

The Gospel of Man or the Gospel of God?

'After 50 years attention to our Protestant preachers in England and the colonies, 19 out of every 20 are guilty...their preaching foreign to the Gospel...What was the sum and substance of the preaching of these men? ...That if the people would fulfil certain conditions they should be saved...If their hearers would now perform certain conditions which they now propound to them they shall be saved...God the Father has done all He can. God the Son has done all He can. God the Holy Spirit has done all He can for you, and now it is for you to perform your part and you will be saved. 'Oh sinner do it and you will be saved now'. This is the covenant of works. 'Do and live'...God again and again declares in his most holy Word that this is not the covenant by which he saves poor sinners of his people - Jer.31:33; Heb.8:10,13; Gal.4:27; Is.59:21; Ps.89.

Preaching up a conditional salvation in the face of these testimonies of God is nothing less than attempting to make God a liar...He has sent his servants to proclaim to guilty men, who are destitute of any ability to perform one good deed until they receive grace, so that if they were left to a conditional salvation they would be lost...What a lie to say that God has done all He can do and they must now do their part...Oh how divinely suited is the blessed Gospel of the Lord to my guilty and helpless soul'.

(Pastor Allen, Sydney, 1884; quoted in Pink's *Studies in the Scriptures*, 1926)

Prayer Points

- Pray for clear direction in planning a future itinerary in these uncertain times.
- Pray for effective use of our latest books - see P.19.

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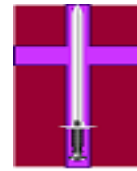
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Diakrisis (Australia)

'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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The editor may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed by subscribers in this newsletter.

We welcome comments or items contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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This newsletter is distributed bi-monthly *free* of charge. The cost to this ministry is approximately \$20.00 per subscriber annually. Any donation to help with these expenses is received with gratitude.

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Latest Books - See P.19

FREE WILL

OR



FREE AGENCY?

KILLING SACRED COWS

Terry Arnold

Editor's Comment

The recent passing of famous cricketer Shane Warne saw the nation remembering and reminiscing in his past achievements in this world. Shane Warne was skilful and much loved for what he did in sport and in the community, an idol to many. But his life on earth was a dark universe away from the light of the Christian worldview. The memorial service was a display of a 'good fellow'; captivating to many, yet to a Christian worldview it was nothing short of idolatry.

How good a fellow does one have to be on earth to be pleasing to God and enter Heaven? The answer is 'blameless' (1Cor.1:8; 1Thess.5:23; 2Pet.3:14), well beyond the best human on earth. The Pharisees had a self made righteousness that few if any could match. Yet Jesus said the righteousness needed to get into Heaven was *greater* than the righteousness of these Pharisees (Matt.5:20).

This is what makes salvation so unique, so great and worth meditating on! What is impossible with men to achieve is made possible with God alone (Matt.19:25,26). The righteousness needed is not found in this world but comes from another. It is God's own heavenly righteousness (Phil.3:9; Rom.4:1-8) and by Jesus Christ (2Cor.5:21).

We need a deliverer! We need a deliverer to rescue us from the death of sin. We need a deliverer to rescue us from ourselves, our egos, from the idolatry of this evil world, from memorialising ourselves and our sinful natures. We need a deliverer to deliver us from our past, from the present and the future. We need one '*who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us*' (2Cor.1:10).

From start to finish, our deliverance is by grace, the undeserved kindness of God. The phrase '*who delivered us*' speaks of a *past Justification* when God called, chose (elected) and justified us when there was nothing of ourselves worthy to be counted as righteous. It's God's work *for us* in *imputing a righteousness* actively given by God (we passive in receiving it), a righteousness which gives us a *legal blameless* standing with Him. In this He rescued us from the *penalty of sin* and an eternal spiritual death. Our *spirit* has been '*made perfect*' (Heb.12:23).

The phrase '*does deliver*' is the *present* continuous work of *Sanctification* in which God's Spirit works in us, working with our energies in striving for *holiness* against the power of sin in the soul (Phil.2:12,13).

The future '*will yet deliver us*' is the promise of *Glorification*, a new body to enable us to live in God's perfect glorified state.

There will be an eternal 'memorial' in Heaven. That memorial will focus on one person - God himself in the person of the Lamb who sits upon the throne. The stories of the achievements of this Lamb, His death, burial, resurrection, His substitutionary sacrifice for sin, his triumphant deliverance of His elect, will be forever a wonder. All those rescued will be gathered to commemorate this deliverance and to praise and worship Him. The One commemorated will not be dead but alive forevermore. Our deliverance will be complete. The spirit, soul and body will be brought into one state. What an everlasting memorial that will be!

Terry Arnold

Latest Books



'Free Will or Free Agency - Killing Sacred Cows'

'I highly recommend this book as a valuable resource for Christians to understand what the position of Orthodoxy should be' (Dr. Bob Kerr, Pastor, North Athens Baptist Church, Tennessee, USA)

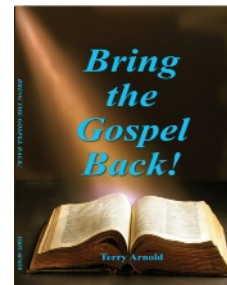
This latest publication '*Free Will or Free Agency? - Killing Sacred Cows*' is a book that will shock many Christians who today are simply unaware of the history of, and what the Bible does or does not say about, the doctrine of 'Free will'. What is orthodox has been lost and a new modern gospel has been brought in.

