenes and Attalus; and were dissipated by the arrival of Antiochus from Athens, whose presence disconcerted all their measures.

**The prince of the covenant** – This was Onias, the high priest, whom he removed, and put Jason in his place, who had given him a great sum of money; and then put wicked Menelaus in his room, who had offered him a larger sum. Thus he acted deceitfully in the league made with Jason.

**Commentary from Albert Barnes (December 1, 1798 – December 24, 1870), who was an American theologian.**

Yea, also the prince of the covenant – He also shall be broken and overcome. There has been some diversity of opinion as to who is meant by "the prince of the covenant" here. Many suppose that it is the high priest of the Jews, as being the chief prince or ruler under the "covenant" which God made with them, or among the "covenant" people. But this appellation is not elsewhere given to the Jewish high priest, nor is it such as could with much propriety be applied to him. The reference is rather to the king of Egypt, with whom a covenant or compact had been made by Antiochus the Great, and who was supposed to be united, therefore, to the Syrians by a solemn treaty. See Lengerke, in loc. So Elliott, "Rev." iv. 133.

**Commentary from contemporary Bible teacher.**

There's a prince that's coming. He's going to make a covenant and to me, it just tells you two things. We're talking about the rise of the Antichrist and the timing. We finally began the Tribulation, notice verse 23 and after the league made with him. That's the Covenant. So he makes a Covenant but he's a liar he's a vile person and after the league made with him, he shall work deceitfully.

As you can see, this Bible teacher is giving us a futuristic interpretation. He's calling the Prince of the Covenant the Antichrist. This is exactly what I was taught in the 1970s by a Bible prophecy teacher. And this teacher is

also mixing together the prophecies of Daniel 9 with Daniel 11.

Some say a prophecy can have multiple fulfillments but I see no precedent for that in the Scriptures. Daniel 9:27 was fulfilled 2000 years ago and can never be repeated.

Albert Barnes and Adam Clarke come much closer to the truth in their historical interpretation of the Prince of the Covenant than do popular end-time Bible prophecy teachers of today.

If you were looking for an article on Christmas day about the birth of Christ, I have nothing better to tell you than to read the Gospel of Luke chapters one and two and also Isaiah chapter 53. That's what me and my wife did for our morning devotions.

## Some White Nationalists' / neo-Nazis' belief: Jesus was White and Shem the Father of the white race



The followers of the Lord Jesus Christ should not have any racial, ethnic or nationalistic prejudice toward others!

## The Danger of Belief in a Pre-Tribulation Rapture



If events go against what we believe the Bible says will happen, it's not because the Bible is wrong, it means our interpretation of Bible prophecy was wrong.

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## Gog and Magog identified: Turkey, NOT Russia!



The erroneous belief that Russia is Magog can be traced back to a small group of 18th and 19th century theologians who wrote long before the primary evidence from the ancient Assyrian records was discovered, translated and made available to the public.

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## Are The Church and Israel Two Different Peoples of God?

## Israel and the Church

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|--|--|
| 1. Saints (Num. 16:3; Deut. 33:3)  | 1. Saints (Eph. 1:1; Rom. 1:7)                             |
| 2. Elect (Deut. 7:6, 7; 14:2)  | 2. Elect (Col. 3:12; Titus 1:1)                            |
| 3. Beloved (Deut. 7:7; 4:37)   | 3. Beloved (Col. 3:12; 1 Thess 1:4)                        |
| 4. Called (Isa. 41:9; 43:1)  | 4. Called (Rom. 1:6, 7; 1 Cor 1:2)                         |
| 5. Church (Ps. 89:5; Mic. 2:5 (LXX)<br>Act. 7:38; Heb. 2:12)                     | 5. Church (Eph. 1:1;<br>Acts 20:28)                        |
| 6. Flock (Ezek. 34; Ps. 77:20)   | 6. Flock (Luke 12:32; 1 Pet. 5:2)                          |
| 7. Holy Nation (Exod. 19:5, 6)   | 7. Holy Nation (1 Pet. 2:9)                                |
| 8. Kingdom of Priests (Exod. 19:5, 6)  | 8. Kingdom of Priests (1 Pet. 2:9)                         |
| 9. Peculiar Treasure (Exod. 19:5, 6)   | 9. Peculiar Treasure (1 Pet. 2:9)                          |
| 10. God's People (Hos. 1:9, 10)  | 10. God's People (1 Pet. 2:10)                             |
| 11. Holy People (Deut. 7:6)  | 11. Holy People (1 Pet. 1:15, 16)                          |
| 12. People of Inheritance (Deut. 4:20)   | 12. People of Inheritance (Eph. 1:18)                      |
| 13. God's Tabernacle in Israel<br>(Lev. 26:11)                                   | 13. God's Tabernacle in Church<br>(John 1:14)              |
| 14. God walks among them<br>(Lev. 26:12)   | 14. God walks among them<br>(2 Cor. 6:16-18)               |
| 15. Twelve Patriarchs  | 15. Twelve Apostles  |
| 16. Christ married to them (Isa. 54:5;<br>Jer. 3:14; Hos. 2:19; Jer. 6:2; 31:32) | 16. Christ married to them<br>(Eph. 5:22, 23; 2 Cor. 11:2) |

See the difference?

**NEITHER DO WE.**

Fundamental to dispensationalism is the idea that God has two different peoples and He pursues his purposes for them in alternating dispensations. This is false!

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## Munther Isaac: Christian Zionism as Imperial Theology in Text Format and Video



Palestinian Christians must always confirm to the Christian Zionists theology or else we are deemed heretics or anti-semites. Christian Zionism is an oxymoron.

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# Romans 11:26 “And so all Israel shall be saved” Explained in Context



I'm really excited to write this article! Until today I never fully understood Romans 11:26. I think I do now thanks to a good Covenant Theology preacher I listened to by the name of Ryan Rufus. But rather than share directly from him, I want to use the Bible and explain it directly from God's Word.

Romans 11:26 is often quoted by Christian Zionists as one reason for their support of the modern nation of Israel. All Christian Zionists are Dispensationalists whether they know it or not or whether they call themselves that or not.

