

# THE **Sabbath Sentinel**

May–June 2003



**BSA — The Bible Sabbath Association**

***“The Sabbath was made for man...” — Jesus, the Christ***

# **The Sabbath Sentinel**

**May–June 2003 Volume 55, No. 3 Issue 501**

## **FEATURES**

- 4 **President’s Message—A Prayer for Peace**  
*by Dr. Sidney L. Davis*
- 5 **Iraqi Christians Find Strength under Bombardment**  
*by Open Doors*
- 6 **The Third Day**  
*by Dr. Daniel Botkin*
- 8 **On Being a Christian in Troubled Times**  
*by Brian Knowles*
- 11 **“Men’s Hearts Failing them for Fear”**  
*by Tommy Willis*
- 12 **Engineers without Degrees**  
*by C. Spencer Frazier*
- 18 **The Real Fathers’ Day**  
*by Barbara de Parada*

## **DEPARTMENTS**

- 3 **Editorial—“God and the Nations”**
- 21 **The Church in the World**
- 22 **The Sabbath under Crossfire**
- 23 **Classified Ads**

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## **God and the Nations**

There is a part of life that for years escaped me. But the Lord knew that I was not seeing the entire picture, so He has, little by little, begun to pull back the veil from my eyes. I am beginning to discover what the founders of this nation took for granted: that God the Almighty Father put Jesus over the nations, and that He is indeed King over all the nations of the earth.

Many of you may be saying to yourselves: "Well, I always knew that," but before you dub me a complete biblical ignoramus, let me say, "I knew that too." Yes, I knew the words, "Jesus is Lord and King over all nations," but I never understood what it meant. And, I think my lack of understanding is probably typical of most Christians who have been brought to faith in a pietistic church. Somewhere between the late Reformation period (when many of the modern Western nations were being formed) and our present day, religious people lost sight of the activity of God in the affairs of nations and retreated to the fringes of their culture.

There are probably several reasons for this—fear of persecution, the natural tendency toward secularization in Western societies, the rise of scientism (the view that science can answer all questions), and the advance of Darwinism as both a scientific and social philosophy—just to name a few. Through the last half of the 19th century and the entirety of the 20th century the Church has been on the run, unable to defend itself against the secularist onslaught—unable to answer the questions put forth by an increasingly hostile, secularistic Western culture.

One of the sad results of all this has been the retreat of the church to its "ghetto" and the abandoning of the culture to whatever fate awaited it. Rather than fighting for righteousness throughout our societies and their institutions, we accepted the corner we were placed in and hoped that we would not be too much of a bother to anyone. Our withdrawal has not only brought disastrous consequences to society at large, it has skewed our own thinking about what it means to live righteously within a decaying culture. We began to believe that it was much more righteous to escape the Babylon around us ("Come out of her my people"—

Rev. 18:4) than to overcome the world through righteousness. Many have forgotten Jesus' prayer, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:5,6).

I realize that these are broad generalizations and that not all Christians follow this theology, but I also believe that, for the most part, most Christians believe and act in this manner. Even those who are politically and socially active tend to accept the notion that there are some social and political arenas that we should stay out of. However we got here, we are here and to most of us, "here" is where we should remain.

One of the driving principles taught by the late Francis Schaeffer was that Jesus is Lord of all life, not just Lord over the Church. This of necessity means that the body of Christ, the Church, has a place in all of life, not just in the Church. The teachings of Christ (those principles which make us who we are as Christians) have a place at our work, in our schools, in our courts, in the military, and in politics. In all these arenas we are to bring the life-changing power of the Spirit of Christ to bear on policy and practice.

I shudder to think what kind of constitution this nation would have if Benjamin Franklin had not insisted that George Washington lead the Constitutional Convention and open each session with prayer for God's guidance. If the men who wrote the U.S. Constitution thought as most Christians today think, the document they drafted would probably look more like the Humanist Manifesto than our founding charter.

One thing that most Christians don't seem to grasp is that what happens within nations and between nations (in politics, diplomacy, and war) bears greatly on the Church and the preaching of the gospel. This is very evident in countries that have lost their Christian base—that foundation of godly principles that produced stable and compassionate free societies in the first place. Take the Netherlands, for example. During the second World

*Continued on Page 20*

# **A Prayer for Peace**

**by Dr. Sidney L. Davis**



The war in Iraq brings attention to certain biblical facts. Modern Iraq is ancient Babylon. South of the modern capital city of Baghdad is where the Hebrew worthies Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego refused to bow to the image located on the plains of Dura. Farther south still, exists the ancient city of Ur of the Chaldees, where Abraham first heard the call of God. In the north is Nineveh, the city to whom the prophet Jonah went with a message of judgment. We note the rivers Euphrates and the Hiddekel, now known as the Tigris, the ancient rivers of what was then the land of Cush (Nimrod). These rivers not only take us back to the Hebrew Scriptures as important geographical locations of biblical history, but there is another important ancient river that has great significance in Bible prophecy, the river Ulai. The Ulai River is the location of the great prophecy of Daniel in southeast Iraq along the border of Iran —ancient Persia. It is known today as the Karoun River. This is the prophetic scene of the great conflict between the ram and the he-goat in Daniel chapter 8.

As events taking place in the Middle East unfold before our eyes, it is becoming apparent to many that there may be more to the war in Iraq than meets the eye. It would appear "He [that] removeth kings, and setteth up kings" (Dan.2:21) has seen fit through these events to have our attention focused on the Middle East.

## ***Sabbath History in Iraq***

A number of important Jewish figures are reputed to be buried in Iraq, among them Jehoiachin, the King of Judah who was part of the original Babylonian exile, and Nehemiah, who oversaw the fortification of Jerusalem after the building of the Second Temple. The prophet Ezekiel is said to be buried near the town of Hilla in central Iraq. Tradition places the tomb of Jonah opposite to Mosul, and names it "Nebbi Junus" (that is, "prophet Jonah"). At Alkush (Elkosh) near Mosul is said to be the location of the town and the tomb of the prophet Nahum who also prophesied against Nineveh (Nahum 1:1).

Babylonia was at one time the religious, cultural, and scholarly centre of the Jewish world, the birthplace of the Babylonian Talmud. Babylon became the bastion of Judaism and Sabbath-keeping Christianity until the middle ages when it was overrun by Islam. Iraq is also the region of the ancient Eastern Church known historically as the Nestorians who were Sabbath keepers. They have evolved to become known as the Assyrian Christians who, though still acknowledging their Sabbath heritage, have over time given greater liturgical significance to Sunday. The bastions of Sabbath keeping in Iraq today are the small communities of Jews, who maintain their 2,500 year old presence, and Seventh-day Adventists, who have been in Iraq since the early 1920's. There are three Adventists congregations in the country including one in the city of Nineveh and another in Baghdad where about 200 members meet in a church. The SDA church is one of 13 churches recognized by the government of Iraq. Despite the war and bombings, the SDA church in Baghdad still continues its witness in holding Sabbath services.

## ***What of the Future?***

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is soon to begin humanitarian relief operations in northern Iraq, along with other international relief agencies. Their project will organize and operate camps for approximately 2,700 internally displaced persons in that region. Along with providing needed essentials, ADRA is also organizing a team of doctors and health workers to provide medical care.

Iraqi coalition leaders are meeting in the ancient biblical city of Ur (near Nasiriya) to discuss plans for the country's future. The diversity of Iraq's religious sects and ethnic groups gives hope for a secular government against the majority Moslem Shi'ite majority who have been demonstrating for an Islamic government similar to that of Iran, which is also predominantly Shi'ite.

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*Continued on Page 20*

# Iraqi Christians Find Strength Under Bombardment

AMMAN, Jordan, March 28 — “Your prayers for us have made a difference and continue to lift our spirits,” say Christians in Iraq even as they experience the bombardment of coalition forces against Baghdad, Mosul, Kirkuk, Basra and other cities.

The morale among people we have spoken to is higher than we expected, said a Christian in contact with the church in Iraq. On Sunday (March 23), some of our friends went to church in the morning. During the Lord’s Prayer, as they finished the words “and deliver us from evil,” they heard a terrible explosion not far away. They know that God is with them, protecting and encouraging them.

One man said that at the beginning of the conflict, everyone in the congregation was feeling drained and worn down with fear, but as they felt God speaking to them, telling them to be encouragers for others, their strength returned, and they now feel stronger than they did before the war started.

Several Christians have had their houses damaged by bombs, and one woman has had to be treated for shrapnel injuries. But the conflict has also brought a sense of solidarity and support among the small Christian communities: people are ready to help in any way they can, make temporary house repairs, and provide what supplies they can.

A Christian woman recovering from a recent operation for cancer is afraid at times but looking forward to the day when she can welcome foreign visitors into her home again. Her niece said that when the

bombing starts, they get together and sing and pray until it subsides.

One priest’s wife was crying on the phone: she is worried for her eldest daughter who becomes terrified when the planes are heard. But they support each other in the family and try to keep active in seeing to the needs of the church members.

This conflict has forced us to live for each other and focus on helping each other get through these times of great danger. But we trust in God’s support, His protection and strength, one Iraqi Christian said.