The issues documented in these pages will affect how the Gospel is understood and then how this is played out in methods of evangelism.

Does man have complete freedom of his will? Where did the term 'free will' originate? Why did church leaders use another term, 'free agency'? What is the difference? *What can man do and what can he not do with his will toward salvation?*

The book tests the terms 'free will' and 'free agency' with scripture and the testimony of historic orthodoxy from church leaders century by century (Charles Spurgeon is given special mention).

The book is available now for \$9.90 (postage included).



Bring The Gospel Back!

'This book will challenge and provoke us to defend and proclaim the Biblical Gospel only. I heartily recommend Bring Back the Gospel to anyone who has a passion to make Christ and His message known' (Keith Henderson, Pastor, Kingsridge Baptist Church, Brisbane).

'Terry Arnold clearly articulates what the Gospel is not and exactly what it is. This is an important book and should be read by pastors and lay people everywhere' (Dr. Bob Kerr, Pastor, North Athens Baptist Church, Tennessee, USA).

This book is a passionate and urgent call for churches to *come back to the true Gospel and preach it accurately*. It will challenge even many conservative churches as to what has been added to the content and the delivery of the Gospel, and especially the response to it.

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

Terry, I am to do a devotion for a ladies morning and I wanted to touch on 'Carrying Our Cross'. Exactly what does it mean and are there any scripture verses relating to it? Can you give me any pointers to include in it, please. Thanks...

(B.V. Qld)

Editor's reply:

'Take up your cross and follow Me' means to die to self; to surrender...even be willing to die in order to follow Jesus. It does not mean a burden we must carry as in a job, an illness...which are modern mistranslation...such explanations can lead to self pitying, being a victim and subtle pride...

It may also mean losing things to follow Jesus, such as close friends, family, positions, jobs...See and expand on Lk.9:24,25; Matt.16:24; Mk.8:34; 10:21.

Hi Terry and Beth, Warmest greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ...We give thanks to God our Father always -how He continues to bless your ministries, establish the work of your hands, and use you to fulfil His purposes for His glory. We desperately need the shower of blessings from God upon this dry and thirsty land. How true it is that we need to hear the truth being preached. May God continue to bless all the materials that you send out to be a spiritual awakening to many who need guidance and help.

May the God of all grace continue to bless you both by His grace and power, keep you under His providential care, protect you from all harms, give you health and strength, grace and wisdom to face the challenge of each day.

We would love to hear you preaching in our church one day, God willing. God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply (Hudson Taylor).

May God be with you till we meet again. In Christ, with love in the Lord, and prayers...

(C&B. R)

Hi, Terry! Thanks so much...that our giving is doing what we intend it to do - help you spread the gospel, and promote truth and the knowledge of God in our society that has completely lost its way...Though your speaking ministry has been interrupted, you are still getting the Word out in print...you still have resources online. May the Lord open many darkened hearts to the Light of His Word.

(E&V. B., Qld)

Dear Terry & team,we thank God for you all and the work God has given you to do in 'Diakrisis' and your teaching, informing, equipping for the Lord's church. For many long years I have been encouraged by your teaching of God's Word. We thank God for faithfulness to Gods truths...I would like to order the two new books.

(J.M., WA)

Hillsong: A Train Wreck



'Diakrisis' continues to warn of the dangers of Hillsong - the heretical doctrines, the immoral leadership and worldly music. The first of several articles regarding Hillsong was written back in the 1990's, titled 'A Decade of Decline'. A subsequent summarisation in 'Hillsong Revisited' appeared in the May/June edition of 'Diakrisis' in 2007.

Even before the year 2000, when Hillsong music leader and songwriter Geoff Bullock fell to adultery, there were reports of moral failures within Hillsong ('Diakrisis' March/April 2004). We cited a link between the music and the immorality of youth leaders. Yet a vast array of churches today persist in using Hillsong music. Secular media reporters themselves have often viewed the Hillsong services as that of a 'nightclub' atmosphere ('Diakrisis' May/June 2003).

In 2002 Pat Mesiti, national director of the *Australian Christian Churches* was sacked for sexual misconduct ('Diakrisis' May/June 2002). Then Brian Houston, the recent Global Hillsong leader, saw his father, Frank Houston, exposed as a serial paedophile (Sept/Oct, 2005) and recently charges were laid against Brian for concealing from authorities what he knew about Frank.

The wreck continued with leader Guglielmucci being exposed for fabricating an extensive hoax about his 'cancer' and then being 'healed' (Nov/Dec 2008).

Celebrities (Justin Bieber, Chris Pratt, Kylie Jenner...) have come and gone at Hillsong venues around the world, with many claiming to be Christians yet with largely unchanged lifestyles. There have also been several 'de-conversions' as musicians and leaders outright deny the faith they once claimed.

