

Your Comments and Questions

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

Israel and 'Palestine'

Many Christians today are shocked by the actions of Israel as she defends herself on seven fronts. She is confronting the evil the world will ignore to their peril - and many have believed the lie that there was once a thriving Arab 'Palestinian' entity in the land given to the Jews eternally. This is because they do not focus solely on the biblical prophets who have already told us the purpose and final result of all that is occurring in the Middle East.

God is bringing His precious Jewish people through the fires of affliction so that they finally call out for their true Messiah to come and rescue them from annihilation.

It is that which must be kept top of mind if we are not to be sidetracked by the media and rampant anti-Semitism arising once again within the nations. If we imbibe the propaganda and spin in the news of today, we will miss the divine hand bringing about the purposes already revealed to us for this very time.

(Mike Claydon, author of *Israel Report*)

Hi Terry,

We continue to appreciate your ministry very much. I've just re-read four of your books and will be getting some more soon. I passed some along to a friend recently and he and his wife are appreciative of your ministry also. You have been and will continue to be in our prayers. God's blessing to you all.

(L&J. W. Qld)

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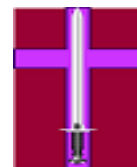
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'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

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

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Moths are attracted to light. It's called *phototaxis* - when something is drawn towards light. Humans are attracted to some people who they see as bright lights.

In September a prominent Christian political 'influencer', Charlie Kirk, was shot and murdered while debating political/cultural issues at a University. Tragically he left behind a wife and young children. Kirk and his voice were extinguished by a young man with leftist ideology in a transgender relationship who was indoctrinated to believe Kirk was a 'fascist' who engaged in 'hate speech'.

Although the shooter killed Kirk for political/social reasons, Kirk has been seen by some Christians as a martyr for Christianity, because he publicly proclaimed Christ. The murder shown uncensored on some media was a stark reminder of how far the world has descended into the darkness of hatred and violence.

Many young people knew who Charlie Kirk was; many older people hardly knew who he was; and others had never heard of him. He was essentially a social media phenomenon, a light to many young people. But each day there are pastors, ministers and Christians martyred, tortured and persecuted in forgotten areas of the world where social media hardly reaches. There are now more martyrdoms each year, more than any period in history (7,000 in Nigeria this year). It has been said that *'the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church'* (Tertullian *'apologeticus'*).

It is *when the world grows darker that these lights of the Gospel shine brighter*. Humans were originally designed to fellowship with and follow the one true light, the One who created light itself, the One who separated darkness from light and illuminated the right and wrong way. But we turned away from that light and now we make our own lights, the stars of the world. Like moths going into the light of a bug zapper we get lured by the light of these stars, the result is death to the soul (James 5:20). *'In a crooked and perverse generation'* (Phil.2:15), the earthly lights promise happiness, prosperity, healing, fame...

The level of violence in the nations is alarming and is brought to our attention daily and graphically in the media. One wonders how close we are to God calling time on the earth, as in Genesis 6:5-11 *'And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually...I will destroy man...[for] The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence'*. The last days will be like the *days of Noah and Lot* (Luke 17:8) which exhibited violence and a blatant disregard for God's creation of order in such things as gender and marriage.

The world cries for 'tolerance' yet exhibits decreasing tolerance. The nations rage (Ps.2:2; Acts 2:25); Israel has the nations trembling (Zech.12:2) as she fights anti-Semitism, enemies on many fronts, and blatant evil which the world ignores at its peril. Wars and rumours of wars abound (Matt.24:6). Evil now kills, yet death never defeats the Christian. Persecution is weaving its way into western societies that claim religious freedom. Democratic nations now limit prayer and even private prayer. In Australia in some states pastors now need to be careful how they speak on issues such as gender, it being seen as 'hate speech', rather than Biblical truth of a man and woman, their roles, their God designed purposes.

Dear Terry, we recently finished watching sessions 1-4 of the 'Gospel Confusion' Conference 2025...Being a believer for some time (in earthly years), I wasn't sure I needed to watch them. Not so. I was greatly encouraged and blessed. It NEVER hurts to review the basics. (Or, perhaps you've never heard these fundamental truths from a pulpit).

No doubt we all have friends, family, or neighbours who are unsaved. And if you're a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, our prayer is salvation for the lost. Romans 10:13-15 'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!'

The church needs to be equipped. 1Peter 3:15 'But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear'.

Thankyou for your faithfulness in preaching the Word, and equipping the saints. Praying you have continued good health to serve our Lord. Love, prayers and blessings to you and Beth. ...P.S. I also really like Mr. Spurgeon's writings.

(M&K. L., Qld)

The video and audio of this conference are available on our website: www.taministries.net (go to 'Other Resources' then 'Conferences')

Terry, We would be interested in your take on Charlie Kirk and 'Turning Point'...The messages may have drawn some people to God but could others be drawn into Satan's ecumenical global religion. Some say its a political movement only?

(T.S. NSW)

Editor's Reply [excerpts]:

I have heard Kirk preach the gospel a few times and it was clearly presented...Arguably, the movement was mostly political. He was killed for political reasons. Yes, he was ecumenical, mixing and platforming some ecumenical ideas. Some Christians also have highlighted his using and platforming of homosexuals. (Below is a u-tube sermon sent to us of a U.S. pastor warning of Kirk's platforming of homosexuals)...I pray people were saved by the Gospel he preached...but how difficult it is to mix Bible christianity with political agendas on the same platform?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttJGC-IIZv8&t=20s>

(2Tim.3:16,17; 2Pet 1:21; 1Thess.2:13). Most KJVO organisations do not believe the KJV English is inspired. The early Dean Burgon KJVO society (1818-88, professor divinity, Oxford) stated: *'We must go back to the underlying original language texts for complete clarity and compare Scripture with Scripture...We believe in the plenary, verbal, Divine inspiration of 66 canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (Genesis to Revelation) in the original languages, and in their infallibility, inerrancy in all matters which they speak (2Tim.3:16-17; 2Pet.1:21; 1Thess.2:13)...The Texts...closest to the original autographs...are the Traditional Masoretic Hebrew Text for Old Testament and the Traditional Greek Text for New Testament underlying the King James Version (as found in 'Greek text underlying the English Authorized Version 1611' by Trinitarian Bible Society 1976)'*

The 'Parousia'

Dear Terry, thank you for the latest Diakrisis (Sept/Oct 2025). I noticed particularly your comment near the top of page 3 'How long this ministry can continue will depend on the Lord's leading and His coming in either the 'parousia' or in death.'...Would you agree that we need a strong exegetical treatment of the comings of Christ that distinguishes which scriptures are speaking of His coming at death, which speak of His coming at the 70 A.D. destruction of Jerusalem and which of His coming (apart from death) that (most say) is still in our future? ...

