If you would like to print this newsletter, use our new PRINT button up above. In order for it to print right, you will probably have to check the box that says "Remove images."

Lighthouse Trails Research PRINT JOURNAL: Our new low-cost subscription-based print journal is mailed out to homes and offices 6 times a year. The 32-page journal contains the most important stories from our e-newsletter from the previous 8 weeks and also other features. You may wish to receive that in addition to this free e-newsletter. You can sign up any time during the year for the print journal. You can also buy individual or past issues here. Many people have now signed up for the print journal, and we are getting very favorable feedback that the journal is most beneficial. For common questions about the journal, click here.

Note: Because we are a research ministry, we do post news articles from various secular and Christian sources along with our own in-house articles if we believe our readers can benefit from the information. We also post video clips from YouTube at times. Also please note, any advertising on YouTube videos is not in any way connected to Lighthouse Trails and is beyond our control, but we make every effort to use only video clips that have no obscene or vulgar content including in advertising.

The Daily Beast Writes Feature Article About Jesus Calling – Asks Questions Christian Leaders Ignore and Remain Silent On
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Arizona Governor Vetoes Bill Protecting Religious Rights of Business Owners

The New [Age] Spirituality: The Folly of the Ages

Jesus Calling Devotional Bible? — Putting Words in Jesus’ Mouth— And in the Bible

A Word of Caution: Ecumenical-Backed Movie, Son of God, May Send Subtle New Age/Roman Catholic Messages

And They Loved Not Their Lives Unto the Death

Two Photos From Bryce Homes in Kenya

Pat Robertson Blasts Young Earth Beliefs: ‘Let’s Not Make a Joke of Ourselves’

The Acceptance Of Evil…

The Unification of Hyper-Charismatics and the Catholic Church

Mennonite Palestinianism

A Cree First Nations Talks About Necromancy As Interest Increases

Letter to the Editor: Radio Bible Class - Continuing to Go Contemplative - And Pushes "As Below, So Above"

SIGN UP FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH PRINT JOURNAL

FLAT RATE U.S. SHIPPING AND HISTORY OF LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS

RENEW PRINT JOURNAL

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LTRP Note: While most evangelical pastors and virtually all Christian leaders have ignored or stayed away from the controversy of Jesus Calling, the secular publication, The Daily Beast, dares to ask questions that take a deeper look into this book, while pointing readers to Warren B. Smith’s “Another Jesus” Calling.

“The Strange Saga of ‘Jesus Calling,’ The Evangelical Bestseller You’ve Never Heard Of”

By Daily Beast Columnist Ruth Graham

A ten-year-old devotional written in the voice of God suddenly became a commercial juggernaut. Now, its publisher is trying to reconcile its New Age origins with evangelical orthodoxy.

The seventh-best selling book in America last year was a 10-year-old Christian devotional written by a woman who claims to have written down the words of God. Jesus Calling: Enjoying Peace in His Presence sold more copies in 2013 than the much more buzzed-about titles Lean In, the latest Stephen King book, and 50 Shades of Grey, according to Nielsen BookScan. Overall, more than 10 million copies in 26 languages have been sold since the book’s inauspicious debut in 2004. Jesus Calling is a devotional, a mainstay genre in Christian publishing and in the daily lives of many Christians. Best-selling devotionals like Our Daily Bread, My Utmost for His Highest, and The Purpose-Driven Life consist of short sections that are meant to be read each day for encouragement and contemplation.

Click here to continue reading.

Arizona Governor Vetoes Bill Protecting Religious Rights of Business Owners

By Christian News Network

PHOENIX — A bill passed by Arizona lawmakers last week which sought to protect business owners and shield them from unlawful discrimination lawsuits has been vetoed by Governor Jan Brewer.

“I sincerely believe that Senate Bill 1062 has the potential to create more problems than it purports to solve. It could divide Arizona in ways we cannot even imagine and no one would ever want,” Brewer said.

HB 2153 had cleared the Arizona House of Representatives 33-27, amending sections 41-1493 and 41-1493.01 of the state code pertaining to the free exercise of religion. The bill broadened the definition of a religious entity to include businesses and associations, and prohibited state officials from burdening the entity’s free exercise of religion without the least restrictive means of furthering a compelling government interest. Click here to continue reading.

The New [Age] Spirituality: The Folly of the Ages

by Ray Yungen

In 2 Corinthians 1:9, the apostle Paul says:
"But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead."

The verse does not say we should trust in ourselves who are God—it says we should not trust in ourselves but trust in God. God is a personal Being, not the Universe, not a spirit guide, and most certainly not humanity.

The reason the New Age is wrong is that it takes devotion, trust, and glory away from the One who created us and gives it to man and the rebellious familiar spirits who deceive man into self-glorification. An analogy of this would be that of an artist’s canvas or paint—rather than the artist taking credit for the painting, the canvas or paint takes the credit.

That is why the Gentile nations were separated from the true God. They were the metaphysicians of old (the Mystery Schools) “who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served [honored] the creature [man] more than the Creator [God], who is blessed forever. Amen” (Romans 1:25).

This folly was due to the same error that millions are making right now. They turned to the realm of familiar spirits for guidance, just as people are doing today.

There is one account in particular that brings out what I want to convey. It is found in Acts 16:16-19:

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination [familiar spirit] met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying [psychic predictions]: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, “These men are the servants of the most high God, Which shew unto us the way of salvation.” And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, “I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And he came out the same hour. And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace and unto the rulers.

These verses show four things that are critical to understanding the nature and aim of the New Age movement:

1. The spirit was the source of her power, not some latent faculty inherent in the human makeup. When it went, her ability was gone.

2. The spirit was accurate to a high degree. Otherwise she would not have brought her masters “much gain.” You don’t become a success with a poor showing.

3. Paul and the spirit were not on the same side. This is quite evident by the fact that he cast it out of her.

4. Most important of all, the spirit tried to identify itself with God. When it followed Paul and Silas, it was saying the truth, “These men show us the way of salvation.” By doing this, the spirit could continue its practice of deceiving all concerned and perhaps later undo what Paul’s ministry had accomplished.

