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Revelation 16:16

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(I Cor. 1:17)
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**THE COVER**

March 2014 – Volume 48 – Number 3

Valley of Megiddo (Rev. 16:16)

Cover Photo: Jaime Tracy
The lambs offered as substitutes in the Old Jewish economy; the Death of Christ was not an execution or assassination, but rather a Sacrifice; the Offering of Himself presented a Perfect Sacrifice, for He was perfect in every respect (Ex. 12:5):

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

"Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world (refers to the fact that God, in His Omniscience, knew He would create man, man would Fall, and man would be Redeemed by Christ going to the Cross; this was all done before the Universe was created; this means the Cross of Christ is the Foundation Doctrine of all Doctrine, referring to the fact that all Doctrine must be built upon that Foundation, or else it is specious), but was manifest in these last times for you (refers to the invisible God Who, in the Person of the Son, was made visible to human eyesight by assuming a human body and human limitations),

FAITH

"Who by Him do believe in God (it is only by Christ and what He did for us at the Cross that we are able to ‘Believe in God’), . . ."
• The Cross of Christ addressed in “the Precious Blood of Christ.”
• The Resurrection of Christ proclaimed by the fact that God “raised Him up from the dead.”
• The Exaltation of Christ proclaimed by the short phrase, “and gave Him Glory.”

Understanding that the Cross of Christ is the Foundation of the great Plan of Redemption, this means that every doctrine must be built upon this Foundation. If it is built on something else, in some way it will be spurious. In fact, all false doctrine stems from a misunderstanding or the ignoring or outright denial of the Cross of Christ. Once we begin to understand this, then we begin to see how important this Message is, inasmuch as it was formulated in the mind of the Godhead from before the foundation of the world.

As we stated, God, Who is Omnipotent, knew before the foundation of the world that He would make man and that man would Fall, and it would be deemed desirable by the Godhead that God would become Man, the Man Christ Jesus, Who would lay aside the expression of His Deity, while never losing possession of His Deity, all for the express purpose of going to the Cross of Calvary.

THE PRIMARY MISSION OF CHRIST

The Apostle John tells us in the First Chapter of his Gospel exactly Who Jesus is and What Jesus has done. I continue to quote from THE EXPOSITOR’S STUDY BIBLE:

“In the beginning (does not infer that Christ as God had a beginning, because as God He had no beginning, but rather refers to the time of Creation [Gen. 1:1]) was the Word (the Holy Spirit through John describes Jesus as ‘the Eternal Logos’), and the Word was with God (‘was in relationship with God,’ and expresses the idea of the Trinity), and the Word was God (meaning that He did not cease to be God during the Incarnation; He ‘was’ and ‘is’ God from eternity past to eternity future).

IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD

“The same was in the beginning with God (this very Person was in eternity with God; there’s only one God, but manifested in three Persons — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit).

Continued on page 6
“...while Christ laid aside the expression of His Deity, He never lost the possession of His Deity . . .”

“All things were made by Him (all things came into being through Him; it refers to every item of Creation one by one, rather than all things regarded in totality); and without Him was not any thing made that was made (nothing, not even one single thing, was made independently of His cooperation and volition).

LIFE

“In Him was Life (presents Jesus, the Eternal Logos, as the first cause); and the Life was the Light of men (He Alone is the Life Source of Light; if one doesn’t know Christ, one is in darkness).

“And the Light shines in darkness (speaks of the Incarnation of Christ, and His coming into this world; His ‘Light,’ because it is derived from His Life, drives out ‘darkness’); and the darkness comprehended it not (should have been translated, ‘apprehended it not’; it means that Satan, even though he tried with all his might, could not stop ‘the Light’; today it shines all over the world, and one day soon, there will be nothing left but that ‘Light’) (Jn. 1:1-5).

THE REASON FOR GOD BECOMING MAN

“That was the True Light (there are many false lights; Jesus is the only True Light), which lights every man who comes into the world (if man is to find Light, it will be only in Christ, and it is for ‘every man’).

“He was in the world (the Eternal Logos, the ‘Creator’), and the world was made by Him (as it was originally created before the Fall of Lucifer and the Fall of man), and the world knew Him not (the world cannot know Christ by wisdom, but only by Revelation).

THE WORD MADE FLESH

“And the Word was made flesh (refers to the Incarnation, ‘God becoming man’), and dwelt among us (refers to Jesus, although Perfect, not holding Himself aloft from all others, but rather lived as all men, even a peasant), (and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father,) (speaks of His Deity, although hidden from the eyes of the merely curious; while Christ laid aside the expression of His Deity, He never lost the possession of His Deity) full of Grace and Truth (as ‘flesh,’ proclaimed His Humanity, ‘Grace and Truth’ His Deity)” (Jn. 1:9-10, 14).

THE REASON THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

“And they which were sent were of the Pharisees (the Holy Spirit is careful to delineate the source of these questions; the opposition now begins).

“And they asked him, and said unto him,
FULL-POWER STATIONS

Baton Rouge, LA. ........................................ 88.5
(Covering parts of Southern Louisiana)

Lake Village, AR/Greenville, MS ............... 95.9
(Covering parts of Western Mississippi and Eastern Arkansas)

Bowling Green/Toledo, OH ....................... 730 AM
(Covering parts of Northern and Central Ohio, Eastern Indiana, and the Southern tip of Michigan)

Atlanta/Texarkana, TX ........................... 100.1
(Covering parts of Northeastern Texas, Northwestern Louisiana, Southwestern Arkansas, and Southeastern Oklahoma)

Graysville, TN ...................................... 95.7
(Covering parts of Southern Tennessee and Northern Georgia)

Camden, AR ........................................ 1450 AM
(Covering parts of Southern Arkansas)

Grenada, MS ....................................... 95.7
(Covering parts of Northwestern Mississippi)

Benton/Yazoo City — Jackson, MS .......... 92.1
(Covering Central Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana)

Guthrie, OK ....................................... 1490 AM
(Covering Oklahoma City, Edmond, and parts of Central and Northern Oklahoma)

Jonesboro, LA ................................... 104.9
(Covering Northern Louisiana)

Augusta/Little Rock, AR ....................... 97.7
(Covering Central Arkansas, Western Tennessee, a small part of Northwestern Mississippi, and a small part of Southern Missouri)

Desoto/St. Louis, MO ......................... 100.1
(Covering Southern Missouri, parts of Eastern Missouri, and Western Illinois)

Palm Springs, CA ............................... 90.9
(Covering the Coachella Valley)

Winfield — Wichita, KS ............................ 91.9
(Covering South Central Kansas and North Central Oklahoma)

Crete, IL ........................................ 88.1
(Covering South Chicago and Chicago Heights)

Ottawa, IL ....................................... 88.9
(Covering Ottawa, West La Salle, East Joliet, and North DeKalb)

Kankakee, IL .................................... 88.3
(Covering Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana)

Nashville, AR .................................... 96.9
(Covering Southwestern Arkansas)

Mobile/Citronelle, AL ......................... 102.1
(Covering Mobile, Alabama)

Lafayette/Church Point, LA ................ 91.9
(Covering Southern and Western Louisiana)

Ada, OK ......................................... 88.7
(Covering South Central Oklahoma)

Albion/Rochester, NY ......................... 102.1
(Covering North Western New York State)

Norman/Oklahoma City, OK ............... 89.3
(Covering Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Panama City, FL ................................ 91.7
(Covering Panama City, Florida)

Beatrice/Lincoln, NE ......................... 88.9
(Covering South Eastern Nebraska)

Grand Island/Hastings, NE ............ 90.7
(Covering South Central Nebraska)

Lakewood/Jamestown, NY ............. 88.9
(Covering Lakewood and Jamestown, NY)

Corrigan/Lufkin, TX ......................... 99.3
(Covering Corrigan and Lufkin, TX)

Bastrop, LA ..................................... 88.3
(Covering Bastrop, Monroe, and the Northeastern part of Louisiana)

TRANSLATOR STATIONS

Andalusia, AL .................................. 89.7
Eufaula, AL ...................................... 88.9
El Dorado, AR ................................... 89.7
Bishop, CA ..................................... 91.7
Key West, FL .................................. 90.5

Continued on page 8


is not me), Who coming after me is preferred before me (Who existed before me, in fact, has existed eternally), Whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose (by comparison to Christ, the greatest Prophet born of woman labels himself, and rightly so!).