If you are a regular reader of my website, you should already know the difference between Dispensational Theology – which is the most prevalent and popular evangelical view today – and Covenant Theology which is held by Reformed Churches and is the standard Protestant view before Dispensationalism became popular. If you don't know anything about Dispensationalism, please first read: [Have You Been Duped by Dispensationalism?](#)

Dispensationalists, Futurists and Christian Zionists teach that Paul is prophesying that the entire modern nation of Israel will be saved. But did Paul really mean that?

First of all, let's read carefully what Romans 11:26 says:

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Paul is quoting from Isaiah 59:1:

Isaiah 59:20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

This is a Messianic prophecy that was fulfilled at the time of Jesus Christ!



## Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible

Interpretation of Bible Scripture is known as hermeneutics. It's derived from the Greek word ἑρμηνεύω, *hermēneuō*, meaning to "translate, interpret". Hermeneutics is the theory and methodology of interpretation of biblical text. The rules of hermeneutics are:

1. Let Scripture interpret Scripture. Scripture is always the best interpreter of other Scripture.
2. The meaning of a word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph must be derived from the context.
3. Interpret the Scriptures knowing that the goal in interpretation is not to discover hidden, secret truths or to be unique in your interpretation.
4. Interpret the Scriptures literally unless you have good reason to believe that they are figurative.
5. Do not interpret Scripture in light of personal experience but interpret experience in the light of Scripture. In other words, read *out of* Scripture which is called, "exegesis", and not put your own ideas into Scripture which is called "eisegesis".
6. When interpreting the Scriptures, investigate the meanings of keywords in their original languages.
7. Interpret the Scriptures bearing in mind that many commands, directives, and duties were made to an individual and not all people.
8. Interpret the Scriptures bearing in mind that Biblical examples are authoritative only when supported by a command.
9. Interpret the Scriptures keeping in mind that Christians are living under the New Covenant instituted by Jesus, not the Old Covenant that God gave to Israel.

All false interpretation of Scripture is the result of breaking one or more of these rules!

Let's see how Dispensational Christian Zionist preachers interpret Romans 11:26:

John MacArthur of Grace Community Church says:

All Israel must be taken to mean just that—the entire nation that survives God's judgment during the Great Tribulation.

John MacArthur calls himself a "leaky dispensationalist. He is breaking at least three rules of hermeneutics. He is reading into Romans 11:26 what isn't there! The context is not about God's judgement during a time of great tribulation. He's not using any of the preceding verses in Romans 11 to get the context. And he's not using Scripture to interpret Scripture by quoting Isaiah 59:1. And his dispensational bias tells him Romans 11:26 must be a future end-time event. And if we let him explain further, he will probably tell you that this happens after the Church is raptured.

Dispensationalists wrongly divide the Word of truth because they break the rules of hermeneutics. We should not base a doctrine solely on the interpretation of a single Scripture!

Let's read verses Romans 11 before verse 26 to determine the context:

Romans 11:3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

God told Elijah that though most of Israel broke God's covenant, there was still a remnant left, 7000, who continue to keep the covenant. And Paul applied that to his day as well. The remnant will turn to Christ and be saved just like the gentiles.

Romans 11:11 I say then, Have they (the people of Israel) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for **to provoke them to jealousy.**

In other words, that Israel may see how God has blessed the Christ believing Gentiles that they might want what the Gentiles have, namely Christ.

Romans 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The fullness of the Gentiles means the salvation of the Gentiles.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Meaning Israel will be saved just like the Gentiles are saved, through faith in the Deliverer, Jesus Christ! Paul was not talking about an endtime event. When he says all Israel, he's speaking about the Jews, the elect that are saved, but he's also speaking about the spiritual Israel the Gentiles that are included and together that makes up all of Israel, and so this is how all of Israel will be saved.

Jews continue to get saved today. I have met many brothers and sisters in

Christ who were raised Jewish.

The video that inspired this talk

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## Israel is the Church & the Church is Israel

### Israel and the Church

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|--|--|
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| 7. Holy Nation (Exod. 19:5, 6)   | 7. Holy Nation (1 Pet. 2:9)                                |
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| 13. God's Tabernacle in Israel<br>(Lev. 26:11)                                   | 13. God's Tabernacle in Church<br>(John 1:14)              |
| 14. God walks among them<br>(Lev. 26:12)   | 14. God walks among them<br>(2 Cor. 6:16-18)               |
| 15. Twelve Patriarchs  | 15. Twelve Apostles  |
| 16. Christ married to them (Isa. 54:5;<br>Jer. 3:14; Hos. 2:19; Jer. 6:2; 31:32) | 16. Christ married to them<br>(Eph. 5:22, 23; 2 Cor. 11:2) |

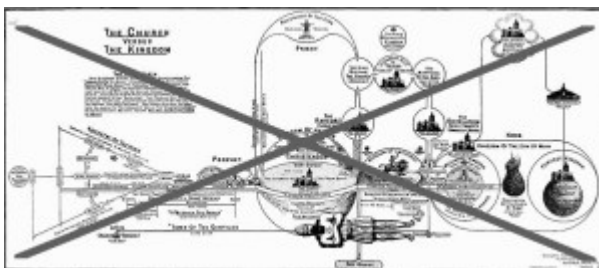
See the difference?

**NEITHER DO WE.**

Replacement Theology is a misnomer. The Church has always been God's covenant people. The Church did not replace Israel, it's a continuation of Israel.

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## Deconstructing Dispensationalism



An excellent talk about what Dispensationalism is, the history behind it, and why it is a set of false heretical eschatological doctrines.

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## God's Promise to Physical Israel to Live in the Land Was Contingent on Obedience



Christian Zionists claim that God's promise to give the land of Canaan to Israel was an unconditional promise for perpetuity. But does the Bible really say so?

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## God's Promise to Return Israel to Their Own Land Fulfilled Over 2000 Years Ago



This is a Bible study that was inspired by a former dispensational Christian Zionist preacher, Steve Gregg, who my wife and I listened to yesterday evening. He has two videos on this subject (at the bottom of this article) totaling nearly 3 hours. This article is an attempt to prove true directly from the Bible and in my own words as succinctly as possible what Pastor Gregg is teaching. I figure if I can't base a doctrine directly from what the Word of God actually says in the Bible, I either don't understand that

doctrine well enough, or it's a false doctrine with no basis in Holy Scripture.