These spirits are doing the same thing today. This girl, no doubt, believed that it was her inner divinity giving her the information that was so effective in aiding the community. The truth of the matter is, when you say you have connected with your inner divinity and that you are God, sadly, you have joined the ranks of those who, “Professing themselves to be wise [knowing the truth], they became fools [absurd], and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man” (Romans 1:22-23).

Swami Muktananda was one of the most admired and respected New Age leaders during the 1970s and early 1980s. He was thought by many to be the virtual embodiment of the God-realized master. He told His disciples:

“Kneel to your own self. Honor and worship your own Being. Chant the mantra always going on within you. Meditate on your own self. God dwells within you as you.”

When Muktananda died in 1982, one of his closest followers revealed that his master “ended as a feeble-minded, sadistic tyrant luring devout little girls to his bed every night with promises of grace and self-realization.” Without realizing he was echoing the truth of the verses just quoted, he concluded:

There is no absolute assurance that enlightenment necessitates the moral virtue...
Lighthouse Trails is a Christian publishing company and research project ministry. We work with a group of Christian journalists and authors, all who understand the times in which we live from a biblical perspective. While we hope you will buy and read the books we have published, watch the DVDs we have produced, and support our ministry, we also provide extensive free research, documentation, and news on our Research site, blog, e-newsletter, and now our subscription based print journal. We pray that the books as well as the online research will be a blessing to the body of Christ and a witness to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Contacting Us
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BOOKLET TRACTS

In January of 2013, we began publishing Print Booklet Tracts. Click the banner below to see what we have so far. More will be added regularly. These are specifically designed to give out to people.

It is very clear that the metaphysical explosion that our society is currently immersed in is a continuation of what Leviticus 19:31 warned against:

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards [metaphysicians], to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God."

On this basis alone, Christians have a duty to challenge the validity of the New Age [New Spirituality] message that we are God.

Notes:
WRITERS WE USE

- anita dittman
- berit kjos
- bill randles
- carl teichrib
- carolyn a. greene
- caryl matrisciana
- chris lawson
- david dombrowski
- diet eman
- egerton ryerson young
- greg reid
- jan markell
- jim fletcher
- john foxe
- john lanagan
- kevin reeves
- larry debruyn
- maria kneas
- mike oppenheimer
- nanci des gerlaise
- paul proctor
- ray yungen
- roger oakland
- sandy simpson
- tony pearce
- warren b. smith

Jesus Calling Devotional Bible?—Putting Words in Jesus’ Mouth—And in the Bible
By Warren B. Smith
(author of the new release “Another Jesus” Calling: How False Christs Are Entering the Church Through Contemplative Prayer)

One of the many spin-off products from Sarah Young’s best-selling book, Jesus Calling, is the Jesus Calling Devotional Bible. It is a New King James Bible filled with “messages” Young claims to have “received” from Jesus Christ. In the original Introduction to her book, Jesus Calling, Young describes the nature of these messages:

My journaling had changed from monologue to dialogue. Soon, messages began to flow more freely, and I bought a special notebook to record these words. 1

I have continued to receive personal messages from God as I meditate on Him. 2

This practice of listening to God has increased my intimacy with Him more than any other spiritual discipline, so I want to share some of the messages I have received. 3

In the Introduction to Young’s Jesus Calling Devotional Bible, she describes the “joy of listening to Jesus with pen in hand”:

After many years of writing in prayer journals—and then discovering the joy of listening to Jesus with “pen in hand” — I believe all of this more than ever today. 4

She describes the difference that this “listening to Jesus” has made in her life. She writes:

What has made the difference? The practice of listening to Jesus and letting Him speak to me. This practice has done more to increase my intimacy with Him than any other spiritual discipline. And the words of assurance and instruction that He has “spoken” to me over the years are what I have shared in my devotional books. 5

Young Believes that her “Messages” from “Jesus” Belong in the Bible?

Young’s personal “messages” from “Jesus” occupy some 250 separate full pages of her Jesus Calling Devotional Bible. Young claims that the placement of her messages and writings alongside Scripture is a “natural place” for them — and that she feels honored to have them there.

Since my writings are rooted in the infallible, unchanging Word of God, having them appear alongside the biblical text would seem to be a natural place for them. It is an honor to have devotionals from two of my books, Jesus Calling and Jesus Lives, included in this volume. 6

However, as I pointed out in Another Jesus Calling, many of Sarah Young’s “messages” in Jesus Calling are clearly not rooted in the “infallible, unchanging Word of God.” And now, a number of these problematic “messages” have been placed throughout the pages of her Jesus Calling Devotional Bible.

Take, for example, the bizarre account she reputedly received from Jesus regarding Abraham and Isaac. This “message” has been placed “alongside” the actual Genesis 22 account, with her “Jesus” purportedly describing Abraham as an idolater and son-worshiper:

Remember the extreme measures I used with Abraham and Isaac. I took Isaac to the very point of death to free Abraham from son-worship. Both Abraham and Isaac suffered terribly because of the father’s undisciplined emotions. I detest idolatry even in the form of parental love. 7

But this extrabiblical “message” from Young’s “Jesus” is blatantly unbiblical. In fact, her publisher, Thomas Nelson, has removed it from some recent printings of Jesus Calling and related products. The original Abraham and Isaac August 23rd “devotion” has been cut and pasted and toned down to now read Jacob and Joseph rather than Abraham and Isaac. As mentioned in a previous Lighthouse Trails post, Sarah Young and her Thomas Nelson editors have removed controversial materials from recently printed Jesus Calling items with no explanation, apology, or repentance to Young’s millions of readers. However—at least as of today—this original Abraham and Isaac account can still be found—in unbelievably—in Young’s Jesus Calling Devotional Bible.

Ironically, the Jesus Calling: 365 Devotional For Kids also keeps Abraham and Isaac in the August 23rd account. However, Young—with help from others—has cleaned up the original account to make it more biblical. The new sanitized version, according to the book’s title page, originated with Sarah Young. It was adapted by a woman named Tama Fortner and then further edited by another woman named Kris Bears. And now gone is Abraham’s idolatry. Gone are his undisciplined emotions. And instead of having been a son-worshiper, now he is only in danger of worshiping his son. This carefully paraphrased, adapted, and further edited version of “Jesus’” original “message” now reads:

Abraham had waited so long for a son. When Isaac finally came, Abraham was in danger of worshipping his son. I
Abraham had waited so long for a son. When Isaac finally came, Abraham was in danger of worshipping his son. I tested Abraham, and—as hard as it was—Abraham trusted Me to take care of Isaac. And I did.

