



# *Diakrisis* (Australia)

*'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)*

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TA Ministries is a non-denominational faith ministry,  
*teaching, informing and equipping* the church.  
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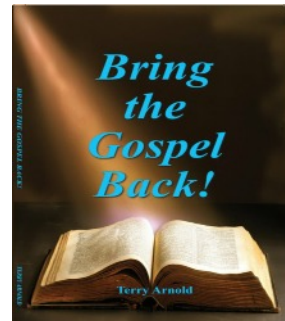
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## Contents

- P.2** Editorial - *Wouldn't It Be Wonderful?*  
**P.3,4** MacArthur Wins Lock Down Battle; Yonggi Cho Dead; Gospel Quotes  
**P.5-9** Book Review - *'Revival & Revivalism - The Making and the Marring of American Evangelicism 1750-1858'*  
**P.9-15** A Fresh Look At Revelation - Part 11  
**P.15-19** Comments & Questions; New Book;  
**P.20** Interstate Itineraries Cancelled; Questionnaires and Debates sections

**New E-mail**  
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**New Book - See P.19**



## Editorial - Wouldn't It Be Wonderful?



Of all the quests of the human psyche the desire to know the future with pinpoint accuracy is right up there on the scale of importance. Yet, can we know what the future holds? Is it possible to be informed of what is absolutely going to occur in the future? Wouldn't that be just wonderful? Are there writings and recordings that we can rely upon for truth?

Some of the mystics and clairvoyants down the running centuries seem to have come reasonably close in many of their forecasts - but eventually fall short of accuracy the longer they attempt to predict future events, and time passes.

What of the scriptures and so-called sacred texts offered by the world's major religions? Buddhism's Tripitaka, Hinduism's Vedas and Upanishads, Islam's Quran and Hadiths, Wicca's, the Book of Shadows. Would they be able to guide us safely into the future and reveal what is to befall the earth's populace in the years ahead? Well, no, not really. They are devoid of prophetic revelation.

So, are there any accurate predictions penned over millennia of human history? Is it possible that this already has been done for us? Largely ignored, refuted, debated, ridiculed and dismissed, accurate pinpoint and greatly detailed depictions of future earthshaking events have been scrupulously written down over many centuries. Where on earth could such a thing be found? ONLY in that dust-covered old Bible lying long unopened on many a bookshelf in these days. Wholly one third of this book is PROPHECY. How do we know they can be relied upon you ask? Because, with the exception of a few yet to be fulfilled, the majority have now, without fail, been executed with minute precision. The laws of probability therefore firmly suggest those remaining will be fulfilled to the letter.

This could only reveal an eternal over-mind is at work here. Consider this brief sampling of the Biblical prophets who foresaw and described: 1. Christ's birth (Mic.5:2) 2. His Death (Is.53:7-10) 3. Method (Ps.22) 4. Burial (Is.53:3-9) 5. Resurrection (Ps.16-10) 6. His return (Zech.14) 7. Israel a nation reborn (Hos.14) 8. Latter day wars (Ps.83, Ezek.38 & 9, Obad.1-15-18...) 9. A time of trouble for Jacob (Israel) (Jer.30 – 6-8) 10. Last Days Global Government (Dan.2-41-44) 11. Global digital identification and trading (Rev.13) 12. Christ's Millennial Reign (Is.11; Rev.20:4-7) 13. The world to come (Rev.21).

Page upon page could be filled with such prophecies, predictions written in the distant past that must occur shortly with many in these last days. Just as predicted in 96AD, a global system of identification, a payment system and total surveillance is now being rolled out, all the nations named to be in coalition for the final battle are now in place and breathing threats. Global pandemics, pestilences, great earthquakes and devastating weather events are the order of the day. We have reached the sides of the abyss. The King of peace who came as a lamb to the slaughter 2,000 plus years ago is about to return, this time as a conquering judge to take vengeance on all who have spurned Him and persecuted His people.

Yes, wonderful indeed, that our creator in His mercy and love has given us His plan in writing - to be ignored to our eternal peril.

**Mike Claydon** (Editor *Israel Report*, 01 September 2021)

## MacArthur Wins Lockdown Battle



*California and Los Angeles states agreed to pay \$800,000 in legal fees to settle a lawsuit with John MacArthur's church over COVID-19 lockdown rules. Grace Community Church had been involved in legal battles with state and local officials over his refusal to adhere to lockdown restrictions...The Thomas More Society helped represent the church and posted a statement celebrating an \$800,000 settlement. 'Grace Community Church's First Amendment protections [are] fully vindicated...It was a hard-fought battle to preserve religious liberty...this will encourage Californians and Americans to continue to stand firm that church is essential'.*

*The U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturned various public health measures in response to COVID-19 that specifically targeted houses of worship. 'California has no such power to determine whether churches are 'essential' as the federal and state constitutions have already done so,' argued the lawsuit...MacArthur stated: 'I've been here 50 years; the church is 63 years old, and this church has never had any kind of mandate from the government to close...The church initially moved to a livestream model and closed down in-person services. But within a few weeks, MacArthur said parishioners started showing up again'.*

*...MacArthur maintained that it's the church's biblical responsibility to stay open and hold worship services.*

(Michael Gryboski, *Christian Post* Reporter (Wednesday, Sept.01, 2021)

### **Editor's Comment:**

**See Grace Communities church statement: 'Christ, Not Caesar, Is Head of the Church: A Biblical Case for the Church's Duty to Remain Open'.**

**For an analysis of Covid 19 see also 'Facing COVID-19 Without Fear'. This is a most interesting statistical assessment of the virus in California, the overreactions, the exaggerations in the media. The assessment is not dissimilar to the scene in Australia. Available online at: <http://www.gty.org>**

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## Yonggi Cho Dead

*Christians mourned publicly across continents...as news spread of the passing of David Yonggi Cho, the controversial co-founder of Yoido Full Gospel Church, the world's largest congregation headquartered in Seoul, Korea...*

*Yonggi Cho, who retired from leading the church in 2008...was being treated for cerebral haemorrhage since July 2020.*

*'He conveyed the gospel of hope to the Korean people...' the church said in a statement...Billy Wilson, president of Oral Roberts University in Oklahoma, called Cho 'one of the great leaders of the Spirit-Empowered movement...His ministry, writings and fatherhood blessed millions'...*

(Leonardo Blair, *Christian Post* Reporter, Tuesday, Sept.14, 2021)

### **Editor's Comment:**

Yongi Cho pastored the largest church in the world, the pentecostal *Yoido Full Gospel Church*, affiliated with the *Assemblies of God* (it claimed 800,000).