(D.M.)

Editor's reply:

I agree '*parousia*' needs explaining. Technically it is used for the 'second coming'. But the word is used for other *comings* in various contexts...Personally, with the discovery of a health issue I was thinking of two contexts - either death or a rapture! The latter would be more a '*harpazo*' (a catching up, 1Thess.4:17) rather than a '*parousia*' which summarises?

'*Parousia*' literally means '*to be present; a coming to a place*'. It is used for the 'second coming', the end of the world (Matt.24:3,27,37,39; 1Cor.15:23; 1Thess.2:19; 3:13; 2Thess.2:8; James 5:7,8; 2Pet.1:16; 3:4,12; 1Jn.2:28); the coming of disciples or Paul's presence (1Cor.16:17; 2Cor.7:6,7; 10:10; Phil.1:26; 2:12); and to Satan being manifested (2Thess.2:9).

I see Zechariah 14 as the second coming described in detail. Some of the passages that speak of His coming are seen as a rapture ('*harpazo*'), as described in 1Thess.4:17 (1Cor.15:23; 1Thess.2:19; 4:15; 5:23; 2Thess.2:1 are also used). The Rapture view usually involves Christ in the air rather than to earth. Another Greek word translated 'coming' is '*erchomai*'. The coming is also called '*apokálupsis*' (Rom.2:5; 8:19; 1Cor.1:7; 1Pet.1:7, 13; 4:13) and '*epipháneia*' (2 Thess. 2:8; 1Tim. 6:14; 2Tim. 1:10; 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13).

As one can see there is a lot to unpack here. Suffice to say, yes there is a lot of events associated with and detailing the second *coming*.

The heart of man has always been capable of the utmost deceit and wickedness (Jer.17:9). But in the last days this will become more evident and open. These things should not surprise us. We were warned 2,000 years ago - *'this know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth'* (2Tim.3:1-7 expanded).

But there are the Gospel lights that shine and point to the one true light, God's coming Messiah. They have hearts quite capable of the above depravities, but are at war with them first by the Spirit and the Word hidden in their hearts (Ps.119:11), and then by character. Paul exhorted us to '*shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the Word of life*' (Phil.2:15,16). We are to be like Timothys - childlike; like Paul - labourers; like Epaphroditus - soldiers and labourers of Christ (Phil.2:19-25).

These are not the superstars, the sports stars, the political stars, but the often quiet Gospel stars pointing in Word and in deed to *one Person and one work*. Most of us will hardly be known as martyrs in this world, yet we will '*shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever*' (Dan.12:3).

Our advice to readers is that any keeping abreast of the news of the world needs to be in a balance and limited proportion. The media and social media are too often propaganda, lies and manipulation. It is not truth that can sanctify (Jn.17:17). Read the Bible, keep the scriptures in mind as to what God says about the world, the heart of man, the evil thereof. Know the Hebrew scriptures and the signs of the end as put forward by the prophets and for the days we live in. The scriptures are *fixed*; but world events *change* every day.

No matter what the nations, the ever changing world events with Israel, or what global leaders may say or do, *it is the final outcome we focus on*. We have been justified to be sanctified to the finish of God's plan, whether in death or His coming. That plan is specifically to be conformed to the image of Christ, in preparation for Heaven.

We must know the scriptures, being sober in mind, will and emotions, not to be swayed or knocked about by every wind of change or doctrine. Remain in peace with the One who gives peace and will bring peace with Him. These things and knowing the sovereign plan of God, are the antidote to anxiety and a decaying world. We are rubbed into that rotting mass to be salt and shining lights, as God calls and chooses out his remnant people. For the day is at hand, it has been predetermined! '*Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father*' (Matt.13:43).

Terry Arnold

Persecution in Eritrea



Washington - The Embassy of the State of Eritrea refused to accept a letter advocating for the release of Christian leaders - imprisoned in what is often called 'the North Korea of Africa' for more than 20 years without charges, as demonstrators worldwide are calling attention to one of the world's worst violators of religious freedom.

Advocates gathered outside the Eritrean Embassy to protest the detention of seven Christian prisoners of conscience, including Orthodox priests, in the majority Muslim nation...The Eritrean leaders are reportedly detained at a maximum-security prison that the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has characterized as 'atrocious'.

Two Eritrean-born members of a Coptic Christian church travelled from Delaware to join the protest...Araya Debessay...stated 'There is no religious freedom in Eritrea. There are so many who are being persecuted because of their religious beliefs'.

Wendy Wright of Christian Freedom International said the Rev. Million Gebreselassie, who led the Rhema Evangelical Church in Massawa and worked as an anesthesiologist, was arrested at a security checkpoint in June 2004. He has been held without charges for more than 21 years....The Rev. Gebremedhin Gebregiorgis, an Orthodox Christian priest, was arrested in November 2004 because he 'taught the word of God in a local language, challenging the traditional use of the ancient language in the Eritrean Orthodox Church, which could only be understood by the clergy'...The Rev. Kidane Weldou, who led the Full Gospel Church, has been imprisoned since 2005...The Rev. Haile Naizge, an Evangelical leader and former accountant with the Evangelical humanitarian charity World Vision, was also detained in 2004 and has not seen his family in over 20 years...

