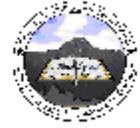




On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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The Genealogy Of Jesus Christ

What joy to know that the Bible is the inspired Word and Will of God. When rightly-divided (II Timothy 2:15) we have that which was originally given to holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit (II Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is NOT a compilation of stories written from the perspective of human writers. The records in the Bible are events that actually took place. It is NOT a history book, but when speaking of history it is accurate. It is NOT a science book, but when speaking of science, it is unerring. It is NOT a geography primer, but the places addressed are factual. It is NOT full of myths and traditions. It is Truth!

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
(1769 AV)

The Word equals truth, truth equals the Word, truth being that which is absolute and unchangeable. This is an axiom all who love God should embrace.

Mary DID conceive without help from Joseph. Jesus Christ IS the Son of God. His blood paid for our redemption. He is THE Savior and ONLY hope of mankind. God DID

raise him from the dead. The Bible IS the revealed Word AND Will of God.

Because it is, we can trust it!

When baited with questions, Jesus responded with Scripture.

Below is one such example:

Matthew 22:29

Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. (1769 AV)

The Scripture is the written Word of God, the power of God being holy spirit in manifestation, e.g., speaking in tongues and prophecy.

Today both are woefully absent in most churches. Some have regulated knowledge of Scripture but to the exclusion of God's power. Others laud the power and ignore the Scripture. Few acknowledge both and fewer still demand accuracy. Either way the end result is the same — error!

The Christian believer needs two things, spirit and Scripture! The Scripture gives guidance as to the use and misuse of the manifestations of the spirit. The spirit connects us with God, gives us real power and counsels us in our understanding of His Word. To the natural mind this seems paradoxical but not to the spiritual. These are supernatural realities

and beneficial to Christians from every walk of life.

Unlike men, God does not contradict Himself. If at any time you come upon an apparent “contradiction” in the Bible it will be for only one of two reasons. Either you don't understand the words used or the translation is in error. It is to this end that we study the Bible so as to stand approved before God, not before men.

A brief study of the genealogy of Jesus Christ is an exercise in biblical accuracy which will build your appreciation for God's wonderful, matchless Word.

Theologians have said Matthew 1:1-17 is the blood line of Joseph. This cannot be!

Matthew 1:18 tells us Mary conceived by Holy Spirit. This occurred before she was intimate with Joseph. Later on they had children together as is common with married couples. Jesus did in fact have half brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3). So we know Mary did not remain a virgin, but Jesus himself was THE Son of God!

The genealogy in Matthew is given in three groupings of fourteen generations from Abraham to Jesus. As you shall see, there is a translation error in Matthew 1:16. Which, if left unchecked, contradicts a genealogical record

in Luke and limits the generations in the final group to thirteen.

Compare the following:

Matthew 1:16

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband (*aner*) of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. (1769 AV)

Luke 3:23

And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was *the son of Heli*, (1769AV)

Obviously Joseph's father was either named Heli or Jacob. Not both!

Since we understand the words we have read, the apparent contradiction must be in translation.

A simple study reveals a poor translation in Matthew 1:16 of the Greek word *aner*. This word simply means an adult male and exact usage must be determined from context, i.e., husband, man, sir, fellow. The correct translation in the instance of Matthew 1:16 would be father. Apparently both Mary's father and husband were named Joseph.

The Aramaic manuscripts further corroborate this as they have *gbra* (mighty man) for verse 16 and *bala* (husband) for verse 19, i.e., Joseph the father of Mary, Joseph her husband.

Matthew portrays Jesus' life from the perspective of King, thus chronicling Mary's lineage back to

David. Luke shows Jesus as a man and therefore includes the legal lineage of Joseph, his step-father.

Now you have the rightly-divided God breathed Word. No contradictions, no errors whatever.

Isn't it magnificent!