With all of this cutting, pasting, adapting, and editing away of problematic words and passages—all in the name of “Jesus”—one cannot help wonder if this is Thomas Nelson’s attempt to stay one step ahead of unsuspecting readers and legitimate criticism. Responding truthfully and forthrightly about the many controversial questions surrounding Sarah Young’s inconsistent “Jesus” appear to be less important than preserving her #1 best-selling book Jesus Calling and its many related products—like the Jesus Calling Devotional Bible.

Other Problems with the Jesus Calling Devotional Bible

Other problematic “messages” contained in the original, unedited Jesus Calling can also be found in Young’s Jesus Calling Devotional Bible. Perhaps the most obviously unscriptural is how Young’s “Jesus” contradicts the Bible’s Jesus in regards to the last words Jesus spoke before ascending into heaven. In the Jesus Calling Devotional Bible, with Matthew 28:20 cited at the bottom of the page, Young’s “Jesus” states:

> My final statement just before I ascended into heaven was: Surely I am with you always. That promise was for all my followers, without exception.

But these were not Jesus Christ’s last words. This Matthew 28:20 passage was uttered on a mount in Galilee (Matthew 28:16) while His last words were actually spoken later in Acts 1:7-9 on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:12):

> And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), and the true Jesus does not contradict Himself regarding His last words before ascending into heaven or any other matter. Nor does He put forth untrue, disparaging remarks about Abraham and Isaac. While it is not the purpose of this article to catalog all the concerns that arise when reading Sarah Young’s Jesus Calling Devotional Bible, these two examples alone should be enough to keep any sincere believer far away from the Jesus Calling Devotional Bible.

Bible Warnings

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

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. (2 Timothy 4:3-4)

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. (Galatians 5:7-9)

For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ, and shall deceive many. (Matthew 24:5)

Endnotes

2. Ibid.
3. Ibid., p.XIII in the original Introduction.
5. Ibid.

A Word of Caution: Ecumenical-Backed Movie, “Son of God,” May Send Subtle New Age/Roman Catholic Messages

On February 28th, 20th Century Fox will release the movie Son of God in theaters. The movie is produced by husband/wife team Mark Burnett and Roma Downey (Downey plays Mary in the film). While the movie is about the life of Jesus (and if the movie trailer is any indication, it will be a very moving and emotional account),
In a July 2013 Lighthouse Trails article, we wrote the following statements:

Differences of religious affinity toward New Ageism and the highly ecumenical (evangelical, emerging, contemplative, Catholic, Mormon, etc) group of endorsers and advisers, there may be subtle messages and omissions in the movie that are contrary to the Word of God and its portrayal of Jesus Christ as the truth and the singular Savior of the world. Thus, we encourage those who will be seeing the movie to watch it through the eyes of discernment and the filter of God’s Word.

We know the Bible tells us the day will come when the whole world will follow a false (anti) Christ and will worship him. And we can see how quickly an apostate ecumenical religious body is rising to the surface, leaving traditional, biblical Christianity behind. There have been films that have been produced over the years with the purpose of drawing people into an ecumenical religious movement. For instance, when Mel Gibson’s Passion of the Christ came out, evangelical Christians flocked to the movie in scores, and most major Christian leaders promoted it. But after the movie had come out, Mel Gibson admitted that the reason for doing the movie was to draw people to the Eucharist, Mary, and the Catholic church. If you did not read Roger Oakland’s article, "What Lies Behind Mel Gibson’s The Passion of the Christ by Roger Oakland," we hope you will read it before attending Son of God. Roger received a lot of criticism from peers for his warnings about The Passion of the Christ. But in the end, it was Mel Gibson himself who set the record straight and confirmed what Roger was saying was true. And today, several years later, the evangelical/Protestant church is so much further down the contemplative/emerging, ecumenical road to Rome.

With Son of God, we can only hope that Roma Downey’s New Age/Catholic bent doesn’t surface. However, we are skeptical that it won’t. A February 27th New York Times article shows that the intention of filmmakers for Son of God/is to reach past the differences of religious faiths and bring people into unity. The article states:

Downey’s husband, “The Voice” and “Survivor” producer Mark Burnett, said the Christian filmmaking team reached out specifically to other faiths to tell the story of the life of Jesus . . . without causing offense.

“It just took a lot of work and a lot of time and a lot of listening over a number of years to see everybody’s point of view and how to not take the teeth out of the story — the dynamic drama from the story — but be sensitive across groups,” Burnett said. “Because there’s very different interpretations across the Catholic faith and the Protestant faith and the Jewish faith.”

In a July 2013 Lighthouse Trails article, we wrote the following statements, which reflect Roma Downey’s spiritual proclivities:

**From our July 2013 article, “From the Frying Pan into the Fire: Women of Faith Partners with New Age Advocate Roma Downey”**:

In an article we posted earlier this year, Rick Warren Endorses 2013 Book, Catholics Come Home – Calls Catholic Evangelization “Critically Important,” we quoted [Roma] Downey as saying this about the book: “Catholics Come Home inspires each of us to share God’s love with others, in order to help change the world for the better, for eternity!” And, in a book titled Practical Praying: Using the Rosary to Enhance Your Life, there is a companion “Meditation” CD by Roma Downey that comes with the book.

But Roma Downey isn’t just a Catholic promoter. She is a New Age/New Spirituality promoter. Within the pages of a book titled Loyalty to Your Soul by Ron and Mary Hulnick (published in 2010 by the New Age publisher, Hay House), Downey endorses the book saying:

“As a USM [University of Santa Monica - a New Age metaphysical school] graduate, I know firsthand the value I received from participating with Ron and Mary in the Master’s degree Program in Spiritual Psychology. I am so grateful to have Loyalty to Your Soul/to sweetly remind me of all I have learned. Let’s just say that I went from playing an angel on TV to living more of an angelic life every day. The teachings in this beautiful book have sent me on a journey to the very center of my own being where, wrapped in the safe wings of Love, I feel as though I have come home.”