Gospel singer Helen Berhane...spent 32 months inside a shipping container...Berhane 'refused demands to sign a paper recanting her faith in Christ and agreeing to stop singing and participating in Christian activities'...Some prisoners face 'unspeakable sexual torture', while others are subject to another form of torture referred to as 'the Jesus Christ', where 'the victim is stripped to the waist and stood on a block with hands tied to a tree branch. The block is removed, leaving the victim suspended with feet just off the ground in a crucifix-like posture'...

About Eritrea:

Isaias Afwerki has been the only President of Eritrea since its independence in 1993 and the leader of the sole legal political party, the People's Front for Democracy and Justice (PFDJ). He assumed the presidency without a mandate from voters and has not stood for re-election since. Demographics may claim that the nation is about 50% Christian, but the reality is, practicing your faith in Eritrea is considered a crime.

(Ryan Foley, *Christian Post*, Aug/2025)

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KJV is Inspired, Perfect...it Corrects the Greek?



[Excerpts only. Editor's reply in **bold**]

Hello Terry...I point out...factual inaccuracies...in 'Diakrisis' [Sept/Oct 2025]

You wrote: '**The KJV is perfect in translation - False. The KJV has gone through...more than 100,000 very minor changes...**'

...But this is a wild exaggeration...and is simply not true....

A '**wild exaggeration?** Are you saying there was not thousands of minor changes...KJVOnly writers (eg. D.Waite) themselves admit this!

You wrote: '**KJV translators stated it could be improved and was not perfect**'. But have you actually read the entire 'Translators to the Reader'?...Many have come to a completely different conclusion...You seem to be under the impression there is ONE underlying Greek text the KJV is translated from...not true: The title of 1611 KJV says: 'The Holy Bible...with former translations diligently compared and revised'. 'Former translations' included previous English Bibles...foreign Bibles. How do you know a particular English word was translated from the 'underlying' Hebrew/Greek, and not from Latin, French, German, Dutch...Polish?

They never stated anything like their translation was '**inspired**'...They referred to '**the scriptures then** [originals] **being acknowledged to be so full and so perfect**'...They distinguished their work as translators, from the authors of scripture - '**whatever was perfect under the sun, where apostles or apostolick men, that is men endured with an extraordinary measure of God's spirit, and privileged with the privilege of infallibility, had not their hand?**'...'**therefore the word of God being set forth in Greek...**'... '**our English versions out of the Hebrew and Greek...**' The KJV was NOT translated from other Bibles, but from '**Hebrew and Greek**'...Latin, French are translations, writings of men, not manuscripts of scripture...'**Translation**' is from a parent text to a language...To attribute inspiration to translators ignores scriptures which tell you who wrote under inspiration - '**holy men of God**'...

You said '**The KJV Bible is inspired - False**'

You suggest this is... 'cultic'...You might refine your thoughts in view of a Yale Professor...William Phelps (1865-1943): 'The translators made more mistakes in Greek than they did in English...English is not a perfect language...it is inferior to Russian, Polish, it is marvellous what that group of Elizabethan scholars did with it. We Anglo-Saxons have a better Bible than the French, Germans, Italians, Spanish; our English translation is even better than the original Hebrew and Greek...The Authorised Version [KJV] was inspired'. (B.H., NSW)

What '**mistakes in Greek**'?...How is the English '**inspired**' if '**mistakes...in English**'? The preface to the KJV never claimed any '**inspiration**'...This contradicts scriptures speaking of the '**holy men**' who wrote under inspiration

Your Comments and Questions

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

Dear Terry...I'm concerned about a song that will be played in many churches this Christmas, titled 'Manger Throne'. I'm not one for contemporary Christian music, I love the Gospel hymns. But our Baptist church will flog this song over Christmas. I have read the words, some true, but I feel it is not biblical when saying Jesus reigned from manger as a baby...Can you shed biblical truth?...I believe we are not paying enough attention to what we sing to our God...Satan is using these songs that may sound good, scriptural, but twisted at the same time. In my research there seems conflicting views...I think a lot of churches may use this song. Yours in our Lord...

(J.C., NSW)

Editor's comments: [See Lyrics on the Internet under *Manger Throne* lyrics]

At first read many might say 'what's the fuss?'. Parts of the song say - 'You will die for our redemption And You'll rise so we can live, Glory be to You alone...'. But at a closer look the song is weak in doctrine and questionable. Unfortunately this is the problem with a lot of new songs today - they are shallow in the Gospel and err by saying little, or are ambiguous.

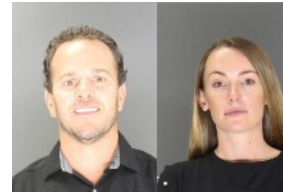
The song starts with what Jesus could have done (bringing 'Rome...every tribe and tongue to their knees'), rather than what He *did* do for us by His death, resurrection. I also question what 'wrap his power in humanity' means? It was not about 'power'? The scriptures teach He 'emptied' himself of all glories to be One of 'no reputation...humbled...as a servant' (Phil.2)

But most confusing is 'reigning as king on a manger throne...Jesus the king on a manger throne' - such phrases are mentioned at least 8 times. In the *present tense* the song says that Christ 'reigns from a manger'. But His crib was never His throne. Does He not now reign at the right hand of God?

In Roman Catholicism Satan loves to keep Christ on the cross, so why so much in this song about *Jesus reigning from the crib*? I know at Christmas many speak of the Incarnation and a baby in a crib, but He died as a God man on a cross for our sins and is now *reigning from the right hand of the Father*.

