

Terry's Itinerary
Conference 2023 (Sydney)

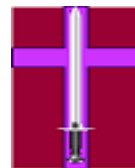
Feb 25th (Saturday conference) St.Johns Park Baptist. 9.30am - 4.00pm (178 Humphries Rd, Ph.0417179610)

'Charismatic Confusion' Conference

Topics: 'The History of the Pentecostal Movement'; 'The Baptism With the Spirit' / The 'Filling'; 'Tongues'; 'Healing & the 'Gifts' ...and more.

More details next newsletter

Feb.26th (Sunday) 10.30am & 6pm St. John's Park Baptist (see address above)



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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God willing we are looking at resuming our travelling ministry in 2023.

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Newsletter of TA Ministries Vol.4, No.30 November / December 2022

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

Editor: Terry Arnold (Dr.Th; MABS; Dip.Bib.&Min.)

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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Conference Feb/2023

'Charismatic Confusion'
Conference
Sydney Feb.23rd (Sat)

Topics: 'The History of the Pentecostal Movement'; 'The Baptism With the Spirit' & The 'Filling'; 'Tongues'; 'Healing & the 'Gifts' ...and more.

See P.20

Editor's Comment

Today we are being fed *false narratives* in the mass media to do with climate, vaccines and war. However, there are also false narratives in churches, a large number of them teaching the unbiblical narrative that God wants to see everyone in Heaven and has done all He can to get them there.

Indeed, today the populace appears to believe the narrative that when people die they go to 'Heaven'. Funerals abound with people saying the deceased person is in a 'better place' with the angels in Heaven and is 'looking down' smiling, at peace or enjoying their favourite pastime or sport in Heaven. Hell simply does not get a mention. It does *not fit the narrative*.

Where did the idea of Heaven come from but from the Bible and Christianity, and especially Jesus and the New Testament? Why is it many will believe in Heaven yet not the God of the same book in which Heaven is described? Why a Heaven but not a Hell as described *in the same book*? Amazingly some atheistic or agnostic people become instant theologians at funerals and speak of Heaven. But how would they know of Heaven except the concept of Heaven be in the Bible?

Some cite near death experiences (NDE) where people have supposedly seen tunnels of light and visions of Heaven. Yet medical experts know that such out of body experiences are common and can actually be induced. 'Dr.H.Leon Greene, a Christian cardiologist and professor of medicine (Uni. of Wash.) stated: 'The human brain can be induced, (by raising Carbon Dioxide levels in the blood, etc.), to produce the same experiences reported during near death experiences by (NDE) proponents: bright lights, a sense of detachment, a feeling of spiritual ecstasy, etc. Greene observed that hardly anybody reports visiting Hell. NDE's are deceptive and no proof of an afterlife. Christians must rely on the Bible as their authority on the topic, not New Age pop psychologies' (Remnant, Vol.2, No.7, 7/98).

Moreover, some doctors have documented near death experiences which were terrifying. These are rarely reported because they do *not fit the narrative*. A German Dr. Maurice Rawlings, a specialist in cardiovascular diseases, collected NDE data and stated that almost half of the experiences were negative but not reported, and some people had more than one NDE experience, experiencing *both positive (heavenly) and negative (hellish) ones*.

We have previously exposed several near death experiences and alleged visits to heaven as *false and extra biblical* ('Diakrisis' July/Aug 2002 and May/June 2008). But what does God Himself say?: 'No man has ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven' (Jn.3:13). That same God also spoke much about Hell and sending 'many' there, when He will say to them 'I never knew you' (Matt.7:13,14).

Jesus was clear about Heaven - 'except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God...You must be born again' (Jn.3:3-7). The true narrative is that for those who believe and repent, the sinless perfect Jesus was sacrificed on their behalf to satisfy a holy and perfect God for their sin. It is the owner of Heaven who sets the true narrative for citizenship in His Heaven.

Terry Arnold

Quotable

'People today seek the blessings and power of Pentecost apart from personal crucifixion with Christ, and the result is a counterfeit experience.

Calvary is always before Pentecost, historically and experientially. The only way into the riches of the fullness of the Spirit is through our acceptance of our crucifixion with Him'.

(Dr. L.L. Legters; quoted by Miles Stanford)

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, the Covid 'pandemic' was one of the greatest frauds inflicted upon humanity. The world now moves on at rapid pace towards the events of Revelation 6-19.

We continue to remember the Lord each week that we are here and others available. We do what we can. Since Covid church life has been decimated in so many places. The concept of sitting at home and watching or tuning in somewhere has become quite comfortable to many.

(G.E., Qld)

Editor's comment:

Only recently in many countries have the 'rare side effects' been listed as warnings - including 'heart attacks, strokes, sudden death, menstrual irregularities, Bell's palsy'...and a host of other illnesses. The 'rareness' is increasingly in question as the Government statistics alone are showing a rapid increase in reactions and deaths after the vaccine, far more than any other vaccine in history. More people died in 2021, after the rollout of the COVID-19 shots, and in 2022, (many of cardiovascular diseases with a huge increase in young people) than during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. (At least some of these were because of lockdowns or people unable to access care for chronic diseases). And these are only the reported ones. No governments that we know of are doing investigations. Pfizer knew about more than 1,000 deaths within 90 days of release of their product - that information the FDA attempted to block. However, the cover up and the mainstream media's narrative is beginning to show cracks, as the new statistics come forward and doctors and medical authorities (in breakaway groups) are beginning to speak out about the reactions (morticians even finding strange blood clots), some who could not before speak for fear of repercussions. These voices still go unreported by the mainstream media.

