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Upholding the Accuracy of the God-Breathed Word

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Unless otherwise noted, all passages are quoted from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. All explanatory remarks by a writer within a scripture verse are enclosed in brackets [].

INSIDE AT A GLANCE

AS GOD'S "ABLE MINISTERS", we don't quit or lie down on the job and allow the world to "steamroll" us. Rather, with the greatness of God's Word burning in our hearts, we know who and what we are in Christ, so we just stand, stand, STAND!

"THE MINISTRY AND THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION" are ours to carry out! What are they? What do we do with them? Some believers know and walk in them; some have gotten tired or lazy; and some have never heard. Where do you stand?

by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief.....1

"GOD'S MATCHLESS WORD": We all come to moments in our lives when we face major decisions. Peter and the other apostles encountered a monumental one in the Gospels, but God was with them. He will be with us, as well, when we come to our "Crossroads In Life".

by Steven J Hall.....3

"FROM THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT": Some people believe in creation; others believe in evolution. The truth of the matter is that both are an integral part of our existence. In fact, as strange as it may seem, The Word indicates that "God Created Evolution!"

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"FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT" brings you, in this issue, another essay designed to instruct the mind of the believer, and comfort his or her heart. When it comes to God's loving care for His children, we should never forget that "Father Knows Best".

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"INVESTIGATING CREATION SCIENCE": Again, we look at the scriptural accounts relating to the creation of all things. This time, however, we introduce scientific data that support God's Word. With details from both sources, we will be "Shedding Some Light On The Matter".

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Fax your submissions to the Clarion at (937) 276-5534.

THE MINISTRY AND THE WORD OF RECONCILIATION



CCASIONALLY, ALL OF US, AS GOD'S KIDS, wonder if our efforts on His behalf are really doing any good. We have an enemy who seeks to exploit weaknesses and the fallen nature, and from time to time, every believer succumbs to his lies, including me. Just recently, I picked up a "Christian" magazine in a hospital waiting room. It was a full-color, glossy publication with beautiful photography and graphics: a real eye-catcher. For a while, it made me self-conscious about our modest, little periodical. The *Clarion* isn't visually flamboyant, and for a moment, our work for God seemed meager. I then began to leaf through the color publication and was surprised to discover that I could not find one, single verse of scripture anywhere in its 30-plus pages. The articles, too, seemed to be written largely by "worldly" experts, rather than believers. Even the subject matter of most of the articles dealt with things like coping with diabetes or how Christian women should tastefully apply makeup. It contained virtually NO WORD OF GOD!

As I closed the magazine, I became very thankful for the things God has been doing for and with us to see that His Word gets to people who are looking for it. It may not be particularly attractive to the eye, but *The Ryburn Christian Clarion* does not skimp when it comes to the Word of God we present. The only thing that makes lasting change in a person's life possible is God's Word, and that's what we've been called to share.

If you are a child of God, you also have a ministry to
continued on next page...

carry out for our Heavenly Father. As we noted in our last issue (Winter, 2006; Vol. 3, No. 2), God has made us “able ministers” of the New Covenant (II Cor. 3:6a). Both books of Corinthians are written to the born again ones, to those “that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,...(I Cor. 1:2b)”. That means, as a Christian, these books are written to you and I. Now, with that in mind, let’s consider a couple of things.

There are two points I want to make regarding the believers of Corinth whom the Apostle Paul was specifically addressing. The first is that they were far from perfect. In fact, Paul called them “babes in Christ” in I Corinthians 3:1b. Later, in verse 3 of the same chapter, he told them they were “yet carnal”. For all their faults and spiritual immaturity, though, God’s Word still calls them “saints”, and declares that they were “sanctified in Christ Jesus (I Cor. 1:2)”. You see, it’s God’s grace through the finished work of His Son, Jesus Christ, that made it possible for the Father to accept them into His family, and to spiritually make them “able” to live and speak for Him. He’s done the same for you and I.

The second point I want to look at is the continual use of plural pronouns employed by Paul as he shared God’s revelation with these “babes in Christ”. In II Corinthians 3:5, he declared “our” sufficiency (or ability) to be from God. In verse 6, he showed how God has made “us” able ministers of the New Covenant. All believers were included in these bold statements. Do you think God has changed? If it was true for the imperfect and sometimes “carnal” saints of ancient Corinth, it’s true for you and I today.