Recently the New York Hillsong leader Carl Lentz was exposed for adultery and the lies he told to cover it up. Reed Bogard resigned as lead pastor of Hillsong Dallas in January 2021. An investigation showed that the married father of three was accused of the rape of a junior female staffer with whom he had an affair while serving at Hillsong NYC years earlier. The rape allegation occurred after meeting at a bar between 2-3am. Bogard was also reported as drinking heavily, using marijuana and being aggressive and bullying staff while serving at Hillsong NYC prior to being promoted as lead pastor of Hillsong Dallas...Hillsong Pastor Barrett in New Jersey was exposed for sending explicit photos to a woman...Many more Hillsong leaders could similarly be named and in several cases Brian Houston is said to have known of the problems but did not expose or deal with them.

Recent charges of bullying and damning e-mails from Brian Houston have also occurred concerning pastors who led churches in Kyiv and Moscow. They were threatened when they tried to break away from the Hillsong network in 2014. Later when they applied to emigrate to the U.S., Houston threatened to make it difficult and to block the migration.

Now Brian himself, the founder of Hillsong in 1983 and global leader for the last two decades, was recently stood down for charges of 'moral transgressions' dating back ten years. In one incident Houston exchanged 'inappropriate texts' with a female staff member. Then in 2019 he met a woman in a hotel foyer and

Your Comments and Questions

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

spent 40 minutes with her alone in her room. Houston supposedly has ‘*little recollection*’ of what happened. Senior Hillsong pastor, Phil Dooley, cited ‘*alcohol and prescription drugs for anxiety*’ as partly to blame. Houston was to take 3 months off, yet continued in ministry and apparently drinking alcohol. Yet some years ago Houston tweeted ‘*failure is never wasted if you are teachable, humble and transparent enough to grow and change*’.

Behind all these failures is a facade of health, prosperity and fake role modelling which hundreds of thousands of faithful adherents have followed, admired and paid for.

We take no pleasure in listing just some of the many failures and immorality entrenched in Hillsong. Our concern always is to urge people to discern the rot and ‘come out of her’ and come back to the ‘faith once delivered’ (Jude 3). We are to separate from and ‘*mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple*’ (Rom.16:17,18). We are to ‘*have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove [expose] them*’ (Eph.5:11).

The above failures in Hillsong bare the fruit of what concerns this ministry the most - the Hillsong doctrinal heresies of the Word Faith movement, the healing, prosperity and success/human potential gospels, as well as the feel good psychology that infiltrates the Hillsong gospel and teaching. It is surely these unbiblical doctrines that are linked to the moral failures of the leaders?

What does it take before one realises that a system is unholy, unbiblical to the core and needs to be separated from? In 2Thessalonians 3:6-15 we are commanded to ‘*withdraw yourselves from every brother that walks disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us*’. Nor are we to keep company with ‘*any man that is called a brother if he be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such a one do not even eat*’ (1Cor.5:11).

The stark difference between ‘*righteousness and unrighteousness*’ or ‘*light and darkness*’ is the reason to ‘*come out from among them and be you separate*’ (2Cor.6:14-18).

There is a blessing to those who will practise separation from the likes of Hillsong or any other corrupt, immoral and unbiblical system. ‘*Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law does he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper...*’ (Ps.1:1-6)

Hillsong has for decades been an unholy haven for the world’s leading false teachers, false prophets and those who ‘*make merchandise of God’s people*’ (2Pet.2:3). They speak and sing ‘*another gospel*’ and ‘*another jesus*’ (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6-9). How much warning and how many moral failures are needed to convince people to exit the unholy system that is Hillsong?

Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon

Terry, how can God allow Lot’s 2 daughters to get him drunk and have sex with him and they end up pregnant - that’s against everything God teaches us?...

(T.M. Qld)

Editor’s Reply:

God allows many evils including this one. But there is always a judgement. The two children born here began the Moabites and Ammonites races (Gen.19) - enemies of Israel and judged by God.

God ‘allowed’ incest in the Corinthian church (1Cor.5) but that the person should be ‘put out’ of the church. God does not shrink from detailing evil...

Terry, is it really true that in some areas more people are dying after the vaccinations than of Covid, as you say? What evidence is there?

(Name withheld)

Editor’s Comment:

The numbers increasingly speak for themselves. The following links are telling. This is what you will not hear from the media or the authorities...

<https://healthimpactnews.com/2022/41834-dead-3-9-million-injured-following-covid-vaccines-in-european-database-as-u-s-military-deaths-soar-1100/print/>

Hundreds of European fully vaccinated athletes have died or become seriously ill from sudden heart attacks in the past few months since all players were required to be vaccinated in 2021. The stats show a definite increase...