“These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing (probably not far from Jericho).

“The next day (refers to the day after John had been questioned by the emissaries from the Sanhedrin) John sees Jesus coming unto him (is, no doubt, after the baptism of Jesus, and the temptation in the wilderness), and said, Behold the Lamb of God (proclaims Jesus as the Sacrifice for sin, in fact, the Sin-Offering, Whom all the multiple millions of offered lambs had represented), which takes away the sin of the world (animal blood could only cover sin, it could not take it away; but Jesus offering Himself as the Perfect Sacrifice took away the sin of the world; He not only cleansed acts of sin, but, as well, addressed the root cause [Col. 2:14-15])” (Jn. 1:24-29).

THREE THINGS HERE SAID

When John introduced Jesus, he said three things of Him that had never been said about another human being. They are:

1. “The Lamb of God:” Why did the Holy Spirit through John refer to Christ as “the Lamb of God?”

He did so simply because of all the multiple millions of lambs that had been offered in sacrifices before now, even from the dawn of time, which was meant to symbolize
“Of all the millions of sacrifices that had been offered previously to this, as stated, even from the dawn of time, those sacrifices did not take away even one sin. The best that animal blood could do was to cover the sin, thereby serving as a stopgap measure until Christ would come.”

the coming Redeemer. He would be the “Lamb of God” Who would go to the Cross in order to redeem the fallen sons of Adam’s lost race.

2. “Which takes away the sin of the world:” Of all the millions of sacrifices that had been offered previously to this, as stated, even from the dawn of time, those sacrifices did not take away even one sin. The best that animal blood could do was to cover the sin, thereby serving as a stopgap measure until Christ would come. What He did on Calvary’s Cross literally took away the sin of the world, at least for all who believe (Jn. 3:16). Truly, every person who is Born-Again, their sins have been taken away. David had prophesied nearly a thousand years earlier:

“As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. (This is equivalent to ‘blotting out our sins’ [Acts 3:19; Isa. 43:25; 44:22]. It is impossible to bring the east and the west together; so it is impossible to bring the forgiven sinner and his forgiven sins together. This Divine fact gives to those who believe it a peace which nothing can destroy)” (Ps. 103:12).

3. “Sin:” is used in the singular meaning, not only were all sins atoned but, as well, the root cause of sin was addressed.

(Here Is My Question About The Cross”.)

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Recently we discussed a topic on “Frances and Friends” that I believe bears repeating – it is the subject of alcohol. I opened our show by reading an email which stated:

“On your program, you got on the subject of alcohol again, and I wonder why this is such a big issue to you. I’ve never drank and I have no desire to, but almost every Christian has an occasional glass of wine. My husband was told by his doctor to have a glass of wine each night to help his heart. The Bible doesn’t discourage drinking in moderation, so why do you keep harping on it? Even the extremely conservative Protestant Reformation churches here call wine, ‘a gift from God.’ I don’t drink, so I’m not trying to justify it. I just think it’s quite legalistic to condemn something that the Bible doesn’t condemn. Drunkenness is another matter though entirely.”

While that email went on to address other topics, I want to deal with these comments made about alcohol because they come up again and again from our audience. One point the email addressed concerns Christians and social drinking. Just what is the harm in a Christian drinking one glass of wine on a holiday or special occasion? I liked how our panelist, Associate Pastor, Jim Nations, responded to this issue. As one of our Associate Pastors here at the Ministry, Jim does quite a bit of counseling on this topic, and he was quick to mention Proverbs 20:1, which reads: “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise. (The Holy Spirit here says that ‘wine mocks,’ and it causes a ‘raging’ in the hearts and lives of all who imbibe. As well, it is a great ‘deceiver.’ This means that every Believer ought to be a teetotaler.)” Think about what the Holy Spirit is saying to us in this Verse of Scripture. As Christians, we should not be deceived by the mockery of alcohol because its use causes so much hurt and pain to people. As Jim went on to say, “No one starts out as a drunk, they start out with a drink.” That’s why we will continue to address the problem of alcohol, even when others perceive our stand against it as judgmental. I think what we’re doing, instead of being judgmental, is that we’re looking at the facts. It’s well-known that drunk driving has killed maybe more people than anything else. In 2010, more than 10,000 people died in alcohol-impaired driving crashes, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. That’s one death every 51 minutes. Just recently, I read stories of two lovely Christian families that had their lives literally shattered because of drunk drivers who either killed or maimed members of their families, affecting these precious people for the rest of their lives. Tragedies like these started with one drink or one glass of wine. I’m sure it makes little difference to families who have suffered such painful losses to know that the person who killed their loved one was a social drinker or a hard-core drunkard. Too many of us hear these numbers and shrug our shoulders, but...
we are talking about death – death! And many of the people who died in alcohol related car crashes did not know Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. How can a Christian condone anything that causes souls to be lost to an eternal Hell?

According to Scripture, Believers have a responsibility. We are not to cause others to stumble. We ARE our brother’s keeper. So, even if you can have one drink and stop, you don’t know who will NOT be able to stop. You don’t know who will become the next alcoholic or drunk driver, so your social/moderate drinking is actually quite unloving. You do NOT love your brother, “And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones who believe in Me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea” (Mk. 9:42).

The email also stated, “The Bible doesn’t discourage drinking in moderation . . .” but, I beg to differ. The Bible certainly doesn’t encourage moderate drinking! In fact, there are many warnings in Scripture regarding alcohol. One Verse says not to even LOOK at wine. In other words, don’t even consider it! “Who has woe? who has sorrow? who has contentions? who has babbling? who has wounds without cause? who has redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they who go to seek mixed wine. Look not you upon the wine when it is red, when it gives his colour in the cup, when it moves itself aright. At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. Your eyes shall behold strange women, and your heart shall utter perverse things” (Prov. 23:29-33).

Alcohol is like any other sin; it gets a hold on you. First, you take one drink; then, two makes you feel better, and then three makes you feel even more carefree. Before you know it, you’re keeping a bottle hidden in your desk, at home, or purchasing it on airplanes when you fly. Once addicted to alcohol, you find ways to get it. Alcohol is a serious, serious problem and addiction. We have people out there who are struggling within an inch of taking their own life because of this sin that so many others are trying to justify. Sadly, we have “pastors” preaching in churches that social drinking is acceptable. The seriousness of alcohol use becomes very clear when you drink alcohol when you apply for health insurance? Why do you think they ask you if you drink alcohol? Because there is actually GREATER RISK for adverse affects to your health than there are benefits.

... so goes the church, so goes the nation. Actually, the main health benefit, the “resveratrol,” is really found in the grape, not the alcohol itself. If you want the benefit of the grape, drink grape juice or eat grapes. It’s simply an excuse for sin to try to say you are drinking alcohol for health reasons. Any “benefit” can easily be found from other sources. In fact, there are actually many health risks to drinking alcohol. Why do you think they ask you if you drink alcohol when you apply for health insurance? Because there is actually GREATER RISK for adverse affects to your health than there are benefits.