September 2, 2007

Jesus Christ God's Provision For Righteousness and Hope Of Mankind

Revelation 1:1 records, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:" (1769 AV)

Weymouth gives this, "The revelation given by Jesus Christ, which God granted Him . . . " (1912 Weymouth Translation)

God gave revelation to Jesus Christ which the Lord then gave to his servants. This is not difficult to grasp once we understand what "revelation" is. The English word revelation has been translated from the Greek word *apokalupsis*, from which we get the English word apocalypse.

Both English words have the same meaning since they share the same Greek root. Sadly, Hollywood has

muddied the meaning. People think these words describe a horrific end of the world catastrophe. This concept has been exacerbated by ill-informed ministers who think they know more than the Bible and others exploiting the simple through sensationalism and fear.

Apokalupsis is formed by *apo* a primary participle meaning from, of or out of and *kalupto* meaning to hide or veil. *Apokalupsis* literally means to remove the veil or reveal. In the opening verse of Revelation it is used in the sense of a disclosure of events and truths previously unknown. It is always used of events by which things, states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all. It is also translated manifestation or appearing.

This same word is used in Luke to describe our Lord,

Luke 2:32

A light to lighten [*apokalupsis*] the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. (1769 AV).

The Bible uses this word to describe the revealing of events, people and knowledge.

Romans 16:25

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation [*apokalupsis*] of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, (1769 AV).

Romans 8:19

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation [*apokalupsis*] of the sons of God.” (1769 AV).

God has an immense desire for us to know Him and His Will.

Ephesians 1:17-23

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation [*apokalupsis*] in the knowledge of him:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”

The greatest *apokalupsis* of all is Jesus Christ’s return, when every eye shall see him (Revelation 1:7).

This is the hope of all mankind! Jesus Christ is, was and always shall be the ONLY true hope.

From the time of Adam and Eve’s disobedience in the garden to the present, Jesus Christ is the ONLY answer! Consider how swiftly God provided for man’s desperate need for righteousness.

He promised a “seed” as recorded in Genesis 3:15. And Galatians 3:16 gives the identity of this “seed” as, “. . . thy seed, which is Christ.”

Scripture refers to the birth and return of Jesus Christ as “his coming” or *parousia*. This word is used when the person spoken of is personally present, i.e., Jesus Christ here upon Earth.

Our Lord’s birth and coming are also known as the Hope of Israel. We look back upon the event of his birth as a promise realized and look forward to his return with joyful anticipation. This is the Christian’s true hope and only possibility for mankind’s deliverance.

His birth, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension represent God’s answer to man’s need for redemption. Those who rebuff the Lord reject God’s only provision for righteousness even as some of Israel rejected him as Messiah. Those who do this are left with no answer for life beyond the grave. It isn’t the hope of gain the Bible speaks of, it’s the hope of eternity!

The Bible records the demise of numerous individuals who rejected God’s hope (the promised seed - Genesis 3:15) and the need for a blood sacrifice. Thus beginning with Cain and culminating with Israel’s rejection of Jesus as the Lord’s Christ, men despised God’s provision for righteousness. For men such as that, there is no hope.

The same truth applies today. Those who deny the Lord’s return reject the only hope mankind has and in so doing despise God’s answer to life’s deplorable condition.

Luke tells of Angels celebrating the first coming.

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest and upon earth, peace and a good hope to men. (Aramaic text).

The Christian’s only hope beyond the grave is Christ’s return as declared in I Thessalonians 4:13-18 and elsewhere. Those who deny the Second Coming differ little from those who denied the first.

We have good hope! Christ is coming back, don’t let anyone tell you otherwise!

Look for more on the subject of end times in future articles.

September 16, 2007

Future Expectations

My last article defined the true meaning of apocalypse as “revealed” or “unveiled.” This word is used to describe the

unveiling of events, people and knowledge. The latter being the definer for the former, i.e., knowledge revealed informs us of people and events otherwise unknown.

There are people and events that the Bible says will be revealed in due time. The disciples knew this and asked the Lord certain questions pertaining to the future. They had specific concerns regarding the Lord's second coming and the end of the World.