In 1997 we exposed him as a false prophet (*'Diakrisis'* Sept/97). On the 12/1/86 at *Paradise Assembly of God church*, Adelaide, Sth Australia, Yongi Cho made the following prophecy and *repeated it* in the evening service). *'...While I have been praying and [I] know that God has spoken to my heart - that you are going to grow [to] 10,000 in less than 3 years [audience applause]...Well you are clapping hands but that means you should give more offering...3 years is a very short period...get ready for God's outpouring of his Spirit...God is going to use your church...God [also] wants me to have 1 million members by 1990. The same Holy Spirit spoke to me very clearly when I was sitting on this platform: 'Son, this church will grow to the number of 10,000 in less than three years'...because my ear is very finely tuned to the Holy Spirit...'*

This prophecy did not come to pass. The church in fact *decreased* in numbers in 1990! Cho's church also did not reach 1 million. The Word commands us to reject such men (Dt.18:20-22; Matt.7:15; 24:11,24; 1Jn.4:1).

Yonggi Cho in 2014 was convicted of embezzling \$12M - buying stocks from his son at four times the market price. The church subsequently lost \$12 million U.S. He was sentenced to three years prison and also convicted of tax evasion. Cho's son, Hee-jun, was also sentenced to three years in prison. (An elder in the church pleaded with Cho for years to repent of his dealings, and eventually he disclosed it to the outside world).

Yonggi Cho also was responsible for spreading a confused understanding of the Greek words '*Logos*' and '*Rhema*' - teaching '*Logos*' was the *written word* and '*Rhema*' the subjective *spoken word* to one personally. However, this is *new* Pentecostal teaching. These Greek words are *synonyms* and used *interchangeably*. Sometimes the word '*Logos*' is used for the spoken Word (Jn.4:50; 1Cor.12:8) which invalidates the new teaching. Further, when '*Logos*' or '*Rhema*' are used in scriptures - both become the *final written word* in the Bible. There is no extra '*rhema*' outside of the Bible to be added to this.

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### **Gospel Quotes**

**Mercy on Men, not Angels:** *'The damnation of all the fallen angels dramatically illustrates the salvation of elect men is of sheer grace. Samuel Willard (1640-1707) wrote that we should be amazed that God chose to leave 'all the vast number of apostate spirits...in chains of darkness, and not one of them is brought back to salvation', but he chose to save some men: 'What is there in man more than in an angel to prefer him in the choice?' he asked. Similarly Charnock (1628-1680) marveled that when the angels sinned, 'divine thunder dashed them into Hell, whereas when man sinned, divine blood wafts the fallen creature from his misery'.*

*(A Puritan Theology - The Puritans on Demons', P.191)*

## Book Review

### *'Revival & Revivalism -*

### *The Making and the Marring of American Evangelicism 1750-1858'*

There is The Book (the Bible), there are books to read, and then there are books *to keep*. Every now and then a book comes along that must be put in my special reference section - a book to be re-read and used for references for many articles.

As a young Christian a pastor gave me Iain Murray's book '*Revival & Revivalism*'. I remember being surprised by the history of evangelism models which have their root in practices first termed '*the new measures*'. I loaned the book out, never to see it again until recently a friend asked me to do a review of his copy. As I read this work afresh I realised how important is the history meticulously detailed in this book.

For Christians, especially those involved in evangelism or preaching, *this 455 page book is a must read!* The book shows the difference between true 'revivals' and 'revivalism' and how one morphed into the other. What we see and read today in evangelism practices has roots in history quite modern. The streams of real revival in the two American '*Awakenings*' (1740's and late 1700's) were diluted and poisoned with new methods and practices, then called '*the new measures*'.

#### **The True**

Revivals are '*either got up by mans devises or brought down by the spirit of God*' (P.XV). The true revivals within the '*Awakenings*' changed the very fabric of society and had lasting results and conversions. '*There is one grace you cannot counterfeit...the grace of perseverance*' (P.Xvi).

The true revivals were founded on '*repentance towards God and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ - to alarm secure impenitents...to undeceive the hypocrites...*' (P.26). This was done without much of the language and practises we have today of what man supposedly can and must do of his own will and ability.

What was also proven time and time again in the great Awakenings was that '*God has never promised to bless in proportion to the activity of his people*' (P.22). *The revivals in both Awakenings were sudden, mysterious, unexpected and sovereign, with nothing that men could do to bring them about.*

The first Awakening was 3-5 years long, the second 25 years. The first reached to the eastern seaboard and to a relatively smaller population in the 1740's; the second began in Kentucky Tennessee and by 1800 spread south and west. Between 1800-1810 the Presbyterian membership increased from 70,000 to 100,000; the Baptist from 95,000 to 160,000. Under '*cautious Calvinistic preaching*' in 1803 Baptist churches in a Boston revival almost doubled (P.125).

A Morristown church in Newark suddenly had revival in July 1st 1764 when a '*sudden effusion...the Lord Jehovah has rent the heavens and come down...lives of men and women previously unconcerned were now marked by deep feelings and much anxiety as they awoke to their sin nature and the justice of God*' (P.47).