As Brother Carl Brown pointed out on the “Frances and Friends” program, “Christians who don’t really want to consecrate to the Lord are the ones who take up issues.”
such as social drinking,” and he is absolutely correct. Quite simply put, drinking alcohol appeals to the flesh, not to the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never lead one to drink alcohol. Churches defending alcohol use may as well have a big red neon sign blinking for everybody to see that says, “We’ve lost the Power of God, and we’re having to imitate.” In other words, “We’ve got to put something in to take the place of the Moving and Operation of the Holy Spirit.” Ladies and gentlemen, be assured that there is absolutely nothing else that compares to the Anointing and the Power of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives and in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. “For these are NOT drunken, as you suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the Prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh . . .” (Acts 2:15-17). As Believers, the Lord gives us the Power to live a consecrated life and He reminds us, in I Corinthians 6:19, that our “body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Something in man always thinks he can control sin. Something in him says, “Oh, I can handle this; I can stop at one drink,” but, when you play around with sin, you are actually dealing with the spiritual realm. And, believe me, no mortal man is stronger than the spiritual powers of darkness. You are playing with fire. This is what you call deception! It’s deception to think you can drink moderately and it has no effect on you. You are deceived. What if a problem arises in your life? You may turn to the alcohol when you never thought you would have before. You are tempting yourself and God to try to drink moderately. “. . . You shall not tempt the Lord your God” (Mat. 4:7). Even if you do not become an alcoholic, drinking alcohol can affect you spiritually in other ways. It is more than a coincidence that alcohol is referred to as “spirits.” Alcohol, like any other drug, actually opens your mind to the spirit world. Satan has more leeway to plant suggestions in your mind that are anti-Biblical when you use drugs. It’s a well-known fact that other religions purposely use drugs in order to get in touch with their “gods” or spirits, which we as Believers know are nothing more than demon spirits. People often hallucinate after drinking, particularly after a tragic event or a stressful time in their life. These hallucinations are demonic in nature. They often appear as “familiar spirits.” The Bible says that the last days would be marked by “pharmakeia,” – sorcery, drugs! “. . . For by your sorceries were all nations deceived” (Rev. 18:23).

So, maybe you will not become the next alcoholic, but you may engage in some other sin. Many end up in fornication or homosexuality because they have opened themselves up to spirits of lust through alcohol and drug use. Many become angry and even commit murder under the influence of drugs. Many begin to believe false doctrine and fall away from Truth in some way. You may leave the Message of the Cross. You see, if you give your mind over to Satan often enough, if you yield your mind to spirits rather than the Holy Spirit often enough, you will have no control over what lies you start to believe. “BE SOBER, be vigilant; because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour” (I Pet. 5:8). When people are given over to false doctrine, it’s actually a sign of God’s Judgment. I don’t find it a coincidence that both false doctrine and the acceptance of alcohol are on the rise in our churches. The two go hand in hand.

Really any Believer should be convicted of drinking alcohol, but many have pushed away the conviction and chosen not to obey. The Holy Spirit will never lead you astray, but He does not force us to obey Him either. If we push Him away, He will not override our will or force us to repent. “Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts” (Rev 9:21). This is why it’s so important for Believers to develop a close personal relationship with the Lord and be Spirit-led. He will show you right from wrong, but you must draw near to Him. The more you allow Him to be Lord of your life, the more that answers to moral questions such as these become very simple. It’s our own “thinkings” and intellect that get in the way. It’s our intellect that devises excuses or tries to justify our sins. Look to the Lord for your answers.

Frances Swaggart

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I Chronicles 4:9-10 – “And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow. (The Holy Spirit began the notation concerning Jabez by making the statement concerning him being more honorable. The reason was the trust in God and hunger for God which Jabez had.

“In Hebrew culture, the mother, with some few exceptions, always named the child. In that culture, the name was very important. If the Holy Spirit did not impress upon her the name that was to be given, as He sometimes did, she would name the child according to what she wanted him to be, or because of something that had happened in the family that was either a blessing or a curse [especially the boys]. This lady, in naming her little boy ‘Jabez,’ which means ‘he makes sorrow,’ either did not want him, or else felt she could not properly care for him; therefore, the child, by being given this name, would always be reminded of the negative circumstances of his birth. This severe hindrance could have turned him toward bitterness, which would have destroyed him, or toward God. Jabez allowed it to turn him toward God.

“Every difficulty in the life of any person who knows the Lord, irrespective of its severity, can be turned into a blessing. In fact, God specializes in turning the curse into a blessing.)

“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that You would bless me indeed (every Believer should ask the Lord for ‘the blessing,’ for God is a Blessing God), and enlarge my coast (give me a greater vision), and that Your Hand might be with me (the Hand of God can do anything), and that You would keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! (This is the last entreaty of the prayer of Jabez, and is the largest and most far-seeing. It referred to ‘evil’ in general but, more than that, it referred to evil which had evidently plagued his family in the past.) And God granted him that which he requested (He will do the same for all who will dare to believe Him, exactly as He did for Jabez).”

According to Jewish tradition Ezra is considered the author of First and Second Chronicles. These two Books are the two most important historical narratives ever written. Why? Chapters 1 through 9 consist of the genealogies of particular families, all with one main focal point – the coming of Christ. All of the families in some way had something to do with the coming Redeemer and there is no greater honor than to be associated with Jesus Christ.

When you read these genealogies, you are literally reading the story of your Redemption, you are reading the story of Grace and Mercy, and you are reading Eternal Life. The name “Chronicles” is from the Hebrew “Dibrei Hayyamim,” which means, “words of the days,” or in today’s language “the diary,” a diary kept by God.

**JABEZ’ PRAYER**

The first thing I want you to notice is that this wonderful story just springs upon you in the midst of the giving of the genealogies. Verse 8 ends with the words, “. . . and the families of Aharhel the son of Harum,” and then as though it leaps from the pages with “And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren. . . .” Understand, everything done by the Holy Spirit has a purpose. Perhaps He did it this way so that to find it one must be a student of the Word, only found as we dutifully study God’s Word.

This prayer is meant to be a lesson for us. The Lord is
telling us that what was done for Jabez will be done for anyone who will humble themselves, so when you read this prayer, read it knowing that the Lord can do for you what He did for Jabez.

**THE NAME JABEZ**

The Text says, “. . . and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bore him with sorrow.” In Hebrew culture, it was the mother’s responsibility to name the child. Usually, the name was tied to what she wanted him to be or by some event, good or bad, which had taken place in the family.

The name “Jabez” means “he makes sorrow.” By this, we understand that something of great sorrow was attached to his birth. Whatever it was that happened, it was bad enough for his mother to give him a name that was a constant reminder of the pain and sorrow of the past.

**HONORABLE**

“And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren. . . .”
This is what the Holy Spirit said of him. No matter what had happened in the past, no matter the stigma or shame of the past, Jabez refused to let that be a hindrance to him. He refused to let his past define who he was. What a Testimony!

**JABEZ CALLED ON THE GOD OF ISRAEL**

We find in this statement that Jabez knew his only hope was to “. . . call on the God of Israel.” No matter what one has suffered, or is presently suffering, one’s only hope is the Lord.

To call on God means that one puts their trust in Him and Him Alone. It means to look exclusively to the Lord for help and guidance.

**OH THAT YOU WOULD BLESS ME INDEED**

Jabez knew his only hope for blessing was the Lord. As well, he understood that God is a Blessing God. He desires to bless each and every one of His Children.

The word “blessing” means “increase.” The Lord wants to see us increase Spiritually, materially, emotionally, and in every area of our lives. However, faith, trust, and seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness must be paramount on our part.

**ENLARGE MY COAST**

By this statement, Jabez was stating that he was not going to dwell in the circumstances of the past. He knew that the Lord could “enlarge his coast” or “border.” He was not going to let his present circumstances hem him in. His prayer is single, “Lord, you can take me where I am now and move me to a place of greater pasture.”

**AND THAT YOUR HAND MIGHT BE WITH ME**

This phrase speaks of the “Hand of Strength,” which, of course, pertains to the Lord and the Lord Alone. As Believers, we must never forget that there is an unseen Hand leading us, guiding us, and upholding us, and the Hand of the Lord is never too short that He can’t reach down and touch His Children. When the Hand of the Lord is upon us, there will be opposition, but the Lord will see us through every situation.