The following begins Jesus' response to them:

Matthew 24:4
And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. (1769 AV)

Note how the Lord began this response, "Take heed that no man deceive you." Jesus knew there would be those who would endeavor to do just that.

The effort to deceive is as energetic now as then. To countermand this, we must develop an understanding of what Jesus said. Who better to teach us than Jesus Christ? His words are recorded in the Bible so all may know. There is no reason to wonder or guess. You can know with complete assurance. If you want to.

Jesus continues his response:

Matthew 24:5
For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ [anoointed]; and shall deceive many. (1769 AV)

Many think of the above as a warning regarding those who say

they are Christ. However, that reality is covered later in the context. The word translated as Christ in this verse is the Greek word *khristos* which literally means "anoointed" and is best understood as such.

The appearance of those claiming to be Christ, or "false Christs" is covered in the following:

Matthew 24:23-24
Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here *is* Christ, or there; believe *it* not.

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if [it were] possible, they shall deceive the very elect."
(1769 AV)

A better rendering of Matthew 24:5 would be, "'For many shall come in my name, saying, I am anoointed; and shall deceive many"

Today there are many who claim to speak in Christ's name as "anoointed ones." In fact, the term "anoointed" is so bandied about as to lose its true meaning. Every speaker and preacher of renown touts themselves as "anoointed."

To simply say one is anoointed in no way truly authenticates them or their "message." Only the Word of God qualifies as the true "acid-test." If the "anoointed" one speaks in agreement with the Bible, then and only then can we consider them bonafide representatives of God.

How can anyone say they follow Jesus if they deny or contradict his words? Where are his words

found? In the Bible and its supporting manuscripts. No where else. Anyone who is a true follower of the Lord must acknowledge this. Those who espouse discipleship but don't believe the Bible should be honest and disclose their alternate basis for faith and practice.

We need concrete answers in these turbulent times. The good news is, they are in your Bible waiting for you to discover them.

Consider what Jesus said pertaining to war and such:

Matthew 24:6-8
And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

For nation shall rise against nation [ethnic group against ethnic group], and kingdom against kingdom [country against country]: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

All these *are* the beginning of sorrows [labor pains as in child birth]. (1769 AV)

There are wars and rumors of wars. Ethnic groups and countries are at odds with each other. Famine and disease are everywhere. Earthquakes are more widespread than ever. Yet, this is but the beginning.

Jesus likened the increase of these things to birth pains. Women know labor becomes more intense with each contraction, but delivery takes an undetermined amount of

time. So it is with the negative events of our age.

Our world consists of two opposing groups with distinctly different ideologies. Though many deny it, clearly there is a conflict raging between good and evil. Furthermore, Scripture reveals a vast contrast between this present evil age and the glorious age to come! Good will win out over evil. However, numerous events must first take place before the final outcome is realized.

In this light, two significant events must be considered. The man of sin, the son of perdition will be revealed and the Son of God shall return to destroy him and set things straight.

II Thessalonians 2:8

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: (1769 AV)

More on end time events in future articles.

September 30, 2007

**As It Was Then
So It Is Now**

Christianity has faced numerous problems since inception, chiefly false teachings.

II Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even

denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. (1769 AV)

This problem is not new and still strikes at the heart of truth.

II Timothy 4:3,4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables [*muthos* = myths].” (1769 AV)

With the increasing interest in the time of Christ’s return we’ve witnessed a resurgence of false teachings.

The Apostle Paul knew of this in his time and by the Word of God warned others. Certainly you remember the warnings of so-called prophets who proved bogus.

Nevertheless, these things upset people and usually result in a devastation to their faith and checkbook. Y2K wasn’t that long ago. Was it?

II Thessalonians 2:1-3

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and *by* our gathering together unto him,

That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Christians in the first Century were troubled by false teachings regarding Jesus Christ’s return. God, by way of Paul’s ministry, had to address this issue. In doing this God gave clear details regarding things that must take place before Christ’s return.