In II Corinthians 5, the Lord continues to show His abundant grace and mercy in several sweeping announcements that are breathtaking in their implications. The latter part of verse 18 indicates that God “hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;....” How about that!? The service of bringing men and women back into a relationship with God has been (past tense; “hath” been) given to “us”, even though we may be somewhat immature spiritually. It is God Who draws hungry people to Himself, but He needs “us” to speak His Word on His behalf so seeking souls can find their way into the Father’s family. For this reason, as verse 19 states, God has entrusted “us” (past tense) with the “word of reconciliation.”

The greatness of this continues to build in verse 20, where “we” are called ambassadors for the Lord Jesus Christ. Imagine that! We are to go forth as emissaries representing our true homeland, Heaven, and our Lord and Savior, Who is even now seated at God’s right hand. We can capably declare wondrous pronouncements from our home beyond the skies, because, as verse 21 states, “we” have been made (past tense) the “righteousness of God in him [Christ].”

It’s almost too much for the mind to take in, but let’s touch on one last scripture. II Corinthians 4:1 announces that “we” have (present tense) this ministry. God says, “we” HAVE it. What are “we” doing with it? The verse further notes that “we” (all children of God) have received mercy from our Father, and “we” should not faint, or give up. Why? The Word says God will back us up, for He is our sufficiency (II Cor. 3:5 again).

Look at all God has done for “us”, and the great calling to which He’s invited ALL OF “US”! The Father definitely has something for *you* to do, but you won’t discover what it is waiting on the sidelines. Only as you move, taking believing action based upon The Word, can God show you where you’re needed and where your talents reside.

Consider our friend Chaplain J. R. Collins, for example. Many of you know that he worked with us in the early days of the *Clarion*, but has since gone on to found an outreach called Grace Research And Fellowship. GRF started out simply producing monthly audio teachings on CD for subscribers on their mailing list. Recently, though, the chaplain has authored a much-needed handbook for those who have questions about salvation. *Security Of The Believer (Revealed)* is a thorough study of the subject, and answers most questions that plague the unsure Christian. (If you would like more information about the monthly CDs or the booklet, e-mail Chaplain Collins at grace_research_fellowship@yahoo.com.)

The point is, take action! Look at how the *Clarion*’s grown in less than three years. In fact, a long-time prayer has just been answered in the establishing of our permanent website. Check it out at www.godslivingroom.com. So, you see, the Lord will work with you, as well. Don’t let the enemy make you think otherwise. We’ve just read what God’s Word says. Let’s believe it.

-----by Rick Heeter, Editor-in-Chief

GOD'S MATCHLESS WORD:

A Forum For Presenting The Light Of Life

(This column features a wide range of subjects from God's Word as they are set forth by a host of preachers and teachers from differing avenues of Christian thought and various areas of Biblical study and concern.)

“Crossroads In Life”

by Steven J. Hall

AS I GO THROUGH LIFE RIGHT NOW, I feel like I'm at a crossroads. Actually, it seems like I'm at a lot of crossroads all at once. I am at a crossroads concerning my college education; I am at a crossroads regarding my spirituality (Some would call that a search for a better church.); and I am at a crossroads relating to my physical location (Should I continue to live in my current area, or should I move to another?).

When I started college, I had it all planned; I would study electrical engineering. Subsequently, I was successful in my career as an electronics technician for almost twenty years. Then, I began to believe that adding a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering (B. S. E. E.) would be a nice enhancement, therefore, I went back to school. The U. S. economy was good, jobs were plentiful, so, no problem, I thought; I'm headed in the right direction. It would take me a few years to get through school, but there will ALWAYS be electronics jobs, right? Well, I am seriously beginning to wonder. There doesn't seem to be such a plentiful supply of jobs anymore, at least, not in my area, and not in my field. I am at a crossroads.

Just as we all encounter crossroads in our lives, Jesus Christ's apostles came to one in their lives, as well. Christ had been with them for a period of time, teaching and showing them things about Himself and about the Father. He proved that what He said was true by the many miracles which He did. Then, He was taken, beaten and crucified, and buried in a tomb where a huge boulder was used to cover the opening. He then arose from the dead, and after a period of time had passed, He stood on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias (Galilee). According to John 21, His apostles had been out on the sea fishing all night and had not caught a thing, not even one little fish.

John 21: 2-7 and 9-13

There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples. Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, we also go with thee. They went forth, and

entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not [or “did not recognize”] that it was Jesus.

Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it [draw it in] for the multitude of fishes.

Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.

Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst [“dared to”] ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.

Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

Now, look at the crossroads with which Peter is confronted.

John 21:15-19

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He [Jesus] saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again..., Simon, son of Jonas, ...Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, ...Feed my sheep.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither [“where”] thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, ...another

shall gird thee, and carry thee whither [“where”] thou wouldst not.

This spake he, signifying by what death [literally, “by what means before death”] he [Peter] should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he [Jesus] saith unto him, Follow me.

Picture this account. Jesus had been beaten, tortured, crucified, and buried. About a month or so has passed since the Lord’s resurrection, and the apostles haven’t seen him for a while. Now, they are out fishing, and, lo and behold, the Lord shows up. They don’t know at first that it’s Jesus; they suppose that it’s just some guy on the shore. He then starts telling them how to fish. Now, they could have said, “Who are you to tell us how to fish?” Instead, they simply obeyed, and because they obeyed, they caught a large number of “great” fish. After they recognized Jesus and ate with him, the Lord gave Peter some last minute instruction, and even prophesied of how Peter’s life would glorify God.

Peter now was faced with a decision. He could have responded by saying, “Well, Lord, it’s been fun. Thanks for the fish. See you around sometime. Have a nice life, but, as for me, I think I’ll just continue in the fishing business.” Talk about a major crossroads in someone’s life! Peter, however, chose to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, no matter what the cost (as did the other apostles, except for Judas Iscariot). God will direct our paths, also, if we just allow Him to work in our lives.

Proverbs 3: 5 and 6

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

We trust in God and acknowledge Him by going to His Word, the Holy Bible. We read it and endeavor to remember what we have read, so we can live it. People sometimes have a hard time figuring out the Bible, but it is actually a simple book to grasp, if we apply ourselves to regular study. As a matter of fact, God has made it simple enough for even a child to understand. The books of Psalms and Proverbs are a good place to start. I personally enjoy reading the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), for they tell us about the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Other books within the Scriptures can be eventually understood, but in order to do so, one needs to apply basic study keys that will unlock The Word for us. These research keys *themselves* are to be found in the Word of God. So, you see, no matter what crossroads we come to in life, the Word of God will guide us in the making of wise choices. God bless you, and remember, keep looking to Him.*

(Mr. Steven J. Hall has been involved in Biblical studies since 1976. During 1977-78, he lived in Rolla, Missouri, participating in an outreach program that brought God’s Word into new communities around the country. He has since continued his study of The Word, and presently lives with his wife, Karen, in Dayton, Ohio.)

FROM THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

(This column, featuring the work of Keith Jamison, examines God’s Word and how its application in our Twenty-First Century lives has been influenced by mythology, philosophy, and tradition.)

“God Created Evolution!”

IN OUR RECENT ARTICLE ABOUT NOAH’S **ARK**, we spoke briefly concerning evolution. For many, this is a controversial subject. There seems to be no middle ground; either God created us, they think, or we evolved. The Bible tells us God created all things, living and non-living. Science, on the other hand, has shown us that living creatures adapt and evolve in order to take advantage of their environments or other conditions. Let’s take a closer look at this confusing dilemma and sort things out.

The modern concept of evolution began with Charles Darwin. Darwin was a naturalist, an early scientist specializing in the study and careful observation of nature, with a view toward learning about the world in which we live. In his travels, he saw and noted many different species of the same plant or animal. These observations

raised a question in his mind: why were there so many differences in what were basically the same plants and animals? His conclusion was that plants and animals adapt to best fit and utilize their living conditions. If they did not, he reasoned, they would not survive. This is modern evolutionary theory in a nutshell: the “survival of the fittest”.

The idea was controversial enough at the time, during the mid-1800s. Then, Darwin presented his findings to the public in a book entitled *Origin Of Species*. In this book, he used evolution in an attempt to explain how every plant, animal, and person came to be. Although he claimed the book was only meant as an intellectual exercise, the scientific community began to embrace his theory of adaptation, because it gave them an answer they could use to explain things without having to say, “God

did it.” Also, by eliminating a Creator with righteous standards from the equation, some thought they would be free to live according to their own impulses. (As if to illustrate individuals like this, a literal translation of Romans 1:21b describes people who “...became empty in their reasonings, and their foolish heart was darkened.” A literal rendering of part of verse 25 goes on to say that they “...worshipped and served the created thing rather than the Creator,...” Verse 28 sums it up, where the literal translation declares, “...even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a mind void of judgment...”) They, therefore, focused on the natural and ignored, or denied, the spiritual (I Cor. 2:14).