There is no doubt the Covid restrictions have impacted the church in the west with statistics showing a fall away rate. Many also believe that the mandates, passports and government controls may have well advanced the world towards a future that the antichrist can rule.

Your Comments and Questions

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

Terry, I have a friend who has a burning interest in Curry Blake (who leads the John G. Lake Ministry) and healing...Lake has roots from Azusa St? Do you have anything in particular on these men?

(A.H., NSW)

Editor's Reply:

Such ministries are now prolific and with the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR). In the 'Pentecostal/Charismatic' section on our website there is an article 'The History-Foundations of the Pentecostal Movement' which shows the historical roots of these leaders and the connection with 'Azusa St.' and Charles Parham. (John Lake went from Azusa St. to Sth. Africa).

Curry Blake claims John G. Lake passed the ministry to him in a 1934 'prophecy', even though Blake was not even alive! Lake stated: 'Against this there shall come for by my spirit a young man, another voice crying in the wilderness, to make straight the way of the Lord, restoring old ways and shoring up the terrible gap in the wall to stop the incoming flood of sin and worldliness that shall surely be in the church in that day. This one will be rejected of men and his brethren will not understand or accept him. But he shall be known as a repairer of the breach and a restorer of the paths to dwell in'.

Anyone with discernment should see how evil this is considering it copies what Isaiah said about John the Baptist for John G Lake and Curry Blake!

Examining the life of John G. Lake will show fraud and gross exaggerations of undocumented raising the dead and healings. His early connections were with John Dowie's 'Zion City' in Illinois which fell into fraud and disrepute. In Africa, Lake's 'anointed' bubble gum supposedly healed people. He 'anointed' a rock and any who laid hands on it were supposedly healed.

John G. Lake taught the little-god heresy - that humans have the potential to become divine like God. 'The power of God, the Holy Ghost, is the Spirit of Dominion. It makes one a god' (John G. Lake, His Life, His Sermons, His Boldness of Faith, published by Kenneth Copeland Ministries, P.13); '...Jesus said...God was in Christ, wasn't He? An incarnation. God is in you, an incarnation, if you were born again. You are incarnate' (P.196); 'God's purpose through Jesus Christ is to deify the nature of men' (P.304).

Lake also taught Dominion Theology: 'God is calling men and women to a holier consecration, a higher place in God...that is the experience that is going to make the sons of God in the world. That is the reason they will take the world for Jesus Christ, the Kingdom will be established, and they will put the crown on the Son of God and declare him 'King of kings, Lord of lords' (Ibid P.510). Lake also taught channeling of the dead (P.122); and that his dead wife spoke to him from heaven (P.133).

Curry Blake offers courses in 'divine healing' to become a 'Certified Divine Healing Technician'.

These men are heretics to be shunned.

Two State [Final] Solution?



The future Arab Palestinian state that could one day exist next to Israel must be peaceful and not terror-based, Prime Minister Yair Lapid told the UN General Assembly [UNGA] last month. If that [impossible] condition is met, then the best path forward is 'an agreement with the Palestinians based on two states for two peoples...This 'is the right thing for Israel's security, economy and for the future of our children.'

His statement about a future Arab Palestinian state and his affirmation of a two-state resolution to the conflict marks the strongest language an Israeli premier has used with regard to Palestinian sovereignty since the days of prime minister Ehud Olmert. It is the first time since 2016 that an Israeli leader has spoken of the two-state solution when addressing the UNGA.

'Despite all the obstacles, still today a large majority of Israelis support the vision of this two-state solution. I am one of them,' Lapid said.

For years, pro-Arab Palestinian activists have insisted on referring to Israel as 'Palestine'. This is a ploy popularized by the likes of Egyptian born Yasser Arafat, a master propagandist schooled by the Soviets (the Russians convinced the terrorist to transition publicly from a revolutionary to a 'statesman').

Pretty soon, even religious leaders were using it. Ostensibly, this was to refer to a 'future' Palestinian state, which most people thought was in the offing quickly after the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993. The newly created Palestinian Authority (PA) would be given part of the territory won by Israel in the Six Day War, and everyone would live happily together in peace

This was fantasy, of course. What Arafat really wanted was ALL the territory from the River (Jordan) to the Sea (Mediterranean). Because most people don't know history, they don't understand that in the second century, the Romans re-named Judea 'Palestina' as a jab at the Jews, an effort to erase their history by claiming the area was once a sovereign Philistine nation.

The truth is Palestine is no more real than never-never land. The first time the name was used was in 70AD, when the Romans committed genocide against the Jews, destroyed the temple and declared the land of Israel would be no more.

Arafat went further, claiming that he was descended from the Canaanites! Historically, the region was then known for almost 1,900 years as Palestine. Then Israel was [re]-established.