These revivals also occurred in colleges. The College of New Jersey in

Princeton saw a revival that affected nearly every student. In the spring of 1802 the college at Yale suddenly had a revival '*as had never been witnessed within these walls before...the whole was shaken*' (P.133).

Princeton had revival in 1773 of which the 29 graduates, 23 became ministers. Another occurred in 1781 and then 1812. The revivals in Princeton theological seminary in 1812 saw many graduates later pastor churches that also saw revivals. *At the same time* as the revivals in these colleges there were revivals in churches far away. Yet some graduates also preached for decades with little success before then seeing *sudden* local revivals with hundreds being saved in local churches.

Some scenes in these revivals baffled observers. Thomas Rankin, a Methodist preacher, described how he was two thirds through a sermon on 30st June, 1776 when he saw his people with their eyes streaming with tears and some 'groaning' under the weight of their sin. His voice was drowned out and for some time he sat down while the Spirit worked in his people, before later continuing the sermon.

Unlike other revivals, such as the 1850 New York revival which began with prayer meetings, it was the *public preaching* of the Word in the Awakenings that brought revival. The *preaching of the Law* targeted the sinner's helpless plight. In the 1787-89 Presbyterian revivals in Virginia, a James Hall covered 1,485 miles in 4 months preaching 58 times. In these revivals people would cry out in despair for their sins with at times phenomena such as falling, fainting and prostrations. Most preachers recognised the dangers of these 'affections' and until the 1800's most gave little attention to and discouraged excesses. In the second Awakening, especially in the north east, outcries and disorders were largely absent (P.137). The means employed were sober truths of bringing to the conscience man's sinfulness. Congregations were awed into silence (P.138).

In 1778 at Petersburg a revival saw meetings of 5-6 hours and sometimes all night. Hundreds of souls were awakened in two meetings within the Sussex circuit and 1,800 souls converted. In 1787 in the Prince George county 1,000 were added to the churches in a few months.

At Hampden Sydney college in 1787 three students began to meet in prayer. Other students complained and once interrupted a meeting and a 'riot' was reported to the principal, John Blair Smith, who upon questioning the students, supported the prayer meetings. Soon these meetings were overflowing into other rooms and within two weeks '*half of the students were impressed*' and '*under conviction*'. The movement then spread wherever Smith preached.

The two Awakenings came first through Presbyterian churches, especially in the west, but spread to other denominations. The second Awakening saw Methodists peak in 1788, but revivals in the Presbyterian and Baptists continued into the 19th C. (Between 1800-1802 the Baptists in Kentucky grew from 4,766 to 13,569 members).

## **The Doctrine**

The churches of the day where revival first came (Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist) all adhered to the Calvinistic confessions of the day, such as the Westminster and the similar Baptist Confessions. '*The people among whom*

*the revival began were generally Calvinistic*' (P.178). The most notable Baptist preachers were also Calvinistic. Preachers such as Oliver Hart, John Gano, Lewis Richards, Ambrose Dudley, Andrew Marshall, Abel Woods adhered to the Westminster or the similar Baptist Confessions of Faith. (Arminian churches, such as the 'Free Will Baptist' were a minority).

Many new denominations and sects sprang up after 1800 during the second Awakening (P.173). Alexander Campbell's and Barton Stone's *Disciples of Christ* (later the *Churches of Christ*), and the *Shakers* were founded. All had one thing in common - they '*rejected the Calvinistic doctrine*' (P.177)...'*Arminians claimed that grace extends equally to all and its acceptance or rejection must therefore depend ultimately on human decision... Calvinists believed that such is the ruined state of human nature that no man would respond to the Gospel if repentance and faith are conditions to be fulfilled before grace renews him. They saw repentance and faith as parts of salvation which God bestows*' (P.178).

Some who switched to Arminianism erroneously treated 'Calvinism' and 'Hyper-calvinism' as one and the same, (as do most today!). They argued that 'Calvinism' inhibited evangelism. Yet the historic revivals and the founding of the great mission societies were all 'Calvinistic' in doctrine. *Before the second Awakening there were no mission or tract societies; afterwards they flourished.* But at the heart of the issue was the doctrine of *entire depravity* and a difference in understanding of what the sinner could not do of his own will.

### **The 'New Measures'**

The latter half of the second Awakening saw '*new measures*' introduced into the revivals. These were *new practices, methods and terminology* to supposedly encourage conviction and decisions. New practices such as the '*anxious bench*', calls to the '*altar*', and various decisional measures were arguably the result of the understanding that man could do something to cause God to act. The sovereignty of God was stripped of its understanding. The fact that the previous revivals were sudden and unexpected, as is the new birth (Jn.3:8), was seemingly forgotten. Before the 'new measures' were introduced it was common that pastors did not accept any decisions as sure. There were strict examinations before any admissions into churches (many were turned away from membership or communion). When the 'new measures' were introduced, these admission processes were relaxed.

Whereas once the preaching was largely solemn and piercing, the 'new measures' played on the aspect of excitement. Before it was *preaching* and *prayer*; now with the 'new measures' it was new techniques never before seen in history.

One of the catalysts for the 'new measures' was the introduction of the '*camp meeting*' in 1800-1801. When the Presbyterian meetings were overflowing, by necessity larger camp meetings were organised (P.150). These became interdenominational with Presbyterians, Baptists and Methodists joining together. In one meeting at Cane Ridge in 1801 an observer counted 8,000 present, 147 wagons and 750 received communion (P.153).

At these meetings the potential for disorder increased. During preaching, and even 'singing Watt's hymns', people would fall in conviction. Yet the services

would continue quietly. Many ministers rejected these events as deterrents to true revival. The Baptists and Presbyterians soon gave up the idea of mass meetings, yet the Methodists took them up further.