We know from the Scriptures, however, that God did it. The Bible tells us in Genesis, chapter 1, that God “formed” (*yatsar* in Hebrew) and “made” (*asah* in Hebrew) grasses, trees, sea creatures, birds, mammals, reptiles, and other living things, which would procreate “after their kind”. The Bible is specific in its use of Hebrew words translated “bring forth”, which, in the King James Version, are first employed in Genesis 1:11. In this verse, which portrays God commanding the earth to “bring forth” the grasses and trees, the Hebrew word used is *dasha*, which fittingly means “to sprout”. In verse 20, where the waters “bring forth” aquatic life, the Hebrew word is *sharats*, meaning “to wriggle” or “to swarm”. Wriggling is the manner by which fish and other aquatic animals swim. Additionally, in verse 20, *uwph*, “to fly”, is used concerning birds (or “fowl”). Finally, in verse 24, the Hebrew word *yatsa*, from which *yatsar* (“formed” in Genesis 2:7) is derived, is used in relation to cattle, creeping things, and beasts of the earth. Even though it is translated “bring forth”, its basic meaning is “to go out” (or “appear”).

In each case, we see the phrase “after his kind” or “after their kind”. These multiple uses are for emphasis, because the Creator is eager to impress upon the mind of man the fundamental law for producing offspring. Each shall reproduce “after his kind”. This King James English phrase is from the single Hebrew word *miyn*, which carries the connotation “to portion out; a sort”. It was translated in the Greek Old Testament, the Septuagint, as *genos*, meaning “kin” (or the noun “kind”). Also, this Greek word, *genos*, is transliterated into “genus” in modern English, which is a broad classification of plant or animal life. In current English usage, then, “after his kind” means “according to its genus”. Every creature, whether plant or animal, reproduces in accordance with its “genus”. If this is true and accurate, then, modern evolutionary theory is a blatant example of “junk science”.

Many scholars will tell you that this word, *genos*, means “species”, but is that really the case? Is it, indeed, the more specific classification “species” or the more general one called “genus”? The name of a particular genus is commonly used in science nowadays, along with the species name, in order to precisely identify plants and animals. In The Word, however, especially in the opening chapters of Genesis, *genos* (“genus”) is used. As a matter of fact, according to Genesis 2:19 and 20, Adam, before

the fall of mankind, gave broad classifications to most of the animal life. The Greek word translated “name” in verse 19 and “names” in verse 20 is *genos*, “genus”. Does all this fit with modern science?

In order to clarify things, let’s take a look at the Law of Radial Evolution. This is the principle by which a creature adapts to various environmental changes or conditions, ultimately becoming a different species. It remains, however, within the same genus, its larger and more general classification. As you can guess, the name of this evolutionary law came from the fact that new species radiate outward from a common ancestor on their family tree. This is the manner of evolution Darwin observed in his travels. The biological mechanism that allows for this “adaptive-ness” has been used by mankind for centuries in the breeding of dogs, horses, cattle, and other animals. It is the process of mating two select creatures in order to produce offspring with desired traits. In the wild, those best able to survive live to reproduce. In captivity, we decide which animals have the best traits for producing the outcomes we are seeking. We see this principle at work in human beings, as well. From two people, Adam and Eve, came all the races, colors, and other variations of humanity (Acts 17:26a).

Another point concerning breeding programs is the inter-fertility between species within the same genus. This provides for the crossbreeding of different animal or plant species, again, within the same genus. The offspring of such a union is called a “hybrid”, however, such an offspring is not always fertile. Horses and donkeys are of the same genus, and, when crossbred, produce mules, which are sterile. Seedless oranges and grapes are examples of purposefully-made, sterile hybrids of the plant kingdom. Most crossbreeding, though, produces viable offspring (because it remains within the parent genus).

Again, this brings to mind the phrase from Genesis, “after his kind (genus)”. If species within a particular genus sometimes produce infertile offspring, then how in the world can a creature from one genus mate with one from another genus, and result in offspring that are not sterile? Indeed, how can they produce offspring at all? It’s impossible! That’s why all evolutionary teaching that proposes that mankind ascended from apes is unscientific, and Biblically unsound. According to I Corinthians 15:39, man is not classified as an animal, as current scientific theory seeks to do. Instead, the verse declares, “All flesh *is* not the same flesh: but *there is* one *kind of* flesh of men [So, humanity stands on its own.], another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, *and* another of birds.” It’s also interesting to note that these four classifications of living beings are “brought forth” separately in Genesis 1 and 2.