There is no language known as Palestinian. There is no distinct Palestinian culture. There has never been a land known as Palestine governed by Palestinians. Palestinians are Arabs, indistinguishable from Jordanians (another recent invention), Syrians, Lebanese, Iraqis, etc.

Keep in mind that the Arabs control 99.9% of the Middle East lands. Israel represents one tenth of one percent of the land mass. But that's too much for the Arabs. They want it all. And that is ultimately what the fighting in Israel is about today - greed, pride, envy, covetousness. No matter how many land concessions the Israelis make, it will never be enough.

Mike Claydon

The Antichrist's World

'All this story about Jesus rising from the dead, and being the son of God - this is fake news...Keep them [useless humans] happy with drugs and computer games - they constitute a new useless class...COVID was critical because this is what convinces people to accept, legitimise, total biometric surveillance...Surveillance was once mainly above the skin, governments need to know what is going on under the skin...Now humans are developing even bigger powers than ever before. We are really acquiring divine powers of creation and destruction. We are really upgrading humans into 'gods' with the power to re-engineer life...Humans are now hackable animals...Freewill? - that's over!'

This is but a selection of the great swelling words of one 'Dr.' Yuval Noah Harari - World Economic Forum [WEF] assistant to Klaus Schwab. This man is truly evil and speaks as a dragon - he is currently installing his teachings into the gullible minds of world political and business leaders.

Amongst his acolytes are Johnson, Biden, Putin, Xi, Modi, Ardern, Albanese, and many other lesser lights in the global political milieu.

Yuval, who is Jewish, is a married homosexual; his 'husband' Itzik Yahav, is also Harari's personal manager. They married in a 2010 civil ceremony in Toronto, Canada, and now live in Tel Aviv whilst Yuval travels the world spouting his blasphemies to adoring crowds who gather in large numbers to hear what he has to say. To all intents and purposes they are gleefully participating in instigating the plans being offered by this man and his demonic organisation.

He is as near to the throne of the WEF as one could get without actually being seated. To say this is antichrist in nature would be an understatement - Yuval is accurately describing for humanity what is so vividly revealed in the Bible's book of the Revelation.

In fact, the policies of the WEF mirror all the political ingredients required for the now quite visible Time of Jacob's Trouble. The rapidly darkening shadows of this cataclysm make this a time like no other before it.

Satan's heightened activity in this present epoch fits perfectly with what the Bible tells us is in store for the last days.

We live in a day characterized by opposition to our faith and greatly increased demonic activity; these things have increased exponentially over the last two years. Many once well grounded saints are now struggling with doubts and fears.

To counter these emotions we must maintain our eager anticipation of Jesus' imminent appearing. This attitude calms our hearts as the dark clouds of tyranny, war, famine, food shortages, and lawlessness grow darker by the day.

Yet, it's the expectation of meeting our Saviour in the air that puts the 'good' in the 'good news' of the Gospel. Let us earnestly encourage one another - and all the more as we now see the 'Day' approaching!

Keep your eyes on the joyous and glorious prize set before us.

(Israel Report Sept 3rd: 'Why Do We Need So Many Humans?')

were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God give them light: and they shall reign forever and ever'.

Vs.1-3 John is shown and sees what he describes as a '**pure river of water of life**' which is '**clear** [bright/brilliant] **as crystal**' (see Rev.4:6). The radiance emanates from the One who is on '**the throne**' and also '**of the Lamb**'. Note the unity here and two persons (see Heb.1:3).

It appears that a '**street**' runs through the city and a '**river**' with a '**tree of life**' either side which bears 12 '**fruits**' each and '**every month...for the healing of the nations**'. The '**tree of life**' is now the preservation of the saved and the nourishment of the nations, in contrast to Adam and Eve being banned from eating it (Gen.3:22,23), for had they eaten mankind would have lived with consequences of sin forever.

The trees for healing will not be to heal sicknesses for their will '**be no more curse**'. The presence of God on the throne means there will be no more curse from the first man and woman with all its suffering and death. The devil, the world and the flesh will have no more influence.

'His servants [bondslaves] **will serve him**' as they '**see his face**' (Matt.5:8; Rev.7:15) in all His glory. The joy and happiness of this unrestricted worship would be impossible to describe in earthly terms. God will possess His people with '**his name in their foreheads**' (see 3:12; 7:3).

'And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God give them light' - this repeats chapter 21 verse 3 and adds '**and they shall reign forever and ever** [ages unto ages]'

How much do we really want to go to Heaven and be with the Lord, to serve Him and worship Him as described in these passages? Or do the things of this world which '*is passing away*', hold more interest (1Jn.2:15-17)? Where is our treasure to keep (Matt.19:21)? Can we say with Paul '*for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*' (Phil.1:21)?

In the light of the eternity of this Heaven as described, '*what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appears for a little time, and then vanishes away*' (James 4:14). Are the descriptions in these last two chapters not worth meditating on for the comfort and the pleasure of the believer with the mind of Christ?

Our inheritance is in Heaven '*an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fades not away, reserved in heaven for you*' (1Pet.1:4)'

Jesus said '*Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also*' (Jn.14:1-3).