As a pastor I would pick a better song. There are many hymns and some choruses today which are *not ambiguous or questionable* as this song. The problem with many new songs is the writers simply do not get the lyrics checked with someone who can put it under the spotlight of scripture, especially in doctrine. Songs that have at least ambiguous themes as this one, or weak or questionable in doctrine, should be left. There is enough sentimentalism and Gospel shallowness already at Christmas. The world needs to hear the Gospel not mixed with ambiguous or questionable themes. The babe we see at Christmas time was born to die, He is not a babe any more, does not reign from a crib, but is enthroned at the right hand of the Father as a soon coming judge. Bring more Gospel back at Christmas in every song, and have people answer - why was the babe born to die?

Another Tragedy From Extra Biblical Revelation



Pastor Eligio Regalado, a Colorado pastor and his wife were charged with selling \$3.2 million in unsecured worthless cryptocurrency to 300+ Christians who had 'no exit'. Regalado splurged \$1.3 million on a Range Rover, jewelry, luxury handbags, cosmetic dentistry, boat rentals, snowmobile adventures, home renovations...

Eligio claims God said the investment would make them wealthy... '...Kaitlyn and I pocketed \$1.3 million...out of that half a million dollars went to the IRS, a few hundred thousand went to a home remodel that the Lord told us to do'. Regalado claims they 'were simply following God...It all started when the Lord told us... 'I'm going to do a new thing'...He took us into cryptocurrency...The Lord said, 'give that to them but also give them a 10x'...We took God at His word and sold cryptocurrency...What we're praying for and believing for still is that God is going to do a miracle. God is going to work a miracle in the financial sector'.

Online pastor Eligio 'Eli' Regalado and his wife, Kaitlyn, who led Victorious Grace Church, were indicted on 40 counts of fraud by a grand jury in Denver, Colorado, in connection with the alleged cryptocurrency scam they claim God told them to operate. Eligio Regalado told his followers that 'He (God) said, 'Take this to my people for a wealth transfer''.

...The Colorado Securities Commissioner is seeking a permanent injunction, a freeze on the Regalados' assets and \$3.4 million in restitution against the couple.

(LeoBlair, *Christian Post*, July, 2025)

Editor's Comment:

Such extra biblical revelations are being played out all over the world every day in most Pentecostal/Charismatic churches or in the minds of their followers. It is a Satanic deception which has led to disastrous results, and in false doctrines of healing has killed many. God has already spoken in His word now written down and He warned not to add to His Word, go beyond it, or seek signs (Deut.4:2; 12:32; Prov.30:6; Rev.22:18,19; 1Cor.4:6; Matt.12:39).

If we hear words beyond what the Spirit has already given, we are hearing either from our conscience, our flesh in the imaginations of the heart, or from Satan. All are deceptions if attributed to the Holy Spirit speaking words. None are infallible, inspired. The conscience, although it is to be 'good' and holy (1Tim.1:5,19; Heb.13:18), is not designed to speak new words from the Spirit, but to convict and inform the mind (Rom.2:15). The heart claiming words from God is the stuff of false prophets (Jer.9:14; Ezek.13:17).

Believing God has spoken words to you personally also deceptively places one above those who do not hear such voices. The inherent pride in this is not always apparent. It also lessens the faith and the need to trust God for His providence, leading, guiding, no matter what the circumstances.

'To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them' (Is.8:20).

The Phrase ‘Gay Christian’ Blends 2 Incompatible Truths



‘Let me share what I’ve learned through Scripture and personal experience, as someone who once identified as gay but now transformed by Jesus: There is a difference between experiencing same-sex attraction and embracing a gay identity...Identifying as ‘gay’, especially as a defining label to explain one’s temporary condition, goes beyond temptation or desires, forming a self-understanding not rooted in Christ. The phrase ‘gay Christian’ blends two incompatible truths: our fallen nature and our new identity in Christ. As believers in Jesus, we are not named by our temptations but by our Redeemer. We are saints, not sinners, by status in Christ (1Cor.6:11; Eph.1:1).

God’s Word says, ‘If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things passed away; behold, new things have come’ (2Cor.5:17). That transformation isn’t just a metaphor, it’s the power of God to renew us in heart, mind and identity. Holding onto a worldly label like ‘gay’, even if one is committed to celibacy and continues to experience same-sex attractions, diminishes the full hope of sanctification that the Gospel offers. Jesus didn’t just come to forgive our sins; He came to free us from sin’s grip and redeem our lives in Him.

In my journey, healing and transformation didn’t happen overnight. The desire and testing persisted for a season where I was unsuccessful...What was the first real step toward that freedom? It was choosing not to identify as gay. That didn’t mean denying my struggles; rather, it meant refusing to let them define me. Through discipleship, immersion in God’s Word, and the ongoing sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, those desires gradually changed. When my beliefs changed, and as God renewed my mind, my affections followed (Rom.12:2).

...The Scriptures warn not only against sinful acts but also distorted self-perceptions. When the Apostle Paul says, ‘such were some of you’ (1Cor.6:11), he speaks of a past identity that no longer defines those washed, sanctified, and justified in Christ. Saying ‘I’m a gay Christian’ isn’t just acknowledging sinful desires; it...suggests being gay is something God intended, or at least something intrinsic, morally neutral and immutable...Genesis teaches we are made in the image of God, male and female...when rightly ordered, this reflects His design...

To those struggling with same-sex attraction...God has not forgotten you...Jesus invites you into a new identity, one rooted not in your feelings but in His finished work. You are a beloved child of God, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, you have access to healing and transformation.

Genuine pastoral care does not avoid difficult truths; it embraces and applies them with love...God can and does transform people in their sexuality, not just in behaviour but also in desire. His grace is sufficient not just for self-control, but for the renewal of the heart. He’s done it for me, and He is faithful to do it for all who surrender to Him...For our God is in the business of making all things new’.

(Excerpts from Christian Post, June 19th, 2025, by Pastor Daren Mehl, married 19 years with 2 children and involved in several ministries)

AI Interprets Speaking in ‘Tongues’?