**KEEP ME FROM EVIL**

The phrase, “. . . and that You would keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!” proclaims to us Spiritual foresight on the part of Jabez.

Oftentimes we let the Lord’s Blessings corrupt us, puff us up in pride, as if we have brought about God’s Blessings. Jabez, understanding that prosperity often destroys, asks for the Lord’s Help that he not let God’s Blessings puff him up in pride. Perhaps this is something we all should take to heart.

**ANSWERED PRAYER**

The Text closes, “And God granted him that which he requested.” What a statement. God, the Creator of all the universe, consents to answer the request of Jabez. In the eyes of many, Jabez was a nobody, born in sorrow and shame. But God heard the prayer of his heart, a prayer of Faith, and granted his desires.

May we never forget that the prayer of Jabez was and is not just for him, but it can be our prayer also.

Your Evangelist,

Donnie Swaggart
## U.S. – NATIONWIDE – SATELLITE LISTINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SATELLITE</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>TIMES</th>
<th>CHANNEL</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>24 Hours A Day</td>
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<td>DISH Network</td>
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<td>24 Hours A Day</td>
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<td>Verizon FiOS</td>
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<td>Roku</td>
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## U.S. – NATIONWIDE – IPTV LISTINGS

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## U.S. – CABLE LISTINGS

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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>CT</td>
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<td>Cleveland</td>
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</table>

Continued on page 20
OVER-THE-AIR (DTV) TELEVISION

For those of you who are not familiar with digital television, these are free “old fashioned TV channels” that are able to be picked up with a digital tuner and antenna. Most new televisions are equipped with built-in digital tuners or you can purchase a tuner from your local electronics store (Best Buy®, Radio Shack®, etc.). As well, you can purchase the proper antenna at your local electronics store. Many viewers under the broadcast signal of the television station can use a small, digital antenna inside the home. For those on the outer edge of the signal or to receive the best signal, an outdoor antenna may be required. Both indoor and outdoor antennas are available for less than $50!

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<thead>
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<td>Buckeye</td>
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Until a channel comes to your area, enjoy your favorite radio and television programs by visiting www.sonlifetv.com.
You can already view “live” services and prerecorded programming on-line!
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### TV PROGRAMMING

#### Closed captioning available for all programming.

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I AM A YOUNG CHRISTIAN . . . IT IS SUCH A WONDERFUL FEELING TO KNOW THAT YOUR GOD IS THERE FOR YOU IN THE BAD TIMES AND THE GOOD TIMES!

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I am a young Christian, and I am blessed every time I listen to y’all on TV. I feel like God is touching me, and I begin to cry. It is such a wonderful feeling to know that your God is there for you in the bad times and the good times!

Email

I WATCHED YOUR SONLIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK THIS PAST SUNDAY, AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, CAME TO WORK IN A MUCH BETTER FRAME OF MIND AND IN PEACE WITH THE SITUATION!

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I watched your SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) Sunday. My employment is very stressful due to environment and work load. Usually I dreaded Mondays with a passion, and came to work in a pessimistic frame of mind. However, I watched your Network this past Sunday, and believe it or not, came to work in a much better frame of mind and in peace with the situation! Thank you so much.

Kentucky

THANK GOD FOR YOU, AND ALL THAT THE ALMIGHTY HAS DONE

Dear Brother Swaggart,

Thank God for you, and all that the Almighty has done. My husband and I watch you every Sunday, and just about every day. I am homebound, but I feel as though I am right in the Service with you! I am Holy Ghost filled, praise God, and I hunger and thirst always for more.

North Carolina

YOUR BOOK ON “NOAH” . . . WHAT A WONDERFUL AND INFORMATIVE BOOK . . . SO FAR, THE BEST OF ALL THAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I recently finished reading your book on “Noah.” What a wonderful and informative book. So far, the best of all that you have written, in my opinion. I am now reading “Great Women Of The Bible, Old Testament,” and it too is exciting with so much information about these women who made strides towards Christianity for us all. I have read part of “Daniel,” and look forward to the other books you have coming out. Thank you for the work you do for the Cross of Christ!

California

I JUST RECENTLY STARTED GETTING SONLIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK . . . I WAS A BACKSLIDER . . . BROTHER SWAGGART STARTED GIVING THE ALTAR CALL, AND I GAVE MY HEART BACK TO GOD

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I just recently started getting SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) on our Cable station. I was a backslider, and had been for several years. My husband used to be a Minister, and I would sing at our church, but we both went back on the Lord through all of this. I have been watching a lot of your programs, and God kept dealing with me. I would try to flip the channel, and finally I left it on your station a few nights ago and the tears started flowing. Brother Jimmy started giving an Altar call, and I gave my heart back to God. I have a long road ahead of me, my husband has been watching some of your shows, and I saw the tears flow when Brother Swaggart was singing, “The Anchor Holds.” He has not given his heart back yet, but I believe it will not be long. Thanks again for your Broadcasts, it is really touching people’s hearts, I know it did mine.

West Virginia

I HAVE BEEN SAVED AND SPIRIT-FILLED . . . BUT I WAS SO DEEP IN LEGALISM . . . ONE DAY, IN MY PRAYER TIME, THE HOLY SPIRIT SPOKE TO ME AND SAID, “THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS RIGHT, AND YOU NEED IT.”

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I am a little acorn, and maybe one day if Christ delays His Coming, I will become an oak tree. Brother Swaggart and the other ministers are oak trees to me. Of course, Brother Swaggart is the largest and oldest tree. About five years ago I accepted and received the Message of
the Cross through this Ministry. I have been Saved and Spirit-filled ever since I was a child. But I was so deep in legalism, because I believed and taught whatever my pastor and leaders taught me. In fact, when I first read about the Message of the Cross in the Expositor’s Study Bible, I was offended and I put the Bible down. But one day, in my prayer time, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, “The Message of the Cross is right, and you need it.” Praise God, I said, “Yes, Lord!” The Holy Spirit began purging and delivering me from legalism. I began to watch SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) on a regular basis. It revolutionized my life. Now I am preaching it on my weekly radio broadcast, and everywhere God opens a door for me.

Please let Brother Swaggart know that there are many little acorns sprouting up, teaching the Message of the Cross. I’m not talking about those ministries on radio and TV that are preaching a partial message, they only go so far and then they stop. I thank God that I am a part of this Ministry where the whole Gospel is being taught and preached. I love you all!

Email

THE LORD JESUS COMPLETELY HEALED ME!

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I was facing death and many sicknesses. The Lord Jesus completely healed me! The doctor said he didn’t know what to say. When I came home from the hospital, the Lord led my wife and me to SonLife Broadcasting Network. We bought everyone in our family an Expositor’s Study Bible. We can’t thank you enough!

New York

THE LORD SET ME FREE THROUGH THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

Dear Brother Swaggart,

The Lord set me free through the Message of the Cross. Several months ago I heard it, and the bondage was broken completely. This sin I did every day for four years. But it has been four months since I’ve even had the desire to do it! Just some encouragement for you that SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN) has impacted my life for Christ. I’ve been called to the ministry, and received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit last week! Thank you for never letting anything get in front of Jesus’ Work.

New Jersey

THE CROSS IS THE ANSWER TO ALL THINGS . . .

Dear Brother Swaggart,

As a longtime Nazarene I want to thank you for your faithfulness to God, and your preaching and teaching on the Message of the Cross. It has changed my life dramatically, created a greater understanding of my Christian heritage, and has helped me to be a better teacher and minister for Christ Jesus. The Cross is the answer to all things, and has led me to a fuller understanding of the Spirit-filled life.

May God continue to bless you and the ministry of SonLife Broadcasting Network (SBN). I have found great comfort from your Anointed telecast. Although I am a Nazarene by choice, I am so proud to call you Brother, and remain in awe of God and His awesome Work through your Ministry. It really is wonderful to be in the family of God! Continued prayers for you, the SBN staff, and to a lost and dying world.