Famous influential preachers such as Billy Graham, Franklin Graham, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell Jr., John Hagee, James Dobson, and many others, have taught or are teaching that God's promise to restore the Jews to their own land was fulfilled in 1948. They use the prophecies in Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 to support that claim. But do those prophecies really support it? Let's read some of those prophecies, the ones in Ezekiel 36, and find out. And as we read them, let's remember the time when these prophecies were given: During the 70-year Babylonian captivity of the Jews.

Ezekiel 36:23 And I will sanctify my great name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them (during the Babylonian captivity); and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes.

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

29 I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

This passage only makes sense when you read it in the light of the fact it was given during the Babylonian captivity and was completely fulfilled by the time [Jesus confirmed the Covenant](#) when His ministry started in 27 AD, the very Covenant of grace that God made with Abraham concerning his seed.

How does the prophecy compare to the modern nation of Israel?

Ezekiel 36:23 And I will sanctify my great name

Is the Name of God or of Christ sanctified among them?

Verse 23b: the heathen shall know that I am the LORD

Do the surrounding heathen nations know that Jesus Christ is the Lord?

Verse 25: Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Is the modern nation of Israel clean from all filthiness and idolatry?

Verse 26: A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Does the nation of Israel have a heart of love and compassion for its neighbors?

Verse 27: And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Is the modern nation of Israel walking in God's statutes and keeping His judgments?

The answer to all these questions is a resounding *no*!

Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Jeremiah 30:3 "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

These prophecies were totally fulfilled by the time of Christ! The books of Ezra and Nehemiah are all about the end of the 70 years of captivity and the return of the Jews to Judea. The kings of Medo-Persia gave them permission to return and rebuild the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem! And Jesus Himself said His ministry was to the house of Israel!

Matthew 10:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 15:24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Verse 26: A new heart also will I give you, and **a new spirit will I put within you:** and I will take away the stony heart out of your

flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

This prophecy was clearly fulfilled on the day of Pentecost!

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

I believe the prophecies in Ezekiel 36 were all fulfilled by the time Jesus was born and walked on earth during His ministry. Not all Jews were saved, but a good remnant were.

Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

The main reason why prophecies are misinterpreted is because of failure to understand how they were already fulfilled in the past. Some believe a prophecy can have multiple fulfillments. Is there a precedent for that in the Bible? I don't see one.



**This phrase does NOT exist in the Bible.**

Christian Zionist American congressmen.



Ask yourself, are unbelievers in Christ Jesus God's covenant people of today? Does a person's ethnicity matter in God's eyes? My Bible says it doesn't.

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, **not of blood**, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

If you like my simple Bible study, please share it with your Israel supporting friends. My aim is to keep things so simple that when people read it, they will remember it and share it. When I share something I learned, often the Holy Spirit deepens my understanding of the subject.

And I hope you take time to listen to what Pastor Steve Gregg has to say. He covers a lot more details.

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## [The Problems with Christian Zionism](#)



Christian Zionism is heresy taught in the Scofield Reference Bible which is promoted by the Dallas Theological Seminary.

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# C.I. Scofield: Father of the Heresy of Christian Zionism



By Kevin A. Lehmann

I got this from a PDF file somewhere on <https://whtt.org/> It's one of the most complete exposés of the origin of Christian Zionism that I've ever read.

Does your church teach Christian Zionism and dual covenant theology—a separate plan of redemption for Jews and Gentiles? Is it truly Scriptural?

Are we under a biblical mandate to support and stand with the modern day nation of Israel and its war with the Palestinians? Who was Cyrus Scofield, and how did the publication of his 1909 reference Bible change the tide of American Christianity?

If you value truth over tradition and facts over fiction, I employ you to read the following expose by C.E. Carlson . . .

The Zionist-Created Scofield 'Bible' The Source Of The Problem In The Mideast – Part 2 Why Judeo-Christians Support War By C. E. Carlson 12-11-4

The French author, Alexis de Tocqueville, wrote Democracy in America when he traveled here in the first third of the 19th Century. In ringing tones he sang the praises of America's invulnerable strength and spirit. He attributed its greatness to its citizens' sense of morality... even with the abundant church attendances he observed in America. De Tocqueville wrote in French and is credited with this familiar quote: AMERICA IS GREAT BECAUSE SHE IS GOOD, AND IF AMERICA EVER CEASES TO BE GOOD, SHE WILL CEASE TO BE GREAT.

De Tocqueville could see the power of America, but he could not have known in 1830 that she was soon to be under an attack aimed at its churches and the very sense of morality that he extolled.

First, there was a War Between the States, which scarred the powerful young nation in its strapping youth. A worse attack on America was to commence near

the turn of the 20th century. This was the onset of an attack on American Christianity that continues unabated against the traditional, Christ-following church. This attack, which author Gordon Ginn calls "The final Apostasy," began with a small very wealthy and determined European political movement. It had a dream, and the American churches stood in its way.

The World Zionist movement, as its Jewish founders called themselves, had plans to acquire a homeland for all Jews worldwide, even though most were far from homeless, and many did not want another home. Not any land would do. World Zionists wanted a specific property that American Christians called "the Holy Land." But if these Zionists read "Democracy in America" or any of the journals of any of America's churches, which no doubt they did, they could not help but know that Jerusalem was not theirs to have. As self-proclaimed Jews, they were, according to the Christian New Testament, the persecutors of Christ and most of his early followers, and the engineers of his crucifixion. America's traditional churches in the 19th Century would never stand for a Jewish occupation of Jesus' homeland.

World Zionist leaders initiated a program to change America and its religious orientation. One of the tools used to accomplish this goal was an obscure and malleable Civil War veteran named Cyrus I. Scofield. A much larger tool was a venerable, world respected European book publisher—The Oxford University Press.

The scheme was to alter the Christian view of Zionism by creating and promoting a pro-Zionist subculture within Christianity. Scofield's role was to re-write the King James Version of the Bible by inserting Zionist-friendly notes in the margins, between verses and chapters, and on the bottoms of the pages. The Oxford University Press used Scofield, a pastor by then, as the Editor, probably because it needed such a man for a front. The revised bible was called the Scofield Reference Bible, and with limitless advertising and promotion, it became a best-selling "bible" in America and has remained so for 90 years.