Terry Arnold

Each gate is a gigantic 'pearl' and the streets are like translucent 'pure gold'. Again, many commentators refuse to believe that what John saw was what he saw: 'This must be merely figurative, for it is out of all the order of nature to produce a pearl large enough to make a gate to such an immense city' (Clark); 'This shows that this account cannot be taken literally, but mystically, for no such pearl was ever known, large enough to make a gate of' (Gill). But this is not an earthly city, but a heavenly city. Are we to believe that things in Heaven are not what they are described as, such as the cherubims, the seraphims (Is.6), etc?

Missing from this city is any 'temple', the reason given is that God and Christ 'are the temple of it' who have come to finally tabernacle with believers. There is 'no sun or moon' needed for light (Is.60:19) as the light comes from God Himself, His Christ being the uncreated 'light [lamp] thereof', a light similar to the Shekinah glory (Ex.40:34) from which in the Old Testament Israel needed protecting, but now believers will have by it security and safety. We can only view this light in a future spiritual body. Our worship then will be truly 'in spirit and in truth' (Jn.4:23). This spiritual body will not be limited by space or time.

Vs.24-27 '**And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall by no means enter into it any [common] thing that defiles, neither whatsoever works abomination, or makes a lie: but they which are [have been] written in the Lamb's book of life**'.

'The nations of them which are saved' arguably does not refer to the millennium due to the chronological progression to the new heaven in this chapter. However, there will be believers living at the end of the Millennium who shall 'walk in the light of' this new city and bring their worship into it. Isaiah 60 appears to refer to gentiles (nations) which 'shall come to your light...' (Is.60:3).

The 'gates of' this city will not be shut, being guarded by angels at each (vs.12), and there being 'no night there'. No common ('koinos') unsanctified thing or person will enter the city (vs.27). This is written with a Greek 'double negative' ('ou me' - no, not at all; no never) to stress the impossibility of anything unholy entering (see also Is.52:1; Ez.44:9). Only those who have been (Greek perfect passive - were written by God and remain written) - 'written in the Lamb's book of life' (Rev.3:5) will inhabit the city. These are the ones who have believed in Christ and His sacrifice and have been imputed with the righteousness of God by Christ and thus sanctified by His Spirit.

Chapter 22

22:1-5 '**And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree**

18th Sept...The world religious leaders today adopted the Human Fraternity Document which was [formally] signed by His Eminence the Grand Imam of Al Azhar and Chairman of the Muslim Council of Elders, Dr. Ahmed el-Tayyeb, and His Holiness Pope Francis of the Roman Catholic Church, in Abu Dhabi in 2019. This came during the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions which concluded on Thursday.

Some highlights from the 7th World Congress of Religions:

'We note that pluralism in terms of differences in skin colour, gender, race, language and culture are expressions of the wisdom of God in creation. Religious diversity is permitted by God and, therefore, any coercion to a particular religion and religious doctrine is unacceptable.

We recognize the importance and value of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together between the Holy See and Al-Azhar Al-Sharif (adopted by the UN General Assembly...December 21, 2020), and the Makkah Declaration (adopted in Mecca, May 2019), which call for peace, dialogue, mutual understanding and mutual respect among believers for the common good.

We call upon religious leaders and prominent political figures from different parts of the world tirelessly to develop dialogue in the name of friendship, solidarity and peaceful coexistence.

We appeal to all people of faith and goodwill to unite in this difficult time and contribute to ensuring security and harmony in our common home - planet earth'.

With the adoption this week by the 7th World Religions Congress of the Human Fraternity document created by Pope Francis and Mohamed bin Zayed, Chrislam is now the official One World Religion. Chrislam has now been codified and ratified, with the approval at the 7th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, of the Human Fraternity document created by Pope Francis of the Vatican, and financed and promoted by Mohamed bin Zayed of the UAE. ...Jesus Christ - His Name appears nowhere and is never mentioned.

(Apostasy Alert, 18th Sept/2022; excerpts from Emirates News)

Religion Statistics (Australia)

2.5 million people (about 10% of the population) in 2021 reported an affiliation with a minority religion, an increase of 3.5% over the last 25 years. (The growth of minority religions is driven largely by migration and globalisation).

In the early 2000's, Buddhism was the second largest religion behind Christianity. Islam is now the largest minority religion - 3.2% of the population, then Hinduism and Buddhism (2.4%). Hinduism is one of the fastest growing, having grown 55% in the last 5 years and followed by 2.7% of the population.

Christianity has dropped by more than 26% in the same period.

(Excerpts from Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 2021).

A 'Word From The Lord'

Like most people, I've had believers pray over me. It's always appreciated as...praying for someone's health, spiritual peace or some other need is a joy. One such experience though stands out to me...A gentleman approached me and put his hands on my shoulders. He began praying...a most passionate prayer. There was only one problem. His discernment was wrong. In front of a large group, he publicly said something about my situation that was not true. In fact, it was the polar opposite of the truth. What he said wasn't evil or malicious. It was simply wrong...People there who knew me better than this man expressed puzzlement...I explained that the conclusions of this dear man were...sincerely wrong.

We risk such when we 'get a word from the Lord' about anything. Believers do this all the time. Someone will approach and have a 'word' or prophecy for an individual. Again, the problem is, many, many times these moments are simply wrong. Often someone will say, 'I feel in my heart that God wants', yet in Jeremiah 17:9, we read: 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?' Our heart can fool us. This deception comes from our own wrong conclusions. Or it can come from the enemy. But whatever the source, it can cause a great deal of confusion, at best.