North Carolina

I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR OBEDIENT THE LORD WITHOUT COMPROMISE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Dear Brother Swaggart,

I just want you to know that I have watched and been blessed by your Ministry since I was very young. Saturday I watched your broadcast all day long. I couldn’t turn it off. I danced in the Spirit for the first time in a long time right here in my living room. I love the teaching of the Cross, and have many of your music albums. Your music and ministry throughout the years have been a blessing to me, and I want to be a part of your Ministry and the Message of the Cross.

I am also thankful for The Expositor’s Study Bible. I just want to thank you for obeying the Lord without compromise throughout the years, the good times and bad have been a blessing of encouragement of the Grace of the Blood of our Lord and Saviour.

Texas

THERE IS NO GOLD DUST, NO GOLD TEETH; IT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS!

Dear Brother Swaggart,

Just to let you know that our church has been in renewal for five weeks. The message: The Cross and Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. No flashing lights, songs from the hymnal, not so much contemporary but songs of the rapture, the Cross, the Blood, and Jesus Christ. Souls are getting Saved, people are getting baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other Tongues. People are getting delivered and sanctified.

We had a young man of 21 years who was on drugs and alcohol and had said there is no God. He asked the Lord Jesus to come into his heart! If he got Saved with music of the hymns and other songs, there’s no need to change now! There is no gold dust, no gold teeth; it is the Message of the Cross! We may not have a Sanctuary full, but people are still coming forward every night. Thank God for Evangelists who won’t give up!

Pennsylvania
“PROCLAIMING THE TOTAL POWER OF GRACE”

Romans 5:20 – “Moreover the Law entered, that the offence might abound (the Law of Moses, that the offence might be identified). But where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound (where sin increased, Grace super-abounded, and then some on top of that).”

A FEW MORE PREACHERS ARE PREACHING GRACE

A lot is being said about the Grace of God today. Personally, I couldn’t be happier about that. Grace is the very means by which the believing sinner is Saved, the means by which the Biblically educated are sanctified, and the sole reason why, at some point in the future, those who continue in the Faith will be glorified. Everything we have received from the Lord is the result of Christ’s Work on Calvary. Some few among us are preaching and teaching that. Again, I couldn’t be happier. But, according to Paul the key purpose of God’s Grace is to free us from sin. Not many are talking about that. This makes me very sad. Here’s one of the most important aspects of God’s Grace and the Body of Christ doesn’t know it as we should. So let’s look for a moment at how Grace might superabound in our lives and set us free from all the clinging tentacles of sin.

GRACE FOR THE SINNER

All of us are aware of, or should be aware of, the role that God’s marvelous Grace plays in the initial Salvation experience. Grace is that part that I cannot play. Grace is the role I can’t fulfill. Grace means I can’t work for it, earn it, or deserve it. What I am receiving is totally free — with no strings attached. I appropriate what is being offered by faith and instantly I become a new creation. My name is written down in the Lamb’s Book of Life. The power of the Sin Nature is broken. The Holy Spirit moves in. I’m transported out of the kingdom of darkness and made a member of the Kingdom of Light. I haven’t been required to sing a song, quote a verse, be a witness, or go to a Church Service. When God sees the believing sinner placing their heartfelt trust in the Person of Christ and what Christ did for them at Calvary all this and much more is instantly given. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by Grace are you Saved through Faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the Gift of God: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.” So, Grace is the working of God that takes place in my life as a result of simple childlike Faith in God’s Redemption Plan. I haven’t even discussed Inheritance Rights yet. But they are included too! We could stay
here all day and talk about the benefits and that would be right and good. That is what most “Grace” preachers are talking about. However, the view and purpose of Grace that I want to see preached and understood is largely being ignored or perhaps is still unknown. I want to look at Grace’s ability to overcome the weight and the sin that does so easily beset the Believer.

GRACE FOR THE SAINT

Now it seems as though the hardest thing for some Christians to admit is that as a Believer, even a Spirit-filled Believer, we still have areas of our lives that need to be changed. There is wickedness in the heart of man that must be changed and only the Grace of God can change us. In most cases, for the saint, one area of needed change stands out above the others. Generally that would be the area that God has set his sights on changing first. The Holy Spirit has revealed to us what is wrong in our lives and then He (the Holy Spirit) tries to bring us to the place that we will believe Him to fight and defeat, conquer and remove from our being everything and anything that doesn’t resemble our elder Brother, Jesus. It seems that rather than trust in God’s Grace to remove sin we either ignore it or try to remove it on our own. Both are fruitless and dangerous directions. No sin, habit, idiosyncrasy, or evil can be eliminated by self-effort. We must admit our personal responsibility for our sin and trust in the Power of God’s Grace to remove what is unsightly and harmful to us. Our featured Text written above says, “Where sin abounded, Grace did much more abound.” This is the answer to our sin dilemma before and after Salvation. Grace is the only entity in existence that is greater than sin. So the question is, “How do I get what I can’t work for, earn, or deserve?” The answer is found in Faith.

FAITH AND GRACE ARE CONNECTED

When we express Faith in what Jesus did to save us (He died on the Cross for me) God sends forth His Grace superintended by the Person of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit sees to it that all the benefits that Jesus died to provide are assigned to me. However, when I face a problem such as a weight of sin that destroys the Abundant Life intended by God, I must believe that Jesus’ Death on Calvary also paid the price for overcoming Power over sin. My Faith in Jesus’ Victory for me causes the Holy Spirit to manifest this benefit of Salvation, this benefit of Grace into my life. Therefore, as I daily view Salvation as something that God has supplied for me through His Son at Calvary, the benefit of supernatural Power over sin is afforded me. God supplies overcoming delivering Grace the same way that He supplies Saving Grace. In Colossians 2:6 the Bible says, “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in Him.” So, preachers, if we are going to preach Grace, we must tell God’s People that they are set free from their present sin dilemma by Grace through Faith. A failure to do so brings only a portion of the truth about Grace to the heart and mind of the Believer. Let’s help others walk in the fullness of God’s Grace by aiding them in their battle against sin. And, Believer, if you don’t quit . . . God won’t quit! Believe and receive the Grace you so desperately need to be delivered from any and every sin. Amen!

CAMPMEETING SESSIONS

Don’t fail to be with us at the upcoming Easter Camp-meeting. We will be teaching special pre-campmeeting sessions. The dates and times are below

EASTER CAMPMEETING

- **SPECIAL TEACHING SESSIONS:**
  - Monday, April 14: 1-4 p.m. • 6-8 p.m.
  - Tuesday, April 15: 1-4 p.m. • 6-8 p.m.
  - Wednesday, April 16: 9 a.m.-12 noon
  - 7 p.m. Campmeeting Begins

Loren Larson
President
Genesis 12:1 – “Now the Lord had said unto Abram (referring to the Revelation, which had been given to the Patriarch a short time before; this Chapter is very important, for it records the first steps of this great Believer in the path of Faith), Get thee out of your country (separation), and from your kindred (separation), and from your father’s house (separation), unto a land that I will show you (refers to the fact that Abraham had no choice in the matter; he was to receive his orders from the Lord, and go where those orders led him).”

SEPARATION

Reading the Twelfth Chapter of Genesis, we see that the first thing that God demands is separation. We as Believers must recognize that the same Cross that connects us to and with God separates us from the world. In other words, we are in this world, but no longer of this world. Let that statement sink in for a moment. We are in this world, but due to what Christ has done for us at Calvary’s Cross, and our acceptance of that Finished Work, we are no longer of this world. We have become strangers on this Earth, for this world is no longer our home, but as the old song says, “We’re All Just Passing Through”.

Abraham was commanded by God to separate himself from his country. This simply means that Abraham was no longer to look at Ur as his homeland, but he was ever to seek a new Home, one Whose Builder and Maker is God. We today are never to look at this present world as our home, for this world is full of heartache, pain, hatred, and sin. We are to seek for a country, because we see that this present world cannot satisfy the longing heart. This world has lost its attraction and appeal, and there is nothing that this world can offer to heal the brokenhearted.