Many Pentecostal/Charismatics in the U.S. are now using ChatGPT to ‘interpret’ their ‘speaking in tongues’. ChatGPT is an assistant, a sibling model to AI (‘Artificial Intelligence’). It is trained to follow an instruction given to it in a prompt to give a desired response.

Shawn Bolz, (who recently was accused of false prophecies in his ministry), is one of many Pentecostal/Charismatics who state online that AI can interpret speaking in tongues as one of many languages around the world. One example recently was when a ‘prayer language’ was translated as ‘Ancient Sumerian’.

Renée Simpson, a ‘Christian positive psychology coach’ also claims that ChatGPT has interpreted what she is ‘praying in tongues’ and this gave her a ‘peace’. She claims that if God can speak in the past through animals and burning bushes then He can speak through anything, including AI. Her argument also is it would never be demonic if it *brings peace and love and aligns with God’s character*.

The arguments and the practise above are horribly flawed! When AI was asked if it was possible to understand ‘Ancient Sumerian’ it said it *could not*. ChatGPT cannot interpret any modern day ‘tongues’ or any unknown language as it is *only programmed for existing language information fed in*. It does not have the mind to understand or interpret *what is actually not words or a real language*. AI experts say any ‘translation’ of speaking in ecstatic unknown ‘tongues’ is a ‘*creative interpretation*’, not a real translation. Similarly, today’s ‘tongues’ do not coincide with any known language. If the AI engine is asked how it got the translation it will admit its *an approximation, not an actual translation*. AI experts have even summed this up and put it to AI to be tested and AI agrees with the summation that it is not interpreting with any accuracy ‘tongue speaking’ as a language. AI is ‘*artificial*’ intelligence, not *actual* intelligence, not human or God.

Linguistic experts have analysed the modern day tongue speaking and invariably state it is not known language, but *ecstatic speech* (some use far less sympathetic language). The initial error of the modern unknown tongue movement was made in 1901 with the founder of the Pentecostal movement, Charles Parham. His students ‘spoke in tongues’ and he tested it by a linguistic expert, who stated it was not a real language, but ecstatic. *Parham later admitted the counterfeit*. This counterfeit was then transferred to Azusa Street, Los Angeles, in 1908, and to the establishment of *Assembly of God* denomination in 1912. Azusa St missionaries came back from the mission field humbled and devastated that their ‘tongues’ did not work, as they were not real languages in spreading the Gospel. (Some Mormons and Buddhists also today speak in the same unknown tongues).

It is an astonishing lack of discernment that Pentecostal/Charismatics can use such an AI method to attempt to validate their unknown ecstatic speech. It is essentially a *hoax*. Speaking in tongues in Acts 2 was *known human foreign real dialects*. The Greek word ‘*dialektos*’ (dialects) is used in verses 6 and 8. The list of the geographical areas the *real dialects* came from is also given in the text (vs.9-11). It was *never unknown, ecstatic*, much less able to be interpreted by AI.

Terry Arnold

ABC Documentary on the 'Exclusive Brethren'

We recently reviewed an ABC documentary (Sept.15) on the *Australian Plymouth Brethren* (PBCC). The following are excerpts of the media charges and our comments in **bold**. (We are not here intending to recommend the PBCC).

ABC: The Plymouth Brethren (PBCC) is a '*cult*'

Thousands of churches practise what PBCC teach. The ABC never defined a 'cult'. PBCC does not 'recruit', like cults, it being mainly family generations.

ABC: '*On shunning those who leave...Members are too frightened to leave...*'

PBCC stated: '*We do not prevent former members contacting families...Many stay in contact with families...The few who want to leave, leave*'.

ABC stated: '*Women in the PBCC, once married, are expected only to become 'a baby maker and housewife...wives should submit to their husbands in everything'*'

PBCC: '*This is not church doctrine...Some run businesses [and] work...*'. A lengthy reply here (with scriptures) was given prior to the documentary.

ABC: On Homosexuality...(several gay ex-members were interviewed).

PBCC stated: '*...We believe sexual relationships be between a man and a woman...within the sanctity of marriage*'. Thousands of other churches agree?

ABC highlighted money making companies owned by PBCC members...

PBCC stated: '*There are no companies associated with the church. This would be like suggesting that a business owned by a Catholic person is a Catholic business...The Church does not run businesses and does not employ anyone*'.

ABC featured a Mick Dover who claimed he was '*raped, abused over a decade by 3 PBCC members...and that nothing was done about this over many years*'.

PBCC claims they did not know of this until 2023.

ABC: '*members are required to use phones endorsed...[and] monitored by PBCC*'

This was categorically denied by PBCC. ABC showed no proof of this claim.

ABC claimed members were prohibited from...cinemas...watching movies...listening to radio...wearing jeans...owning swimming pools...voting...

PBCC stated: '*Some members watch TV...have radios...jewelry...pools*'; most women don't choose '*pants*'; schoolgirls wear '*leggings under skirts*'. Women '*make own choices...wearing rings, bracelets, necklaces...wedding rings*'. On voting, (Rom.13 was quoted)...voting is not outlawed.

Editor: What PBCC teach and practise may differ? But the ABC displayed bias and ignorance of mainstream Christian teachings and ignored answers by PBCC given prior. Would they go after Islam and Muslims in the same way?

Christians and Pornography

[By Greg Cooper; originally posted at thehardertruths.net]

'A 2024 report by Pure Desire Ministries revealed that 54% of practicing Christians in the U.S. consume pornography occasionally, 49% said they are 'comfortable' with this...25% of women and 54% of men...engage in semi-frequent to habitual porn use...the real numbers are likely much higher than this...Statistics show a majority of Evangelical pastors in the U.S. - over 67% - have watched pornography at some point...and 18-21% confess to be currently engaging in it. Given that there are currently over 60,000 congregational pastors and youth pastors in the United States, it indicates that 11,700 of them have a porn issue.