Downey’s endorsement in the Hulnick’s book is nestled in with full-blown New Agers like Barbara Marx Hubbard, Joan Borysenko, and Gay Hendricks (The Corporate Mystic). By the way, Neale Donald Walsch, the New Ager who said that Hitler did the Jews a favor by killing them, wrote the foreword to Loyalty to Your Soul!

Clearly, Downey read this book and resonates deeply with it to say what she did about it. To get an idea of this “journey” that Downey is on, listen to a few quotes from Loyalty to Your Soul.

“Center your awareness in your heart and consciously look for the Loving Essence in the person in your presence. By doing so, you’re signifying your respect for the Soul before you . . . Maintain awareness that you’re in conversation with another Divine Being who is engaged in having a human experience.” (p. 209)

“We ask for the presence, protection, guidance, and Love of the Divine Beings who work with each of us.” (from the “Invocation” — emphasis added)

“When people speak of spirituality, they simply mean awareness of the sacred reality of the Divine Essence within and beyond all creation.” (p. 8, quoting favorably a New Age “spiritual teacher”)
For the awakening person, there is a growing yearning for time in the silence. There is a sense of needing time and space for contemplation, meditation, walking in nature, and just plain being alone. Attuning to the inner channel of Divine Love is supported by quiet moments.” (p. 27)

“You begin to recognize others as Divine Beings, and the situations and circumstances of your life as learning devices.” (p. 31)

Those familiar with New Age teachings will recognize such statements as being the core essence of the occult (that man is divine). Loyalty to Your Soul is a contemporary version of A Course in Miracles (the New Age book Warren B. Smith talks about in his biography, The Light That Was Dark).

In addition to endorsing Loyalty to Your Soul, Downey also endorsed a book called Angels in My Hair: the true story of a modern day Irish mystic by Lorna Bryne. The book is about spirit guides in people’s lives. We find it disconcerting to know that someone with Downey’s spiritual propensities, who attended a New Age university, helped to create a program on God’s Word.

If you watch the video clips of various Christian leaders who are promoting the Son of God movie (e.g., Bill Hybels, Rick Warren, Max Lucado, etc), you will notice that many of these endorsers are praising Hollywood for coming out with films on Jesus and the Bible (soon a movie on Noah is going to be released). But if the Jesus that Hollywood is depicting is not the Jesus of the Bible but rather a why-can’t-we-all-get-along kind of Jesus and if the Word of God itself is being altered and revised, then how can we, as Christian believers, praise such work? Nevertheless, it will be praised by today’s popular religious leaders and most likely tens of millions will go to see the film. And the question that must be asked is, what will be the “fruit” of this and other such films?

And They Loved Not Their Lives Unto the Death

LTRP Note: The following is chapter one of Foxe’s Book of Martyrs (LT edition) and covers some of the first martyrs in the Christian faith including Peter, Paul, and Stephen. May we, as believers in Christ, in our present day and age, remember those who have gone before us courageously refusing to deny their faith in Christ and thus paying with their lives. Today, as we watch an apostate church rise quickly to the surface (denying the very essence of the biblical Christian faith), may we, by His grace and strength, stand true to the church that God will preserve and to the same faith for which so many men and women before us valiantly died.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (Revelation 12:11)

John Foxe

“History of Christian Martyrs until the First General Persecutions Under Nero [A.D. 34 to A.D. 73]“

By John Foxe

(Author of Foxe’s Book of Martyrs)

Christ our Savior, in the Gospel of St. Matthew, hearing the confession of Simon Peter, who was the first to openly acknowledge Him to be the Son of God, [declared] that He would build His church, a church so strong that the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

This prophecy of Christ we see wonderfully fulfilled in such a way that the whole course of the church to this day may seem nothing else but a verifying of that prophecy. First, that Christ has set up a church needs no declaration. Second, it is with great force that princes, kings, monarchs, governors, and rulers of this world, and their subjects, incorporating all their strength and cunning, have bent themselves against this church! And third, how this church, all this notwithstanding, has yet endured and held its own! For this reason, I have set forth to address this present history, to the end that the wonderful works of God in His church might appear to His glory; also by continuing to set forth the proceedings of the church from time to time, more knowledge and experience may result to the profit of the reader and to the edification of the Christian faith.

It is not our business to enlarge upon our Saviour’s history, either before or after His crucifixion. We shall only remind our readers of the changes wrought by His subsequent resurrection. Although one apostle had betrayed Him; although another had denied Him under the solemn sanction of an oath; and although the rest had forsaken Him; the history of His resurrection gave a new direction to all their hearts, and, after the mission of the Holy Spirit, imparted new confidence to their minds. The powers with which they were endowed emboldened them to proclaim His name, to the confusion of the Jewish rulers and the astonishment of Gentile proselytes.

The Stoning of Steven
Stephen

Stephen suffered the next in order after our Lord. His death was occasioned by the faithful manner in which he preached the gospel to the betrayers and murderers of Christ. To such a degree of madness were they excited, that they cast him out of the city and stoned him to death. The time when he suffered is generally supposed to have been at the Passover which followed our Lord’s crucifixion.

Upon this a great persecution was raised against all who professed their belief in Christ as the Messiah, or as a prophet. We are immediately told by Luke, that “there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem”; and that “they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.”

About two thousand Christians, including Nicanor, one of the seven deacons, suffered martyrdom during the “persecution that arose about Stephen.”

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7: 59-60

James the Great

The next martyr we meet with, according to Luke in the History of the Apostles’ Acts, was James the son of Zebedee. He was the elder brother of John and a relative of our Lord; for his mother Salome was cousin to Mary. It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen (and the other martyrs) that the second martyrdom took place. No sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea, than, with a view to ingratiate himself to the Jews, he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians and determined to make an effectual blow by striking at their leaders. The account given us by an eminent primitive writer, Clemens Alexandrinus, ought not be overlooked. He reports that as James was led to the place of martyrdom, his accuser was brought to repent of his conduct by the apostle’s extraordinary courage. His accuser fell down at the feet of James requesting his pardon, professing himself a Christian, and resolving that James should not receive the crown of martyrdom alone. Hence they were both beheaded at the same time. Thus the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely received that cup, which he had told our Saviour he was ready to drink. This event took place in A.D. 44.