The Christian experience in America today is too often just that, experiential. People crave 'experience'. We say, 'I want a fresh experience of God!' I wonder, though, why not just read Scripture? It is in Scripture that God speaks to us. It is finished revelation and full-proof. There is no need for a flawed human to impart human wisdom in any given situation...

John MacArthur has also addressed this: '*The notion that God is giving extra-biblical messages to Christians today has received support from some surprising sources. Wayne Grudem, popular author and professor of theology and biblical studies at Phoenix Seminary believes God regularly gives Christians prophetic messages by simply bringing spontaneous thoughts to mind. Such impressions should be reported as prophecy, he says*'. Similar ideas have found sweeping acceptance even among non-charismatic Christians. Southern Baptists have eagerly devoured 'Experiencing God' by Henry Blackaby and Claude King, which suggests that the main way the Holy Spirit leads believers is by speaking to them directly...When God gives an individual a message that pertains to the church, it should be shared with the whole body. As a result, extra-biblical 'words from the Lord' are now commonplace...Such has led to...'God told me' models, popularized by teachers like Beth Moore. The logical end of this is that nothing is too extreme. One can pass along any story as having come directly from God. But what if it didn't? Then people are deceived...

We can't go wrong when we read God's Word and pray for discernment from the Holy Spirit. In an age of tremendous deception, God has provided spiritual safety...'The Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron' (1Tim.4:1-2).

(By Jim Fletcher 'Laying Hands', 17 Sept.2022; in *Apostasy Alert* 18th Sept.)

of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light [lamp] thereof.

As with much of Revelation, many commentators refuse to allow any literal interpretation here. An example of many follows: '*The idea of a city literally descending from heaven, and being set upon the earth with such proportions - three hundred and seventy miles high (vs.16), made of gold, and with single pearls for gates, and single gems for the foundations - is absurd. No man can suppose that this is literally true, and hence this must be regarded as a figurative or emblematic description...*' (Barnes). Heavenly matter is not as earthly materials, and is it so impossible that God could not make such a 'city', one which John 'saw' and was 'shown' in detail (vs.1,2,10,22; 22:1,8)? Did John mean it to be figurative only? Was the 'angel' not an angel; the 'city' not a city; the names of the apostles not really names; the Shekinah glory not really from the Lamb on the throne? Do we not take the similar description in Ezekial 48:30-35 as real? Why did the angel not give an interpretation if all was symbolic only, as the angel did in chapter 17 for the harlot woman? Why would the *extensive detailed description* of such a city be left to the interpreter to decide the meanings of the details, which today has invariably lead to a multitude of differing speculative opinions! John is accurately describing what he 'saw'.

The same angels who delivered the plagues now transport John '*in the spirit*' (similar in Rev.1:10; Exek.40:2; 2Cor.12:2-4) to view the city of the New Jerusalem which is called the '*wife, the bride of the Lamb*'. (Note the contrast between the 'bride' here and the 'harlot' of chapter 17).

John sees the city '*descending out of Heaven*', the 'heavenly Jerusalem' as described in Hebrews 2:22. The city has a *radiance* ('light') all of its own, the source being the glory of God.

John described the '*light*' he sees as '*like a Jasper stone, clear as crystal*'. The wall is '*great and high*' and on its 12 foundations are the names of the 12 apostles of the Lamb (cp. the foundation of the 'church' - Eph.2:20). On the 12 gates are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, 3 on each side, with an angel at each one. The description does not stop there, with an angel 'measuring' the city as 12 thousand furlongs, the shape being a cube (vs.16), (approximately 2,220 kilometres long - approximately the flight distance from Cairns to Melbourne in Australia - a huge area of which there will be 'many mansions' (Jn.14:2).

The walls are further described as like '*jasper*' stone (translucent diamond like), the city itself like '*pure gold like unto clear glass*'. The walls are adorned with '*precious stones*' each foundation with first '*jasper*', (Rev.4:3. Sardius and Jasper were the first and last stones in the breastplate of the high priest which represented the firstborn and last born of the tribes of Israel); then sapphire (bright blue), then Chalcedony (sky blue with coloured stripes), then Emerald (bright green), then Sardonyx (red and white striped), then Sardius (shades of red), then chrysolite (transparent or translucent yellow or gold), then Beryl (green, yellow or blue), then Topaz (yellow or green), then chrysoprasus (gold tinted green), then Jacinth (blue or violet), and lastly '*twelfth, an amethyst*' (Purple) - all amounting to a breathtaking beauty!

whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death’.