...Scientific research shows that pornography, like drugs, leads to both mental and physical dependence, similar to the effects of heroin and cocaine. This is due to the incredible release of dopamine released in the brain, a chemical involved in reward and pleasure. Scientific studies show that, like substance addiction, the brain's reward system is hijacked by over-stimulation, leading to changes in brain chemistry and neural pathways that reinforce compulsive behaviour.

To the Christian, it is an extremely destructive sin - a double-edged sword that wounds both soul and physical body...The Bible is clear - continuing in habitual sexual sin is playing with fire...I Corinthians 6:9: 'Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers...will inherit the kingdom of God'...

First, I genuinely sought Christ through faith, heartfelt repentance, godly sorrow, in asking Him for wisdom. Short of the Holy Spirit's indwelling and seeking Him with all your heart, you will not be able to obtain true freedom. Accountability is an absolute necessity. First accountability is the Lord, and you must ask Him for cleansing (see 1 John 1:8-10). Seek a strong mature believer you can confide in. Commit to being accountable to this person, even daily, if needed.

Secondly, I regularly sought strong Christian fellowship and radically immersed myself in the Word of God. The truth will set you free; begin systematically reading and meditating on the Bible in the morning for one hour (yes, one hour!) before your normal waking schedule, journaling your questions, thoughts, feelings, and the truths God reveals to you through His Word. Jesus said, 'Ask, and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you' (Matthew 7:7). Your life will be truly transformed, as was mine.

Christian-based addiction programs can be very helpful as they promote confession, accountability and fellowship...Remove the tools that make it easy to fall...The most common gateway to falling is your smartphone...Switch to a device without Internet access, such as a call-and-text-only flip phone or an administrator-controlled phone like Bark by Galaxy or Gabb, both of which have no browser or apps that provide access to the Internet. If social media is a problem, don't be afraid to say goodbye to it...If you must have a computer or smartphone, install accountability software such as EverAccountable or Covenant Eyes. The bottom line is: you must place strict boundaries on your electronic devices or simply remove them. If you have children, do the same for them...

Was That The Spirit's Voice?

In my early years as a Christian I was taught *'how to personally hear the voice of the Holy Spirit'*. Such teaching is prevalent on numerous Internet sites and among Pentecostal/Charismatic churches. The method usually goes like this: When you hear a 'voice' from the Holy Spirit, check it by the following: 1. *It agrees with scripture* 2. *It is confirmed by circumstances* 3. *It gives a peace in one's heart* 4. *There will be public confirmation or with fellow believers.*

How do these tests stand up to scripture, and in practise?

1. *'It Agrees with Scripture'*

Scripture speaks of two main revelations given to man - a *General Revelation* and a *Special Revelation*. General revelation is taught in Romans chapter 1: *'Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God has showed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse'* (vs.19,20). This revelation teaches there is a creator God. It is not a direct voice that speaks to us of what God is saying at any one time. It is *revelation to all*, saved and unsaved, and not designed to save man but leave him *'without excuse'* and damn him (chapters 1-3), because nature itself shows *there is a God*.

Special Revelation is when God spoke *particularly* to individuals such as Abraham, Moses and Paul, then completed this in Jesus Christ. Hebrews chapter 1 says: *'God who at various times and in different ways spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds'* (Heb.1:1,2).

Note the *'various times'* - there were gaps in revelation, centuries when *God did not speak*. Note the *'different ways'* - first to patriarchs; then to prophets in dreams, prophecies, visions, voices, tablets of stone - the Law; then the apostles; and finally in *'His Son'*, *Jesus Christ*. The phrase *'spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets'* - the tense is *'having spoken'* - *past*, completed - there is *no more revelation* to 'prophets'. Prophets heard and literally 'prophesied' (lit. 'spoke forth the word of God'). Jesus is now the final 'prophet' to speak God's revelation. The phrases *'these last days spoken'* and *'spoken to us by his Son'* - again the tense is *'has spoken'* - *past* and done *once in time* (Greek aorist indicative).

Christ's Spirit guided certain *'holy men of God [who] spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost'* to write down the *'prophecy of the scripture'* (2Pet.1:19-21). The early church called this the 'canon' [rule] of scripture. It was written and settled in the 1st century and sealed in the 2nd. The Scriptures themselves are clear that God by His Spirit *has spoken finally* in and through this Word. There are no extra words from God apart from the canon of scripture. *The early church fathers allowed for no extra words from God by any means to be added to these scriptures!*

So, do new words, supposedly spoken by the Holy Spirit to multitudes of individuals on a daily basis, agree with all this above? If so, why are not these

one scripture alone but linked to and taught by other scriptures.

Further, 'apologetics' is a study of defending the faith in any one doctrine (Acts 22:1; 1Pet.3:15).

Other studies can be undertaken as one comes across words that tweak interest. The *'I am'* phrase makes for interesting study as used by Jehovah and Jesus.

Theology is the 'science of God'. It is *'knowing'* more and more about God and Jesus, by the Spirit and the study of His Word (Jn.17:3). Theology engages the mind and gives understanding (Ps.119:34). This in turn engages the heart which should show a *delight* in his Word (Ps.1:2; 119:24). It brings *life* to the soul (Ps.119:40). Some will say that theology is all of the mind and not of the heart. But if this is so then just reading the Word would be the same. But if the motive is to desire to know God more, surely God's Spirit will take such to the heart.

There have been times when this author has discovered things about God that had been read on before, meditated on, but the Spirit has suddenly brought to life an understanding afresh. Such times can drop truths down into the heart and produce a filling, an outpouring of emotion and worship. Knowledge and worship need to be connected. *'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord'* (Col.3:16). Our study of theology must be part of our *worship*, indeed our *sanctification*.