Philip

Philip was born at Bethsaida, in Galilee and was first called by the name “disciple.” He labored diligently in Upper Asia, and suffered martyrdom at Heliopolis, in Phrygia. He was scourged, thrown into prison, and afterwards crucified in A.D. 54.

Matthew

Matthew, whose occupation was that of a tax collector, was born at Nazareth. The scene of his labors was Parthia and Ethiopia, in which latter country he suffered martyrdom, being slain with a battle ax in the city of Nadabah in A.D. 60.

James the Less

James the Less was elected to the oversight of the churches of Jerusalem and was the author of the Epistle ascribed to James in the sacred canon. At the age of ninety-four he was beaten and stoned by the Jews; and finally had his brains dashed out with a club.

Matthias

Less is known about Matthias than of most of the other disciples. He was elected to fill the vacant place of Judas. He was stoned at Jerusalem and then beheaded.

Andrew

Andrew was the brother of Peter. He preached the gospel to many Asiatic nations; but on his arrival at Edessa he was taken and crucified on a cross, the two ends of which were fixed diagonally in the ground. Hence the derivation of the term, St. Andrew’s Cross.

Mark

Mark was born of Jewish parents of the tribe of Levi. He is supposed to have been converted to Christianity by Peter, whom he served as a secretary, and under whose inspection he wrote his Gospel in the Greek language. Mark was dragged to pieces by the people of Alexandria at the yearly celebration of their idol Serapis, ending his life under their merciless hands.
Peter
Among many other saints, the blessed apostle Peter was condemned to death and crucified. Hegesippus reports that Nero sought a reason to put Peter to death. Jerome writes that Peter was crucified with his head being down and his feet upward at his own insistence because he was (he said) unworthy to be crucified after the same form and manner as was the Lord.

Paul
Paul the Apostle, who before was called Saul, after his great travail and unspeakable labors in promoting the Gospel of Christ, suffered also in this first persecution under Nero. Nero sent two of his esquires, Ferega and Parthemius, to bring him word of Paul's death. They came upon Paul as he was teaching the people and asked him to pray for them that they might believe. He told them that shortly after they should believe and be baptized at the Lord's sepulcher. This done, the soldiers came and led him out of the city to the place of execution, where he, after his prayers were said, gave his neck to the sword.

Jude
The brother of James was commonly called Thaddeus. He was crucified at Edessa in A.D. 72.

Bartholomew
Bartholomew preached in several countries, and having translated the Gospel of Matthew into the language of India, he propagated it in that country. He was at length cruelly beaten and then crucified by the impatient idolaters.

Thomas
Thomas, called Didymus, preached the gospel in Parthia and India. Exciting the rage of the pagan priests, he was martyred by being thrust through with a spear.

Luke
Luke the Evanglist was the author of the Gospel which goes under his name. He travelled with Paul through various countries, and is supposed to have been hanged on an olive tree by the idolatrous priests of Greece.

Simon
Simon, surnamed Zelotes, preached the Gospel in Mauritania, Africa, and even in Britain, in which latter country he was crucified in A.D. 74.

John
The "beloved disciple" was brother to James the Great. The churches of Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira, were founded by him. From Ephesus he was ordered to be sent to Rome, where it is affirmed he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle without injury. Domitian afterwards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation. Nerva, the successor of Domitian, recalled him. He was the only apostle who escaped a violent death.

Barnabas
Barnabas was of Cyprus, but of Jewish descent. His death is supposed to have taken place about A.D. 73.

And yet, notwithstanding all these continual persecutions and horrible punishments, the church daily increased, deeply rooted in the doctrine of the apostles and watered plenteously with the blood of saints.

Other Accounts From Foxe's Book of Martyrs
1560 – The Martyrdom of Nicholas Burton, an English Merchant in Spain
Mrs. Prest – She Said No to Apostasy and Became a Martyr
John Wickliffe – Standing (and Dying) for the Word of God Against Apostasy and False Doctrine
This above is a photo of Pastor Nelson and his family receiving their monthly food support from the Bryce Homes program. Pastor Nelson is one of three Christian men who run the Bryce program in Kenya. We are so grateful for the integrity, devotion, and honesty of Pastor Nelson, Pastor Achilla, and Walter (the treasurer/accountant).

At Bryce Home #7, the boys seen above are helping to paint the new latrine for their home. You can see the newly built Bryce Home in the background.

To learn more about the Bryce Homes missions project (supported solely by Understand the Times and Lighthouse Trails readers), click here. And please pray for Roger Oakland (for his safety and his health especially) as he will soon be traveling to Kenya to visit all 20 Bryce Homes and spend time with Pastor Achilla, Pastor Nelson, Walter, and other area pastors and church leaders. When he returns, we will post the photos and information that Roger collects on the trip.

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**Pat Robertson Blasts Young Earth Beliefs: “Let’s Not Make a Joke of Ourselves”**

LTPR Note: Underneath the article below, we have posted a few video clips from Roger Oakland's creation/evolution lecture series Searching for the Truth on Origins. For your children and grandchildren’s sakes, please make sure they understand the Scriptures, the science, and the evidence behind the evolution/creation debate. This is no laughing matter. As we have clearly documented over the years, the connection between evolutionary thinking and the New Age/new spirituality is remarkable, and the influence evolutionary thinking has had on our society is astounding.

By Heather Clark  
**Christian News Network**

In providing his feedback on Tuesday’s debate between Ken Ham of Answers in Genesis and Bill Nye ‘the Science Guy,’ televangelist Pat Robertson went off on a two-minute monologue on Wednesday about why he holds to the opinion that Christians need to get over their young earth beliefs.

Speaking on his daily broadcast of the 700 Club, Robertson focused on the calculations and analysis of Bishop James Ussher, the Church of Ireland Archbishop and scholar who once dated the world as being 6,000 years old.