In the strictest scientific sense, all hybrids, whether produced in the wild or under controlled conditions, are new species. How then does this fit with God’s Word? If “after his kind” refers to “species”, it doesn’t; if it refers to “genus” (“kind”), it does. This is because the divergence of species and the crossbreeding of species remain within their own kind, “genus”. Why would God make creatures that have the capacity to evolve? The answer is simple.

God, in His foreknowledge, knew about the fall of mankind. He knew that Satan would acquire from Adam dominion over the earth (Luke 4:6b) and gain power to affect and mutate existing life forms (Gen. 3:17 and 18a). God also knew that conditions on the earth would radically change, one of the biggest coming with The Flood and the introduction of the rain cycle, producing major river systems. Before the deluge, and certainly before man's expulsion from Paradise, there was little or no variation in climate across the world, and, thus, little need for creatures to adapt and evolve. As a result, it was easier for Noah to build an ark large enough to save air-breathing animals from every "genus". Considering these facts and truths, it is logical to conclude that God "created" evolution.

Indeed, the Almighty, in His wisdom, placed within plants, animals, and humans the genetic pre-disposition to adapt to and survive the myriad situations and conditions that only He foresaw. Isn't it amazing to see the accuracy and the depth of the Scriptures as they continue to answer our deepest questions? Well, we'll see you again next issue, when the *Clarion's* Research Department presents more fascinating truths from the Word of God. So long.*

(Mr. Keith Jamison has been a student of God's Word for over fourteen years. Presently, he is the director of The Ryburn Christian Clarion's Research Department, and develops material for the "From The Research Department" and "Investigating Creation Science" columns.)

FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT

Essay

(This column offers our readers a variety of inspirational and edifying submissions. In this "grab-bag", appearing from time to time, you will find essays, book reviews, testimonies, poetry, letters, and other things designed to exhort and comfort God's people.)

“ ‘Father Knows Best’ ”

by Rev. Dennis Prugh

[Editor's Note: The following edited article has been taken from the written transcript of an audio recording. The recording was made from a live teaching of God's Word in a fellowship setting.]

IN LUKE 11, VERSES 11-13, Jesus said, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" The following excerpts from a book on Oriental customs shed some light on these questions.

The Western mind concludes that any father that would make the substitutions just mentioned would make them deliberately. After all, would he not have to go out of the house to get a stone? And how could a stone be mistaken for bread? What child is there who would not know the difference between a fish and a serpent, or an egg and a scorpion?

Bread in the East is not like what you are familiar with in the Western World. Each piece is round and flat, about the size of a dinner plate. It is very thin and is cooked on both sides. If it is not turned, it will not be fit to eat. When the bread is done, it is placed on a stone, which is about the same size as the bread. Ordinarily, there would be several *chapaties*, as we call the bread. Then, another stone would be placed on top to protect the bread. The women use "ghee" (which is like butter and is still available today) in cooking the bread. Over a period of time, the stones would soak up the

"ghee" and actually take on the appearance of the bread. Obviously, any Eastern father would know the difference between the stone and the bread, and he would never give the stone when his son has asked for bread. So...you can at least see where Jesus had grounds for his [questions]....

There are all kinds of fish in Eastern waters, and there are many serpents that look like fish. One who is unfamiliar with the fish and the serpents could easily mistake one for the other. But the Eastern fisherman knows the difference, and will throw out of the net all serpents.... The father would not think of giving his son a serpent instead of a fish. His primary concern is for the well-being of his offspring.... The children do not always realize what is good and bad. Often, in a show of juvenile independence, they become rebellious and reach out for those things that would do them harm. But the father is always there to warn...his children.

In order to understand the problem in verse 12 concerning the egg and the scorpion, you must first know that there are different kinds of scorpions in the East.... But brown and white scorpions are plentiful, and it is the white scorpion to which Jesus [referred] in this verse. Both John the Baptist and Jesus Christ used the statement "generation of vipers" with reference to the religious perverts of their day. "Vipers" is a mistranslation. It should be "scorpions".

The scorpion to which they [referred] has a very interesting history. The father dies immediately at the time of its conception. Then, when the time comes for it to make its appearance into the world, it eats across its mother's stomach and comes out.