God upon his throne (Rev.4:2; 5:13) declares again that ‘*all things*’ are now ‘*new*’ (prophesied in Is.65:17; 66:22;). and tells John again (see 19:9) to ‘*write*’, because ‘*these words are true and faithful*’. John then writes what God declares - that the end has come - ‘*it is done*’ - and that He is the ‘*Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end*’, as declared to John in chapter 1 (vs.8,11). He promises ‘*life*’ to flow from his throne as a ‘*fountain of water*’ to all believers, the same life that was given in the Holy Spirit whilst in fleshly bodies on earth (Jn.4:14; 7:37-39). These believers are those who have ‘*overcome*’ and have been adopted by Him (vs.7 as ‘*sons*’). Indeed all who are ‘*athirst*’ (Matt.5:6; Ps.42:1,2) and ‘*overcome*’ (1Jn.4:4; 2:13,14) the war with sin are the true believers and will not suffer ‘*the second death*’ of eternal destruction (2Thess.1:9; Mk.9:44-48). On the contrary, He commits all the unbelievers who are ‘*fearful...abominable, murderers, whoremongers*’ (‘*pórnos*’ - a fornicator - 1Cor.5:9-11; 6:9), ‘*sorcerers*’ (‘*pharmakeía*’ - occult, sorcery, witchcraft - Gal.5:20; Rev.9:21; 18:23), ‘*idolaters, liars*’ (see 1Tim.4:1,2) - to the ‘*lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death*’. (See also Rom.1:26-29; Gal.5:19-21).

Vs.9-23 ‘***And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials [bowls] full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come, I will show you the wife, the bride of the Lamb. And he carried me away in the spirit onto a great and high mountain, and showed he me that city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light [radiance] was like unto a stone most precious, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children [sons] of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in [on] them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lies foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And the wall thereof, a hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear [pure] glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished [adorned] with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need***

Not Merely Like a Man, But Man Indeed

‘Less than God could not have borne your sin so as to put it away; but the infinitely glorious Son of God did actually stoop to become a sin-bearer. I wonder how I can talk of it as I do.

It is a truth scarcely to be declared in words. It wants flame and blood and tears with which to tell this story of an offended God, the Heaven-Maker and the Earth Creator, stooping from his glory that He might save the reptiles which had dared to insult His honour and to rebel against His glory; and, becoming one of them, to suffer for them, that without violation of His law He might have pity upon the offending things - things so inconsiderable that if He had stamped them all out, as men burn a nest of wasps, there had been no loss to the universe. But He had pity on them, and became one of them, and bare their sins. Oh, love ye Him; adore ye Him; let your souls climb up to the right hand of the majesty above, this morning, and there bow down in lowliest reverence and adoring affection, that He, the God over all, whom you had offended, should His own self bear our sins.

Though thus God over all, He became a man like unto ourselves; a body was prepared for Him, and that body, mark you, not prepared alone, and made like to man but not of man. No, He was not otherwise fashioned than ourselves, He came into the world as we also come, born of a woman, a child of a mother, to hang upon a woman’s breast; not merely like to man, but man, born in the pedigree of manhood, and so bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, yet without a taint of sin.

And He, in that double nature but united person, was Jesus, Son of God and Son of the Virgin; He it was who ‘bare our sins in his own body on the tree.’

(From a sermon by Charles Haddon Spurgeon entitled ‘*Death For Sin, And Death To Sin*’, delivered November 16, 1873)

The Puritans

‘No group of preachers in church history has matched their comprehensively and powerfully biblical, doctrinal, experimental and practical preaching.’

(Joel Beek - leading expert on Puritan theology and history)

‘Most Puritans ministers preached about one hour and took lengthy note outlines with them into the pulpit.’ (‘*Puritan Theology*’ P.695)

‘Let us challenge one another. Who among us will live Godly in Christ Jesus like the Puritans? Who will go beyond studying their writings, discussing their ideas, recalling their achievements, and berating their failures? Who will practise the degree of their obedience to God’s Word for which they strove? Who will love preaching as they did? It is not enough just to read the Puritans. We need the authentic, biblical, intelligent piety of the Puritans in our hearts, our lives, our sermons, and our churches’.

(‘*Puritan Theology*’ P.710)

This author confesses to a fascination with history and determining the *origin of things believed*. Biblical doctrines have their beginnings in the orthodoxy of Scripture and time, in *‘the faith once delivered to the saints’* (Jude 3). *New* doctrines can be traced to men, events and excesses in history, quite apart from Scripture and the early church. The Roman religion introduced many new doctrines and traditions found nowhere in the first few centuries. The ‘Mass’ (AD 394), the doctrine of ‘purgatory’ (AD 593; decreed 1439), prayers directed to Mary (AD 600), the ‘Immaculate Conception’ of Mary (that Mary never sinned - AD 1854), and the ‘infallibility of the Pope’ (declared AD 1870) - all can be traced to beginnings with men in time.*

‘Protestant’ and ‘Evangelical’ churches also have *new* doctrines and practices traceable in history. The late 18th century saw new views on the Inspiration and all sufficiency of Scripture. The likes of Charles Spurgeon waged a constant battle against the word of God being undermined by new ‘higher criticism’.

The late 19th century saw excesses in the holiness movement with the doctrine of Sanctification being modified. The new 20th century Pentecostal movement then added to this with a ‘Baptism with the Spirit’ as a subsequent or second work of grace. With this came a new unknown ‘tongues’ movement hatched in experience at Topeka and the ‘Azusa St revival’ with bizarre practices said to be of the Holy Spirit, which ended in division and moral failures of the leaders.*

The lesson to learn is that what is new *theology or new in experience in later centuries, is not new and is not truth. Anything that is God’s truth is not new*. Orthodoxy is shown throughout history in the ‘faith once delivered’. What is new has often been introduced because *man is not satisfied with what has already been ‘delivered’* and taught throughout centuries in the sufficiency of *Scripture alone*.