The Christians are also aware of the sufferings of their Muslim neighbors and try to offer help. Their witness and compassion will have a far-reaching impact upon their communities, said one Christian leader.

For the many unofficial churches in Iraq, the start of hostilities has been a mixed blessing. With the attention of the authorities focused on the invasion and the aerial bombardment, there is somewhat less pressure on them.

However, it would not take much for the authorities to turn on the members of the underground churches,

accusing them of being in league with the West. Even the traditional Christian communities run the risk of becoming targets of retaliation for Muslim extremists, and the longer the war continues, the more the Christians in Iraq are vulnerable.

Source: <http://www.opendoorsusa.org/>



*The majority of Christians in Iraq live in northern Iraq, indicated by the dark, circular area.*

# The Third Day

by Dr. Daniel Botkin



When Paul described the essentials of the Gospel, he stated that the Messiah rose from the dead “the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:4). To what scriptures was Paul referring? To the Old Testament, of course, but where does the Old Testament say that the Messiah would rise from the dead specifically on the third day?

When Peter preached about the Resurrection on the Day of Pentecost, he cited Psalm 16:10 as a prophecy of the Messiah’s Resurrection, but Psalm 16 does not specify the third day. Which Old Testament scriptures clearly specify the third day when prophesying the Messiah’s Resurrection? If a reader looks in the Old Testament for a direct statement that plainly announces “the Messiah will be resurrected the third day” (or words to that effect), he will search in vain for any such statement. So how could Paul have said that a third-day Resurrection was “according to the scriptures”?

A truth does not have to be plainly stated in the Bible in clear, easy-to-understand language in order to be “according to the scriptures.” The rabbis of Paul’s day knew this, and today’s rabbis know this. The rabbis even teach that there are four levels of understanding when studying the Scriptures. The four levels are *peshat* (פֶּשֶׁט, the simple, literal meaning of the text), *remez* (רמז, hint, allusion, allegory), *derash* (דרש, exposition, homiletical commentary), and *sod* (סוד, mystery, secret, esoteric teaching). The initial letters of these four Hebrew words form the acronym פֶּרֶדֶס - PaRDeS, the Hebrew word for garden, and the source of our English word paradise.

The Messiah’s Resurrection on the third day is not prophesied in the *peshat* form, but it is prophesied in the *remez* form, and is therefore, as Paul put it, “according to the scriptures.” It is interesting that the Talmud speaks about a relationship between the third day and the resurrection of the dead. Alfred Edersheim, in *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, wrote that “the Rabbis insist on the importance of ‘the third day’ in various events connected with Israel, and specially speak of it in connection with the resurrection of the dead, referring in proof to Hosea 6:2 [‘After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight’]” (p. 631).

Apparently this connection between the third day and the resurrection of the dead was understood even

before Yeshua’s Resurrection. When writing about the customs of first-century Jews, Edersheim states that “the relatives and friends of the deceased were in the habit of going to the grave up to the third day (when presumably corruption was supposed to begin), so as to make sure that those laid there were really dead... In mourning also the third day formed a sort of period, because it was thought that the soul hovered round the body till the third day, when it finally parted from its earthly tabernacle” (p. 631).

Other than the Hosea 6:2 passage, on what basis did the rabbis see a connection between the third day and the resurrection of the dead? Edersheim does not go into detail. The only other passage he mentions is Genesis 22:4, which states that it was “on the third day” when Abraham saw the place where he was to offer Isaac. This is interesting in light of the fact that Father Abraham’s offering of his son, followed by the son’s rescue from off the altar, is a prophetic picture of the sacrifice and Resurrection of the Son of God.

There are many other Old Testament references to the third day, and some hints of resurrection can be seen quite easily in some of these. The very first reference to the third day is in Genesis 1:13, when “the evening and the morning were the third day.” On the third day of this first week of creation, the grass, herbs, and trees emerged from the earth. New life bursting forth out of the earth is an obvious picture of resurrection. The traditional Jewish blessing over bread also points us back to this first occurrence of the third day, when God first brought forth life and life-giving grains from the earth: “Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.” This was probably the blessing Yeshua spoke over the unleavened bread immediately before He said, “Take, eat; this is My body” (Mt. 26:26) at His last Passover. Prophetically He was telling His disciples, “Just as My Father brings forth bread from the earth (something He did on the third day of creation), so He will bring forth My body from the earth on the third day. This resurrection life will be the life of the new creation. Just as you receive physical life from the bread of this creation, so you will receive spiritual life through My Resurrection in the new creation.”

The story of Joseph in Egypt includes two events that occurred on the third day. Pharaoh’s butler was

released from prison and restored to his former position (unlike Pharaoh's baker, who was executed). (Gen. 40:20ff) It was also on the third day that Joseph released his brothers from prison and said to them, "This do, and live..." (Gen. 42:18). Release, restoration, and life after prison, all on the third day, can be seen as a picture of resurrection on the third day.

In Exodus 19:11 & 15, the children of Israel were told to be ready on the third day, "for the third day Yahweh will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai." The manifestation of the glory of Yahweh on the third day at Sinai parallels the manifestation of the glory of Yahweh on the third day at the Tomb when the Messiah rose from the dead in resurrection glory.



A generation after the giving of the Torah, when Joshua led the people into the Promised Land, they prepared to cross the Jordan "after three days" (Josh. 3:2). Crossing the Jordan after three days and thus going from the wilderness into the Promised Land is another picture of resurrection. This picture in Joshua is especially vivid to those who know that Jesus' Hebrew name was the same as a shortened form of Joshua's name. In Nehemiah 8:17, Joshua's name is written יֵשׁוּעַ—*Yeshua*.

Here are just a few other events which suggest a connection between the third day and resurrection. King Hezekiah was healed on the third day and thereby given a Divine reprieve (a resurrection of sorts) after an earlier divine death sentence had been pronounced against him (2 Kings 20:1-5). When the Jews left Babylon to rebuild ("resurrect") the Temple, it was finished on the third day of the month (Ezra 6:15; compare John 2:19-21, "'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up'... But He spake of the temple of His body"). It was on the third day that Queen Esther approached King Ahasuerus to request that the lives of her people be spared ("resurrected") from the irreversible death sentence which had been decreed against them (Esther 5:1).

Of course the one Old Testament event which foreshadows Yeshua's resurrection in a very obvious manner is the sign of Jonah. Yeshua Himself pointed to Jonah's experience as a prophetic sign of His own resurrection. "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the

Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Mt. 12:39f).

The Apostles and the hundreds of other eyewitnesses of the resurrected Messiah did not need the Scriptures to convince them that the Resurrection had happened. They knew from firsthand personal experience that their Rabbi and Lord had risen from the dead. "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you," John wrote (1 Jn. 1:3). "For we have not followed cunningly devised fables," Peter wrote, "...but [we] were eyewitnesses of His majesty" (2 Pet. 1:16). On the day of Pentecost Peter said, "This Yeshua hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:32).

These first-hand eyewitnesses of the resurrection did not need the Scriptures to convince them of the reality of the resurrection. Those of us in later generations do not have the opportunity to be among those first-century eyewitnesses, but the prophecies of the Scriptures confirm that which the inward witness of the Spirit tells us—that Yeshua of Nazareth rose from the dead on the third day.

*This article is reprinted from the Gates of Eden newsletter, March-April 2003. Dr. Daniel Botkin is a member of the board of directors of the BSA and the publisher of Gates of Eden. Dr. Botkin is also the leader of the Gates of Eden Messianic Congregation of Peoria, Illinois. See the Gates of Eden Web site at <http://www.gatesofeden.org/>.*

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# On Being a Christian in Troubled Times

by Brian Knowles



For a wide variety of reasons, it is becoming, in our time, ever more challenging to live life as a Christian. The long accepted order of things is being destabilized. Old boundaries are disappearing and paradigms are shifting — sometimes abruptly. We live in a world in which it is hard to know what one can count on.

As I write, the United States and the United Kingdom are at war with Iraq. US forces are present in more than 40 nations around the world. The world is an unstable place with a small but growing army of dictators, tyrants and usurpers opportunistically competing for power at every turn.

The United Nations is anything but united. As a peacemaking organization, it is virtually useless. It is morally and ethically bankrupt. As a forum for anti-US sentiment, it reigns supreme. As a threat to the sovereignty of nations, it has no equal. The UN actively and overtly pursues a new global order in which it provides the basis for what will undoubtedly be a socialist style world government (though it pays lip service to the idea of democracy).

Christians of all stripes are under siege throughout much of the world — especially in communist and Islamic nations. Tens of thousands of Christians are murdered each year in socialist police states and by religious fanatics. As Christians suffer and die for their faith, the world stands largely mute.

Internally, the Church is a house divided against itself in myriad ways. As an influence on society, it has become largely irrelevant and impotent. It has virtually no influence on society. Rather, society is influencing it to its detriment. There is no such thing as a “Christian consensus” about much of anything. Christians squabble with each other over virtually every point of belief, doctrine and practice. Organizationally, there are tens of thousands of Christian denominations in the world — each claiming to be an authentic manifestation of “the Church.” For a new person, entering for the first time into the Christian world, it has the appearance of utter chaos. Who is right? Who has The Truth? Whom do I follow? Denominations compete for new members, money and support. Disoriented, confused, Christians exit at an alarming rate by the back door of the churches they’ve entered. Hope is often

dashed on the rocks of disillusionment. Being a Christian wasn’t what they thought it would be.