From these mass meetings the practices of inviting people to the ‘altar’ to make a decision was introduced, such practices rarely heard of before 1800. It must be noted that although the later Charles Finney is blamed for the popularisation of such practices, they were already present before him. Barton Stone, a former Presbyterian who left the denomination and founded the *Disciples of Christ* (later Churches of Christ), taught a ‘mourners bench’ and instant conversion by decision.

The term ‘revivalism’ was first used by the Unitarians and prominent in Methodism. This ‘revivalism’ with its ‘new measures’ was used to further conviction by having the person do something. The result as documented in this book shows the results were devastating with many ‘*made infidels*’ (P.214).

However, in the north east none of these practices were evident, the aim being to impress the mind with sin and the sovereignty of God. Asahel Nettleton (1783-1844) opposed the ‘new measures’ and especially those encouraged by Charles Finney. Nettleton’s preaching was rather ‘*no frills...he cut off self reliance*’.

Charles Finney and his methods are given special mention in this book. A former Presbyterian and one who once confessed to the Westminster Confession, Finney rejected the pleas from pastors of the day to curtail his ‘new measures’. Nettleton and Lyman Beecher wrote publicly against Finney’s doctrine and methods. They believed *the ‘anxious seat’ and like invitations confused an external physical act with an inner; that this hardened false converts or gave a false and confused assurance; and left many with no spiritual power, yet many of these false converts joined churches* (P.367).

Finney pressed on with the ‘new measures’ (P.244). He had people stand to make confessions with sermons such as ‘*make yourself a new heart*’ (1831). Finney taught it was the will that affected a new heart ‘*to make a sinner a Christian*’. He denied man’s ruined nature (P.244). Finney was a Pelagian who taught God cannot do anything unless the sinner by his own agency decided (P.270). His ‘new measures’ divided congregations (P.236), the Presbyterians splitting into two groups. By 1830 Baptist churches had adopted the new measures and by 1835 new practices such as the ‘altar call’ were a fixture in many churches.

In 1857-1858 a revival in New York showed many how only God alone initiates revival. A simple prayer meeting was begun by a Jeremiah Lanphier - it grew to prayer meetings all over the city with 200,000 eventually in attendance. This revival saw none of the ‘new measures’ and was begun in prayer alone (P.360).

Can any explain why George Whitefield saw no revival for 20 years after the first great Awakening, which he was an integral part of? True revivals are *sudden and sovereign*. The history documented in this book clearly shows that *the influences of the Spirit are antecedent to any revival and conversion!*

### **A Book to Keep...Lest We Forget**

The many quotes in this book by the men of the revivals are gems of thought and conviction. The names of those who saw revivals are detailed - Samuel Davies,



John Witherspoon and others now largely forgotten in history. The Appendixes concerning Charles Spurgeon, the revivals in Britain and other subjects are also worthy of study.

The preaching of law and sin is used by God to bring the sinner to the end of himself. Many revivals in the Awakenings, such as the 1815 Princeton revival, were entirely free of all devices and bathed in silent unexcited prayer and the Word (P.141).

There are two types of 'revival' - true 'revival' and 'revivalism', but they are now one and the same. Much of what was real in the revivals of the Awakenings are now 'revivalism' techniques in 'soul winning'. Even terms such as '*effusions*', '*baptisms*', '*outpourings*' which were synonymous for local revivals were later hijacked by the Methodist holiness movement (later 19th c) and then by the new Pentecostal movement (20th c). The 'new measures' introduced in the 1800's are now endemic in modern evangelism and accepted as the norm. But *lest we forget the sovereign power of God in conversion, this book might just restore a renewed understanding of how God operates in revivals and conversion!* Read it.

**Terry Arnold**

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## **A Fresh Look At Revelation - Part 11**

In **Part 1** (chapters 1-4 - *Diakrisis* July/August 2019) the intent was to show that the book of Revelation *is to be understood* at least as far as *what John saw and described*. *What is figurative and what is literal can be determined by the language and referencing to other scriptures* ('scripture interprets scripture').

It is necessary to have studied the book of Daniel first, as much of Revelation is referenced in that book.

The *timing and the order of events* in the first three chapters are presented as events in John's day *with a divide in time and order at chapter 4* (see 1:19).

In **Part 2** (chapters 4,5 - *Diakrisis* September/October 2019) we continued to explore *what is 'literal' or 'figurative' and why*. This was done by searching the same *symbols, signs and wording* elsewhere.

In **Part 3** (chapters 6-8 - *Diakrisis* July/August 2020) we saw the first of three distinct judgements beginning with seven '*seals*' (ch.6), all increasing in intensity.

In **Part 4** (chapters 8,9 - *Diakrisis* September/October 2020) we saw the second set of seven judgements begin *the Trumpet Judgements* and an increasing intensity in three last graphic '*woes*'. A perfect God has a perfect judgement!

In **Part 5** (chapters 9,10 - *Diakrisis* November/December 2020) - The sixth trumpet judgement brings a more severe judgement - *death*. Over half the earth's population is destroyed in divine judgements! Those left alive are unrepentant.

In **Part 6** (chapter 11 - *Diakrisis* January/February 2021) - the 'two witnesses' preach and the antichrist arises amidst signs and wonders the likes of which have never been seen before since the first coming of Christ.

In **Part 7** (Chapter 12 - *Diakrisis* March/April 2021) - Symbols, signs and figurative language refer to Israel and the great battle between God and evil. The war in Heaven becomes a war on earth against God's elect nation and his saints. This chapter summarises a part of what is called the time of 'Jacob's Trouble'.

In **Part 8** (Chapter 13 - *Diakrisis* May/June 2021) - The antichrist and the false prophet arise with their 'mark of the beast'. They are given power by God to do great signs and wonders. Authority is given to the beast to slaughter the saints. There will be false worship of the beast. Prophecy will reach a climax...

In **Part 9** (Chapter 14 - *Diakrisis* July/August 2021) - Chapters 12-14 are an interlude before returning to the judgements. A literal 144,000 Jewish evangelists from the *tribes of Israel* (7:4-8) preach a final '*everlasting Gospel*' to the whole world. Their redemption then comes with worship and singing a 'new song' (vs.8,9). Armageddon is foreshadowed with God's fury to be finally poured out in full.