The Scofield Reference Bible was not to be just another translation, subverting minor passages a little at a time. No, Scofield produced a revolutionary book that radically changed the context of the King James Version. It was designed to create a subculture around a new worship icon, the modern State of Israel, a state that did not yet exist, but which was already on the drawing boards of the committed, well-funded authors of World Zionism.

Scofield's support came from a movement that took root around the turn of the century, supposedly motivated by disillusionment over what it considered the stagnation of the mainline American churches. Some of these "reformers" were later to serve on Scofield's Editorial Committee.

Scofield imitated a chain of past heretics and rapturists, most of whose credibility fizzled over their faulty end times prophecies. His mentor was one John Nelson Darby from Scotland, who was associated with the Plymouth Brethren Group and who made no less than six evangelical trips to the US selling what is today called "Darbyism." It is from Darby that Scofield is

thought to have learned his Christian Zionist theology, which he later planted in the footnotes of the Scofield Reference Bible. It is possible that Scofield's interest in Darbyism was shared by Oxford University Press, for Darby was known to Oxford University. A History of The Plymouth Brethren By William Blair Neatby, M.A.

The Oxford University Press owned "The Scofield Reference Bible" from the beginning, as indicated by its copyright, and Scofield stated he received handsome royalties from Oxford. Oxford's advertisers and promoters succeeded in making Scofield's bible, with its Christian Zionist footnotes, a standard for interpreting scripture in Judeo-Christian churches, seminaries, and Bible study groups. It has been published in at least four editions since its introduction in 1908 and remains one of the largest selling Bibles ever.

The Scofield Reference Bible and its several clones is all but worshiped in the ranks of celebrity Christians, beginning with the first media icon, evangelist, Billy Graham. Of particular importance to the Zionist penetration of American Christian churches has been the fast growth of national bible study organizations, such as Bible Study Fellowship and Precept Ministries. These draw millions of students from not only evangelical fundamentalist churches, but also from Catholic and mainline Protestant churches and non-church contacts. These invariably teach forms of "dispensationalism," which draw their theory, to various degrees, from the notes in the Oxford Bible.

Among more traditional churches that encourage, and in some cases recommend, the use of the Scofield Reference Bible is the huge Southern Baptist Convention of America, whose capture is World Zionism's crowning achievement. Our report on Southern Baptist Zionism, entitled "The Cause of the Conflict: Fixing Blame.

Scofield, whose work is largely believed to be the product of Darby and others, wisely chose not to change the text of the King James Edition. Instead, he added hundreds of easy-to-read footnotes at the bottom of about half of the pages, and as the Old English grammar of the KJV becomes increasingly difficult for progressive generations of readers, students become increasingly dependent on the modern language footnotes.

Scofield's notes weave parts of the Old and New Testaments together as though all were written at the same time by the same people. This is a favorite device of modern dispensationalists who essentially weigh all scripture against the unspoken and preposterous theory that the older it is, the more authoritative. In many cases the Oxford references prove to be puzzling rabbit trails leading nowhere, simply diversions. Scofield's borrowed ideas were later popularized under the labels and definitions that have evolved into common usage today—"pre-millennialism," "dispensationalism," "Judeo-Christianity," and most recently the highly political movement openly called "Christian Zionism."

Thanks to the work of a few dedicated researchers, much of the questionable personal history of Cyrus I. Scofield is available. It reveals he was not a Bible scholar as one might expect, but a political animal with the charm and talent for self-promotion of a Bill Clinton. Scofield's background reveals a

criminal history, a deserted wife, a wrecked family, and a penchant for self-serving lies. He was exactly the sort of man the World Zionists might hire to bend Christian thought—a controllable man and one capable of carrying the secret to his grave. (See *The Incredible Scofield and His Book* by Joseph M. Canfield).

Other researchers have examined Scofield's eschatology and exposed his original work as apostate and heretic to traditional Christian views. Among these is a massive work by Stephen Sizer entitled *Christian Zionism, Its History, Theology and Politics*, Christ Church Vicarage, Virginia Water, GU25 4LD, England

We Hold These Truths is grateful to these dedicated researchers. Our own examination of the Oxford Bible has gone in another direction, focusing not on what Scofield wrote, but on some of the many additions and deletions The Oxford University Press has continued to make to the Scofield Reference Bible since his death in 1921. These alterations have further radicalized the Scofield Bible into a manual for the Christian worship of the State of Israel beyond what Scofield would have dreamed of. This un-Christian anti-Arab theology has permitted the theft of Palestine and 54 years of death and destruction against the Palestinians, with hardly a complaint from the Judeo-Christian mass media evangelists or most other American church leaders. We thank God for the exceptions.

It is no exaggeration to say that the 1967 Oxford 4th Edition deifies—makes a God of—the State of Israel, a state that did not even exist when Scofield wrote the original footnotes in 1908. This writer believes that, had it not been for misguided anti-Arab race hatred promoted by Christian Zionist leaders in America, neither the Gulf War nor the Israeli war against the Palestinians would have occurred, and a million or more people who have perished would be alive today.

What proof does WHTT (We Hold These Truths) have to incriminate World Zionism in a scheme to control Christianity? For proof we offer the words themselves that were planted in the 1967 Edition, 20 years after the State of Israel was created in 1947, and 46 years after Scofield's death. The words tell us that those who control the Oxford Press recreated a bible to misguide Christians and sell flaming Zionism in the churches of America.

There is little reason to believe that Scofield knew or cared much about the Zionist movement, but at some point, he became involved in a close and secret relationship with Samuel Untermyer, a New York lawyer whose firm still exists today and one of the wealthiest and most powerful World Zionists in America. Untermyer controlled the unbreakable thread that connected him with Scofield. They shared a password and a common watering hole—and it appears that Untermyer may have been the one who provided the money that Scofield himself lacked. Scofield's success as an international bible editor without portfolio and his lavish living in Europe could only have been accomplished with financial aid and international influence.