In stormy times like these, we all need to find reliable navigation, firm anchors and safe harbors. In the modern world, such things are elusive or non-existent. All that we once thought we could count on is being incrementally disassembled. Nothing is “for sure.” All bets are off. A new army of destructive barbarians is marauding its way back and forth across the face of the earth leaving in its wake misery, heartache and death. Only half our nation stands firmly against it. The other half seems to seek to give it aid and comfort. Meanwhile, the Church — whatever that is — is in disarray. What, in the face of all this chaos, is a Christian supposed to do?

## Eyes on Christ

Before Jesus departed this earth to be with God the Father, he gave his disciples certain instructions and parting messages. One of them is recorded in John 14:15ff. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments.”

So the first thing every Christian must do, no matter what is happening around him or her, is to explicitly follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. On another occasion Jesus had asked, “Why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?” (Luke 6:46). Doing the things Jesus said that we ought to be doing should be an ongoing preoccupation with every Christian, no matter what his or her denomination teaches or fails to teach. We have four accounts of what Jesus said and did: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Between them, we can acquire a pretty good fix on what Jesus meant by doing the things that he said. It’s a matter of reading them, and following Jesus’ instructions to the degree that we can understand them, and in the places where we can’t, studying, digging and researching until we do. Books like *Jesus the Jewish Theologian* and *The Parables* by Dr. Brad Young are very helpful in this regard (see Recommended Reading List under the Hebrew roots studies heading at the ACD website: <http://www.godward.org/>).

Returning to Jesus’ final instructions to his disciples, we find him saying, “And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be abide with you forever” (John 14:16). The word here-



translated “Comforter” is the Greek *parakletos*. It means in the active sense “helper” or “intercessor.” By the very wording of this verse – “another Comforter” — the same title is implied for Jesus himself. But it is only the Holy Spirit that is expressly called “Helper” in the fourth gospel (cf. John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7). When Jesus was physically present with his disciples, he was their helper, their intercessor. After he ascended to Heaven following his resurrection, the Holy Spirit was sent to aid the Church. For us, it is the empowering aspect of Deity (Acts 1:8). It is the Holy Spirit that enables us to accomplish anything beyond the natural capacities of the flesh and the mind.

## The Role of the Spirit

The terms “Spirit of God” and “Spirit of Christ” are sometimes used interchangeably in Paul’s writings. For example, he says to the Romans, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9).

Real Christianity is not merely a “religion.” To have the Spirit of God or that of Christ is to be “in” the Spirit. The indwelling of God’s Spirit is what makes a person a real Christian (I Corinthians 12:13). If we lack the Spirit of God, we are not authentic Christians, no matter how religious we might be.

The indwelling Spirit of God not only empowers believers, it transforms their minds and revamps their thinking. To the degree that the Spirit of God influences us, we think less and less like the world out of which we were called, and more and more like Christ who was the perfect reflection of God. Note Paul’s words: “be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that you may prove [put to the test] what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

As our minds are renewed by the influence of the Spirit, our worldview changes. We now have a new roadmap with which to navigate the world — in fact we have two: the written Word of God and the guiding, helping, empowering Holy Spirit. Instead of seeing the world from within, we view it from without. We are in it, but not of it. Increasingly, as the Holy Spirit plays an ever-larger role in our lives, we develop a “God’s-eye” view of the world. We learn to see as God sees, and to think as God thinks. Paul said, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5).

The Spirit of Christ should produce in us the mind of Christ. Increasingly, we should be adopting Christ-like viewpoints, attitudes and behaviors. By means of the Spirit, we make the transition from natural, carnal people to spiritual people. Paul explained this process to the Corinthians: “But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

“But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged by no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ” (I Corinthians 2:14-16).

There is a natural person, and there is a spiritual person. The difference is the presence or absence of the influence of the Spirit of God. To the unconverted carnal mind, the concerns and issues of Spirit-led Christians seem absurd, foolish, superstitious or stupidly religious. A spiritual person has a God’s eye view of the world. He or she understands fully what’s going on “out there” because the Spirit of God brings about a different kind of “seeing.” The word of God explains to Christians the nature of the world. The Spirit of God enables us to understand the Word. The nature of the Christian destiny is also explained by the Spirit of God: “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God” (I Corinthians 2:9-10).

## Spiritual Seeing

Spiritual seeing is seeing on a higher plane. To see with spiritual eyes is to realize that there is more to the world than is apparent to the eyes of flesh. It is to see deeper, higher, and beyond the confines of the material world. It is to comprehend that in spite of the daily horrors of life on this planet, God has something better in mind for his children. It is to know that despite our illnesses, weaknesses and human bondages, God has something better in mind for us. As the Word says of Messiah, “The Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings” (Malachi 4:2).

Jesus is the Savior, the Deliverer. He has the answers to all human dilemmas and problems. He is “the way, the truth and the life.” He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. There is no problem he cannot solve, no illness or damage that he cannot heal, no demon that he cannot cast out or subdue. Our relationship with God in Christ through the Spirit is at the heart of what it means to be a Christian in troublous times. We must put energy into this relationship. We must spend time in the Scriptures, studying what it means to be a follower of Yeshua ha Mashiach — Jesus the Anointed One. Once we have studied his teachings and example, and have learned what it is that he requires of us, we must begin living it. To do so, we will have to learn to walk, not merely in the power of our own flesh, but in the Spirit.

## The Importance of Good Works

Matthew 5:14-16 says this: “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid [apparently a reference to a city that is today called Safed]. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

“Let our light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven.”

Christians should not be noted for their scandals, their internal warfare, their doctrinal squabbles, and their endless reorganizations, disfellowshippings and markings. They should not be famous for their lawsuits or their contentious nature. They should be known for their good works.

What are good works? Good works simply means ministering to people at their points of real need. By “people” I mean any people. Jesus didn’t hang out with the Jewish or Roman establishments of his day (though he did go to a Pharisee’s house for dinner on one occasion). He spent time with those who needed him, those who had the humility to listen to what he said. Let’s take a look at Luke 5:27-32. A man named Levi, a tax collector, was invited by Rabbi Jesus to become one of his talmidim — one of his rabbinic students. Levi accepted the invitation. To celebrate the end of his old life, and the beginning of his new one with Jesus, he held a great feast in his own house. (Tax collectors were often quite wealthy. Within Judaism, tax collecting is found on various lists of “despised professions.”) Levi invited his friends and fellow tax collectors to join them for the banquet. When a certain group of scribes and Pharisees got wind of the banquet, they sought to discredit Jesus for the company he was keeping. Jesus then pointed out that “they that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Many of the scribes and Pharisees, though not all of them, were unable to recognize their own sinfulness. They did not consider themselves to be “sick.” They presumed that they should be the teachers and that Jesus, if anything, should listen to them. So Jesus was unable to lead them to repentance.

With the tax collectors and other sinners, it was a different matter. They had the humility to recognize that they were sinners, and that Jesus could help them with their problem. You will often find that the only people you can really minister to are people who have lost all pride and who openly acknowledge their neediness. It is the poor, the broken, and the humble who are able to receive the message of the Gospel. The haughty, the proud, the self-sufficient, the know-it-alls, usually reject it. Look for people who have the humility to receive what you have to give, and then give it gently, with love, kindness and consideration — always protecting that broken person’s humanity and dignity.

If someone is proud, unteachable, resistant, contentious and self-satisfied, avoid them like the plague. If you try to reach them, you are casting your pearls before swine. I believe that we have to come to the end of ourselves before we come to the beginning of God.

Now notice John 13:34-35: “A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

If we hate each other, argue endlessly with each other about every point of doctrine, reject and shun each other, and avoid each other so that we don’t have to meet anyone’s needs, what kind of Christians are we? We don’t have to agree with each other on every point of doctrine to love one another. (Study Romans 14 closely on this subject.)

We need to open up our horizons and expand our vision. We need to recognize the fact that there are true Christians in just about any church, and false ones in most churches. The wheat and the tares grow together until the harvest. The harvest hasn’t happened yet. So we have to live with that reality. But help the people who can be helped, and ignore those who don’t want your help. Love those who will accept your love, and leave the others alone. Don’t cast pearls indiscriminately.

What we have as God’s children is precious. We don’t want to give it away thoughtlessly. We must treat it as precious and share it as something of great value.

We do live in dangerous times. Christians are being slaughtered around the world at a rate of about 100,000 a year, and no one is rushing to their aid. Even other Christians are passive in the face of this carnage. (If you want more information on this, go to the web page of Voice of the Martyrs.) We need to be ready to minister to our brethren who are suffering, and then to anyone God sticks in front of our faces. We need to be shoring up our faith for the trials ahead. We need to come to conviction about what we really believe, and may be willing to die for. We are going to have to live with terrorism for the foreseeable future. It’s like roaches or ants, there’s almost no way to get them all. And if you don’t kill them in their lair, they’ll always come back.