The one theology which must be kept pure and orthodox is the *Gospel and Salvation* (soteriology). What could be more important than the instrument that sees a soul rightly converted, redeemed from sin and fit to enter the kingdom of God? Our theology on God, man, sin, *depravity*, and how *grace* comes to a man, *will determine how we frame the Gospel*. In that area it is wise to check with the theology of the great Divines, the Reformers, the Puritans, those who have forged ahead in these areas to maintain apostolic doctrines and deliver them in preaching and Confessions. Historic orthodoxy is not to be shunned. The apostolic doctrines are Confessional and to be delivered as decrees (Acts 16:14). The great Confessions (Baptist, Westminster, etc) were marvellous summaries of doctrines that shaped the early church and beyond.

A danger is that we use our own fallen human logic to manipulate the theology of what the text actually says. We must never judge God by our fallen human logic. Such ignorance causes heresy to be at the door. Another danger is that theology, as any study, can be a source of pride in what we know. Yet theology with Godly focus should produce humility and humble us, especially when we consider how much more there is always to know and understand. True theology should lead us to *'O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!'* (Rom.11:33).

Theology is a discipline more than just academic. Doing theology is using the mind of Christ to study God's Word. *'But let him that glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, says the LORD'* (Jer.9:24).

Terry Arnold

What About Theology?

The word 'theology' invokes some curious reactions today. I have heard people say 'don't give me theology' or 'doctrine divides'. Others see it negatively as 'intellectualism'. Some are intimidated by it. Yet others love the study of it and are hungry for more. It enlightens and establishes them. If theology divides and is just mere 'intellectualism', then what do we make of Paul's epistles to Timothy which in many verses mention and applaud 'doctrine' (*'didaskalia'* - 'teaching')?

Theology is made up of two words - '*theos*' (God) and '*logos*' (word). It is *narrowly about doctrine, and more widely about the character of God*. It is the '*logos*' (*Word*) part of '*theology*' that sanctifies the soul and '*conforms one to the image of Christ*' (Rom.8:29). '*Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth*'.

Theology engages the mind, then moves the heart; it engages the will and transforms the soul. Theology is more than just 'reading' the Bible daily. It is to '*study to show oneself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*' (2Tim.2:15). This author has consistently seen that many Christians who have studied theology without a bias of denominational, traditional or church influences, often come to similar positions, particularly on the Gospel and salvation (soteriology). If not, they will be fully aware of opposing views and the strengths and weaknesses of both. It should be quite a *humbling process*, no matter how strong one's views become.

Theology engages one into *depths of learning*. For example, when one reads John 3:16, one can read it at a surface level or in *increasing* depths of theology. '*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*'. Almost every word here has depths of doctrine, the '*so loved*' showing the emphasis on the *degree* of the love of God (see Rom.8:39; Eph.3:17,18) - it's a special 'agapeo' divine sacrificial love (1Jn.4:19; Rom.5:8). The word '*world*' can be studied out on its own for the many different contexts (Jn.13:1; 18:20; 7:4; 12:31; 6:33,51; 12:46,47; 1Jn.4:14...). The '*only begotten son*' is a unique phrase full of meaning in the word '*begotten*' and in the person being the perfect predestined sacrifice (Acts 4:27,28). The '*whosoever believes*' shows the necessity to believe for the '*everlasting life*' as opposed to '*perishing*'. The *context* of the verse is also worthy of more study as the passage is about being born again *from above*, of the Spirit, not of the flesh.

An interlinear can be used to see a most literal reading of the translation: '*For so loved the God the world that [the] His son the unique [only begotten] He gave that all the believing ones in Him no perish but have life eternal*'. The '*whosoever believes*' ('*Pas o pisteuon*') reads '*all the believing ones*' - a definite number of believers who '*believe in him*' and '*should not perish but have everlasting life*', as opposed to eternal punishment for sin (Matt.25:46).

Word and exegetical studies will pull more meanings out of texts to get more understanding of what the original author is saying. It involves studying the language, grammar, the history...

Also 'Systematic' studies take a theme, topic or doctrine and search it through the Bible. Important is 'scripture interprets scripture'. Doctrines are not made from

thousands of words all over the world being added to the Bible or spread abroad as new revelation from God? If we claim 'God spoke to me', are we not taking the *same final authority* as of the apostles, prophets, '*the holy men of God*' who God moved to write inspired words from God? The danger here is that we break the third commandment and *use God's name in vain* (Ex.20:7)! Many will have to give account for claiming that 'God spoke to me' when He did not.

Even if words 'God told me' do '*agree with scripture*', then how necessary are they? 'Prophecies' today so often repeat ideas *already found in scripture*.

We are to be led and guided *by the provisions of God and He will use various means in that leading*. But *hearing words from God that are not inspired and infallible and then looking for signs as proof, are in opposition to being led by the provisions of God!* It is in fact a lack of real trust in God no matter the circumstances.

2. 'It Is Confirmed by Circumstances'

'Confirmed by circumstances' is usually taken as events surrounding any 'word' given. But such events surrounding any supposed voice from the Spirit are obviously a very *subjective* way of evaluating God's voice. Circumstances can be fitted to supposed words from the Spirit or our desires in so many ways. More importantly, this replaces something important that the Spirit uses - the conscience. If we are relying on circumstances, what is the use of the conscience?

The conscience is the *other self*, the *second voice that convicts*, that *leads* us in what we should do or think. In the New Birth the conscience is enlightened by the Holy Spirit (Heb.9:14). If that conscience is guided by and built up by the Word of God to be '*pure*' or '*good*', what far greater witness is this than mere '*circumstances*' (1Tim.3:9; 2Tim.1:3; Acts 23:1; 1Tim.1:5,19; Heb.13:18; 1Pet.2:18,19; 3:16,21)? The Holy Spirit uses the conscience as a vehicle to witness to us and to sanctify: '*I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost* (Rom.9:1; see also Rom.8:29; 2Cor.3:18; Col.3:10). The court of the conscience is the nearest thing to the bar of God, for it reveals a law written on every heart, a judge which '*accuses or excuses*' (Rom.2:15).