This connection might have remained hidden, were it not for the work of Joseph M. Canfield, the author and researcher who discovered clues to the

thread in Scofield family papers. But even had the threads connecting Scofield to Untermeyer and Zionism never been exposed, it would still be obvious that that connection was there. It is significant that Oxford, not Scofield, owned the book, and that after Scofield's death, Oxford accelerated changes to it. Since the death of its original author and namesake, The Scofield Reference Bible has gone through several editions. Massive pro-Zionist notes were added to the 1967 edition, and some of Scofield's most significant notes from the original editions were removed where they apparently failed to further Zionist aims fast enough. Yet this edition retains the title, "The New Scofield Reference Bible, Holy Bible, Editor C.I. Scofield." It's anti-Arab, Christian subculture theology has made an enormous contribution to war, turning Christians into participants in genocide against Arabs in the latter half of the 20th century.

The most convincing evidence of the unseen Zionist hand that wrote the Scofield notes to the venerable King James Bible is the content of the notes themselves, for only Zionists could have written them. These notes are the subject of this paper.

Oxford edited the former 1945 Edition of SRB in 1967, at the time of the Six Day War when Israel occupied Palestine. The new footnotes to the King James Bible presumptuously granted the rights to the Palestinians' land to the State of Israel and specifically denied the Arab Palestinians any such rights at all. One of the most brazen and outrageous of these NEWLY INSERTED footnotes states:

"FOR A NATION TO COMMIT THE SIN OF ANTI-SEMITISM BRINGS INEVITABLE JUDGMENT." (page 19-20, footnote (3) to Genesis 12:3.) (our emphasis added)

This statement sounds like something from Ariel Sharon, or the Chief Rabbi in Tel Aviv, or Theodore Herzl, the founder of Modern Zionism. But these exact words are found between the covers of the 1967 Edition of the Oxford Bible that is followed by millions of American churchgoers and students and is used by their leaders as a source for their preaching and teaching.

There is no word for "anti-Semitism" in the New Testament, nor is it found among the Ten Commandments. "Sin," this writer was taught, is a personal concept. It is something done by individuals in conflict with God's words, not by "nations." Even Sodom did not sin—its people did. The word "judgment" in the Bible always refers to God's action. In the Christian New Testament, Jesus promises both judgment and salvation for believing individuals, not for "nations."

There was also no "State of Israel" when Scofield wrote his original notes in his concocted Scofield Reference Bible in 1908. All references to Israel as a state were added AFTER 1947, when Israel was granted statehood by edict of the United Nations. The Oxford University Press simply rewrote its version of the Christian Bible in 1967 to make antipathy toward the "State of Israel" a "sin." Israel is made a god to be worshiped, not merely a "state." David Ben-Gurion could not have written it better. Perhaps he did write it!

The Oxford 1967 Edition continues on page 19:

"(2) GOD MADE AN UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE OF BLESSINGS THROUGH ABRAM'S SEED (a) TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL TO INHERIT A SPECIFIC TERRITORY FOREVER"

"(3) THERE IS A PROMISE OF BLESSING UPON THOSE INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS WHO BLESS ABRAM'S DESCENDANTS, AND A CURSE LAID UPON THOSE WHO PERSECUTE THE JEWS." (Page 19, 1967 Edition Genesis 12:1-3)

This bequeath is joined to an Oxford prophesy that never occurs in the Bible itself:

"IT HAS INVARIABLY FARED ILL WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE PERSECUTED THE JEW, WELL WITH THOSE WHO HAVE PROTECTED HIM." and "THE FUTURE WILL STILL MORE REMARKABLY PROVE THIS PRINCIPLE"(footnote (3) bottom of page19-20Genesis 12:3)

None of these notes appeared in the original Scofield Reference Bible or in the 1917 or 1945 editions. The state of Israel DID NOT EXIST in 1945, and according to the best dictionaries of the time, the word "Israel" only referred to a particular man and an ancient tribe, which is consistent with the Bible text. See "Israel," Webster's New International Dictionary 2nd (1950) Edition.

All of this language, including the prophecy about the future being really bad for those who "persecute the Jews," reflects and furthers the goals of the Anti-Defamation League, which has a stated goal of creating an environment where opposing the State of Israel is considered "anti-Semitism," and "anti-Semitism" is a "hate crime" punishable by law. This dream has become a reality in the Christian Zionist churches of America. Only someone with these goals could have written this footnote.

The State of Israel's legal claims to Arab lands are based on the United Nations Partitioning Agreement of 1947, which gave the Jews only a fraction of the land they have since occupied by force. But when this author went to Israel and asked various Israelis where they got the right to occupy Palestine, each invariably said words to the effect that "God gave it to us." This interpretation of Hebrew scripture stems from the book of Genesis and is called the "Abrahamic Covenant". It is repeated several times and begins with God's promise to a man called Abraham who was eventually to become the grandfather of a man called "Israel:"

"[2] AND I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS THEE, AND MAKE THY NAME GREAT; AND THOU SHALL BE A BLESSING:"

"[3] AND I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND CURSE HIM THAT CURSETH THEE: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED." Genesis 12:3, King James Edition.

It is upon this promise to a single person that modern Israeli Zionists base their claims to what amounts to the entire Mid-East. Its logic is roughly the equivalent of someone claiming to be the heir to the John Paul Getty estate because the great man had once sent a letter to someone's cousin seven times removed containing the salutation "wishing you my very best." In "Sherry's



War," We Hold These Truths provides a common sense discussion of the Abrahamic Covenant and how millions of Christians are taught to misunderstand it.

It is tempting to engage in academic arguments to show readers the lack of logic in Scofield's theology, which has led followers of Christ so far astray. It seems all too easy to refute the various Bible references given in support of Scofield's strange writings. But we will resist the temptation to do this, because others have already done it quite well, and more importantly because it leads us off our course.

It is also inviting to dig into Scofield's sordid past as Canfield has done, revealing him to be a convicted felon and probable pathological liar, but we leave that to others, because our interest is not in Scofield's life, but in saving the lives of millions of innocent people who are threatened by the continuing Zionist push for perpetual war.