To sum up: Live a clean, godly life. Live morally and live a life of good works. Pray and intercede for all who need it. Help those who have the humility to accept your help. Find the broken people and get them fixed. Be ready at all times to help whomever God plants in front of your face. In helping people, always preserve their dignity and their humanity. Never ever embarrass or humiliate another human being created in the image of God. Be kind to people, be gentle with them. Don’t cast pearls. Be honest in all your dealings. Be trustworthy and full of integrity. Live as much as you can an exemplary life, and don’t give anybody anything to legitimately criticize.

And remember this: who you are when nobody’s watching is who you really are.

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*Reprinted from the Web site of the Association for Christian Development, <http://www.godward.org/>.*

# “Men’s Hearts Failing Them for Fear”

By Tommy Willis

Luke 21:25-26: “And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken” (NKJV).

If we put the above Scripture together with many others that talk about the end of the age, we will see that the time ahead will be like no other. Mankind is about to enter the wildest ride in history.

After Sept 11, the number of people going to professional counselors increased dramatically in some areas of the country. Just think of that, and then think of what God says will happen during the end time, and you will see the fear that will come upon many.

Just the affairs of everyday life have many people on edge; they are crippled emotionally by fears that things won’t work out. And it will only get worse as many of the things that people put confidence in come tumbling down as the twin towers did on Sept 11.

Many of the things people put their trust in will fall. Our paycheck will not pull us through; and many matters of government programs such as Social Security have some experts voicing their concerns that it will not last either. And we will need to learn to deal with the fear that many will get into as these matters come upon us.

This old world is getting ready to be shaken as it has never been shaken before. Everything that is not grounded on Jesus Christ can be shaken. This is why we cannot stress enough the need to get our foundation down in Jesus Christ. As you get grounded in Jesus Christ you won’t collapse when the fabric of society does; and you won’t collapse if the Church organizations continue to collapse, because your trust will be in God.

In the world there will be trials and tribulation; but God tells us we can rest in His peace in a troubled world if we will seek Him as we should: “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27). God will teach us to relax in His peace amid the chaos of the times.

But like a hamster on a treadmill, too often we squander our time with fear and worry. We go through “mental gymnastics”, saying, “What if that happens”, or “what if this happens.” And we make ourselves miserable.

No matter how bad the chaos gets in the world, we need to keep in mind what God promises us in 1 Corinthians

10:13, that He won’t allow us to go through more than we can handle. That’s a comfort that will help us deal with our fears.

1Pet 4:12-13: “Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ’s sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy” (NKJV).

The “fiery trial” is a point of refinement.

In relating to the end time the book of Daniel says: “And he said, go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. Many shall be purified and made white, and tried...” (Dan 12:9-10). And the trying of our faith is more precious than gold. We must hold fast in these trials; fear can cause us to get out of focus with it all.

Many things will come along that can cause fear in our lives; and we need to take the steps that God says to take in order to deal with the fear. In Ps 34:4, David says, “I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears”. Here we see that David had fears like we all do, but he took action to do something about them. We need to do the same. As we seek God out diligently, He will distill the fears and have us walk in His peace.

Just think of the disciples who ran in fear when Jesus was arrested. The Scriptures say they all forsook Him and fled. Then just fifty days later, men who had acted like cowards went on to astound the world with courage, because now the One who bled and died for us was in them to produce. And that’s what is important for us to understand, that we need the ability of God inside us to deal with the fear.

When Jesus said you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free; this includes freedom from fear. But many Christians relate to truth as being only the doctrines and fail to see that it is a Person. Freedom from fear lies in the Living Liberator.

As we get to know Jesus Christ and how much He cares for us, and how much we can depend on Him, He will deliver us from the fears that often paralyze us; and we will learn to relax in His peace. “For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim 1:7). □

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# Engineers without Degrees

## The World of Bees and Termites

by

C. Spencer Frazier

Our son, Jeff, spent four years in high school taking many courses, among them algebra, geometry, calculus, and the like. Then he continued on to Purdue University's engineering school where he spent four years studying even more difficult courses. Finally, a year ago he was awarded an engineering degree in Computer Science. His story is much the same as human engineers all around the world.

### But What If?

But what if we could find feats of engineering performed by creatures with no training or schooling? What if we could find creatures in nature executing complex engineering projects? What then?

Imagine an engineer given a special assignment to maintain a constant 93 degree temperature in a wooden box about 2 feet square and 3 feet high. The temperature can vary by only one-quarter of one degree. Not challenging enough? Suppose we add two more conditions to the project:

- 1) Use of electricity is not allowed.
- 2) It must work in all types weather for thousands of years without failure.

Do you think the brightest and highest trained human engineers in the world using the latest equipment available could accomplish this assignment? I don't think they could.

### Complicated Engineering Projects

Yet this assignment is being done routinely every day all over the world! The difference is, it is not done by human engineers. It is done routinely *by honey bees*. The book *Microcosmos*(1) explains, "The temperature inside a beehive during the summer months stays at a virtually constant 93 degrees (to within  $\pm 0.25$  degrees), since this is the ideal temperature for the development of larvae. When the temperature drops, the bees release heat by vibrating their thoracic muscles without moving their wings. When the temperature rises too high, they fan the overheated air by rapidly beating their wings and by bringing water from the outside to cool the hive. This efficient thermal control is made possible by the specialized receptors in bee antennae,

which can detect variations in temperature to within one-quarter of one degree."

Let's stop and analyze what was summarized so briefly by the authors.

### An Analysis of Surprising Information

First, a difference of one degree is an incredibly narrow range. Each bee must act very quickly either to increase or decrease the temperature! But, we're just talking about one bee because thousands of bees operate all *together as a unit*. This brings up some very interesting questions:

- How are the directions given?
- How does the group know when to start either beating their wings to *lower* the temperature or to vibrate their thoracic muscles to *raise* it?
- How do they know when to get water?
- How much water is needed?
- Who stays to beat their wings and who goes for water?

We are told by some evolutionists that bees, along with the rest of us, evolved from something like fruit flies. How did the first generation of 100% honey bees know a constant temperature was even needed for their offspring to be born? How did they know it was exactly 93 degrees? After all, if the first generation of offspring had not performed their functions *exactly right*, there would have been no more chances for experimentation up and down the temperature range. We are told it is always survival of the fittest. There are some 15 million insect species. 14 million and some odd other insect species have no such critical temperature requirement for their offspring to be born. Now consider this: a 93 degree temperature requirement has to be a huge impediment to survival. Under the theory of "survival of the fittest," a species with such an enormous drawback would have died out millions of years ago, while those species with more lenient requirements would have survived.

Think for a moment about what the authors describe as, "This efficient temperature control is made possible by the specialized receptors in bee antennae,

which can detect variations in temperature to within one-quarter of one degree."

Why did these *specialized* receptors evolve just in bees? Fruit flies don't have them. Imagine such a receptor. It is probably the size of several dots strung together at the end of this sentence. How could something that tiny measure temperatures to within one-quarter of one degree? Does that seem incredible to you?

The authors agree by writing, "The "sense of temperature" which is also located in the antennae of many insects, "is a much *more mysterious* sense. Our own capacities in this regard remain extremely modest."

I think in the tiny honeybee's 93-degree temperature maintenance we see an engineering marvel—one that man cannot duplicate, given the same materials, despite all of his technology and university studies.

## Temperature Maintenance

The book *The World of Bees*(2) tells us more: "Another example is the task of *ventilation*. The bees hump themselves up and move their wings about 400 times per second on the landing area of the hive. The hotter it gets inside, or the more moisture-laden the air becomes, the greater the number of bees that will stand there fanning." The author goes on to ask a good question, "Who tells them they must? Nobody as far as anyone can ascertain."

He continues, "The bees have figured out the world's first *air-conditioning* system. When the weather gets very, very hot, the temperature may shoot up in spite of plain bee fanning. The bees, if it become necessary when plain fanning is not doing the job, lay aside other tasks.

They go out, find water, and bring it back in their honey stomachs in place of nectar. Hundreds of them, even thousands of them carry it. They spread it on the combs, on the inside walls of the hive. The evaporation of the water cools the inside of the hive. It provides a crude, but very effective air-conditioning."

Author Murray Hoyt then asks, "Who taught the bees this engineering principle? Who tells them when to put it into practice? No one knows."

Hoyt tells us about the efficiency of bees even in cases of fire. "In one case of a barn fire, the heat was

so great "that the nearby bee hive nearly burst into flame." Later it was found "that all the bees had rallied around during the fire and worked on the air-conditioning. Many bees fanned furiously throughout the fire at the door on the side away from the flames. Thousands carried water. And when the hive top was lifted off, everything was intact inside. The outside wall was scorched and burned but the bees had saved their wax structure, their stores, and their colony life."

Hoyt sums it all up by concluding, "Through engineering know-how their life pattern is highly efficient."

## Could There be Termite Engineers?

Karl von Frisch, a scientist awarded a Nobel Prize in 1973, is famous for his study of how bees communicate nectar sources by performing intricate, coded dances. Dr. von Frisch's well researched and most informative book *Animal Architecture*(3), because of his support for evolution, makes his observations all the more striking. Dr. Von Frisch calls termites "*masters in building and engineering.*" Let's see why he says this.