Barring a miracle of God, *most if not all of what people say is the Holy Spirit speaking personal words to them, is in fact confused with the conscience!* Yet the conscience is *not a direct inspired and infallible line* to hearing words from God.

How do we know any voice is not from an angel, a demon, or a mental aberration. If 'circumstances' happen as a result, does that really objectively test or prove the voice was from God? Can we tell between the Lord's voice and a demon, an angel of light, when *both speak truth*?

3. 'It Gives a Peace in One's Heart'

It is hardly believable that Christians would use this method as proof of a voice of God when the Bible is ruthless in condemning the potential state of the heart! The heart is '*deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*' (Jer.17:9). Worse, God says this is where false prophesying comes from - the

imaginings of one's own heart (Jer.9:14; Ezek.13:17)! 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Harken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the Lord...they say unto every one that walks after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you' (Jer.23:16,17). 'How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yes, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart' (Jer.23:26). We are not to 'seek from our own hearts' (Nu.15:39). 'He that trusts in his own heart is a fool...' (Pr.28:26).

Yet today often we hear 'just follow your heart'. But only the infallible inspired written Word of God can show one what is in their heart (Heb.4:12). God's method is 'the renewing of the mind' (Rom.12:2; Eph.4:23; 2Cor.4:16; Col.3:10)!

The heart is a dangerous place subjectively. How can any 'peace' in the heart be a sure thing that the Holy Spirit has spoken to anyone a specific 'word'?

4. 'There will be Public Confirmation or with Fellow Believers'

Often people will use examples from scripture where God spoke or gave direct revelation (Acts 13:1-4; 15:28; 16:6). However, these were *rare* instances to the prophets or apostles and written down by God as revelation to be fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Heb.1:1,2), and now *not to be added to*. None of these instances in Acts detailed as to *how* the Spirit spoke or passed on such revelation. There are no mention of direct voices to individuals as is taught today. Further, the Spirit in that day was still writing scripture, which had not been completed or canonised. The apostles and prophets the Holy Spirit spoke to in that day were the foundation of the church being laid (Eph.2:20). If we expect to copy the apostles and prophets we would also need to have the 'signs of an apostle' (2Cor.12:12), and be 'prophets' speaking words to be written down in our Bible and not to be added to.

The problem here is a false hermeneutics. The book of Acts is primarily a narrative, a *history* of the apostles, and the Holy Spirit coming to earth to indwell believers. Pentecostal/Charismatics are prone to ripping out verses to make their doctrines, and many which are *new to the 20th century* (such as a 'Baptism with the Spirit' as a subsequent experience, unknown tongues, new revelations, etc).

'Confirmations' again are *another subjective means*, whether by 'prophets' or by 'fellow believers'. Getting 'confirmations' from *human fallible sources* is really another way the Devil can infiltrate the heart and draw us away from what is 'the more sure word of prophecy...the prophecy of the scripture' (2Pet.1:19,20)!

Conclusion

Not one of the above tests or proofs of a 'word from God' being true, are taught in scripture! This article is not contending for any novel narrow position. The prophets and apostles never had to test such things with the above novel methods! The widely held view of the early church, the Reformers, Puritans and the teaching of the great historic revivals and Awakenings - was 'Scripture alone'. The modern view with its prophecies and inner voices, has its roots in the Montanism of early

centuries which was deemed by the Church Fathers to be heresy, and resulted in moral failures and the suicide of the leaders. The same errors saw a resurgence in the excesses of the 19th C. holiness movements and then the new Pentecostal, and later Charismatic movement of the 20th c, with again *new revelations and signs*.

Some argue for both - the *Written Word of God* and also supposed *voices*, new revelations from God to any individual. But *if you declare the need for both you lower the all sufficiency of the one - the inspired, infallible Word of God!*

The Bible speaks of our *sanctification based on the Word of God only*, which is specifically the 'truth' of the Word: 'Sanctify them through your truth: your word is truth' (Jn.17:17). What 'Word' is that but the all sufficient scriptures?

Where does our daily 'manna' come from? Are we to be like the Israelites who had it supplied to them for 38 years until they rebelled and *wanted more*? So too, we live in an age that seeks after signs, visions, dreams, promptings, inner voices and impressions - all of which are often confused with our own voice of the *conscience* or products of our own *heart*.

If we accept new words from God today whether in 'prophecies' or any other means, then heed the warning of God: 'For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book' (Rev.22:18).

Do we not accept what God has limited? We simply do not need to know or tell what God is doing or saying apart from His infallible Word. *We become false prophets when we add to the Word of God and what the Spirit has written, when we presume to hear from God other than this Word of God.* The warning is clear - 'Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron' (1Tim.4:1,2).

One author sums up: 'Scripture never commands us to tune in to any inner voice. We're commanded to study and meditate on Scripture (Josh.1:8; Ps.1:1-2) ...to cultivate wisdom and discernment (Pr.4:5-8). We're told to walk wisely and make the most of our time (Eph.5:15-16). We're ordered to be obedient to God's commands (Dt.28:1-2; Jn.15:14)...We are never encouraged to listen for inner promptings. On the contrary, we are warned that our hearts are so deceitful and desperately wicked that we cannot understand them (Jer.17:9). Surely this should make us very reluctant to heed promptings and messages that arise from within ourselves. Those who heed inner voices and mental impressions may be listening to the lies of a deceitful heart, the fantasies of an overactive imagination or even the voice of a demon. Once objective criteria are cast aside, there is no way to know the difference between truth and falsehood. Those who follow subjective impressions are by definition undiscerning'. (MacArthur, 'Reckless Faith', P.189-193)

In the Scriptures God has revealed all that is sufficient for life and godliness (Deut.29:29; 2Pet.1:3). He has warned not to add to His Word, go beyond it, or seek signs (Deut.4:2; 12:32; Prov.30:6; Rev.22:18,19; 1Cor.4:6; Matt.12:39).

The call is to trust in the 'more sure word of God...the prophecy of the scriptures' (1Pet.1:19-21).

Terry Arnold