<https://covid19reporter.com/new-pandemic-vaxxed-athletes-dying-of-heart-attacks/>

<https://airtable.com/shrbaT4x8LG8EbvVG/tbl7xKsSUIOPa7Mx?fbclid=IwAR1NDunVEi7qBXsSrW5rL2bwlpP8EcHd3HThl-xxSnrFgwBvaEyRf3eGC2ks>

Dear Mr Arnold, I was given a copy of your book ‘To Catholics Whom I Love’ to read by my friend...who met you in Church in Hervey Bay some years ago. She was a Catholic and your ministry greatly impacted her, and she is going on with the Lord. I’ve been blessed to read your book, and to see the truths you have so clearly given, so no one is left in doubt to what is truth.

I’m 85 and have been a born again Christian for many years...I love to encourage people in their walk of faith, and it’s good to have a tool like this to pass on, as it is so informative, and speaks into each issue that I’m not cognizant with...Yours in The Father’s love.

(B.N. Vic.)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry! Our little group here have a dilemma, we need advice..Several new 'seasoned' Christians have joined us, but last week one started babbling away in unknown tongues (without our consent) and upset two new Christians still on milk, who freaked out and nearly deserted us. Is it our duty to educate these chatterers to Truth or is it our duty to our new-borns who are about to be baptised? HELP!

(Name withheld at editor's discretion)

Editor's Reply: [Excerpts]

This is not an uncommon occurrence and leaders need to be ready to deal with such. It would probably occur in prayer times which can be arranged to be at the end of the lesson, so as not to interfere as much?

Firstly, the unknown tongue speakers need to be gently (at first) corrected and asked for the interpretation by someone who can interpret it as a known language. Acts 2 is *known foreign languages* ('tongue' or 'language' vs.6,8 is 'dialektos' - known dialects). 1Cor.14 then establishes any unknown language must be *interpreted* for 'understanding' (1Cor.14:6,9,11,19,20,27).

This correction can be done at the time gently, politely, expressing that we cannot have unknown tongues without an interpreter and knowing the *language*...or the correction can be done after the lesson. Personally, I prefer to address it immediately, even if the lesson resorts to teaching on 'tongues'.

1Cor.14:26-40 concerning 'order' is also worth considering. To cause division with those who have no knowledge of what is spoken is not 'order'.

I would also educate the *new Christians* by going through Acts 2 and 1Cor.14. either in private or with the whole group. One can diverge from the normal lessons and set weeks aside to do this. Many young Christians want to know about these things and are often interested.

It may also be advisable to eventually have a Confession or a statement of faith that clearly spells out where the group stands...

When corrected, many of these people who bring in their unbiblical practices, get upset or even hostile. It is not uncommon for these people to enter groups and be divisive (most para church organisations have over years been infiltrated with charismatic doctrines in this way).

My answer to such 'tongue speakers' is to ask if they really want to sit down and discuss/study this? If so, make a time (with only them, not their elders or friends) - to look at Acts 2 first and then other scriptures.

Finally, if one does not address this practice there often are difficulties or division in the future. It is best to have a small united group rather than a larger divided one. However, if Pentecostals or tongue speakers are not divisive then I personally would want them in the group as I have seen many converted under systematic or expositional teaching.

Discernment with grace is needed. Be led by the Lord and in prayer (as this here is only my advice with some experience).

The New Missional Gospel of Helps

'Amid rising gas prices, churches around the United States are helping communities by giving away thousands of dollars worth of gas to hundreds of cars, bringing smiles to the drivers and infusing hope...Pastor Brian Carn of Kingdom City Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, gave away \$35 gas cards to more than 300 drivers...for the event called 'Gas on God'...A video shown during the church's March 13 service shows a long line of cars in the street in front of the gas station waiting to receive free gas. Carn stated 'so many people's lives were touched today...You were able to minister to people...'

One woman in the video said she drove about 25 minutes to receive her free tank of gas... 'You feel the Holy Spirit around us and the kindness. You could feel His Spirit just move you,' another woman said.

In Chicago, New Life Covenant Church...held a gas giveaway event... 'I basically stood in front of my church and said, 'Guys, we want to bless 200 cars; asked a certain amount of people if they'd give us \$25, and they gave it. We raised it right there on the spot', Pastor John Hannah told CBS News.

In Greensboro, North Carolina, Mount Zion Baptist Church partnered with Gastown on Saturday to give away free gas to the first 200 vehicles...

Editor's comment:

With this 'missional' philosophy the approach is first to '*shine the light of Christ*' into communities in need, with the hope people will somehow get the Gospel. Works are seen as a means to an end. It's the cart before the horse. How does anyone get saved by receiving fuel for their car? '*How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?*' (Rom.10:14).

This new missional gospel of helps is deceptive. Certainly Jesus cared for people's needs and we need to have works which show our faith (James 2:14-18). However, what is our primary 'mission' in missions? Do we tend to bodies and felt needs without the Gospel being a primary focus? Did Jesus die to have us do these works; or did He die that we might be saved from sin and then take that same message by the Spirit to others? If the focus is not first the Gospel and if there is no clear presentation of the Gospel, then is the Great Commission being obeyed - to teach what Christ commanded (Matt.28:19,20)?

Churches are fast becoming relief agencies, political agendas, educating the masses, feeding the poor...The problem with this is that we allow Satan to burn us out, exhaust funds, and in the end *achieve nothing* for the kingdom!