In **Part 10** (chapter 15 - *Diakrisis* September/October 2021) we see an introduction to the final horrific 'vial' (bowl) judgements. The angels stand ready. The saints stand in awe and sing in worship to a majestic holy God, but a God of wrath who has warned of such judgements (Joel 2:28-32; Zech.14:1; Mal.4:1-5).

## Part 11 Chapter 16

Many figurative interpretations have been proposed for the judgements in this chapter - they include the history of the French revolution, the papacy...and more. Such interpretations are as plentiful as they are fanciful. History has proved the inadequacy of such spiritualising of scripture. There is no consistent hermeneutical reason why these judgements cannot be interpreted literally, especially when several of them match the plagues put upon Egypt, which strangely are usually interpreted as being literal by those who would not have the same in Revelation.

**Vs.1** '*And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth*'.

A '*great voice*' is heard '*out of the temple*'. The Greek word for '*great*' ('*me-gas*') occurs 18 times in Revelation, often for announcements or important events and is translated as either a '*great voice*' or '*loud voice*'.

At the authority of God the final judgments for the wrath of God are to be poured out by seven angels - upon the *earth* (vs.2), the *sea* (vs.3), *rivers and fountains of water* (vs.4), the *sun* (vs.8), the *throne of the beast* (vs.10), the *river Euphrates* (vs.12) and upon the *atmosphere* (vs.17).

Continued next page >

**Vs.2 *'And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image'***

'Noisome' is translated from an old word meaning something evil, bad, offensive and intensifies the words 'grievous sore' (or ulcer). A similar judgement affected the Egyptians (Ex.9:9-11). This detestable condition is selectively put upon *'the men* [*'anthropos* - mankind] *'which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshiped his image'*. Chapter 14:9-11 already warned of the consequences for taking this 'mark' - being eternal fire in eternal judgement.

**Vs.3 *'And the second angel poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and every living soul died in the sea'***

The second of the seven angels pours out judgement *'upon the sea'* which becomes *'as the blood of a dead man'* - (similar to the coagulated dark blood of a corpse), and *'every living soul died in the sea'*.

In 1914 a *'red tide'* phenomenon on the Californian coast caused a toxic putrid waste and the death of marine life. But this second bowl judgement will be the complete destruction of all sea life, (unlike the one *'third part'* in Revelation 8:9).

**Vs.4-7 *'And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. And I heard the angel of the waters say, you are righteous, O Lord, which are, and was, and shall be, because you have judged thus. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are your judgments'***

Now an angel renders the rivers and fountains to also become *'blood'*.

Here now is a parenthetical passage (vs.5-7) defending the actions of God. The angel announces God's judgements are *'true and righteous'* (vs.7) because His character is *'righteous'* (vs.5). At least part of this third judgement is because *'they have shed the blood of saints and prophets'* and God deems them *'worthy'* (deserving) to give them *'blood to drink'*.

The word *'prophets'* here arguably has a wide use of the word to include all those who by definition of 'prophecy' - spoke forth the word of God (1Cor.14:1,3) and were martyred (6:9-11).

There are many today who would soften the harshness of the actions of God here and attempt to reconcile his wrath. But a high view of sin and God's hatred for such will have Him free to act in vengeance and wrath how He pleases, for *'...shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?'* (Gen.18:25); and *'...the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether'* (Ps.19:9).

**Vs.8,9 *'And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire. And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which has power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory'***

Again, many commentators do not teach these judgments as being literal. One

says *'It cannot be supposed that the sun would be literally made hotter, or that the exact nature of these calamities would be that people would be consumed by its rays'* (Barnes). Some believed the *'sun'* to be the French empire, a king, a Roman emperor or the Papacy; and the judgement of the French revolution. Others have stated it is the Saviour as the *'sun of righteousness'* (Mal.4:2); and the *'fire'* is only a symbol of suffering. But these would seem to minimise the God who created and controls such things by his Word. Is God not capable of making the sun hotter (real 'global warming') and men to be *'scorched'* and *'few being left'* (Is.24:4-6)?

Despite this judgement *'men...blasphemed the name of God, which has power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory'*. The purpose was arguably not to produce repentance but to show and harden what is already in the heart of sinful mankind (Rev.9:21). The ultimate purpose of all these final judgements is that *God receives glory*. Unrepentant sinners cannot give God glory when they *'repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood...Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts'* (Rev.9:20,21). This is in contrast to the *'remnant'* believers who in affliction do give God glory (Rev.11:13; 15:4).

**Vs.10,11 *'And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain. And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds'***

The fifth judgement is poured out onto the *'seat'* (throne) of the *'beast'* - perhaps the capital of antichrist's kingdom (2:13) as given by the *'dragon'* (13:2). Many today believe this to be Babylon rebuilt.

The Reformers, although they delved little into prophecy, often saw prophetic portions of scripture to be about the Papacy. Their thinking was arguably coloured by the Romanism of the times - Babylon was the Papacy; the man of sin was the Pope. The danger is that today many still follow such interpretations as being sure, without examining the texts for themselves to discern what the texts say and *do not say*. Arguably we should have more light now than what the Reformers did then.

This judgement (vs.10,11) is strikingly similar to the plague in Exodus 10:21-29). *'They gnawed their tongues for pain'* in physical and mental anguish, perhaps made worse by the *'darkness'*. This affliction is also strikingly similar to the description of the torment of Hell (Hades Lk.16:23-25; Gehenna/Lake of Fire Mk.9:44,46,48; Rev.20:10) - *'torment'* that includes *'wailing...weeping and gnashing of teeth'* (Matt.8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Lk.13:28).

Again, the unbelieving world *'blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds'*.