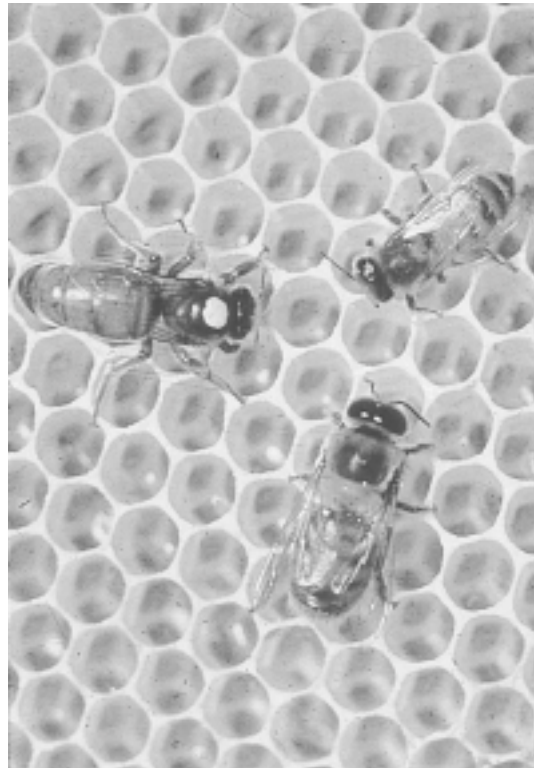
"There are more than two thousand species of termites living in tropical and subtropical regions ... All known termite species, like all ant species, are social insects. Their colonies may have over 10 million individuals. Termite nests may be gigantic structures...some are 21 feet high.

"We have even more cause for wonder when we consider the whole range of termite buildings and the way they are adapted to the most diverse climatic conditions of the countries they inhabit...

"Take, for example, certain species of the genus *Cubitermes* that live in tropical rain forests. They put roofs with *overhanging eaves* on their tall mounds, which make them look like pagodas and serve to keep the torrential rains off the main structure...Termites in arid zones do not build such roofs,

showing they definitely are *umbrellas*, not sunshades.

"The treeless steppeland of Australia, baked by the scorching heat of the midday sun, is the home of the compass termites (*Amitermes meridionalis*). Their towering structures, which may be up to fifteen feet high, and nine feet long, look as if they had been compressed from two sides. Their two short sides face *exactly* north and



Queen with identification mark on thorax (left), worker bee (upper right) and drone (lower right). (California Dept. of Agriculture)

south, so that the surface exposed to the rays of the mid-day sun is small, while the long sides *catch* the evening and morning sun...A traveler can quickly get his bearings by looking at the direction of these mounds."

Then the author asks a question for us, "But how do the blind termites orient them so perfectly without a compass? The method by which the compass termites achieve their spectacular results has not yet been studied."

## Termite Air Conditioning?

Von Frisch's next heading is the surprising one of: "Air-conditioning in termite dwellings." Yes, it seems air-conditioning is not an invention of human engineers after all!

Von Frisch explains:

"The interior architecture of many termite species is even more astounding. The distribution of the various chambers according to their different purposes is *evidence* of a definite *building plan*. But the functioning of a large termitary requires not only the systematic layout of the chambers, but convenient space for the royal cell, the quarters for the different age groups, the fungus gardens, and the associated network of communications.

"When a mound of *Macrotermes billicosus* has reached a height of nine to twelve feet, it contains more than two million termites. They live, they work, and they breathe. Their oxygen consumption, which has been measured, is considerable. Without ventilation they would all be suffocated within twelve hours.

"These insects have established a strange and *ingenious* ventilation system...the nest proper, which is almost round, with its royal cell in the center, and its many chambers, and passages. Between it and the thick, hard outer wall there are narrow air spaces. Below it is there is a larger air space, the "cellar". The central structure rests on conical supports and is further anchored by lateral struts."

"Another air space above it reaches a long way into the nest proper, like a *chimney*. On the outside of the mound, ridges or buttresses run from top to bottom ...Channels as thick as an arm radiate from the upper air space into the ridges where they divide into many small ducts. These come together again to form channels as wide as the first leading into the cellar."

Don't these last two paragraphs sound like descriptions right out of an engineering handbook?

The author adds another bit of surprising information: "Though termites are found in all these structures, they do not act as ventilators as, for instance, bees do when they ventilate the hive by fanning their wings. The ventilation system of the termitary is *completely automatic*." Imagine that.

## A Technical Explanation

"The air in the fungus chambers is heated by the fermentation process taking place there. Like any tightly packed group of animals, the termites themselves cause a rise in temperature. This hot air rises and is forced by the pressure of the continuous stream of hot air into the duct system of the ridges. The exterior and interior walls of these ridges are so porous that they enable a gas exchange to take place. Carbon dioxide escapes and oxygen penetrates from outside. The ridges with their system of ducts might be called the lungs of the colony. As has been experimentally confirmed, the air is cooled during its passage through the ridges; this cooler, regenerated air now flows into the cellar by way of its lower system of wide ducts. From there it returns to the nest via the surrounding air space, replacing the warmer rising air."

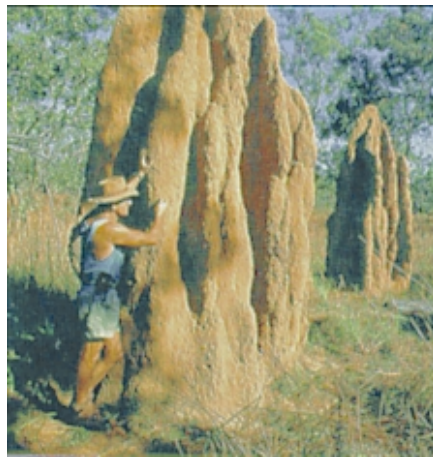
## Air Conditioning

The book *Alien Empire*(4) gives us the author's observations of termites who accomplish feats of engineering. "Termite nests... [are] designed to provide *air-conditioning*. Their huge *air-conditioning* towers are major features in many tropical savanna landscapes."

The book includes diagrams with these written descriptions, "Showing the complex fungus garden and the network of chimney spaces through which hot air arises as part of the termites *sophisticated air-conditioning system*," and "A computer generated simulation of the *special vanes* in the termites' nest, a vital part of the air-conditioning process. Worker termites keep the vanes damp, so the warm

air passing over them is cooled down as the water droplets evaporate."

There's even more. The author sums up, "It is remarkable that the worker termites have constructed the equivalent of, in human terms, a skyscraper 6 miles high. And they are blind... The air-conditioning systems of termites are so effective that human engineers are now constructing buildings with cooling systems based on termite design." You may want to read that again.



Termite mound in Western Australia  
(Ohio State University)

## Some Unanswered Questions

Doesn't all of this seem like a very complicated system to you?

If so, how could it develop by a process of trial and error, by a series of accidents?

How could thousands, maybe millions, of generations of the termite species survive while all of the trials and errors took place that would be necessary to finally perfect the finished and faultless working air conditioning system?

Didn't Von Frisch tell us that without the system, the colony would die within twelve hours?

## Extraordinary Engineering Knowledge

*Alien Empire* continues, "This makes it even more remarkable that meaningful reactions to extraordinary situations, or what one might call emergencies, have been observed. When a termite mound was enveloped in a plastic tent so that ventilation was seriously impeded, the termites managed within 48 hours to build new structures at the top of the mound, which looked somewhat like small pointed hats and had exceptionally pointed out walls so that they functioned as a *new ventilation system!*"

As incredible as it sounds, not only has a complicated and efficient engineering system been described to us, but an ability to even engineer brand *new* items to react to an emergency.

## What Else Do They Need besides Air Conditioning and Ventilation?

"Ventilation is not the only problem of termite communities. Water is another. A great deal of water is needed because the inhabitants with their tender skins require a humid atmosphere. In the nests of *Macrotermes*, relative humidity is 89% to 99%. Much water is also needed for consumption, for making mortar, and for other purposes. In arid regions, termites may dig to enormous depths to tap the groundwater table. Some desert termites were found that drive bore holes down to water at a depth of some 120 feet. The construction of such deep shafts through loose soil is a truly prodigious feat of civil engineering for these small animals."

## Precise Engineering

Dr. von Frisch devotes a large section of his book to honeybees. He first points out that bees do not use triangle or square shapes for the honeycomb cells, but he remarks on what they do use, "the amount of building material required for cells of the same capacity is the least in the hexagonal construction, and hence that such a pattern is the most economical design for warehouses."

We have to wonder, do bees use this best shape for honeycomb cells by accident or by some sort of design?

The author continues, "Anyone lifting a full honeycomb for the first time will find it amazingly heavy. A comb measuring 14.6 by 8.86 inches can hold more than four pounds of honey. Yet in the manufacture of such a comb, the bees use only about 1.4 ounces of wax! The relationship between the construction of a comb and its strength would seem to be a worthwhile subject for study.

"When bees start building, they first attach themselves to each other in chains. Soon they form themselves into a dense ball, the building cluster within which they maintain a temperature of 95 degrees—the temperature needed for the secretion of wax."