What happens to the people we feed, clothe and give fuel to, if they are not saved from their sins? Are we to focus on the temporal concerns at the expense of the spiritual death that lingers in every unsaved person? How will fuel give-aways help in Hell?

Are we placing the Gospel foremost in the minds of people to whom we minister? If there is no Gospel, there is no 'mission'.

He Makes a Willing Slave

A wealthy Englishman went to California in the 1850's to enrich himself during the gold rush. After much success, he left to go back to England. He stopped at New Orleans on the way home, and, as all tourists did at that time, visited the infamous slave trading block. As he approached the place where people were sold for cash, he saw a beautiful young African woman standing on the block. He overheard two men who were trying to outbid each other for the woman, talking about what they would do to her if they could buy her. To their surprise, the Englishman joined in the bidding by offering twice the price.

The auctioneer was astonished. 'No one has ever offered this much for a slave', he said. After purchasing her, she spat in his face. He wiped away the spit and led her to a building in another part of town. There she watched uncomprehendingly as he filled out forms. To her astonishment he handed her some papers and said, 'There, now you are a free woman'. She spat in his face again.

'Don't you understand?' He asked, as he wiped her spit away again. 'You are free! You are free!' She stared at him in disbelief a long while. Then she fell at his feet and wept - and wept some more. Finally, she looked up and asked, 'Sir, is it really true that you paid more than anyone has ever paid to purchase me as a slave, only to set me free?' 'Yes,' he said, calmly. She wept some more. Finally, she spoke: 'Sir, I have only one request. Can I be your slave forever?'

This illustrated vintage Puritan teaching: Come to Jesus Christ, for He will not cast out those who come to Him. He alone has purchased them with the price of His own blood. He alone can set them free from bondage to sin and death. He alone can lead them to eternal life. And in so doing, He makes them willing and ready to live unto Him, as His willing servants in this life and forever.

(*'A Puritan Theology'*, P.525)

Faith, Gospel and Law...

'Man is never granted salvation on account of his faith but by means of faith' (*'Puritan theology'* P.590)

Editor: See Eph.2:8,9 - Grace comes 'through ('dia') faith', faith being the means, the vehicle of grace.

'The sharp needle of the law must first pierce the heart before the scarlet thread of the Gospel is drawn in' ... 'Before faith, the law with the curse is to be preached; after conversion, the law without the curse' (Puritan William Perkins).

'We must go with the stick of divine truth and beat every bush behind which a sinner hides, until like Adam who hid, he stands before God in his nakedness'.

(*'Puritan Quotations'*)

'The law sends us to the Gospel...enables us to the obedience of the law. The law sends us to the Gospel for our justification, and the Gospel send us to the law to frame our [conduct]...' (Bolton, 'True Bounds')

the earth (as in 8:13; 14:6) to feed on the spoils of flesh. Similar imagery is seen in Isaiah chapters 18 and 56 (see also Jer.7:33; 12:9; Ezek.39; Matt.24:28).

There will be no escape for even '*kings, captains and mighty [strong] men...all men free and bond, both small and great*'

Zephaniah 1:14-18 describes this terrifying scene: '*The great day of the Lord...a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness...I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung...in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy...*'.

In addition, Zechariah 14 details this final coming of the Lord: '*Behold, the day of the Lord comes, and your spoil shall be divided in the midst of you. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle...Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle...*' (vs.1-3).

Vs.19-21 '*And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh*'.

The antichrist (Rev.13) with the '*kings of the earth*' (the ten kings of 17:12-14), '*and their armies*' are '*gathered*' to '*make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army*'. The antichrist and his '*false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image*', both are '*cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone*' (see also 14:10).

This is the first mention of the '*Lake of Fire*', the final Hell ('*Gehenna*') which the first Hell ('*Hades*') is thrown into. The beast and false prophet are cast into this Hell to be '*tormented day and night forever and ever*' and after a 1,000 years joined by the Devil (20:10). The rest in the battle are '*slain*' by the Word of God and suffer the indignation of preying ravaging birds who are '*filled with their flesh*'.

The rejoicing in Heaven for God avenging the righteous; the marriage supper of the Lamb after the return of Christ to earth; the word of God judging the nations at the battle of Armageddon; and the antichrist and false prophet being cast into the Lake of Fire - are all necessary events and judgements before the triumphant return and reign of Christ.

This terrifying chapter should be at least a warning to unbelievers, the unrepentant. To the believer who has received Christ as Lord and Saviour, the admonition is to fear God and to worship Him in spirit and in truth!

Terry Arnold

leaders and in driving out the money changers in the temple.

John sees this warrior seated upon *'a white horse'* (Rev.6:2). White horses were sometimes used by Roman generals in victory processions following battle. The white horse here would suggest victory as well as a pureness, as does 'white' in verse 14 (*'white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean'*) and in other parts of Revelation (1:14; 3:4,5,18; 4:4; 6:11; 7:9,13,14; 15:6; 19:8,14; 20:11).