The *'God of heaven'* here is the same God that punished Nebuchadnezzar who displayed pride against God (Dan.4). The fate of the unrepentant here is doomed, for those who take the *'mark of the beast'* shall *'drink of the wine of the wrath of God...and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascends*

*up forever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night...*' (Rev.14:10,11).

The passage does not state that the beast loses his kingdom for that is yet to come in following chapters.

Vs.12-16 *'And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon'*.

A sovereign act of God prepares the way for evil to have its climax! The Euphrates is *'dried up'* so God's enemies can come to battle. Again, many commentators make the 'Euphrates' to be 'Turkish power', or the 'three spirits' to be 'monks, knights, or clergy' and similar...But again, is the God who created the rivers and controls the weather not able to *'dry up'* and use *'unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth'* of the devil, the antichrist and his false prophet, to *'work miracles'* and entice the kings of the world to come to a final battle with God? (Note the similarity to the literal plague of frogs in Exodus chapter 8).

The *'dragon'* here is Satan who *'gave him [the antichrist] his power, and his seat, and great authority'* (13:2).

There would be many who would replace Israel with the 'church' throughout this book. But the scriptures that declare the Lord will fight against the nations and for Israel in a final battle are very numerous. He will *'gather all nations and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat'* (Joel 3:2). (See also Joel 2:3).

Vs.13 here is parenthetical between the 6th and 7th final bowl judgements. Here we are told the frogs *'are the spirits of devils'*. (Note that frogs were unclean to the Jews - Lev.11:10,41). They *'work miracles'* (literally 'signs'), and God uses them to bring the *'kings of the earth'* to battle.

Psalm 2 describes in general the ages of this *'rage'* by the *'kings of the earth... against the Lord and against his anointed'* culminating in Christ reigning *'with a rod of iron'* in the Millennial reign.

Vs 15 has an interjection: *'behold, I come as a thief'*- that is, at a time least expected. *'Blessed is he that watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame'*. We can be ready by *'watching'*, being active in the process of sanctification and the fight against sin and the lusts of the flesh, so as not to be as *'naked'* and *'shameful'* at his coming (Rev.3:18).

Vs.16 *'He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon'*. This *'place'* is in the plains of Esdraelon near Meggiddo, about 60 miles north of Jerusalem. Other Battles were fought here (Jdg 5:19; 2Kngs 23:29).

**Vs.17 ‘And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done’.**

The final bowl judgement here is likely that described in Rev.11:19 (see ‘*Diakrisis*’ Jan/Feb/2021). The judgement of God’s wrath is poured out upon the atmosphere, upon the Devil, the prince of the power of the air, and upon the unrepentant on earth.

The ‘*great [loud] voice out of the temple of Heaven and from the throne*’ shows it is the voice of God (Rev.4:2) who says ‘*it is done*’. The ‘*done*’ here, in the perfect tense, shows a completed action with ongoing results, similar to the ‘*it is finished*’ spoken by our Lord at Calvary.

**Vs.18-21 ‘And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great’.**

This ‘*great earthquake*’ is ‘*such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great*’. Whole ‘*cities of the nations fell*’. The ‘*voices, and thunders, and lightnings*’ herald this ‘*mighty...great earthquake*’ described in Zechariah 14:2-4 where God says ‘*I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south*’.

The ‘*fierceness*’ of this wrath is devastating and widespread as ‘*every island fled away, and the mountains were not found*’. The ‘*great city*’ is ‘*divided into three parts*’ but does not completely ‘*fall*’ like the ‘*cities of the nations*’ (Rev.11:13 - one tenth falls). The descriptions of this ‘*great city*’ arguably matches Jerusalem. Revelation 11:8 already described it as ‘*...the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified*’.

Babylon, mentioned in detail in later chapters, is destroyed. The phrase ‘*came into remembrance*’ shows God has not overlooked his wrath upon this city ‘*to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath*’. The use of the two words here ‘*fierceness*’ (‘*thumos*’) and ‘*wrath*’ (‘*orge*’) shows the intensity of a passionate, settled and mindful anger. Both are similarly used in Jeremiah 30:24 - ‘*The fierce anger of the Lord shall not return, until he have done it, and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days you shall consider it*’.

As stated previously, the Reformers believed this Babylon to be papal Rome; others today think it is the whole world system - religious, political, financial. (This author leans toward it being a literal city due to the description in ch.18).

To add to the earthquake ‘*a great hail out of heaven*’ will fall upon the earth. ‘*Every stone*’ will be ‘*the weight of a talent*’ (Jewish 75-100lbs). Whatever measurement is adopted, this weight will be up to 50 times heavier than the heaviest hailstone recorded thus far (approx. 2lb). Many commentators simply have refused to take this literally. But again, were the plagues of Egypt literal? And why cannot God, who first made the hail and as shown throughout the scriptures controls rain and storms, make hail of this size?

Not all die in this plague as yet again ‘*men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great*’. This should cause the reader to remember *signs and wonders in themselves cannot bring repentance*.

These plagues here are similar to the plagues upon Egypt (with hail, darkness, blood, insects), yet here quite final. The will of God upon the earth will be ‘*done*’ as it is done in Heaven (vs.17, Matt.6:10), and the ‘*day of the Lord*’ will come in such fashion as described in this chapter and in many other scriptures (Joel 2:2; 3:14,15; Is.2;14-17; Jer.4:23-25). The earth, its elements and all unbelieving humans are condemned. *The truth of the depravity of the heart of man is shown!*

We are warned here of the dangers of unbelief and hardness against God and his Word (Heb.4:7). We are exhorted not to be lazy and in *watching* and *waiting* for His coming, *looking* upwards for our redemption draws close (Lk.21:28)!