Let's look at honey comb cell construction. You might think honey bees work on one cell, complete it, then start the next one. That would be logical and the easiest way. Not so, however, instead honey bees build cells the hard way, working on the next cells before the first ones are finished. As author explains, "They do not build one complete cell after another. While the lateral walls of the first cells are gradually being added to, new adjoining cells are being started lower down. As these triangular sections are enlarged laterally, they gradually coalesce from the top down. The joins are so skillfully made that no trace of the separate beginnings remain visible.

"This is even more remarkable when one considers that many bees are employed in the building of each individual cell and that they often relieve each other at intervals of no more than half a minute or so. Apparently each bee immediately comprehends what stage the construction has reached at the place where she starts to work and continues accordingly."

More complexity is added to the job of cell construction. Notice, "Right from the start the cells meet at the correct angle of 120 degrees..."

It is not just the shape of the cells that depends upon the skill of their builders; skill is just as much needed to vary the size of the cells for worker bees and drones, to manufacture such extraordinarily thin walls, and to orient them accurately in space.

None of these things just "happen," they are the result of work directed to a purpose.

"The cell walls are built with a gradient of about 13 degrees from base to opening. This is sufficient to prevent the thick honey from running out. The distance from the wall to that opposite is 0.205 inches in a worker cell, and 0.24 inches in a drone cell. The thickness of the cell walls is 0.0029 inches, with tolerance of no more than 0.001 inches."

All of this seems to be extremely complicated *engineering*. We have to wonder how these remarkable creatures measure to such strict requirements: 120 degree angles, 13 degree gradients, 0.205 inches, 0.24 inches, 0.0029 inches, 0.001 inches. That some sort of

precise measuring must continually take place is obvious, but where are their measuring instruments?

Von Frisch agrees, "What truly astounding precision! Economy in the use of building material is thus taken to the utmost limit. Human craftsmen could not do the work of this nature without the use of carpenter squares and sliding gauges."

## Tools for Tiny Engineers

Von Frisch answers, "The bee's own head serves as a *plummet* to determine the line of gravity. It rests on two *pivots* forming part of the outer skeleton of the thorax and its center of gravity lies below this articulated connection. Hence, if a bee sits with her head pointing upward, it's heavier, lower part will be pulled toward the thorax by the force of gravity.

"In a downward position, the head is automatically rotated in the opposite direction. These gravity pulls are accurately registered by a *tactile organ* consisting of a set of highly sensitive *bristles* on the tips of these *pivots*. Any position at an angle to the vertical is registered by a characteristic distribution of pressure on the set of *sensory hairs*.

"This is the way bees *control* both their own position in space and the position for the comb, which is always built vertically downward."

"It has been possible to prove experimentally the importance of these sensory organs in the bees' necks for their building activities and for the correct orientation of the cell walls."

So there you have it. A summary of the special tools are:

- The head serves as a *plummet*
- Two pivots
- Highly sensitive bristles
- Sensory hairs.

## The Engineering of Cell Making

The book *The World of Bees*(2) tells us more about honey bee cell-making engineering. "The worker cell will be built exactly 4.83 cells to the inch...How can so many tiny minds gauge 4.83 cells to the inch so exactly? Even an engineer would need all sorts of instruments to measure. The bees have none."

"It is completely incredible that, with thousands of bees coming up and adding their bit of wax to the spot where the "drawing out" is going on, you don't get a thousand different variations of shape and thickness. You're led to the conclusion that every one of these thousands of insects in her own right must be a trained engineer.

"Each bee adds only a tiny part to a given area of comb. Yet each cell ends up the same size and shape as all the others."

"The author goes on to tell us about the marvelous way cell walls are built. The walls are so thin and

light " And yet these tiny *engineers* know that wax this thin will hold their honey store perfectly It can be carefully transported across the United States or Europe without damage."

There's more. The author adds that each bee as she adds her wax to the cell thins it down, leaving a thick part at the top, just as she found it. All subsequent cell builders do the same, thinning their contribution down, leaving the thick top intact. The thick top is necessary to support the heavy weight of each contributor, yet the vital thinness is perfectly maintained.

The author sums up cell making, "So the combs progress downward and sideways, with bee space between of just the right width, as if a human engineer had planned it meticulously. Hundreds of thousand of bees will dab at every bit of it, mold it, and change it. Again, remember that there is no master planner in a bee tree. Yet the proper spacing, the proper size to the cells, comes out as if a foreman stood over the bees with a set of blueprints."

## In Summary

Using mostly evolution supporting sources, we have seen the word "engineer" or "engineering" applied some eleven times to non-humans.

We have studied the following:

1. Bees that maintain a 93 degree constant temperature needed for larvae development, with only *one degree* of variation.
2. Bees *air-condition* their hive by fanning their wings (400 times a second) and by bringing in water.
3. *Blind* termites construct the equivalent of a six mile high skyscraper. With no overseer.
4. Termite structures are called evidence of a definite *building plan*.
5. Short sides of termite structures that face *exactly* north and south.
6. *Automatic* air-conditioning in termite structures.
7. Termite air-conditioning methods are now studied by *human engineers*.
8. When their air-conditioning was restricted, the termites within 48 hours constructed new vents.
9. Termites as a major civil *engineering* feat dig down as much as 120 feet for water.
10. A dense ball-like cluster of bees maintains a constant wax making temperature of 95 degrees.
11. *Thousands* of honey bees, working *independently*, nevertheless construct precisely engineered honeycomb cells.
12. Multiple numbers of bees work on each cell, for a maximum of thirty seconds, yet all completed are cells exactly the same.
13. Worker cells are exactly 4.83 cells to the inch.
14. The cell walls are precisely *engineered*, 0.0029 inches thick, to a tolerance of only 0.001 of an inch.



15. Cell construction and honey retention requires the maintenance of a gradient of 13 degrees.
16. The honey bee's head serves as its vitally needed plumb *tool*.
17. Honey bees *air-conditioning* is so efficient hives have even survived barn fires.

### Some Additional Questions

The fact these insects and animals receive no schooling or training during their lifetime is obvious. Where, then, did their sophisticated and precise knowledge come from? How is it so perfectly passed to their offspring?

The intangible something in nature that previous generations of humans without computers called "*instinct*", we can better understand as "*programming*." Doesn't it seem logical that this engineering knowledge and ability had to have been "programmed" into these creatures? If so, can there be programming of information by accidental chance? Can there be programming without a Master Programmer?

Evolution instructs us we have to picture a scene that happened millions and millions of years ago; a seething ocean and a blob of algae. Suddenly an exceptionally massive bolt of lightning strikes the blob of algae! It thus received life, crawled out of the sea, and began its millions of years journey of evolving into living molecules, into a fruit fly, then to other forms, and eventually evolved into apes, and finally into humans.

What is missing from this scenario?

Well, lots of things. But certainly a prime missing ingredient is information— *knowledge*.

Is any knowledge present in ocean water? Is any knowledge present in a blob of algae? Is any knowledge present in a bolt of lightning?

Where, then, did the highly specialized engineering knowledge come from that is obviously part of the makeup of the creatures we have just studied? Furthermore, how is this detailed knowledge and training passed on to the offspring of each creature?

### A Final Question

We have to ask ourselves, are all the things we have just studied, including the 17 items summarized above, more logically the result of:

Evolution, which admittedly is:  
 mindless,  
 purposeless,  
 accidental chance?

Or, more logically the result of:  
 planning,  
 design,  
 a master engineer,  
 a Creator God?

Which one makes more sense to you?

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*C. Spencer Frazier writes a regular column for Servants' News called "Creation Corner." Mr. Frazier is a retired Mortgage Banker living in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. His long business background includes founder and president of Columbia Mortgage Company, Inc., Detroit, Michigan. He also founded Spencer Real Estate Company, Inc., Detroit, Michigan. He has been a Sabbath keeper since 1964 when he was baptized by a minister of the Worldwide Church of God. Frazier is a voracious reader with a special interest in science and nature. "Creation Corner" started as a writing project to leave a legacy for his grandchildren that has expanded to reach others.*

## Bible Trivia Quiz

### Where are these scriptures found?

- 1) "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord?"
- 2) "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."
- 3) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
- 4) "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."
- 5) "And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."

Answers: 1) Joshua 24:15; 2) 1 Sam. 15:23; 3) Rom. 6:23; 4) Rev. 14:12; 5) Gen. 6:6

# The Real Father's Day

By Barbara de Parada

In June, in different parts of the world, people are celebrating Father's Day. They give their dads cards, gifts, parties, and cakes, and make them feel special and loved, and glad that they are fathers. This is an annual occasion in which dads are honored. Certainly, dads should be honored and respected every day of the year, but it's nice to set aside one day per year to give dad special treatment.

Our biological, adopted, and in-law fathers are very important to us here on earth. But what about our heavenly Father? He is the creator of us all, and He is the being that loves us most. He is the Father of all mankind. Maybe you've never thought about it this way before, but isn't there a day that we pay honor and respect to God the Father, not annually, but weekly? Of course I'm talking about the weekly Sabbath. Every week, from sunset Friday night to sunset Saturday night, we have a 24-hour period called the Sabbath. This seventh day is a sign between God and His people because only His true believers understand its meaning and purpose. The weekly Sabbath is really a "Father's Day" when we give honor, respect, and thanks to God, and when we spend quality time with Him, talking to Him and studying His word.