Besides his name of *'Faithful and True'* (Rev.3:14) and here *'Almighty God'*, the *'word of God'* and *'King of kings'*, He has *'a name written that no man knew but he himself'*. His judgements in 'making war' are all done in *'righteousness'*. His hatred of sin and evil is shown in *'eyes as a flame of fire'* (Rev.1:14) as He passes execution on an unbelieving and unrepentant world of sinners.

He wears *'many crowns'* (*'diádema'*) as symbols of royal dignity and is *'clothed with a vesture dipped in blood'*. Some would say this is the blood of the cross or the blood of the saints, but the context is the *blood of his enemies* as *'he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God'*.

This chapter is full of figures and imagery, but such that John would understand as he literally 'saw' them. Isaiah 63:2-6 has the same imagery: *'red in your garments...trodden in the winepress...in my anger...in my fury; their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment. For the day of vengeance...I will tread down the people in mine anger...'* (see also Ps.58:10,11; Joel 3:12-14; Rev.14:18-20).

The phrase *'His name is called The Word of God'* marks this person clearly as the Lord Jesus Christ, as He is named in the Gospel of John (Jn.1:1,14).

He comes out of Heaven with *'the armies which were in heaven'*, the heavenly Hosts, including the redeemed (the 'chosen and faithful' ones - 17:14), following him *'upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean'*. The heavenly hosts here do not fight the battle, but are witnesses to what is not a drawn out battle, but rather a quick execution as God speaks *'out of his mouth'* with a *'sharp sword'* (Zech.1:18). Jesus did not war long when He rid legions of demons instantly (Mk.5:9-13). Nevertheless it will be a very bloody battle in the plains near Meggiddo, about 60 miles north of Jerusalem (Rev.16:16), with blood in places as deep *'even unto the horse bridles'* and in *'the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs'* (aprox. 200 miles). (See *'Diakrisis'* Part 9, ch.14 July/Aug/2021).

His clothing is stained even before the battle, as victory is sure, his enemies being crushed as grapes are in a winepress. He will then *'rule'* the nations *'with a rod of iron'* (2:27; 12:5; Ps.2:9; Dan.2:35). He rules as a sovereign king for *'on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS'*.

Vs.17,18 ***'And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud [great] voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That you may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great'***.

An angel stands before the sun and calls the birds that fly in the space above

What Manna Is This?

For decades it has been the firm belief of this ministry that the root of the apostasy found in the modern church is the lack of belief and teaching in the doctrines of *Inspiration* and *Inerrancy* of the Bible as the *all sufficient* Word of God. Put simply, the modern church has largely departed from the Word of God as its doctrinal boundary. Today we have a host of new doctrines simply not found in church history or orthodoxy.

How urgent and necessary the Word of God is can be illustrated in the 'manna', the 'bread' from Heaven (Ex.16:3,15; Jn.6:31), which God gave the Israelites to sustain them day by day. Without it they would have quickly perished. Yet after some time they took this manna for granted and failed to see how life sustaining it really was. They even despised it in the end - just as many modern Christian movements and denominations have too often done today with the all sufficient Word of God.

The 'Manna' - 'What Is It'?

The Lord provided the Israelites with *'a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground...like coriander seed, white; and the taste of it was like wafers made with honey'* (Ex.16:14,31). It was the *'colour of bedellium'* (Nu.11:7). When the Israelites saw it, they said *'it is manna: for they knew not what it was'* (Ex.16:15). The Hebrew *'manna'* literally means *'what is it'*. Moses had to explain to the people, *'this is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat'* (Ex.16:15). The Psalmist later described it as *'angels' food'* and *'corn from heaven'* (Ps.78:24,25).

With this miraculous 'what is it', God catered for about 2 million people every day for 40 years (Nu.1:45,46)!

Jesus spoke of a similar sustaining bread. In John chapter 6 we read the Lord had just miraculously provided 5,000 people with bread. But then He pointed to Himself as *'the true bread from heaven'* (vs.32), and that *'the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life'* (vs.63).

As a type of the manna of old, the Word of God is simple and contained. Forty authors led by the Spirit of God put together a book that defies human logic, with prophecies fulfilled to the letter and still being fulfilled. It is compacted in 66 books and is *all sufficient* to sustain millions through their wilderness wanderings in this world, until they see the Word of God face to face.

Just as the Israelites did not have to search each day for the manna, so the Word of God has been delivered to us today, preserved miraculously in manuscripts, copies of which can be shown to be incredibly accurate.

The Manna - Given to Sustain

The manna was to be eaten, assimilated as a joyful and sweet sustenance. Likewise, the Word of God today is still our true food. From this, the joy of the

Lord is our strength (Neh.8:10). *'Your words were found, and I did eat them; and your word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart...'* (Jer.15:16); *'How sweet are your words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!'* (Ps.119:103).

The Work of The Manna

The manna was to be gathered by personal labour and diligence. So too must the Word of God be gathered in effort. *'Study [be diligent] to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth'* (2Tim.2:15).

Although there was plenty for all, each person gathered the manna in differing quantities. So it is with the Word of God - some take the *'milk'* of the word, others more the *'meat'*; some dig deep, others take what they can understand (1Cor.3:2; Heb.5:13,14).