**Terry Arnold**

## **Your Comments and Questions**

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

*‘Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666’ (Rev.13:18).*

*I must take this verse literally. 666 is the number of a man...not the number of an abstract or inanimate thing like ‘corona’, vaccine or vaccine passport...It is the number of a man...*

*The more I ponder over the ‘vaccine economies’ around the world, the more I’m convinced these ‘vaccine passports’ are paving the way for the receipt of the ultimate super passport which will be the ‘mark of the beast’. I believe it is conceivable that only the ‘fully vaccinated’ would be eligible to receive this coming super passport or ‘mark’...If you’re ‘fully vaccinated’, you won’t hesitate to receive this coming super passport or ‘mark’, as the privileges offered will be immeasurable. This is because you’ll reason ‘Well, I’m already ‘fully vaccinated’ and I’m eligible for this super passport or ‘mark’. Why shouldn’t I accept it?’*

*Of course, true Christians who have been ‘fully vaccinated’ without realising this relentless Covid vaccination drive is paving the way for the receipt of the coming super passport or ‘mark’, they can still decline to accept the coming super passport or ‘mark’. The Lord our God grant them wisdom and strength to stand firm in their faith in the Lord.*

**(J.C. Qld)**

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

*Hi Terry...reading the last 'Diakrisis' [Sept/Oct/2021 P.15,16] and your discussion with the pastor about God's sovereignty. One Scripture that came to mind was John 19:11 below. Pretty hard to argue with the Lord Jesus on this matter! 'Jesus answered, 'You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above...'*

**(L.T. Vict)**

*Dear sir, Thankyou for 'Diakrisis' Sept/Oct 2021. On P.13 your reference Jer.14:16,17 is incorrect; should be Zech.14:16,17. Apologies for correcting you!*

*The pastor who wrote concerning the sovereignty of God [Sept/Oct 2021, P.15,16] needs to read his Bible. It is hard for some to understand God controls all things, even evil in our world. God directs everything, yet we find this hard to understand? He is an awesome God...this is not preached often in our churches, so peoples idea of God is small. He works in ways different to how we do things and turns our understanding upside down; just look at the way Jesus dealt with issues. Your newsletters are very meaty...I enjoy reading them and thinking over the issues you write about. Thank you for keeping close to Bible truths.*

**(R.W., NSW)**

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### **God's Sovereignty and Salvation Discussion (Part 2)**

**Last edition (Sept/Oct/2021) from the subscriber below, the discussion looked at the sovereignty of God. The subscriber did not believe God gives power/authority for the antichrist and false prophet to do evil.**

**That discussion then moved to another topic - salvation. Hence part 2 here (excerpts)...Editor's replies in bold and brackets.**

*Terry, I believe that our God is a God of goodness and not of wickedness. [Agreed but can you not see He can USE evil without becoming involved in it?]*

*He wants the good for all men, 'not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance' (2Peter 3:9).*

**[...You cut this scripture short? Who is the 'usward' in the same verse?...Who is the passage speaking to?...Who is the 'beloved' mentioned numerous times in the passage?...Basic exegesis or just grammar has the 'any' and the 'all' as the 'usward' - the 'beloved']**

*...Those who will perish, perish not because God wants them to perish, but they, with their own will chose not to accept Him as Lord and Saviour.*

**[Please give one scripture for this Arminian doctrine of our own will being able to choose Christ as Lord and Saviour].**

Continued next page >



*Those saved, it is by the Grace of God from His side and by their acceptance to His salvation by faith from their side, by their will refreshed from death because of sin, by the Holy Spirit in order to choose and say yes to God's calling.*

**['AND' by their acceptance'? One scripture for this please. Scripture has God choosing man, never man choosing God]**

*By that, all the glory goes to God and no credit to men. [But you have given credit to unsaved man that he can of his own ability choose Christ, when scriptures actually state the opposite - 1Cor.2:14; Rom.8:7; Jn.6:44...]*

*...Let's concentrate on the responsibility of man, who by his own will sends himself to destruction in hell.*

**[Nowhere does it state man 'sends himself to Hell'. It is Christ who is the judge and sends people to Hell! (Jn.5:22,27; Matt.7:21-27; 2Tim.4:1-8...)]**

*...I respect...it is your right to believe what you are convinced of.*

**[I am not just 'convinced'...This is also the orthodox faith of all the greats, the Puritans, the martyrs, the Spurgeons, the revivalists, the hymn writers...]**

*I have my own understanding to the truths of God and am always open to The Holy Spirit. I believe from my studying the Word of God through the 58 years after knowing Christ as my Lord and Saviour...as an ordained pastor and Bible teacher...*

**[Then I look forward to you giving me scriptures for your Arminian teachings...Perhaps look at the faith of our forefathers...I ask you to humbly look at what the grammar is saying, even when God 'gives' to people to do evil...Logic and emotion must not rule what the text says]**

*...I refuse to be labelled with Arminianism...please pay attention...that I didn't mention the phrase you used 'choosing as Lord and saviour'...I was talking about those who will perish, they will perish not because God wants them to perish, but they with their own will choose NOT TO ACCEPT Him as Lord and Saviour...As for the will of a Christian...one example: Phil.2:13 'for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure'...Christians are not robots. They are humans who were created in God's likeness and after His own image and through the spiritual birth, God works in them both to will and to do.*

**[Phil.2:13 is NOT initial salvation but Sanctification! - Note the 'in you' - this is the Sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit after salvation and the tense is continuous. You confuse Justification with Sanctification. Read the verse before! - it is US 'working out' our salvation already done in Justification. This has nothing to do with initially being saved, the effectual calling, quickening - all which were done before this and by God]**

*Also, I believe all those saved in both the Old Testament and the New, Jews or non-Jews, are saved by the grace of God and by the complete redemption by Jesus's death on the cross, not by deeds...[Agree]...Paul explains that...especially in Ephesians 2:1-22. [Which is clear on the sovereign election of the saints?...*