"Let’s face it," he said. "There was a bishop in the Middle Ages there—1800′s or something—named James Ussher, and he thought the world was 6,000 years old. And he worked out all the calculations to it. And I just don’t see anything wrong with that."
“Let’s face it,” he said. “There was a bishop in the Middle Ages there—1200s or something—who added up the dates listed in Genesis and he came up with [a calculation that] the world had been around for 6,000 years. There ain’t no way that’s possible.” Click here to read more.

Related Material:
If you cannot see these 4 video clips below, click here.
Evil thrives on lies. The fall of man came about by the acceptance of a lie. Satan himself is the father of lies. Lying and evil are indivisible.

We are currently living in a time of the mass acceptance of evil. Daily the case is being successfully made for things such as homosexual marriage, abortion, pedophilia, the justification of Islamic terror. People are unwittingly being conditioned to accept the previously unacceptable through the various forms of mass media.

It is surreal to see otherwise reasonable people advocate what only a short while ago would have been unthinkable to them. How have we gotten to this point? Evil has been successfully marketed to mainstream America.

I remember the day after the 9-11 attacks, going to the post office to buy stamps and being handed a packet of Islamic “Eid” stamps recently released by the post office. I politely asked for anything but Islamic stamps, only to receive this retort from the normally friendly postman, “Christianity has done just as much terror as any other religion, we don’t have any room to complain!”

We regularly receive the same hostility from otherwise normal people, whenever the subject of homosexual marriage comes up, as it has frequently lately. People who wouldn’t have dreamed of advocating any position endorsing so-called “gay rights” are now angry if such rights are ever so much as called into question. What’s going on here?

I believe what we are seeing here is the onset of something called “the strong delusion” warned about in the scripture above and other places in scripture. It follows upon and is a consequence of another phenomenon called “the apostasy,” that is the falling away.

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. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (2 Thessalonians 2:1-3; bold added)

It is not only proclaiming Christians who will fall away in many cases, but the Judeo-Christian world is undergoing a departure from its Christian view and influence and is in a vigorous process of repudiating the religious bedrock of its own culture, as well as the institutions that sprang out of it. This is predicted in the second Psalm:

Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us (Psalm 2:1-3)

The prophesied “great apostasy” includes the departure of much of the Christian church from the faith once and for all delivered. But it goes far beyond it. The “Kings of the earth and their rulers,” that is the leaders, educators, clergy, and opinion and culture shapers share a consensus that the influence of Christianity is bondage that must be cast off!
For example, by means of a constant stream of media propaganda and sophisticated marketing, homosexuality has been sold as a viable option to mainstream America. People are embracing the lie that has been sold to them. Without thought, they are parroting the propaganda. This is true even of many confessing Christians!

A particularly effective aspect of the marketing is the dishonest but deliberate confusion of the (valid) Civil Rights movement of the 1960s with “homosexual rights.”

Shelby Steele

This has been effective because as authors like Shelby Steele point out, a constant drumbeat of “white guilt” heaped upon Americans by the media and academia for the legacy of slavery and racism has made us vulnerable to any accusations of that nature, whether true or false. The last thing anyone wants to be called in America is a racist.

By the time homosexual activists deliberately hijacked the civil rights movement, claiming to be the new victims of discrimination, too many of us had already been put on the defensive to raise an objection. Propagandistic programs in schools such as “Days of silence,” in which solidarity is created between gay and straight students by means of keeping silence, have been largely effective.

Seizing upon dubious martyrs, such as Matthew Shepherd, who was killed in a drug deal gone bad, has also played into our American sense of sympathy for the victims. This is the logic behind “Anti-bullying” campaigns in our schools.

When homosexual activists in the media realized that most Americans didn’t actually know a homosexual, they wrote them into the scripts of sitcoms and talk shows to “humanize” the perversion and break down resistance to it. Now through trash shows such as “Friends,” “Will and Grace,” and “Ellen,” everyone knows a homosexual, and they like them!

Perhaps one of the greatest factors that has brainwashed our population is “Political correctness,” which is a powerful factor in both the suppression of truth and in the promotion of the big lies. Succumbing to political correctness actually causes one to hold to a cognitive dissonance, we cannot speak the truth we know.

Everybody knows the emperor isn’t wearing any clothes, but they can’t say it, they must praise the style of his “clothes” to stay on good terms with the emperor.

Everybody knows that Islam is evil, violent, and anti-American to the core, but few can say it. Everybody knows homosexuality is twisted and unclean but few dare say it. Honesty has been strangled to death in the political warfare of our times.

Instead, we are strongly pressured to corrupt ourselves and to literally sell our own souls in the service of the lie. We are in danger of becoming reprobate, no longer able to distinguish good from evil! Worse than that, we are in danger of actually being biased against good and in favor of evil.

Theodore Dalrymple is insightful here on how this pressure has succeeded in getting us to accept evil:

> When people are forced to remain silent when they are being told the most obvious lies, or even worse when they are forced to repeat the lies themselves, they lose once and for all their sense of probity. To assent to obvious lies is to co-operate with evil, and in some small way to become evil oneself. One’s standing to resist anything is thus eroded, and even destroyed. A society of emasculated liars is easy to control. - Theodore Dalrymple

This is as good an insight as any I have heard yet, as to how many are losing their soul, accommodating and even championing evil. They have been conditioned by PC to first be silent in the presence of obvious lies, eventually to “assent to the lies,” and in many cases have been forced to repeat them over and over again.

Homosexuality is just one of the previously unthinkable “big lies” which we have received. There are many related abominations commonly accepted, which fly in the face of all reason, logic and experience.

People are being set up for the ultimate soul-destroying lie Paul warned about in the above quote. The lie is the old lie, that man can be “as gods,” defining for ourselves truth, morality, virtue, and meaning, with no reference to the God of the Bible.

The rot of our society is almost complete; the only hope for anyone is to take seriously the once well-known promise of Jesus

> If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:31-32)

The Unification of Hyper-charismatics and the Catholic Church

By Roger Oakland

The following news item and video clip reveals how far the ecumenical movement has gone and how close we are to the unification of Rome with “Charismatic evangelicals” and eventually all religions. This is something that Understand The Times has been predicting for some years as the present Pope Francis and the last two Popes, Pope Benedict and Pope John Paul
The purpose of the New Evangelization is to promote the Roman Catholic gospel by reaching out to all religions as well as the separated brethren and introducing them to the Eucharistic Christ.