Murmuring and Lusts Against the Manna

In Exodus 16 we first hear of the *'manna'* - given in response to the Israelites' *'murmuring'* in unbelief and even complaining of coming out of slavery in Egypt where they *'at least had bread to eat'*. Hence God gave them the manna to sustain them for a generation of their wanderings before the promised land (Ex.16:35).

So it is today that Christians are not always satisfied with their deliverance from the slavery of sin and then the provision of God in the Word of God. And so we subtly complain by adding to the Word our own reasoning. Hence the host of new traditions and new doctrines on the Spirit of God and of Christ in the last century or more - new holiness doctrines, new spiritual warfare methods, new baptisms, a new unknown tongues movement, new manifestations of the spirit, a seeking after signs and wonders...and more recently a new ecumenical Jesus...

Yet, it is the Word of God that has sustained the church throughout the ages. The Israelites were reminded of this: *'And you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God led you these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you, and to prove you, to know what was in your heart...And he humbled you, and suffered you to hunger, and fed you with manna...that he might make you know that man does not live by bread only, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord...'* (Dt.8:2-4).

In Numbers chapter 11 we read how God's people came to despise God's provision: *'And the mixed multitude that was among them fell to lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic: But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes'* (vs.4-6).

God's answer was to hand them over to their lusts. *'...Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow, and you shall eat flesh: for you have wept in the ears of the Lord, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt:*

(credited) righteousness granted by God (Rom.4; 2Cor.5:21), not of anything of us (Phil.3:9); and the work of *Sanctification* (*'made herself ready'*).

Note the stark difference here between the holy bride and the unholy religious Babylon. One has an inner holiness, the other an outer and counterfeit splendour. One is *'clean'* and *'bright'* (*'lampros'* - bright, shining), the other is filthy in fornication and corruption; one is *'blessed'*, the other condemned in a furnace of fire. The true church, the bride, is *'invited'* to *'the marriage supper of the Lamb'*.

'These are true sayings of God' now written down as the truth in written form.

Vs.10 *'And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, see you do it not: I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy'*.

John was overcome with the presence of the angel and the scenes and sounds he had witnessed. He falls prostrate but is immediately warned not to do this but to *'worship God'* only, as the messenger is not deity but a *'fellow servant, and of your brethren'*. To worship other than God is idolatry (Ex.20).

The *'testimony of Jesus'* is what all true *'brethren have'* - the witness of who Christ is and what He has done for our sin. This *'testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy'* in that the design of prophecy is bearing witness to Jesus Christ and His salvation and judgements (Rev.12:17). Arguably the word *'prophecy'* here is also used in a wide sense of the scriptures (Rom.12:6).

Vs.11-16 *'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns [diadems]; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture [robe] dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp double-edged sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule [poimanei] - shepherd] them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on his vesture [robe] and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS'*.

The man described here is a *'man of war'* who *'makes war'* (Ex.15:3; Is.42:13)! Heaven is *'opened'* to let this warrior out to fulfil a final judgement upon the earth. Hollywood and many churches portray Jesus as a long haired, gentle, meek blue eyed new age sensitive man, arguably modelled after the increasingly effeminate Hollywood man. But Jesus is God and in the Old Testament God was a man of war, a warrior. In Joel 3:9-15 God challenges the nations to war. God said David was a *'man after his own heart'* (1Sam.13:14) *because he was like God in character*. David was tender with his sheep, but tough and fierce in battle, consistent in repentance, a *'tender warrior'*. Similarly, the apostle Paul was beaten, stoned, whipped, shipwrecked, yet tender with his own people (2Cor.11:23-27; 2Cor.2:4; Acts 20:31). Christ himself also was *'meek and lowly of heart'* (Matt.11:29), and showed tears of compassion (Heb.5:7), yet fiercely combative with the religious

say, *Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judges in the earth*' (Ps.58:10,11).

'*And her smoke rose up forever and ever*' shows the finality of the judgement, such language strikingly similar to the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.19), as well as the eternal judgement of the antichrist and the false prophet in Hell (19:20; 20:10,14,15). This fearful judgement and vengeance described in Revelation 19 is also vividly described in Isaiah chapter 34: '*The indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he has utterly destroyed them, he has delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood...The sword of the Lord is filled with blood...For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion...the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up forever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it forever and ever*' (vs.1-10).

Verse 3 has 'again' the praise of the 'people in heaven' and another 'alleluia' reaches an ever increasing crescendo with the 'twenty four elders' who are around the throne (Rev.4:4,10; 7:11) and 'the four beasts'. The 'four beasts' as we saw in chapter 6 ('Diakrisis' Sept/Oct/2019) resemble the creatures in the vision to Ezekiel chapter 1 and the Seraphims in Isaiah chapter 6. All fall down to 'worship God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia'.