To many believers, the Sabbath is simply a day to rest, perhaps not to work, in which you try to attend church services to meet with fellow believers and to hear a message. Why did I write it that way? Because I was trying to include all of the common Sabbath "practices" that I've observed throughout my life. When one mentions Sabbath "practices," usually the first scripture that you think of is "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27)." But does this mean that a person can do whatever they want on the Sabbath? Of course, everyone has free will, but what is God's will for His day? What most benefits both us and God? Let's continue with the analogy.

*Preparation.* Would you plan a Father's day party the morning of Father's day, or would you spend days or weeks preparing? You would invite guests, or plan a private family party, choose the perfect gift and the card to go with it. You would clean the house and wear your best clothes. You would do everything you could to make it a special day for your dad. How much more should we be prepared for the Sabbath each week? We have six days to prepare and there is no

reason not to be prepared. I remember one woman saying that every Sunday she begins the process of preparing for the following Sabbath, ironing clothes, cleaning the house, and preparing food.

The Israelites' journey through the wilderness gives us a clear example of God's desire for His people to be prepared for the Sabbath (Exodus 16:22-30). Every Friday, He gave the Israelites twice as much manna as usual, and they were instructed to collect a double portion. If they did not, then anything they tried to collect on the Sabbath would rot and they wouldn't have anything to eat until Sunday morning. How powerful a lesson this is! What if today, when we neglected to prepare meals before the Sabbath, and we tried to "collect" food by purchasing it on the Sabbath, that anything we purchased would rot? I'm afraid that most of us wouldn't eat on the Sabbath.

What things can we do to prepare for the Sabbath? Well, we can purchase food ahead of time, and even prepare parts of meals or whole meals to save work. We can start cleaning the house on Thursday and finish cleaning on Friday. We can have our clothes ironed. We can set aside the things we want to bring to church. We can put gas in our cars. With all of these things finished before the Sabbath, we will truly have a day free from stress and anxiety.

*Rest and Renewal.* Yes the Sabbath is a day of rest. It is a rest from our daily work, a rest from society, and a rest for the cares of the world. But does that mean that if you're so exhausted from the week's work that you can go to bed early on Friday night, and then sleep all Saturday afternoon after services? What if you're "too tired" to go to church? Do you just stay home? Back to the analogy.

What if you called your dad on Father's day and said that you were "too tired" to go and see him, or that you wanted to cancel the party you had planned for him? Wouldn't he be disappointed? Father's Day is only once a year for him, so you missing it would hurt him. Or what if you went over to see your dad on Father's Day and just fell asleep on the couch? Wouldn't he be offended? How much more hurt and disappointed would our Father God be if we were "too tired" to take part in the Holy convocation He has planned for us each week? Or if we spend the

whole Sabbath sleeping? How much time can you spend with God if you are asleep?

Contrary to what most of us humans believe or understand, praying, studying God's Word, and attending church services are necessary activities for a spiritual renewal. Most of us are too busy and distracted during the week to spend as much time as we need communicating with God and reading the Bible. Every week, God has given us a whole 24 hours when we can get "back on track," refocus, and gain the spiritual strength we need to face a new week. If we sleep through church and through the Sabbath, we face the week just as tired spiritually as we were on Friday.

*Activities.* Back to doing what you want on the Sabbath. Of course you can do what you want. But what you want isn't always what God wants and isn't always what is best for you. What if, on Father's Day, you went over to your dad's house and spent two hours watching soccer (and your dad hates soccer), and then you spent 2 more hours talking to your friends about soccer, and left without even talking to your dad? How would that make your dad feel on his day? So, what if we spend all day Sabbath dwelling on the things of this world, instead of on the spiritual things? You can't learn much about God on TV watching sports, cartoon, movies, or even the news. And, as Christ said in Matthew 12:34 "out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." If all you have to talk about with others is your favorite soccer team or soap opera, then that is what is on your heart rather than the things of God. Am I saying that God doesn't care about soccer or soap operas? Well probably not, but the point is that on His day He wants us to talk about Him, praise Him, and share Him with others. He also wants us to talk to him and study more about Him and His ways. We in the church have a unique opportunity to completely forget the world for 24 hours every week. We can forget the atrocities, materialism, idolatry, and perversity of this world. So why do we want to stay in the world every Sabbath? Why do we want to participate in its useless activities?

Keeping the world out of our homes and our lives is a constant battle for the Christian. It is even more difficult to do on the Sabbath when the whole world is working, buying, selling, and doing whatever they want. But God calls us out of the world and wants us to differ (II Corinthians 6:17). And how we keep the Sabbath makes the people in the world see us as different. If we do the same things on Friday night and Saturday that we do every other day of the week, how will people know that we are God's people? How will our lights shine?

The fourth commandment, "honor the Sabbath day to keep it holy," has often been called the "test

commandment." It is one of the most difficult commandments to obey because it is so hard to change our daily routine and do things differently every Sabbath. But yet it is what God expects of us, not only for His benefit, but for ours as well. We need the break from the world, to spend time with our families, to forget the stress of work and life, and to be spiritually renewed.

*Service.* Finally, let's talk about service. What if, on Father's day, you hosted a party for you dad. When he arrived, you sat down on the couch and proceeded to give your dad orders like "bring me a coke," "can you see who is at the door?" "can you bring more food to the table," etc. Or, what if you took your dad out to a restaurant and invited a lot of people that your dad had never met. Do you think your dad would enjoy either of these types of parties?

Jesus Christ gave us dozens of examples in the gospels about how we can serve others on the Sabbath. In fact, He made it a point to show us that it is our duty to serve others, not ourselves, on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:11-12; Luke 13:15-16).

As human beings, we are most often concerned with ourselves and our comfort, rather than others. How can we serve others on the Sabbath? We could invite people to join us for lunch at a local restaurant. But who is really being served here? Ourselves, right? What are we doing, other than paying the bill? Wouldn't it be much more giving of ourselves to open our home and lovingly prepare a special meal for our brethren, rather than letting strangers in a restaurant serve them? Do we own a car? Isn't there a church member nearby that we could take to services? Can we help before services or during coffee break? Can we greet others as they arrive? Few people realize or acknowledge that serving others is serving God (Matthew 25:40). What better way to show love to others than by serving them!

Let us all try to make each "Father's Day" Sabbath a day of difference for ourselves, our families, and our brethren in the church. God's Sabbath is for our benefit too, so let's use it wisely (Isaiah 53:13; Nehemiah 10:31).

**This article is dedicated to my dad, who taught me, with his words, and with his example, to respect and honor the Sabbath day and to truly make it a "day of difference."**

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*Barbara de Parada, daughter of Rich and Shirley Nickels, lives near San Salvador, El Salvador, with her husband Roberto Parada. Barbara and Roberto are the founders of a ministry called Close to You, Inc. (<http://www.close toyouinc.org/>).*

War the light of Christ shone brightly in that nation, overrun and ground down under the heel of Nazi Germany. Many Christians suffered imprisonment and death in order to save those who had no legal protection under Nazi rule. Many Jews and other "undesirables" escaped certain death because so many Dutch Christians actively worked against the Nazi occupation to sequester these precious lives.

Now, in the Netherlands the churches are empty and the light of Christ has nearly been extinguished. The aged and infirmed, those whose lives would have been snuffed out under the Nazis, are disposed of in the sterile environment of hospital as victims of euthanasia or "mercy" killing as some call it. Instead of Christian compassion toward the weak, they are eliminated as worthless burdens on society in this post-Christian culture.

God is interested in what happens in local and international politics because His children are directly affected by the outcome of politics. When Jesus told his disciples to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," He truly intended to make the political and social climate such that the gospel could be carried to all nations and tongues. Jesus died for all the world, not just for those who are now in the Church, and God acts in the political and social realms in ways that make it possible to bring more children into His kingdom. This is His objective—this is His will—, and we as a Church must not be blasé about that fact. We must look to see where He is working and seek to join Him in His work. He does not desire for anyone to perish in the Judgment, and that must be our desire also. We should be as passionate about making sure that we reach people with the life-saving knowledge of the Truth as God Himself is. Jesus said, "My Father works; therefore I work." Each of us must be willing to say the same thing.

We have just witnessed another war in the Middle East. Was God's hand in it? I have no doubt that it was. People have been set free from a horrible dictator who delighted in seeing his enemies—both real and imagined—tortured, raped, gassed, and murdered in cold blood. The freedom that now exists in the aftermath of war is an open door for the preaching of the gospel. People who would probably never hear the gospel may now hear it for the first time. God's hand will work (through His church) to reach the newly liberated people with the lifesaving message of Jesus Christ so that more can be prepared for His kingdom. We will see many forces working to oppose this new openness and the desire of missionary-minded Christians to lead more people to Christ. These are the forces

of the devil. Just as God is active through the body of Christ, the enemy is also active through his agents, and he will attempt to steal the Truth away from the people before the seed of life has a chance to take root in the new soil.