All these new teachings directly or indirectly affect the Gospel, either by adding to it or by detracting from it and even replacing it altogether. Examples of this abound today with new gospels of *health and wealth* replacing the true Gospel.

However, today ‘new measures’ have directly affected evangelism and the presentation of the Gospel *in more subtle ways*. So subtle is this that it is the author’s view that accurate and unadulterated presentations of the Gospel are quite scarce today. Many are *unaware* of where these ‘new measures’ come from, and sadly many assume they are part of the Gospel! The deception of this should alarm the reader when it is considered that a false Gospel presentation will lead to Christ Himself saying to many who profess to be Christians and who even call him ‘Lord’, *‘I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity’* (Matt.7:21-23).

The History of the ‘New Measures’

Much of the history of the ‘new measures’ is best outlined in the classic

Continued next page >

* See website: www.taministries.net under ‘Articles’ section in ‘Roman Catholicism’ and ‘Pentecostal/Charismatic’ sections.

21:1 ‘And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea’.

One of the most fascinating passages of scripture to this author is Revelation chapters 21 and 22, which is a culmination of hundreds of passages about Heaven.

The Bible consistently describes Heaven as a *place*. This ‘*new heaven and new earth*’ will be eternally and qualitatively ‘*new*’ (‘*kainós*’, not a temporary ‘*néos*’). The old ‘*first earth*’ with its distinguishing feature of ‘*sea*’ separating nations, will have ‘*passed away*’.

Vs.2-4 ***‘And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men [mankind], and he will dwell [tabernacle] with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away’.***

John ‘*saw*’ the ‘*New Jerusalem*’, coming ‘*down from God*’ which had already been (perfect tense) ‘*prepared*’ and ‘*adorned for her husband*’. The figure of the ‘*bride*’ and ‘*husband*’ are common in scripture (Is.49:18; 61:10; 62:5; Rev.19:7,8; 21:9), as is a city to be a ‘*woman*’ (Rev.12:1-17; 17:3-18).

The imagery here is from a Jewish wedding which has a betrothal, a feast, a presentation of the bride, a supper, and a final consummation. Indeed God has in eternity past betrothed to His Son a redeemed people; there is a marriage supper of the Lamb, and a consummation in Heaven. The ‘*bride*’, being the city, includes all the redeemed ones who have their names written in ‘*the Lamb’s Book of Life before the foundation of the world*’ (Rev.13:8; 17:8; 21:27).

A ‘*great voice out of heaven*’ (likely an angel) now declares that God will ‘*tabernacle*’ (‘*skenem*’ - tent, dwelling) with his people like never before, not as in spirit but *in person as ‘Immanuel’* (‘*God with us*’). This fellowship and worship will be face to face with no restrictions of body, temple, or curtains to hide and protect the people from death by facing God in all His glory!

As in Isaiah 25:8 and Revelation 7:17, God declares that in this new city there are no more *tears* because there is no more *death*, mental *sorrow*, *pain* - these things have all ‘*passed away*’ (vs.1). (This is not the millennium in which there was still death - Is.65:20; Rev.20:14).

Vs.5-8 ***‘And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and***

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) there 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.

In **Part 14** (Chapter 19 - *Diakrisis* May/June 2022) is a most terrifying chapter with God judging the nations at the battle of Armageddon and avenging the righteous; the antichrist and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire, all necessary judgements with the triumphant return and reign of Christ. But it also includes the marriage supper of the Lamb and a crescendo of praise and worship in Heaven. This fearsome chapter should be a warning to 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!

In **Part 15** (Chapter 20:1-4 *Diakrisis* July/August 2022) we looked at the issue of the Millennium, whether a literal or figurative '1,000 years'. The issue is one of *hermeneutics* - how we *interpret* scripture. The *literal grammatical* method has many proofs and is arguably more logical and consistent with scripture.

There is much detail in this chapter which describes the binding of Satan, the millennial reign of Christ, a short final rebellion, and the final judgement of the lost and of Satan.

In **Part 16** (Chapter 20:5-15 *Diakrisis* Sept/October 2022) details two resurrections separated by '*a thousand years*' - '*the resurrection of life*' and the '*resurrection of damnation*' (Jn.5:28,29). The latter is at the fearsome great white throne judgement, which ends in the '*second death*' in eternal Hell, where the antichrist and false prophet are and into which 'Hades' and 'the last enemy - death' are thrown. This Lake of Fire will demonstrate God's wrath and his glory (Rom.9:22,23)

The only way to escape the latter judgement is to be found in the '*book of life*'. God has promised to '*not blot out*' (Rev.3:5) the names of those who receive the Gospel, who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Lord of all, and that God has sent Christ to satisfy His justice with a finished sacrifice as a substitute for our sins.

book '*Revival and Revivalism - the Making and the Marring of American Evangelicalism*' by Iain Murray (reviewed in '*Diakrisis*' Nov/Dec/ 2021). The term 'new measures' comes mainly from the two 'Great Awakenings' in America - revivals that shook areas of America and spread to other parts of the world. 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. Hundreds of thousands of people were converted in churches, colleges and seminaries.