Of course, the mother dies. So, the scorpion comes into the world an orphan. It has to make its way alone.... So, Jesus and John used the figure of speech, "generation of vipers (scorpions)", which the Eastern mind readily understood. They were simply saying that these people were spiritual orphans. They had no one to teach and train them....

The body of a scorpion looks like an egg. The white scorpion, especially, could be mistaken for an egg. And if one would cut open its body, the inside is white and yellow, just like an egg. So, you see, it is conceivable that a child would not know the difference. But his father knows, and the son has absolute confidence that he would not give anything that would harm him. The whole point is that "Father knows best". [1]

There are many things in the world that are alluring and appear, on the surface, to be acceptable. Unless we use the Word of God as our guide for living, however, we often go too far before we realize that the things which are appealing turn into ashes once we've tasted them. Also, there is another lesson we can learn from these scriptures: nothing that is harmful to us comes from God. He is more concerned for His children than earthly fathers are for theirs.

James 1:13b

...for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

One of the most distressing things I've found is people's lack of understanding of the very nature of God. They blame Him for sickness, death, financial reverses, and a multitude of other negative things in their lives. Once we see from The Word that it is an impossibility for these things to emanate from God, we will place the blame on Satan, where it rightfully belongs. We will also be drawn closer to God, for we will realize He knows best and is always working for our good.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Bible is the Word of God. It is God's plan of salvation for everyone through the delivering work of Jesus Christ, His Son. God, our Father, has given it to us. This is how much our God cares for us. We have the privilege to believe on the name of Jesus Christ and receive everlasting life. In truth, God not only blessed us with life, but with a life that is more than abundant.

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I John 2:1 and 2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the

Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

In the first verse of I John 2, we can see that the Father has given us an advocate. The common Greek word rendered "advocate" is *parakletos*. It means, "one who pleads another's cause before a judge; a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate, an intercessor; in the widest sense, a helper, succorer, one who aids, an assistant." [2] In verse 2, we see that the Father has made His Son, Jesus Christ, the propitiation for our sins. The common Greek word used in I John for "propitiation" is *hilasmos*, and it means, "an atoning sacrifice". [3]

I John 4:10 and 19

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

We love him, because he first loved us.

He loved us first and wanted us as His children, His family. How simple and easy it is to love the Father in return.

I Peter 5:7-9

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

The lion's roar instills fear and paralyzes the sought-after prey so he can make the kill. The Adversary, the Devil, brings bad things while our Father in Heaven gives us good things. God has given us His Word; He has granted us everlasting life; He has made available to us a life that is more than abundant; He has blessed us with an advocate in His Son, Jesus Christ, Who is the propitiation for our sins; He loved us first and made us a part of a great and wonderful family; and so much more. In all this, we truly see that "Father knows best". We can cast our cares upon Him, for, indeed, He cares for us.*

Endnotes:

- 1) Pillai, Bishop K. C., D. D.; *Orientalisms Of The Bible*, Volume 1; The American Christian Press; New Knoxville, Ohio (1986); pp. 109-14.
- 2) Thayer, Joseph H.; *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament*; Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.; Peabody, Mass. (2002); p. 483.
- 3) *Ibid.*; Thayer; p. 301.

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INVESTIGATING CREATION SCIENCE

(Continuing in this installment of The Ryburn Christian Clarion, and appearing in every spring and fall issue, Keith Jamison and Theodore C. Mahr explore the timely and unfolding evidence that supports the Biblical assertion concerning the Divine creation of all things, visible and invisible. Join us as we take a journey into scriptures and science alike to investigate the latest, compelling proofs.)

“Shedding Some Light On The Matter”

by Keith Jamison

IN THE LAST ARTICLE in this column, we saw that the earth “became without form and void” (Gen. 1:2a). We also noted that God restored the heavens and the earth in six days. Verse 2 states, as well, that “...darkness *was* upon the face of the deep...” When celestial strife between God and Lucifer ensued, not only was the earth left in disarray, but the light was taken away, as well, for the “Light Bringer” (the meaning of the name “Lucifer”) had been expelled from Heaven, with his minions (Rev. 12:3 and 4a). By deleting the second “was” in verse 2 (which, in the King James Version, is *italicized* indicating it was added by the translators), we find that the earth “...became [1] without form, [2] and void, [3] and darkness upon the face of the deep...” The number 3 in The Word denotes completeness, thus, we see the complete ruination of the earth emphasized.