Evangelicals who believe there will be a great revival (rather than a great apostasy) in the last days centered around the outpouring of the Holy Spirit are candidates for this delusion. Eventually all religions and a false Christianity will form the counterfeit bride also called the harlot. This will happen as the result of the "lying signs of wonders".

So-called evangelical Bible believing Christians who fall for the Pope's call for unity will become members of the One World Religion that prepares the way for the antichrist. Roman Catholics promote that the outpouring of the "Holy Spirit" in the last days will bring about unity of religions for the cause of peace. They say that "Mary" is the one responsible for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They say that the "Eucharistic Reign of Jesus" will soon be established and the "Kingdom of God will be established here on earth with Rome as the headquarters. "Kingdom Now" evangelicals like Copeland and his followers are more than ready to follow the Pope and his plan.

Also, remember that Pope Francis is a Jesuit. The Jesuit plan is to reunite "Christianity" by declaring that the Reformation was not valid and that the Pope is the Head of the Church.

Christians who have discernment and understand what is happening because of insight from their knowledge of the scriptures will be labeled as troublemakers and persecuted for refusing to accept this final delusion.

The return of Jesus Christ is at hand.

February 21 - Pope Francis and the Future of Charismatic Christianity

A recent meeting of ministers associated with the prosperity-preaching Word of Faith branch of charismatic Christianity received a surprise announcement: Pope Francis had sent a message to the conference. It was something of a historic moment.

Beginning around the thirty-minute mark of the above video, Francis speaks in Italian and English subtitles are provided at the bottom. As part of his greeting, the pope chose to highlight two themes, his joy at their desire to worship together in prayer to the Father for the Spirit to come and his yearning for Christians to become one again.

Francis described the current state of Christianity as one of separated families, by which he meant both biological families and the family of God. It was not lost on the Holy Father that the fractures in Christianity are also fractures between individuals. He asks, "Who is to blame for this separation?" and answers, "We all share the blame. We have all sinned." Such a statement expresses the fraternity Francis wishes to restore, nothing more, nothing less. He went on to say that his desire is for this separation to end and a communion to begin again.

Click here to read this entire article and to see the video. Please watch this video using the utmost discernment. You will see how far the evangelical church has fallen.
What you will hear will be empathy for Islamists and rhetoric about pacifism. There will be endless calls for peace at the CATC conferences but no acknowledgment that Israel has negotiated for peace for decades.—**Jan Markell**

**By Menno-Lite**

A conference was recently held called *Impact Holy Land* which was attended by well meaning Mennonites. It came into being because of the *Christ at the Checkpoint* conferences in 2010 and 2012 that were supposedly formed to allow conversations between Christians and Messianic Jews. *Impact Holy Land* was meant to continue the conversation in the U.S. Because of their partnership with Bethlehem Bible College, representatives from the MCC participated in the conference, enlisting the Mennonite Church USA (Peace and Justice Support Network), to help recruit pastors and leaders to attend.

The following is how the article in the February issue of the MB Herald[1] called "Anabaptists join conversation to Impact Holy Land"[2] begins.

Shireen Awwad Hilal, a Palestinian Christian, has hope for Israel-Palestine.

“Few people view our situation with hope, and the concept of reconciliation is controversial,” she said at the Impact Holy Land conference Dec. 4–6. “Let us commit to see hope where others see hopelessness.”

Hilal teaches and is assistant dean of students at Bethlehem Bible College, a partner of Mennonite Central Committee. She believes in the power of relationships, which she sees in her role as the women’s minister for Musalaha (Reconciliation), an organization developing relationships between Palestinian and Israeli believers. **Click here** to continue reading.

**Related Material:**

“Christian Palestinianism” & Emergents Lynn Hybels and Jim Wallis Come to Multnomah University For “Justice” Conference

NEW PRINT BOOKLET TRACT: Chrislam – The Blending Together of Islam & Christianity

**A Cree First Nations Talks About Necromancy As Interest Increases**

**LTRP Note:** There is a lot of talk (and books) these days about people who say they are communicating with someone deceased or are having direct communication with God and/or experiences in Heaven. A few examples are: *Have Heart* talks about a deceased son communicating with his grieving parents; *Jesus Calling* and *God Calling* are about women who says Jesus and God communicate directly with them; Eban Alexander’s *Proof of Heaven* is about a mystical near-death experience that a neurosurgeon says he has in Heaven; *Heaven is For Real* (a *New York Times* best seller) is about a little boy who says he met his deceased sister and grandfather in Heaven during a near-death experience. Most of these books have been best-sellers at one time or another.

**Eban Alexander of Proof of Heaven Talks to Oprah**

A recent *Time* magazine cover story is called "The Mystical Revolution," and clearly we are seeing such a revolution today. From New Age practices such as Reiki and mindful meditation to eastern religious practices such as Yoga, to monastic practices such as centering prayer, contemplative prayer, lectio divina, and breath prayers, our world is fast becoming a mystically drawn society. Below one Cree First Nations woman from Canada, who is the daughter and granddaughter of medicine men, talks about necromancy—communicating with the dead. While we witness this extraordinary interest in communication with the supernatural, this article is a good reminder of what Scripture says.

**By Nanci Des Gerlaise**
The practice of necromancy is divination by alleged communication with the dead. When medicine men go into the sweat lodges, they summon and talk with what they believe are their dead ancestors to ask for guidance, direction, or healing. Yet, in reality, they communicate with familiar spirits or spirit guides who know intimate details about each person they are assigned to, usually without their knowledge. These spirits are what may come to you in your dreams, or you may hear their voices. In some cases, they may pose as loved ones who have passed on.

Native elders, or their followers, often become angry when there are Christians present, and in some cases they ask them to leave. If they truly worship the one and only true God, why then do they get angry or ask Christians to leave? The real explanation is that there are two opposing forces at war—God and Satan. The real reason why Christians are asked to leave the area is that the devil is afraid that Christ’s truth will expose his lies.