Instead, we will examine the words on their face. The words in these 1967 footnotes are Zionist propaganda that has been tacked onto the text of a Christian Bible. Most of them make no sense, except to support the Zionist State of Israel in its war against the Palestinians and any other wars it may enter into. In this purpose, Zionism has completely succeeded. American Judeo-Christians, more recently labeled "Christian Zionists," have remained mute during wars upon Israel's enemies in Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and elsewhere. It is past time to stop the spilling of more blood, some of it Christian blood.

Now, for evidence of the intent of the Zionist deception of Christians, let us examine some Scofield's notes THAT HAVE BEEN ALTERED OR REMOVED by Oxford after his death. In 1908 Scofield wrote in 1908:

"THE CONTRAST, 'I KNOW THAT YE ARE ABRAHAM'S SEED' – 'IF YE WERE ABRAHAM'S CHILDREN' IS THAT BETWEEN THE NATURAL AND THE SPIRITUAL POSTERITY OF ABRAHAM. THE ISRAELITISH PEOPLE AND ISHMAELITISH PEOPLE ARE THE FORMER; ALL WHO ARE 'OF THE PRECIOUS FAITH WITH ABRAHAM,' WHETHER JEWS OR GENTILES, ARE THE LATTER (ROM 9, 6-8; GAL, 4-14. SEE 'ABRAHAMIC COVENANT' GEN 15, 18, NOTE)." ( Scofield's 1945 page 1127, note to John 8:39)

Compare that with the Oxford note substituted in the 1967 Edition:

"8:37 ALL JEWS ARE NATURAL DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM, BUT ARE NOT NECESSARILY HIS SPIRITUAL POSTERITY, CP Rom 9-6-8, Gal 3: 6-14" (Note (1) P1136, Oxford 1967 Edition, note to Jn 8:37.)

How, pray tell, can "all Jews" be "natural descendants of Abraham," a Chaldean who lived some 3000 years ago? Persons of all races are Jews and new Jews are being converted every day from every race. One might as well say all Lutherans are the natural descendants of Martin Luther; or that all Baptists come from the loins of John the Baptist. This note could only have been written by an Israeli patriot, for no one else would have a vested interest in promoting this genetic nonsense. Shame on those who accept this racism; it is apostate Christianity.

The original Scofield note was far out of line with traditional Christianity in 1908 and should have been treated as heresy then. Yet Scofield had failed to go far enough for the Zionists. Scofield clearly recognized what the book of Genesis states, that the sons of Ishmael are co-heirs to Abraham's ancient promise. Did not Scofield say "the Israelitish people and Ishmaelitish people are...the natural posterity of Abraham"? The Oxford Press simply waited for Scofield to die and changed it as they wished.

And what is it that Scofield said that did not satisfy the Zionists who rewrote the Oxford 1967 Edition?

The answer is an easy one. Most Arab and Islamic scholars consider Arabs in general and the Prophet Mohamed in particular to be direct descendants of Ishmael, Abraham's first son and older half-brother of Isaac, whose son Jacob was later to become known as "Israel." Many Arabs believe that through Ishmael they are co-heirs to Abraham's promise, and they correctly believe that present-day Israelis have no Biblical right to steal their land. Jewish Talmudic folklore also speaks of Ishmael, so the Zionists apparently felt they had to alter how Christians viewed the two half brothers in order to prevent Christians from siding with the Arabs over the land theft.

The Zionists solved this dilemma by inserting a senseless footnote in the 1967 (Oxford) Scofield Reference Bible which, in effect, substitutes the word "Jews" for the words "The Israelitish people and Ishmaelitish people," as Scofield originally wrote it. The Israelitish and Ishmaelitish people lived 3000 years ago, but the Zionists want to claim the Arabs' part of the presumed birthright right now! Read it again; "all Jews are natural descendants of Abraham, but are not necessarily his spiritual posterity."

And there is more of such boondoggery in the Oxford bible. On the same page 1137 we find yet another brand new Zionist-friendly note referring to the New Testament book of John 8:37.

"(2) 8:44 THAT THIS SATANIC FATHERHOOD CANNOT BE LIMITED TO THE PHARISEES IS MADE CLEAR IN 1Jn3:8-10" (note SRB 1967 Edition, P1137 to John 8:44)

Let us look at the verse Oxford is trying to soften, wherein Jesus is speaking directly to the Pharisees, who were the Jewish leaders of his day, and to no one else:

"YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE LUST OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING, AND ABODE NOT IN THE TRUTH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO TRUTH IN HIM. WHEN HE SPEAKEST A LIE, HE SPEAKEST OF HIS OWN; FOR HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT." John 8:44 King James Ed.)

Those are plain words. No wonder the Zionists wanted to dilute what Jesus said. Not only did Oxford add a new footnote in 1967, but they inserted no less than four reference cues into the King James sacred text, directing readers to their specious, apostate footnotes. It seems the Zionists cannot deny what Jesus said about Pharisees, but they do not want to bear the burden of being "sons of Satan" all by themselves. Now here's the text of the verse to which Oxford refers in order to try to solve this problem:

"HE THAT COMMITETH SIN IS OF THE DEVIL; FOR THE DEVIL SINNETH FROM THE BEGINNING. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SON OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED, THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE WORK OF THE DEVIL." (1Jn 3:8.King James Edition)

Fine, but this verse, spoken by Jesus to His followers in a speech about avoiding sin, in no way supports Oxford's argument that Jesus was not talking directly to and about the Pharisee leaders when he called them "Sons of Satan" in John 8:44. It is a different book written at a different time to a different audience. This is typical Christian Zionist diversion.

To find out to whom Jesus is speaking you must read the rest of John 8, not something from another book. Furthermore, John 8:44 is only one of some 77 verses where Jesus confronted the Pharisees by name and in many cases addressed them as "satanic" and as "vipers." Oxford simply ignores most of these denunciations by Jesus, adding no notes at all, and the Christian Zionists go along without question.

These are a few examples of Zionist perversions of scripture that have shaped the doctrine of America's most politically powerful religious subculture, the "Christian Zionists" as Ariel Sharon calls them, or the dispensationalists, as intellectual followers call themselves, or the Judeo-Christians as our politically-correct politicians describe themselves. Today's Mid-East wars are not caused by the predisposition of the peoples, who are no more warlike than any human tribes. Without the pandering to Jewish and Zionist interests that is carried out by this subculture—the most vocal being the celebrity Christian evangelists—there would be no such wars, for there is not enough support for war outside of organized Zionist Christianity.