God is not a spectator in the affairs of men. When we see war, politics, or the maniacal obsession with expunging the name of God from all of society, God takes this seriously because these things affect His children, and they affect our own children as we seek to raise them in a godly manner. As Christians we must know that our God is not passive about the affairs of the society that surrounds us, and we should not be either. Taking the gospel to all the world means that we must take this life-saving Truth to every corner of society. This is not done by osmosis. It requires our willingness and our activity. Let's be about our Father's work. □

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"President's Message" continued from Page 4.

As we mourn injury and the loss of life resulting from the conflict in Iraq today, I can't help but recall the mourning of the ancient captives of that land where a remnant still remains today.

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.' How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy," Psalm 137:1-6.

The former Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, and many Muslim's put the Iraqi conflict within the context of a larger conflict referred to as the "holy jihad" for Jerusalem and the liberation of Palestine. Saddam coined the phrase "the mother of all wars," referring to the U.S.-Iraqi conflict that began the Gulf War in 1991. It may be that the greatest of all wars is yet to be fought (see Zechariah 12:2; 14:2) that leads to Har Moghed (Rev.16:16) - "the mount of the appointed times." What ever the future holds, this should give us pause and cause to pray for peace.

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee," Psalm 122:6. □

## The Church in the World

### Dedicated Pastor Killed by Rebel Forces

COLOMBIA—On January 27, unidentified gunmen stopped a public bus and singled out one man from the rest of the passengers. His name was Rev. Jose Juan Lozada Corteza, and he served as pastor of the Evangelical Christian Church in San Antonio, Colombia. The assailants forced Rev. Corteza off the bus and, in full view of the bystanders, shot him in the head. Rev. Corteza is survived by a grieving widow and children. During the past decade, more than 100 pastors and priests have died violently at the hands of rebel forces. Please pray for God's comfort for their families and also for His protection over the pastors who continue to serve in spite of the danger. (Source: [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org))

### Christian Widow Appeals to Jordan's King

JORDAN—Christian widow Siham Qandah received word on January 31 that apart from direct intervention by Jordan's King Abdullah II, she will be jailed for refusing to hand over her two young children to be raised as



Muslims. Siham's Christian husband died in 1994 while serving as a soldier. A few months after his death, Siham was told that her husband had converted to Islam just before his death—meaning his surviving children should be raised as Muslims. Siham cannot believe her husband would do such a thing, and the only signature on his conversion certificate was a scrawled "X." For "L five years, Siham has fought a legal battle to retain custody of her children. Now she is appealing to Jordan's king, her last hope. Pray for God to soften the

king's heart toward this widow and her children. (Source: [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org))

### Jihad in Nigeria

By Greg Musselman, VOM Canada (April 29, 2003) For several years now, radical Muslims in northern and central Nigeria have been carrying out a 'holy' war, or jihad, against Christians.

I found some of the most recent victims in the hospitals of Nigeria's Plateau state. Women, men, and children with bullet wounds, and deep slash marks on their necks and heads. The attackers, mostly Fulani Muslims, use guns and machetes as their weapons of destruction. They make no distinction between men, women, and children—who will not only carry the physical scars for the rest of their lives, but the emotional ones as well...

Hundreds have been killed in Christian villages throughout the state. Homes have been destroyed as the attacks against Christians have intensified.

Selbol Oliver is a 40 year old husband and father of 3. He was shot in the back during an attack on his village. He said, "Militant Muslims from neighboring states and countries have come in to stir up trouble. That's led to much death and destruction."

Selbol said, "There is sadness in me. The reason for that sadness is that many people were killed. But I'm also strengthened, because this has taught me to live more righteously before God, and has strengthened my faith in God."

Dr. Steve Kitchen, an Orthopedic Surgeon from Columbus, Ohio, joined the doctors in Nigeria.

Dr. Kitchen said, "I love to come on these trips, to see different people, and be able to teach some of the

medical techniques I've learned. Also, to impart something of the Lord."

He added, "But I also like to come, because anyone who comes and sees these situations, and is with these people, comes away with much more than you could possibly bring [them]."

Unfortunately there doesn't seem to be a clear end in sight to the murder and maiming of Christians in Central Nigeria. As a result doctors and medical personnel from around the world are desperately needed here to help deal with the ever growing list of victims."

"There is no more satisfying way to practice medicine that I know of," said Dr. Kitchen. "You get to do what you are trained to do. You get to help people that really need help. You get so much back in enjoyment and you get so much back from the Lord. You can't out-give the Lord. You just come away with a real sense of what is happening in His Kingdom." (Source: *Voice of the Martyrs*, <http://www.persecution.com>)

### Surrounded by Bloody Terror, a Courageous Bishop Stands Firm

UGANDA—Nineteen-year-old John Okwir was forced by rebel soldiers to kill his own brother as the boy lay in a ditch. Such brutal, calculated horror is just one example of the atrocities perpetrated in Uganda's civil war, waged by the so-called Lord's Resistance Army—a cultlike group—against the government. In the midst of the bloodshed, Anglican Bishop Benjamin Ojwang is a beacon of compassion and hope. He lives with his family in Kitgum, one of the most fiercely contested areas. "They come for you between 4 and 5 in the morning," Benjamin says of the rebel attacks. At one point, all six of his children were kidnapped—then thankfully returned. But in spite of the danger, Benjamin says, "I am the shepherd of my people. How could I possibly leave?" Pray for his safety and the safety of all Christians in this violent land. (Source: [opendoorsusa.org](http://opendoorsusa.org))

## The Sabbath under Crossfire

by Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi

(Excerpt from pages 157 and 158)



(Available through BSA. See ad on page 23.)

**Authority or Legality?** Some scholars argue that Christ used the example of David and of the priests in order to show His *authority* to transcend the Sabbath law rather than to prove the *legality* of the disciples' action within that law. For them, "it is a question of authority rather than of legality" that is at stake in this passage. The comparison between the priests and Christ is allegedly supposed to show that "persons with authority" can override the Sabbath. The ultimate conclusion drawn from such reasoning is that Christ's authoritative teaching supposedly anticipates the change in the day of worship, which, however, did not actually occur until after the resurrection. Such rea-

soning reveals a genuine desire to find grounds for Sunday observance in Christ's teaching, but it cannot be legitimately supported by Christ's arguments.

Did Christ appeal to the example of David and of the priests to show that persons of *authority* have the right to *supersede* the Sabbath law? Can human authority per se be regarded as a valid criterion to transcend God's law? If this were true, there would be constant conflict between human authority and divine precepts. Such a conflict, however, does not exist in Jesus' reasoning. What He tells the Pharisees is not that the law does not apply to important persons such as David or the priests but, on the contrary, that their ex-

ceptional conduct, like that of the disciples, is contemplated by the law. This is clearly indicated by the counter-question Christ asks twice: "Have you not read in the law ...?" (Matt 12:5; cf. v. 3).

Note that it is *within the law* (not outside it) that Jesus finds precedents to defend the legality of the disciples' conduct. The disciples were "guiltless" then, not because their authority (or that of Christ) transcended the law, but because their action fell *within the intention of the law itself*. David Hill stresses this point in his comment on Matthew 12:5: "The verse provides a precedent for the action of the disciples *within the Law itself* and therefore places Jesus securely within the Law."

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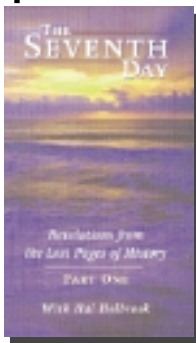
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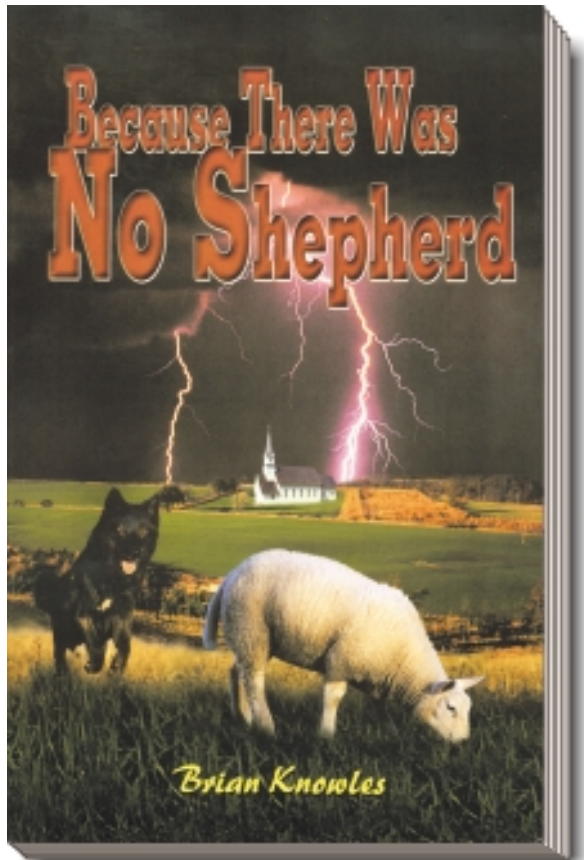
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