The end of verse 2 says, “...And the spirit of God moved [“brooded”] upon the face of the waters.” The Hebrew word given as “moved” is *rachaph*, which means “to flutter” or “brood”. This is a figure of speech called *anthropopatheia*, whereby God is depicted as having human or animal characteristics. Here, we are presented with the imagery of a mother bird warming her eggs. The very next use of this word is in Deuteronomy 32:11, where God is likened to an eagle that “...fluttereth [“broods”, from *rachaph*] over her young...” This shows God’s great patience and caring nature regarding the earth.

In verse 3, God restores light. Notice that the word “said” is used, because light had already been “created” (*bara* in Hebrew) with everything else in verse 1. Verse 3 actually reads, “And God said, let light come to be: and light came to be.” “Come to be” and “came to be” are rendered from the basic Hebrew word translated as the first “was” in Genesis 1:2a (“became”). Since light was the first thing restored, its significance in relation to existence cannot be overstated. So, then, what is light? Basically, light is illumination, that which allows us to see, but there is more to light than meets the eye.

Light is the spectrum of electromagnetic radiation, of which only a narrow band is visible to the eye. Radio waves, infra-red and ultra-violet radiation, and x-rays are also light, but not visible light. Science says light is a “wavicle” traveling as photons. If this last statement sounds confusing, it’s because it is. The nature of light defies our conventional understanding of physics. Light is a wave of energy, like sound waves or waves on the ocean. It has frequency (how wide the waves are) and amplitude (how high the waves are). The waves interfere with each other, adjusting their amplitude. They are also affected by relative motion, adjusting their frequency, which is called Doppler shift. Light also acts like a particle, defusing outwardly into a darkened area, hence the term “wavicle”.

Light travels through space, having no need of any physical medium. Its speed is the speed limit for matter in the

universe. Einstein’s Theory of Relativity shows a relationship between light and time, because the speed of light is constant no matter how fast you may be traveling. His equation, $E=MC^2$, shows that energy equals matter times the square of the constant “C”, which is the speed of light. Electromagnetism (light) is a basic force in the universe, holding molecules together. It is basic to God’s divine nature (for “...God is light,...”; I John 1:5) and is necessary for holding all things together (for, by God “...all things consist [“cohere”].”; Col. 1:17). Light is a very big deal!

In the first chapter of Genesis, the ancient languages express nuances that add to our understanding. The word “light” in verse 3 is *owr*, in Hebrew, and is defined as “illumination in every sense”. It is translated “light” throughout the rest of Genesis 1, with the exception of verses 14 through 16. Here, the word rendered as “light” is the Hebrew word *maowr*, “light giver”. *Maowr* focuses on that which gives light, the source, and not the light itself. This is fitting since these verses deal with the sun, moon, and stars. The Greek equivalent for *owr*, the light itself, is *phos*, which is “luminousness in the widest application”. It is also the root of the English prefix “photo”, meaning “light”, as in “photograph”. This Greek word is also used in I John 1:5, where the Bible states, “...God is light [*phos*],...” God is light, and light in all aspects.

God’s making of the luminous bodies in Genesis 1:14-17 is a temporary substitution for Lucifer, the “Light Bringer”, who fell and abrogated his authority over light. For now, the sun, moon, and stars will “give light upon the earth” (Gen. 1:15-17) until they are replaced permanently by the Lord God, as noted in Revelation 22:5. Light’s relationship to a fundamental force which causes matter in the universe to cohere made its restoration the necessary first step to putting all things back together.

Hebrews 11:3 states, “...the worlds were framed by the word of God,...” *Katatizo* is the Greek word translated “framed”, and means “to complete thoroughly” or “repair”. This confirms that God’s activity in Genesis 1:3 and following deals with “restoration” after a perfect creation “became without form, and void, and darkness”. So, we see that God began His work of restoration logically, by first mending the universal foundations, thus, He said, “Let there be light”.*

(We invite you to join us in every spring and fall issue of The Ryburn Christian Clarion as we delve into science and the remarkable depths of God’s Word in “Investigating Creation Science”.)

(Mr. Keith Jamison, as director of The Ryburn Christian Clarion’s Research Department, regularly prepares material for the “Investigating Creation Science” and “From The Research Department” columns.)

*Articles and columns submitted to The Ryburn Christian Clarion are edited to ensure correct spelling and punctuation, proper grammar, and clarity of expression.