Reverend Stephen Sizer of Christ Church, Christ Church Vicarage, Virginia Water, GU25 4LD, England is perhaps the most dedicated new scholar writing about the Scofield Bible craze, popularly known as Christian Zionism. He has quipped, "Judging Christianity by looking at the American Evangelists is kind of like judging the British by watching Benny Hill."

Reverend Sizer's remark brings to mind another Benny; his name is Benny Hinn, not a British comic, but an American evangelist spouting inflammatory hate-filled words aimed at Muslims everywhere. Hinn was speaking to the applause of an aroused crowd of thousands in the American Airline Center in Dallas when he shocked two Ft. Worth Star Telegram religious reporters covering the July 3d event by announcing, "We are on God's side," speaking of Palestine. He shouted, "This is not a war between Jews and Arabs.. It is a war between God and the Devil." Lest there be any doubt about it, Hinn was talking about a blood war in which the Israelis are "God" and the Palestinians are "the Devil."

Benny Hinn is one of hundreds of acknowledged Christian Zionists who have no problem spouting outright race hatred and who join in unconditional support for Israel without regard for which or how many of Israel's enemies are killed or crippled. His boldness stems from his knowledge that the vast majority of professing Christians from whom he seeks his lavish support—the Judeo-Christians, or Christian Zionists—do not shrink at his words, because they have been conditioned to accept them, just as Roman citizens learned to

accept Christian persecution, even burning alive, under Nero. Several evangelists in attendance affirmed their agreement with Hinn – “the line between Christians and Muslims is the difference between good and evil.”

An amazing number of professing Christians are in agreement with the fanatical likes of Hinn, including Gary Bauer, Ralph Reed, James Dobson and hundreds more. Yet Hinn’s profit-seeking fanaticism is not as shocking as that of men like Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention who occupy the highest positions in the area of conservative religious thought. Land may have stopped short of branding all Muslims as devils, but he attacked their leader and Prophet and stated that, according to Baptist Bible interpretation, the Palestinian people have no legal rights to property in Palestine. See our discussion of Southern Baptists entitled “The Cause of the Conflict: Fixing Blame.”

The more politically conservative and libertarian the speaker expressing hatred for Islam, the more shocking the statement sounds. One example is Samuel Blumenfeld, a veteran textbook author and advocate of home education. His attack on Islam in a story entitled “Religion and Satanism” in the April 2002 conservative, Calvinist Chalcedon Report leaves little room for civil liberties and freedom of thought. He writes, “Islam is a religion ruled by Satan,” and asks, “Can anyone under the influence of Satan be trusted?” Blumenfeld shows poor judgment and a lack of morality when he allows phrases such as “willing agents of Satan,” “another manifestation of Satanism” and “the willingness of Muslims to believe blatant lies,” to spill from his pen.

How can anyone interpret these words by Land, Hinn, Blumenfeld, and yes, our own President, as anything less than race hatred? Who would make such generalized and transparently false statements against any other minority except Muslims?

About 100 million American Christians need to recover their true faith in Christ Jesus, who never denounced any individual on account of his group. Jesus even tried to save the Pharisees, and only denounced them when they showed themselves to be deceivers. There is not a word in the New Testament that urges any follower of Jesus to murder one child in Iraq or condemn Palestine to death. Race hatred is a Zionist, not a Christian, strategy.

Christian Zionism may be the most bloodthirsty apostasy in the entire history of Christianity or any other religion. Shame on its leaders: they have already brought the blood of untold numbers of innocent people down upon the spires and prayer benches of America’s churches.

Share this article with pastors and church leaders, especially lay leaders. We ask every Muslim and Jew who reads it to do the same. You might wish to suspend giving money to any organizations that preach Zionist race hatred in any form, especially under the cover Jesus Christ. And lastly, We Hold These Truths invites your informed comments and questions.

Listen to: Kulture Klash II, How Oxford University Press and CI Scofield stole the Christian Bible, WHTT “Internet Talk Radio” – also available on tape. Copyright 2002, may be reproduced in full with permission. We Hold

## Christians and Halloween



Halloween is a high-holy day for Satanists, witches and other occult members who actually hurt people and animals.

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## Five Basic Postulates Of Protestantism



Five basic differences between Bible following Christians and Roman Catholics.

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## God Is Not A Backstairs Politician



This article is from chapter 17 of "Out of the Labyrinth: The Conversion of a Roman Catholic Priest" by former Roman Catholic priest Leo Herbert Lehmann, first published in 1947 and made available online by The Lutheran Library Publishing Ministry [LutheranLibrary.org](http://LutheranLibrary.org). It's good to share with Catholics. And if you were not raised a Catholic, it will give you insights about the Catholic mindset and why they pray to Mary and the saints.

I had to look up the meaning of the word "backstairs." I don't remember ever hearing it in conversation or reading it in print.

backstairs adjective

back·stairs 'bak-,sterz

1 : secret, furtive

Example: backstairs political deals

I FIND IT most difficult to convince Roman Catholic people that Christ has won for sinners the right of direct access to God. They always fall back on what their priests have taught them, that to obtain mercy and forgiveness they must cajole some saint, some close and favored friend of God to intercede for them. The most powerful intercessor of them all is Mary, since she, they say, is the actual mother of God.

A very sincere and devout Catholic woman once put it to me in the following way. "If you wanted an interview with President Truman," she argued, "you would have to go first to some one else, his mother or some of his political friends, and ask them to intercede for you with the President and arrange for you to see him." My answer was, of course, that that may be true as far as President Truman is concerned. "But it so happens," I told her, "that President Truman is not God."

This belief of Roman Catholics is in accord with their Church's peculiar teaching that Jesus Christ brought only justice on earth, and that Mary and the other saints must be looked to for mercy. "Ye know very well, venerable brethren," Pope Pius IX declares in one of his encyclicals, "that the whole of our confidence is placed in the most Holy Virgin, since God has placed in Mary the fullness of all good, that accordingly we may know that if there is any hope in us, if any grace, if any salvation, it redounds to us from her."