Medicine men, and those who practice necromancy, are speaking to and worshiping demons, which is why they become angry when Christians question them; they think that Christians are disrespecting their beliefs. Instead, they should be asking, “Could it be that the truth is making me angry?” Christians are right to reject these beliefs. In fact, they shouldn’t even be in such a session in the first place.

The Bible states there is a great chasm that prevents any type of visitation from beyond. Luke 16:26 says:

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Once when we were left home alone, I stayed up until about four a.m. hoping Dad would come home. I finally fell asleep and had a dream that I had died and could feel my soul floating upwards out of my body. It was very seductive because it felt beautiful, and there was music unlike anything I had ever heard. I was gone about five or six minutes, and then a voice said I had to go back because it was not my time. Even after I came to the Lord, I believed this for a while. Then I finally repented of it because of its association with necromancy. A Christian must have nothing to do with such a work of darkness!

Sometimes healing takes place in such situations, but it definitely is not the Lord Jesus Christ doing the healing because these beliefs and practices are clearly an abomination to Him. Only Satan would have the power to heal at a sweat lodge ceremony. Yes, the devil can bring temporary healing, but it is always for the purpose of further ensnaring a person into the works of darkness. The Bible warns of such false miracles, signs, and wonders in Revelation 13:14 and 16:14. And as for attempting to communicate with the dead, the Bible clearly warns:

There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so to do. (Deuteronomy 18:10–14)

The idea that we can communicate with the dead and they can communicate with us has begun to drift into the Christian church. In Larry Debruyn’s book review of Have Heart (written by a pastor who lost his son in a car accident), Mr. Debruyn states:

I fear, with the growing emphasis on reports of Christians visiting Heaven, or of receiving visits from Heaven, whether solicited or not, that the evangelical church is stepping onto the “slippery slope” leading to spiritualism and spiritism, something practiced by the Canaanites and forbidden by God’s Law.

Spiritualism is very attractive because it promises knowledge of the future and communication with dead loved ones. Many people will be influenced by demonic spirits in this way without realizing it. . . . “God has forbidden humans to try to communicate with the departed dead; such attempts result in communication with deceitful spirits, known as ‘familiar’ spirits. . . .” The spirits are called “familiar” because people think they know them from life!
To Lighthouse Trails:

We would like to assist in continuing to illustrate that RBC [Radio Bible Class] has yet to cease from “going contemplative” – regardless of their statements to the contrary. We offer two recent examples from their Our Daily Bread (ODB) product.

While searching your web presence on this topic, the most recent article I found was from Jan 31, 2013, which calls out Phillip Yancey’s contributions to ODB.

From the January 2014 ODB, specifically the January 9 entry, RBC sites that the article was excerpted and adapted from The Jesus I Never Knew, by Philip Yancey, 1995 Zondervan. The title of the RBC ODB article is “As Below, So Above.” Yancey does point out that “As Above, So Below” is an ancient pagan formula. We have many comments about the motivation behind introducing and “sensitizing or socializing” people to these words, – as well as associating it loosely with the Messiah; but, we suggest that you read it for yourselves (btw, Yancey is also in the February 2014 ODB).

Our second example is from the February ODB, specifically the February 26 entry. Here, the author (David McCasland) recommends Henri Nouwen’s book In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership. Of course, anyone who frequents your ministry’s web presence should be acquainted with the name of Henri Nouwen. Again, we have many comments/questions as to the motivation of using a Roman Catholic, panentheistic, mystic who advocates that anyone (regardless of belief) who practices “the silence” can be in the presence of God.

In our opinion, the editors – or whoever approved these articles for final print – are at best spiritually ignorant, resulting in negligence; or informed enough to be practicing spiritual malfeasance (completely wrongful), resulting in leading people into the crueldness of deception.

Based on this year’s ODB so far, RBC appears to be compromised and continuing to go contemplative.

In Messiah,

M & N

Endnotes:

1. According to a website that has done partial translations of the Emerald Tablets of Hermes, “As Below, So Above” is basically synonymous with “As Above, So Below.”

2. Please refer to Warren B. Smith’s article The New Age Implications of The Message “Bible’s” “As Above, So Below.”

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If the internet has taught us anything, it’s that the world is an incredibly strange, creepy, and often flat-out terrifying place. With a wealth of information at your fingertips, it can be all too easy to fall down a rabbit hole and discover some gruesomely compelling stories. These creepy historical happenings are just a few of the terrifying stories we’ve dug up over the years. From the real-life inspiration for Open Water to a literally toxic woman—and no, we don’t mean like that one kind of cruel friend of yours—these cases are all too real. 1. The Toxic Woman. Photo Credit: Still from 20 The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association tracks sales of Christian books, and awards the Platinum Book Award for books whose sales exceed one million, and the Diamond Book Award for sales exceeding ten million. In this series I am looking at the history and impact of some of the Christian books that have sold more than a million copies—no small feat when the average Christian books sells only a few thousand. The Daily Beast, writing for their non-Christian audience, rightly referred to it as “The Evangelical Bestseller You’ve Never Heard Of.” Jesus Calling is a daily devotional that contains a year’s worth of reflections on the Christian faith. What sets it apart from the thousands of other devotional works is not what Young says as much as the claim behind it. If the internet has taught us anything, it’s that the world is an incredibly strange, creepy, and often flat-out terrifying place. With a wealth of information at your fingertips, it can be all too easy to fall down a rabbit hole and discover some gruesomely compelling stories. These creepy historical happenings are just a few of the terrifying stories we’ve dug up over the years. From the real-life inspiration for Open Water to a literally toxic woman—and no, we don’t mean like that one kind of cruel friend of yours—these cases are all too real. 1. The Toxic Woman. Photo Credit: Still from 20 The Evangelical Christian Publishers Association tracks sales of Christian books, and awards the Platinum Book Award for books whose sales exceed one million, and the Diamond Book Award for sales exceeding ten million. In this series I am looking at the history and impact of some of the Christian books that have sold more than a million copies—no small feat when the average Christian books sells only a few thousand. The Daily Beast, writing for their non-Christian audience, rightly referred to it as “The Evangelical Bestseller You’ve Never Heard Of.” Jesus Calling is a daily devotional that contains a year’s worth of reflections on the Christian faith. What sets it apart from the thousands of other devotional works is not what Young says as much as the claim behind it.