Verse 3:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away [*apostasia*] first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;” (1769 AV)

There must be a falling away. The English words “falling away” are from the Greek word *apostasia*. The English equivalent is apostasy. Apostasy describes a strong rejection of faith. That is not new. However, Greek manuscripts include the definite article “the.” THE apostasy is something Jesus spoke about.

Consider Jesus’ words on this matter:

Matthew 24: 9-12

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake.

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. (1769 AV)

THE apostasy shall be as none before it!

After this takes place the next event will be the revealing of the man of sin, the son of perdition [utter destruction]. He is spoken of throughout the Scripture and defined by different titles. His entire life is governed by a lust to destroy. You can read specific details as to what he will do in the context of II Thessalonians 2 and elsewhere.

The greatest information, however, is that the son of perdition shall be destroyed!

II Thessalonians 2:8

And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming;" (1769 AV)

That Wicked is called the Assyrian in Isaiah and elsewhere.

Isaiah 30:31

For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, *which* smote with a rod. (1769 AV)

Identified by whatever title given, one thing is certain, he is destroyed!

But prior to his destruction, he will set himself up to be worshipped as God and will do so in the Temple of God.

What he does and his final rise to power are marked in Scripture by a 3 1/2 year period at the end of which our Lord returns and destroys him.

During his reign much will take place, but in the end Jesus Christ stands victorious! Nevertheless, one must view this in grave seriousness as much is at stake.

The Word as recorded in Thessalonians continues:

II Thessalonians 2:9-12

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:

That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (1769 AV)

Those without love for the truth will be deceived and perish!

But take heart and read the declaration of the Word:

II Thessalonians 2:16,17

Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work." (1769 AV)

To be continued:

October 14, 2007

No Man Knows the Time

With the increasing onslaught of false teachings, Christians must be diligent to maintain a deep concern for truth. Failure to do so abates hunger and thirst while compromising faith and practice.

God gave us the Scripture that we might know, not speculate!

I Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. (1769 AV)

Ephesians 1:18-20

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Philippians 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; (1769 AV)

God wants you to know! A singularly important exception to this is the time and hour of Christ's Second Coming.

Matthew 24:36

But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (1769 AV)

Jesus said no man knows the day or hour, that's good enough for me. One wonders why so many keep guessing! Woe to those who blindly follow [Matthew 15:14] the "guessers."

But things are much worse for those in charge according to the Word.

Jeremiah 23:1

Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. (1769 AV)

Despite this dire warning, some continue to oppose God's Word with false teachings. This is found in every stratum of doctrine and not confined to end time predictions. One insidious example of this is the nullification of sin, for which the penalty is austere.

Isaiah 5:20-24

Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. (1769 AV)

All who claim to represent God should adhere exclusively to Scripture. For we must all give account to God some day!

When following any teacher you are well advised to be as the Bereans.

Acts 17:11b

... they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (1769 AV)

Bear in mind, the following when studying prophecies of future events:

I Corinthians 13:9 & 12

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. (1769 AV)

Putting the above information to use will benefit your spiritual understanding exponentially!

You cannot have great clarity on things that haven't come to pass. There's no need to "stew over" things beyond your comprehension. Approach the Scripture with the attitude that it's God's unerring

Word and reject all contradiction of the Scripture covert or overt.

Sadly, many end time teachings are based on a morbid fascination with evil. Fear then becomes the tool of choice for converting sinners. God-fearing Christians must eschew this, knowing it's the goodness of God that leads to repentance. Perfect love always casts out fear!

The good news is not wrapped up in the revelation of the son of perdition. It's found in the revelation of Jesus Christ the Son of God! His Second Coming is the main event and will bless all creation.

Anticipating Jesus Christ's Return should be the cornerstone of our existence and the overture of our thought process!

Revelation 22:20

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (1769 AV)

Come quickly Lord Jesus!

Look for an end times order of events in the next installment of this series.

October 28, 2007