**...What about the many tribes of Amazonian Indians who for thousands of years never heard of Christ or the Gospel in any way? Did they 'choose' Hell. Why are they in Hell as scripture teaches clearly all unbelievers are?]**

*Who cannot assure that God didn't reveal Himself to them, in one way or another? [...They had no scripture or history to rely on - just the creation.*

**Multitudes never heard of Christ or the Gospel! When the first missionaries came upon them they were pagan, unsaved, still having to be taught!].**

*As it is mentioned in Romans 1:18-21 'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse...*

**[This passage is not saving them but DAMNING them! Read it in full. This has always been the interpretation of old. They are by sin simply 'without excuse' for rejecting God, but this is not salvation here in Rom.1. Only through Christ can one be saved?] ...they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."**

**If you mean hearing about Christ, the Gospel, none of the Jews of the OT heard about them as well [Yes they DID! They had the scriptures AND 'the prophets' who spoke clearly of the Messiah! They had Isaiah 53...The book of Acts says they had the Gospel and the Messiah shown in the OT...the apostles challenged the Jews that they did have the Messiah and the Gospel shown to them]**

*...I am not willing to continue our discussions about the matters which we have touched and talked about in writing...The Lord bless you and the family.*

**[You have opted out of answering questions, providing scriptures or being corrected even once (with 2Pet.3; Phil.2; Rom.1; the Amazonian Indians...etc.)...I urge you to rethink your traditional interpretations...]**

**Editor:** No more was heard from this brother.

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*Dear Terry & Beth, I'm honoured to have had the pleasure of knowing you both when our paths crossed...hopefully to be together in God's kingdom rule. Our faith in God through his Son's sacrifice at Calvary, by the Holy Spirit's drawing is to repentance and belief that Jesus Christ is the only way, leaves the way for us to be justified. Then the sanctification of the saints is ongoing, as we surrender our lives to the Holy Spirit, and die more to the flesh...But I am preaching to the converted...*

*The world has taken a turn for the worse since Covid. It has put a strain on relationships...Lately my family is more distant to me...biologically they are a part of me but spiritually they are as 'enemies'...Friends have dissociated themselves from me too...a sign of the times...I don't have like minded people around me...Where are the Christians who are of one mind, one Spirit, one true Jesus? One local church here...hates me using the word ecumenical...*

*On Sunday morning on TV there are about 5 different Christian denominations saying what it is to be a Christian - all with different doctrines...any unbeliever would be utterly confused...Jimmy Swaggert still teaches unbiblical doctrines...deception is rife. I would be hard pressed to advise any new convert to a biblically sound church...It's a minefield out there...the Holy Spirit would surely need to lead them.*

*I thank the Lord he had his sights on me from even the foundation of the world, and for his patience, longsuffering. I am conscious of the spiritual war, but our weapons are not carnal...Around the world there is fear and anxiety...If I was not a saint I would be a mess mentally. Our peace should be an opportunity to share the good news of Christ. My family thought me crazy when I first shared with them. But I know whom I have believed (2Tim.1:12)...tears run down my face now...He is able to keep me to the end. Praise God.*

*Thank you Terry for being used of God to be an encouragement in my spiritual walk. God's blessing according to his riches in glory...Love in the Lord...*

**(J.R. Qld)**

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*Hi Terry, Just wanted to say - about the article of the African missionaries - called the Floods [Diakrisis Sept/Oct 2021] - I was in tears for most of the article...Thanks again Terry for all your hard work...*

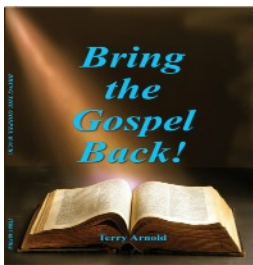
**(M.H. Sth Aust.)**

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, Just a quick note to let you know how much 'Diakrisis' newsletter blesses us and how much we appreciate your hard work.*

**(N.C, Qld)**

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### **\*\*New Book by Editor\*\***



The editor has completed a new book titled '**Bring The Gospel Back!**'. It is a passionate and urgent call for churches to come back to the true Gospel and preach it accurately. A sample of the foreword by our co-editor follows:

*'For far too long mainline Churches have employed social and political gospel messages which bear no likeness to the true Biblical Gospel of faith and repentance. Worse though, is the heresy of decisional regeneration in modern evangelistic endeavours by both denominational and conservative churches. Millions of hearers have been taught that we must play a part in the process of Christian conversion for it to be effectual and permanent.*

*In this, his latest publication, teaching pastor Terry Arnold clearly and concisely lays out the case against today's gospel preaching methods. This he does biblically, and on the way reveals the true and salvific Gospel, and how it should be preached and fully and correctly understood...This book offers great insights into a Gospel that desperately needs to be 'brought back' to life...' (Mike Claydon)*

This book will challenge even many conservative churches as to what has been added to the content, the delivery and especially the response to, the message of salvation.

The book is available now for \$15.90 (postage included)

## Interstate Itineraries Cancelled

Due to the ongoing uncertainties with the Covid restrictions, lockdowns and border issues, it was necessary to once again cancel the Sydney Conference and interstate itineraries.

We are now tentatively planning to continue with these itineraries in the new year.

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### 'Questionnaires' and 'Debate' Section (Website)

We are adding new '*Questionnaires*' and '*Debates*' to the website [www.taminstries.net]. The Questionnaires are designed to hand out as teaching and evangelistic tools. These '*Questionnaires*' and '*Debates*' sections are found in '*Other Resources*'. The '*Debates*' include discussions/debates the editor has had by e-mail over three decades in this teaching ministry.

We include these Questionnaires and Debates in the hope that readers might be aware of the doctrines and the thinking on both sides of these issues, but also that we might all be further *informed, taught and equipped* in the true faith and Gospel and learn to test beliefs by scripture alone.

### Prayer Points

- Pray for a clear direction in planning a future itinerary in these uncertain times.
- Pray for effective use of our new book '*Bring The Gospel Back!*'

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