It was during the second Great Awakening that *new practices* caused much division and controversy, practices which are today accepted almost wholesale!

The roots of many of these 'new measures' can be traced to Charles Finney in the 1820's. He introduced the '*protracted meeting*' and the '*anxious seat*'. At the end of the sermon he would say: '*There is the anxious seat; come out, and avow determination to be on the Lord's side*'. (1) These 'new measures' included '*enquiry rooms*' for after meetings and the '*anxious bench*' which led to the modern '*altar call*'. (2) Finney's understanding of the salvation process was that a person became a Christian when his or her will took action. If the person made a decision, they became a Christian. Finney believed it was his own will that determined his salvation. One of Finney's most famous sermons was titled '*Sinners Bound To Change Their Own Hearts*'.

Finney was a self confessed Pelagian. Pelagius taught that man could earn God's grace in salvation by his ability to use his 'free will' or his own merit. His views were unanimously condemned as *heresy* in the Council of Carthage in the year 418. Like *Pelagius*, Finney developed the view that unsaved man was capable of obedience, could will to do good and could use his own 'free will' to be saved. He denied much of the depravity of man (Jer.17:9 Is.64:6,7); rejected original sin; and denied that fallen man is unable to repent or believe of himself (Rom.8:6,7; 1Cor.2:14) unless the Holy Spirit draws him first (Jn.6:37-44).

Asahel Nettleton (1783-1844) and many other church leaders opposed the 'new measures', especially those of Charles Finney. Nettleton's preaching was rather '*no frills...he cut off self reliance*'. These men believed the 'anxious seat' and like invitations '*confused an external physical act with an inward spiritual change*'...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*'. (3)

Finney's theology and methods characterise much of modern evangelism. Finney's converts fell away, as testified by Finney's co-workers and Finney himself in his later life. (2) This same fall away rate is documented in Modern evangelism, showing more than an 80% 'fall away' rate amongst Americans making 'professions' for Christ. Statistics reveal many of these people attend a church assembly for *less than a few months*. Billy Graham, in an interview for *Time*

(1) '*Revivals and Religions*', Ch.14

(2) See article '*Charles Finney*', in '*Diakrisis*' July/August 2004

(3) '*Revival and Revivalism - the Making and the Marring of American Evangelicalism 1750-1858*' by Iain Murray P.366-367

Magazine, admitted his reluctance to label half his converts as ‘Christians’. (1) This huge mass of false professions is seen in the broad spectrum of most denominations today from conservative to Pentecostal/Charismatic.

The No Measures Gospel

The true Gospel and its presentation can be seen in particular in Puritan evangelism which was remarkably different to that described above. *It was different in method because it was different in doctrine.* It was the Puritans who invented evangelistic literature. Baxter’s classic ‘*Call to the Unconverted*’ or Alleine’s ‘*Alarm to the Unconverted*’ had astounding and lasting results.

In contrast to Finney, the Puritans believed that by nature we are at enmity with God and need to be regenerated, and that regeneration is not in our own power, that the conversion of a sinner is a gracious sovereign work of God alone. To the Puritans the effectual calling was the work of God’s Spirit convincing us of sin and renewing or *freeing our wills*. Man could not do this with anything within himself. It is wholly a work of the divine power of the Holy Spirit. One Puritan wrote: ‘*Ministers knock at the door of men’s hearts (persuasion), the Spirit comes with a key and opens the door*’. (2)

One of the catalysts for the ‘new measures’ was the introduction of the ‘*camp meeting*’ in 1800-1801 which was a forerunner of the ‘*crusade*’ type mass meetings of today. Modern evangelism is similarly big scale, short term campaigns calling for decisions. In contrast, the Puritans knew of no such thing as ‘*crusades*’ or ‘*campaigns*’. Theirs was a broader long term effort and generally *local church based*. The content was the preaching of law and sin which was 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.

The contemporary church scene is today mostly an advanced species of the ‘new measures’ introduced towards the end of the Great Awakenings. If the gospel preached is more about what man can do, then this is not the true Gospel, which is about what *Christ did to satisfy God for sin*. If the gospel focuses on man’s will to decide, instead of *believing* in Christ’s death for his sin, receiving Him as Saviour, then this is not the true Gospel. If Christ is presented as Him waiting for the person to decide or Him knocking on the door of the heart, then this is serious misrepresentation of Christ. If ‘measures’ and practices are used to get a decision, then this is not trusting in the Spirit whose sovereign work is to effectually call and draw those who will believe. God is the author and the finisher of faith; He is the potter, we the clay. We preach a Gospel of no measures - the Gospel of sin, the law broken, Christ crucified to satisfy a righteous God. We call people to believe. God’s measure is to have His Spirit draw and quicken, freeing the will, a work in which man has no part.

Terry Arnold

(1) David Frost, *Billy Graham in Conversation*, 1998, P.65; *Aust. Beacon*, 8/97, P.5

(2) ‘*Body of Divinity*’ by T. Watson, 1869, P.154

A Fresh Look At Revelation - Part 17

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 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.