Now, this is where I infuriate some Christians, but this I cannot help. I must deliver what I feel the Lord has told me to proclaim. Paul would write to the Christians in Rome, “And be not conformed to this world (the ways of the world): but be you transformed by the renewing of your mind (we must start thinking Spiritually, which refers to the fact that everything is furnished to us through the Cross, and is obtained by Faith and not works), that you may prove what is that good (is put to the test and finds that the thing tested meets the specifications laid down), and acceptable, and Perfect, Will of God (presents that which the Holy Spirit is attempting to bring about within our lives, and can only be obtained by ever making the Cross the Object of our Faith)” (Rom. 12:2).

BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD

God has told me to take a stand regarding some of the music in the church today. Of course, this has caused many in the church to detest me, however, I want everyone to know that it is in my heart not to please men, but rather, to please God. I honestly do not care what others say about me, I only care about what the Lord knows. The Lord has called us to be separate from the things of this world. We are not to be like the world in any way, shape, form, or fashion. We have been separated from the world by Jesus Christ and what He did at Calvary, which means that we have been bought with a Price, a tremendous Price at that, the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

“Conform” in the Greek means “to fashion, to conform to the same pattern outwardly.” In other words, that Text can say, “Stop being molded by the external and fleeting fashions of this age.” Too many in the church are being conformed, or molded to the things of
this world, rather than being conformed or molded to Christ. Many have allowed the music of the church to be molded, or fashioned, after the music of the world, all in the hope to reach the world. They say that we have to be like the world to win the world. If that is the case, then why did the Holy Spirit instruct Paul to write this in the Sacred Text? We are not to conform to this world, we are not to be fashioned to be like the world, and we are not to be molded to this world. Rather, we are to be like Christ.

SEPARATION

The second and third Command that God gave to Abraham was to separate himself from his kindred, and from his father’s house, which can be extremely difficult to do. But now that we have been bought with a price, and even though we continue to love our family, we must put Christ, and what He Desires for us, first. This means that even though our family may have plans for us, what they would want us to do, or where they want us to go, nevertheless, what they want should not come before what the Lord wants. This is where many fall by the wayside, for many are not willing to do this. They desire what their families want over what the Lord wants. Granted, what our family members want for us many times are wonderful things, but they pale in comparison to what the Lord wants.

I can remember one instance; I was at a particular store here in Baton Rouge, right down the road from the Church. I was with Sam and Abby; Caroline had not yet been born. We were just spending time together and I was enjoying my time with my kids when a man approached me. He recognized me and seemed so happy to see me. He began to tell me how much SonLife Broadcasting Network and SonLife Radio had blessed him. He told me how much the Message of the Cross had strengthened him, and how much he had grown in the Lord. He also informed me that his home church was dying, how they did not believe in the Message of the Cross, and how they were under so much Law and condemnation. I asked him where he was from, and he stated that he was from Baton Rouge. I was taken aback a bit by his answer. He told me that his church was not too far from Family Worship Center. To encourage him, I explained to him that he should come to our Church, since he’s from Baton Rouge, and not too far from where we are. He dropped his head and told me that he could not make the move, for his family was Saved at that church and he might lose family members if he came to Family Worship Center.

Once again, as much as we love our family members, and no matter how much we want to follow the path that they have set before us, we must leave all of that behind to follow the path laid out for us by the Lord. If we decide to follow the path that our families have set before us, God cannot use us. In order for God to use us in the capacity that He desires, we must lay aside what everyone else wants for us and we must put the Lord first in all things.

GOD CALLS US OUT OF SOMETHING INTO SOMETHING

As the Lord commanded Abraham to separate himself from his country, kindred, and family, He did not leave Abraham in a lurch. He told him to go “unto a land that I will show you.” This refers to the fact that Abraham had no choice in the matter, for he was to receive his orders from the Lord and not from man. He was not to be deterred by what family members thought, or what others thought, but he was to leave everything behind and follow after the Lord. The same is applicable to us today, for God always calls us out of something and brings us into something else. You can say that when the Lord saves us, He saves us out of sin and places us into Christ. He never saves us in sin. Let that be a lesson to us. God never saves us in sin, but He always saves us out of sin.

All this world has for us is heartache, pain, ungodliness, and unrest. But Jesus Christ has something else to offer us, and that is Peace, Rest, Joy, Godliness, Victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, and Everlasting Life. What the Lord has to offer us far outweighs what the world has to offer. And even though the Lord demands separation from the world, what He has in store for us will bring great blessing upon us.

In Him,

Pastor Gabe

Follow me on twitter@gabeswaggart
FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

Campmeeting

EASTER 2014
APRIL 16–20

A MEETING FOR ALL AGES!

JIMMY SWAGGART
DONNIE SWAGGART
GABRIEL SWAGGART
LOREN LARSON
BOB CORNELL
DAVID BORG
JOHN ROSENSTERN
JIM WOOLSEY
Experience the Difference!

WEBC&S PRECAMPMEETING SESSIONS
(Located in the SonLife Radio Building)
Monday ........................................ 1-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.
Tuesday ......................................... 1-4 p.m. & 6-8 p.m.
Wednesday ..................................... 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CAMPMEETING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
(Located in Family Worship Center)

Wednesday ................................... 7 p.m. ................. Donnie Swaggart

Thursday – Saturday ......................... 8 a.m. ................. David Borg
................................ ................. 10 a.m. .............. Loren Larson
................................ ................. 2 p.m. ................. Bob Cornell

Thursday ...................................... 7 p.m. ................. Gabriel Swaggart

Friday .......................................... 7 p.m. ................. Jimmy Swaggart

Saturday ....................................... 7 p.m. ................. Donnie Swaggart

Sunday ......................................... 10 a.m. ................. Jimmy Swaggart
................................ ................. 6 p.m. ................. Gabriel Swaggart

ACCOMMODATIONS

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Call for special rates during JSM Campmeetings!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: (225) 768-3438 or visit www.jsmcampmeeting.org

FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER
8919 World Ministry Ave.
BATON ROUGE, LA 70810-9099
Does Judaism today resemble what God had originally conveyed in the Pentateuch? What is the foundation of the modern Hebraic Roots Movement? To answer these questions, let us examine some history. In so doing, we can evaluate which element modern Judaism and the “Christian” Hebraic Movement resemble most: God’s written Word or Jewish oral tradition.

PRE-CHRISTIAN ERA

In 165 B.C., there was a Jewish uprising of the Mac-cabees against Antiochus Epiphanies of Syria. At that time, the victorious Jews were, in fact, free to worship at the Temple in Jerusalem, but Rome had begun to take over the government of Syria and Israel. The Hasmonean family, to which Judah Maccabee belonged, brought forth leaders that continued to sustain Jewish independence, all the while Rome kept a watchful and observant eye on their progress. In 63 B.C., Pompey of Rome marched into Israel and invaded the Temple during a service, killing thousands of priests and worshippers. Pompey then appointed Hyrcanus – a Jew very friendly to Rome – as the new High Priest, but Pompey stopped short of giving him any royal title.

Some 15 years after this event, Julius Caesar and Pompey entered into a civil war, of which Caesar was the victor. During the conflict, Hyrcanus and Antipater defected from the side of Pompey in order to support Julius Caesar. As a show of gratitude for their allegiance and help, Caesar reconfirmed Hyrcanus as the High Priest and appointed Antipater as procurator of Judea.

After the death of Antipater, his son Herod continued to offer allegiance to Rome. Herod supported Caesar until the latter was assassinated; consequently, Herod shifted his faithfulness from Caesar to Brutus, then from Brutus to Mark Anthony, and then finally from Mark Anthony to Octavian. In exchange for his undying consecration to Rome, Herod was appointed as King of Judea.