From this extravagance it follows, in the eyes of Roman Catholics who are taught in this way, that Mary and the saints have even more power to save than Christ. They come to believe that the saints can get them into heaven, literally, by the backstairs, even if they die before a priest can come to forgive them their sins. Saint Joseph, for instance, has been officially proclaimed by the Catholic Church as the "Patron of a Happy Death" This special work is given to him because he was the foster-father of Jesus Christ and because he died before Jesus left home to begin His ministry. He therefore had Our Lord and the Virgin Mary at his deathbed. As the husband of Mary, Joseph is believed to be very powerful as an intercessor with Jesus Christ, and can actually get sinners into heaven at the last minute even if they die without a priest to absolve them.

Priests go to extraordinary lengths to convince their congregations that devotion to Saint Joseph is the surest guarantee sinners can have of getting to heaven. They picture him as heaven's most powerful 'politician' who can obtain any favor he wants from God. I remember how a priest in Naples, Italy, once proved this in a sermon to his congregation. Here is the story he told (which is true in every detail according to what Catholics are taught about heaven, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Saint Peter, Saint Michael and others there):

One day the Archangel Michael, the policeman of heaven, came to Saint Peter at the golden gates and said: "Look here, Peter! How is it that there are so many scoundrels in heaven who have no right to be here? Heaven is swarming with sinners who don't deserve a place even in Purgatory."

"Don't blame me, Michael," Peter replied. "Everyone knows my reputation as guardian of the heavenly gates. You know I would never let even a Pope get in unless I'm sure first that all his sins are forgiven and that he has served his full time in Purgatory. But since you've asked me a straight question I'll give you a straight answer, if you'll come with me after I've closed up the gates for the night."

They met as appointed and Peter led the way around the outer walls of the Celestial City to where the house of the 'Holy Family' was situated, high up against one of the battlements, and from the back window of which the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the infant Jesus – could look down and see everything that takes place on earth.

It was a bright moonlit night and Peter drew Michael down behind some shrubbery and told him to wait and see what would happen. After a little while, they heard what seemed like pebbles being thrown against the window overlooking the wall. In less than a minute the window was opened, and a rope was let down and pulled up again. At the end of the rope was one of the disreputable sinners whom Michael had complained about.

They waited until the sinner was hauled in and the window shut. "Now," said Peter triumphantly to the amazed Archangel, "There's your answer!"

Next morning early, Michael, dressed in his best official uniform, and with a very determined look on his face, knocked at the door of the Holy Family's house. Mary opened the door and called to Joseph and the Child Jesus to welcome their distinguished visitor. He took a seat and in a tone of the sternest dignity turned to Joseph and said: "Joseph, I've found out what has been going on here every night, and I would fail in my sacred duty if I did not tell you that your practice of getting sinners into heaven by your back window must stop at once!"

"I'm sorry, Your Highness," Joseph replied with a guilty look, "but I'm publicized on earth as the last refuge of dying sinners. I've furthermore been proclaimed 'Patron of the Universal Church,' and I've solemnly promised to get poor sinners into heaven by hook or by crook who are faithful in their devotion to me during life. I simply can't refuse their appeals and let them go to hell. My position and reputation as husband of Mary and the foster-father of Jesus Christ are at stake."

Michael rose from his chair, and drawing himself up to his full archangelic height, decisively replied:



"There can be no exceptions to the eternal and immutable justice of the Almighty God whose stem commands I am appointed to carry out to the letter. Since the day I hurled Lucifer and his rebellious angels from these same ramparts of heaven I've been entrusted with the duty of keeping sinners out of it, and seeing that the laws of the Almighty are rigidly enforced."

"In that case," Joseph meekly replied, "I can no longer stay in heaven. I must go elsewhere and try to keep my promises to poor dying sinners."

As Joseph moved to the door, Mary ran to him and clutched his arm. Turning to the unbending Archangel, she said: "Joseph is my lawful husband, and if he goes I go too, and then there will be no Queen in heaven!" Michael was taken back at this thought, and tried to find words to meet this unexpected situation. But before he could think of anything appropriate to say, the Child Jesus spoke and said: "And if my mother goes I will have to go too, and then you'll have no God in heaven either."

This was too much, even for the Archangel Michael, and knowing himself defeated, he bowed himself out of the house with as much dignity as he could muster.

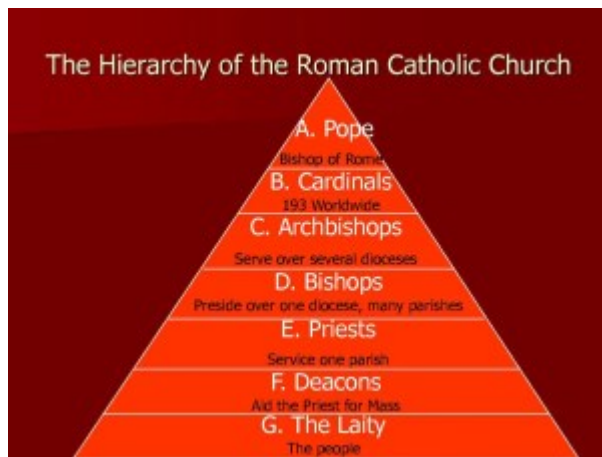
"And that is the reason why," this Neapolitan priest told his listeners, "no one who practices devotion to Saint Joseph during life will fail to get into heaven."

There are some, even non-Catholics, who will say this is a very realistic and human way of preaching to ignorant people who cannot read and write or understand the things of God in the words of the Gospel. But is this sufficient excuse for the Roman Catholic Church which has been the sole, undisputed teacher of Christian people for more than fifteen centuries? The Roman Catholic Church insists to this day on being the sole interpreter of the Bible, its Pope the infallible mouthpiece of God. It could as easily have taught the people the truth from the New Testament which records Christ as saying (John 10:9): "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." Or again (John 14:6): "I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Or again (Acts 4:12): "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

But doing so would have meant the scrapping of its many shrines, saint-devotions and novenas, which are financially so profitable.

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# Religion As A System Of Power



Religion can uplift its devotees only if its worship is upward, if the image and object of its devotion are above the level of man. It is an historic fact that religions which have descended to the deification of creatures, whether of men or animals, have degraded, enslaved and impoverished their believers.