Another anonymous voice 'out of the throne' says 'praise our God, all you his servants, and you that fear him, both small and great'. The 'great multitude' here to John sounds like the sound of 'many waters (see Is.17:12,13; Rev.1:15;14:2) and 'mighty thunderings', and he hears them saying of the Lamb, the Lord Jesus Christ, 'Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigns'. The word 'omnipotent' here is the Greek word 'pantokrator' ('pás' - 'all' / 'krátos' - power), in many versions and elsewhere in Revelation translated 'almighty' (KJV has 'almighty' in Rev.1:8;4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7,14; 19:15; 21:22; and 'omnipotent' in 19:6).

Vs.7-9 'Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor [glory] to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted [given] that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white [bright and pure]: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he says unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he says unto me, These are the true sayings of God'.

The voice of the multitude continues with a call 'let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him'. The reason for this is 'the marriage of the Lamb is come'. This is the church betrothed to the Lord (2Cor.11:2; Eph.5:22-32). The consummation of this marriage is described in Revelation chapter 21. The believers making up the church 'has made herself ready'. Upon being called to salvation, we are to actively prepare ourselves in the process of sanctification to be the glorified saints (Phil.2:12,13). We have already been 'granted' by God (Greek passive voice) to 'be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white...the fine linen is the righteousness of saints'. Here we have the semblance of both *Justification* - God's imputed

therefore the Lord will give you flesh, and you shall eat. You shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; But even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that you have despised the Lord which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt?' (vs.18-20).

Could it be said today that God has handed the 'church' of the world over to the world and its lusts? How many mega church pastors need to fall, how worldly does the church have to become, and how far will it depart from the all sufficiency of the Word, before we see '*the mixed multitude fell to lusting*', having '*despised*' the Lord, and so God has handed them over to their flesh? Is it any wonder the church of the world is sick and falling when the Word of God is not held up as its only sustenance and food? And so the church looks to signs and wonders, miracles, healings, the experiential, and the entertainment and philosophies that the world freely offers. God answers this in that he '*gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts*' (Rom.1:24-26). The Word of God becomes diminished, dust covered and lifeless. The very place where 'truth' is found (Jn.17:17) is not received and so '*God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie...*' (2Thess.2:10,11).

The End of the 'Manna'

When the Israelites entered the promised land '*the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land; neither had the children of Israel manna any more; but they did eat of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year*' (Josh:5:12).

So too, when we as Pilgrims pass through the wilderness of this world and enter Heaven, we will no longer have a physical book of the written scriptures, but we will be face to face with the Word of God Himself. We will '*see him as he is*' (1Jn.3:2). The glories of heaven will include '*to him that overcomes will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knows saving he that receives it*' (Rev.2:17).

From salvation to final deliverance, the Word of God is truly manna to our souls. We cannot afford to diminish it, add to it, and God forbid we despise it. '*The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is your servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward...Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer*' (Ps.19:7-14).

Every pilgrim in this world would do well to treasure the all sufficient, sustaining and satisfying manna of Christ and His written Word!

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A Fresh Look At Revelation - Part 14

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').

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.

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).

In **Part 11** (chapter 16 - *Diakrisis* November/December 2021) the seven angels, by the authority of God, pour out the final vial (bowl) judgements upon the earth. God dries up the Euphrates to bring his enemies to a final battle. The will of God upon the earth will be '*done*'. The unrepentant depravity of man is shown.

In **Part 12** (chapter 17 - *Diakrisis* January/February 2022) is a parenthesis between chapter 16 and 18, pausing to look at what happens during the 7th vial (bowl) judgement. It is a description of the end time world wide false religion.

In **Part 13** (Chapter 18 - *Diakrisis* March/April 2022) is a further description of the 7th vial (bowl) judgement and the commercial aspect of a future city called Babylon which is destroyed. This description matches Old Testament prophecies, dual prophecies both for the Babylon of old and the one described in Revelation.

Part 14 Chapter 19

Vs.1-6 '*After these things I heard [as it were] a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and power and glory, and honor, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments: for he has judged the great whore [harlot], which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and has avenged the blood of his servants at her hand. And again [a second time] they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up forever and ever. And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts [living creatures] fell down and worshiped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all you his servants, and you that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as [like] the voice of many waters, and as [like] the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent [almighty] reigns*'

Heaven is full of worship and praise to God (5:13; 7:12; 11:15; 12:10). Here the words '*great*' and '*much*' express the magnitude of the worship in Heaven. '*Alleluia*' is an exclamation of praise for the '*power and glory, and honor*' which belongs to '*the Lord our God*'.

The praise here is especially for God's judgements which are all '*true and righteous*' (cp.Ps.98:9). A specific example is given of this - the judgement of '*the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication*' (see Rev.9:21; 14:8; 17:2-5; 18:3). God's judgements often have the idea of vengeance and here it is to '*avenge the blood of his servants at her hand*'. Earlier in chapter 6 we saw the martyred saints cry out for revenge (vs.10). Those prayers (Rev.16:7) are now praised as God judges. God has not forgotten the mistreatment of his saints by commercial and religious Babylon and this must be avenged by the perfect and righteous judge (Rev.18:20,24). '*The righteous shall rejoice when he sees the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. So that a man shall*