JEWISH SECTS AND SCHOLARS

The daily life of a Jew in Israel was directed by two components: the mitzvoth (commandments) found within the Written Law (Torah), as well as the Unwritten (Oral) Laws, which were laws and traditions that had grown up among the people. Several factions of Jewish leadership emerged during this period. The most significant group of religious leaders was the Pharisees, called Perushim. These pharisaical rabbis and leaders placed a focus on the keeping of Jewish law in everyday life and living. They revered both the Written and Oral Law, though emphasis was directed to the oral traditions. The Pharisees believed that study and observance were essential for every Jew, and they even went as far as ruling that every town must have a school for children. The Pharisees comprised most of the 71 scholarly positions in the court of the Sanhedrin, the group that settled questions of Jewish law. The other major group of Jewish leaders was the Sadducees, and the leaders in this faction were the priestly and affluent “elite” of Israel. They emphasized Temple service and insisted on a literal interpretation of the Torah.

Looking outside the boundaries of Israel, at this particular interval in history, there were many Jews who lived and worshipped throughout the Roman Empire. For example, in the city of Alexandria, Egypt, one-third of the people were Jews. To the pagan people of Alexandria, the philosopher Philo actually defended the Jewish religion, explaining how the Scriptures and Jewish traditions taught people to be virtuous. The largest Jewish community outside of the Roman Empire, however, was in Babylonia. When the first Temple was destroyed in 586 B.C., most Jews were forced into exile, fleeing to Babylonia. Years later when Jews were allowed passage back to Jerusalem to build the second Temple, many of the exiles remained in Babylonia. Despite the Jewish community in Babylonia growing to nearly a million strong at this time, they still considered themselves to be in
exile. Those wishing to study the Torah traveled back to Jerusalem. Perhaps the most famous of these Babylonian scholars was Hillel, who travelled to Jerusalem, becoming a leader in schools and in the Sanhedrin. Hillel studied both the Torah and the Oral traditions, and he showed how the Oral Laws actually came from the confines of the written Torah.

ROMAN OCCUPATION

After the Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ, the Roman occupation led to high taxation and dishonor for the Jewish Temple. In fact, the procurator, Florus, robbed the Temple and summarily had his soldiers slaughter thousands of protestors. As a result of this maltreatment, the leaders of the Sanhedrin made plans for war and revolt. They appointed military leaders who were expected to hold back the Roman legions in Galilee. The Jewish General, Josephus, quickly fell to Rome's great General Vespasian, who was under direct charge from Emperor Nero. Consequently, Josephus defect ed to Rome and, although a traitor to the Jews, he recorded an account of Jewish history that was, and still is, unprecedented. The Roman forces then gathered at Jerusalem and surrounded the Temple. The Jewish zealots would not allow surrender, and on the ninth day of Av in the year A.D. 70, the Romans set the Temple ablaze, killing every defender.

Traditionally, it is said that while the Romans were besieging Jerusalem, the scholar Johanan ben Zakkai wanted to speak with the Roman commander, however, the Zealots would not permit anyone to leave the city. Therefore, Zakkai’s students claimed that he had passed away, hid him in a coffin, and carried him out the city walls. Once outside the city, Zakkai contacted General Vespasian for permission to start a school in the town of Yavne near the Mediterranean Sea. Tradition holds that Vespasian gave his approval, and the school started by Zakkai saved the Jewish people, though the Temple was destroyed.

POST-TEMPLE JEWISH LIFE

The study of the Torah continued, even without Temple services. The school established by Zakkai carried on the teachings of Hillel, interpreted the laws, and explained how each rule in the Oral Law was derived from the Torah. The Jews were instructed how they could continue to be Jews by keeping the laws of the Torah in their daily lives, even without the Temple and all associated rituals. The synagogues, which were built in nearly every town by Jews in exile, became the chief meeting places and centers of worship. Study and prayer, rather than sacrifice, became the new way the Jew showed his devotion to God.

The rabbis of the learning academies deliberated on questions of Jewish law. Johanan ben Zakkai, upon building the institutions, also reinstated the religious court, which was headed by a president, referred to as a Nasi. The descendants of Hillel were appointed to these prestigious Nasi positions, otherwise known as Patriarchs. The leaders in the academies were called Tannaim, a title derived from the word meaning “to teach.” The Tannaim knew that war, persecution, and exile might cause the Jewish people to forget their law, unless it was gathered and written down in one place. The old feeling that the Oral Law should remain unwritten began to fade away.

THE TALMUD

Patriarch Judah ha-Nasi edited the Mishnayot, which were statements of Oral Law, and organized them into six Orders of the Mishnah. The Mishnah became the book of study for all Jewish schools. Scholars referred to as Amoraim, from the root “to speak,” discussed and added commentary to the Mishnah. This vast collection of commentary was compiled and dubbed the Gemara. The pairing together of the statements of the Oral Law (Mishnah) and the scholarly commentary on the Law (Gemara) became known as the Talmud. There are two Talmuds, one of which is the Jerusalem Talmud, and the other is the Babylonian Talmud, or the Talmud Bavli.

By the year A.D. 500, Rome did not permit any more Patriarchs. Actually, Christianity had become the state-sponsored religion of the Roman Empire, and converts were made by disallowing all other faiths to prosper. Though there were no descendants of Hillel that could be accounted for, Jews in exile continued to live according to the rules based on Hillel’s teachings that were established by the Nasi.

THE MODERN HEBRAIC ROOTS MOVEMENT – FAILURE

It has been said, and rightfully so, that The New Testament is the Old Testament revealed, thus it is imperative for one to embrace the substance of the New Testament before one can truly benefit from the shadows in the Old Testament; the modern Hebraic Roots Movement asserts that the opposite is true. Therefore, it is no surprise that the Hebraic Roots Movement neglects and altogether minimizes the sacrifice, which is the Lord Jesus Christ. Instead, emphasis is placed on the practice of Jewish traditions, which is entirely against the Plan of God revealed in the Bible. In reality, the modern Hebraic Roots Movement does not even resemble in the slightest God’s written Law, which points to Jesus Christ, and is the very thing they are trying to follow! Yes, the Church should pray for Israel; it is our indebted responsibility to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. But the debt we owe Israel does not involve holding politicized gatherings or sending money for tree planting in the Holy Land. Very simply, the debt we owe to the Jew is the same as for the rest of the world: present them with Jesus Christ as Messiah.

(This article was originally printed in November, 2012.)
HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March the 15th will be the 79th Birthday of this Evangelist. I’ve never felt better; never felt that we were more in the Will of God than right now, and believing God for the greatest Movings of the Holy Spirit that we’ve ever seen. How we give the Lord all the praise and all the glory for all that He has done, is doing, and shall do. In other words, I believe of all that the Lord has helped us to see through the years, that the best is yet to come.

At the time of this writing, we are airing in 71,000,000 homes in the U.S.A. There are 115,000,000 homes in this country which have a television set. We will not rest until we cover every one of them, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As well, we are also airing in about 130,000,000 homes in foreign countries of the world. That translates into very near a half billion people, who can hear the Programming if they so desire. Please understand, it is imperative with the Holy Spirit that people be given the opportunity to hear whether they do or not. And at the same time, we are taking every door that opens to us in whatever country of the world we can air the Programming. We believe God has called us to do this, and God has called you as well.

YOUR CALLING

You’ve heard me say it any number of times, and I will continue to do so, simply because it is true. Each and every one of you attached to this Ministry in some way, means that you are called of God to help us carry out this task of World Evangelism. It’s a big job, but it is that which we must do. In fact, I believe this will be the last great worldwide Move before the coming Great Tribulation. That’s how close we are. At the same time, the Rapture of the Church is going to take place somewhere in here, and not too very long into the future.

To help us do this, I’m going to be a little bit crass. I’m going to ask for a birthday offering for myself of $79, of which none of it will go to me personally, but all of it for World Evangelism. If you cannot afford that much, give whatever you can, and attach 79 cents to the end of it. And then again, there are some of you who can do even much better, such as $179, $1,079, etc.

As stated, none of this will go to me personally, and I will not take it even if you insist that I do so. It must go for the furtherance of the Gospel.

FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER MEDIA CHURCH

Growing? I’ll say it is, by leaps and bounds. Each and every Sunday morning, most of you hear Frances, Donnie, and Gabe read off the names of the individuals who have become members of the FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER MEDIA CHURCH. How happy we are to have you.

We have people to tell us, that they dress up just like they’re going to Church, which they are, when they worship with us on Sunday morning, or whatever time that the Sunday morning Service from Baton Rouge comes into their homes. Please understand, as all of you know, it’s getting harder and harder to find a good Church. Yes, there are some few out there, and thank God for that, and if you can find one you need to get in it and support it. But otherwise, we invite you to join the FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER MEDIA CHURCH. This I guarantee, by the Grace of God, the Gospel without compromise will be given to you each and every day.
One other thing!
So many of you write me and ask, “Brother Swaggart, where do I pay my tithe?”
That question is really very simply to answer. You are to support that which feeds you. It’s just that simple! And I am so very grateful for all of you who do exactly that which we have stated. This I can guarantee, your money is going to reach souls all over the world. And yet, there are many more to be reached. And by the Grace of God, as the Lord opens the doors, we will by His Grace get it done.

INCIDENTALLY . . .
Frances and I are enjoying immensely, the newest addition to our family and, of course, I speak of Caroline Frances, who was born October 15, 2013. She’s a little doll, and to be sure, we can’t take our eyes off of her. She’s not getting all the attention from the other great grandchildren, but to be sure she’s getting her share.

CAMPMEETING
Are you getting ready for Easter Campmeeting? The dates are April 16 through 20. It’s going to be a blockbuster, and I pray that you can be with us.
The last Campmeeting, and I’m speaking of the Thanksgiving Camp, was something else again. The Saturday night Service erupted when the choir began to sing “King Jesus” and I’m sure that you know exactly what I’m talking about, that is if you were with us, or you were worshipping with us by television, the Internet, or by radio. They’re getting bigger and better than ever, and whatever you do, if it’s possible for you to be with us at Easter Campmeeting, you need to do so. You’ll miss something if you don’t, and to be sure, you’ll miss something great.

A NEW RADIO STATION
I am speaking of KJGM, 88.3. It’s in Bastrop, Louisiana, but it covers Monroe, Louisiana, and all surrounding areas. So, those of you who live in that indigenous area, going all the way up to Arkansas on the North, be sure and tune in to SonLife Radio. You won’t be disappointed. It is a 64,000 watt F.M. giant.

In the Master’s Service, yours,

Jimmy Swaggart

THE PROTECTION OF YOUR ASSETS,
YOUR FAMILY, YOUR FUTURE,
AND THE WORK OF GOD
Many people have the mistaken idea that a will is the best legal instrument for the protection and designation of the distribution of their assets. However, by and large, that is incorrect. A will can be contested and is often changed by contentious parties. The very best legal instrument for this purpose is a Living Trust. Call us for further information.

WHAT IS A LIVING TRUST?
A Living Trust is a legal document to transfer all of your property, assets, cash, or whatever you desire from your individual name to the name of your Trust.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF A LIVING TRUST OVER A WILL AND OTHER LEGAL INSTRUMENTS?
1. A Living Trust is one of the very best ways provided by the United States’ tax laws to save on taxes.
2. You, the principal, have total control over your Living Trust, and you can change it as desired at any time.
3. A Living Trust can be secured regardless of your marital status or age.
4. A Living Trust is the best legal instrument to protect your family, to insure the distribution of your assets according to your desires, and to benefit the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why not call our Planned Giving Department at (225) 228-6643 and ask for information concerning Living Trusts?

PLEASE NOTICE (THE EVANGELIST)
If you would like for any Christian friend (any number) living in the United States to receive this magazine (The Evangelist) each month, postage paid and free of charge, please send us their name (or names) and address (or addresses). We will begin their subscription immediately. If they live outside the United States, please contact our office for more information.
With every Expositor’s Study Bible ordered, including the New Testaments, we are giving, as a bonus, the Preaching CD/DVD Combo of the Message, “FORGIVENESS” preached by Walt Mills at Family Worship Center. It’s a Message that every single Believer needs to hear. Incidentally, this is one of the most important subjects in the entirety of the Bible. This Combo includes not only a DVD, but as well a CD. This is an excellent offer, and I would pray that you would take full advantage of it.

Plus Regular Postage, Shipping, and Handling. All prices in this Magazine are valid through March 31, 2014.
SonLife Radio Presents Randy Knaps (22-97M)
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Donnie Swaggart

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Pastor Steve Roberts
Gospel of Life Church
2010 Jefferson Road, Suite A
Northfield, MN 55057
507-259-2644 • pastor@gospeloflifechurch.org
www.gospeloflifechurch.org
EVENT LOCATIONS:
Fri & Sat: 2140 Hwy. 3, South (One Block South of the Church Location)
Northfield, MN 55057
Sun: Gospel of Life Church
Heritage Square Mall Hwy. 3 South
2010 Jefferson Rd., Ste. A
Northfield, MN 55057
Friday: 7 PM
Saturday: 7 PM
Sunday: 10:30 AM

MARCH 21-23, 2014 – REYNOLDSBURG, OH
Pastor Steven Conrad
Eastgate Assembly of God
6519 Tussing Road
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068
(614) 864-7099 • eastgateag@gmail.com
Friday: 7 PM
Saturday: 6 PM
Sunday: 10 AM & 6 PM

MARCH 27-30, 2014 – ASUNCION, PARAGUAY
HOSTS: Asociacion De Pastores Evangelicos Del Paraguay
PRESIDENT PASTOR: Santiago Maldonado
+595-21-529307 • prfelixleon@outlook.com
EVENT LOCATIONS AND TIMES:
Sunday: 9 AM
Comunidades Cristianas
Avda. Artigas 3938 c/ Avda. Santisima Trinidad
Pastor Santiago Maldonado

Sunday: 6:30 PM
Embajada Cristiana De Paraguay
Avda. Tomas R. Pereira c/ Avda. Peron – Acceso al Cerro Lambare
Pastor Felix Leon

Thursday: 7 PM
(These services will be held in a stadium; info to come later.)
Friday: 7 PM
Saturday: 7 PM

Gabe Swaggart

Office: 225-768-3072 | Email: crossfire@jsm.org

MARCH 9, 2014 – PACE, FL
Pastor Joey Rogers
Pace Assembly
3948 Highway 90 Pace, FL 32571
850-202-3100 • info@paceassembly.org
www.paceassembly.org
Sunday: 10 AM

APRIL 4, 2014 – MARIANA, FL
Pastor Dennis Tanton
Way of the Cross Family Worship Center
5273 Highway 90 East, Marianna, FL 32446
678-776-0969 • pastor30014@att.net
Friday: 7 PM

David Borg

Office: 225-768-3890 | Email: davidborg@jsm.org

APRIL 11-13, 2014 – WINNFIELD, LA
Pastors David & Margaret Fowler
Central Assembly
1013 Ogden St., Winnfield, LA 71483
318-628-2542 • (H) 318-648-2119 • (C) 318-471-4917
Friday: 7 PM
Saturday: 6 PM
Sunday: 10:30 AM

JUNE 8, 2014 – MOSS POINT, MS
Pastor Gene Emswiler
Three Rivers Assembly of God
15910 Hwy. 63, Moss Point, MS 39562
228-218-0996 (Pastor), 228-588-2388
Sunday: 10:15 AM & 6 PM
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Matt Swaggart shoots photos of the Valley of Megiddo from Nazareth. It will be in this location that the Battle of Armageddon will take place according to Revelation 16:16: "And He gathered them together (the pronoun ‘He’ refers to God) into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. (This refers to a literal place where a literal battle will be fought. It is the Mount of Megiddo overlooking the plain of Megiddo west of the Mount, and apparently including the Plain of Esdraelon, i.e., Valley of Mediddo.)"