

The Sackcloth Times

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WORLD OF CONFUSION

For God is not the author of confusion...
- 1 Corinthians 14:33

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
- Jeremiah 29:13

One thing I am sure of is that we are living in the time written about by Daniel, when “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Daniel 12:4)

As well, we are living in a time prophesied in Amos 8:11,12:

11Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

12And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

How is it we can live in both times at once? And doesn't Amos 8:12 contradict Jeremiah 29:13?

Amos 8:12 tells us that in the world, the Word of God will be unwelcomed and banished. If the people want it that way, God will take Himself away. Jeremiah 29:13 tells us that if we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him. With Him comes the Kingdom of God, the Word of God, the Holy Spirit of God, and salvation.

Even though we live in times when the world has rejected God and His Word, there are still those who will seek Him. They will not find Him in the world - it will be difficult to even find Him in churches today,

with so much false doctrine being preached - but they will find Him. We can still have a relationship with the One True God through the Bible and through prayer and in committing our lives to Him. We can hide His Word in our hearts.

There really must be a heartfelt seeking, because if we go to preachers and teachers, we may not receive the truth. God can direct us to the sincere Bible teachers, but there are very few around.

Anyone who has ever looked something up on the internet knows that there is plenty of “knowledge” tossed back and forth. With the creation of “blogs,” everyone has somehow become an expert on everything. With the invention of “forums,” people can now get into cyber-arguments over their individual belief system, typing out unbridled profanity at one another.

The problem with “Googling” a subject is that you end up with a large percentage of “information” that is only opinion and a much smaller percentage that is truth. With all the confusion the internet has brought, something can still be said for the old-fashioned encyclopedia in book form.

Certainly we can find those who write articles based on their profession that can teach us whatever we want to know. Here is where the “increased knowledge” is. The internet has expanded the availability of knowledge like we've never seen before in books or classrooms.

We do, however, need to balance more than ever what we read with the Bible. We'll find much of it doesn't “weigh up.”

Everyone is “running to and fro,” seeking something to believe in, something to hold on to, and a feeling of safety and security. There is plenty of information out there, and knowledge to be discovered, but who is really offering the Word of God? Ministries today do a good job of pep talking a crowd, but where is the preaching of Jesus?

He's the one people are seeking when they seek some kind of “belief system” or security, but so many are steered down other roads and away from Him... yes, even in churches. But He is the only Answer. He was the only answer before newspapers, before radio and TV, and before the internet came along. He is not the author of this confusion, but of peace. Only when we find Him, have faith in Him, and know Him do we have truth, peace, safety and security.



DOES GOD WORK THROUGH DOCTORS?

*(Note: The following article is not to advise anyone to not see a doctor. This is something every individual decides themselves. It is meant to say look first to your heavenly Physician, Jesus; build your faith in Him and let Him guide and heal you when you are sick. Our **trust and faith** belong to Him only.)*

3Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

4His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

5Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:

6Which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever.

- Psalm 146:3-6

1I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

- Psalm 121:1-2

So many times I've heard from Christians that "God works through doctors." The next time I hear it, I will have to ask them where that is in scripture.

If it is in the Word, then we can believe it. If it isn't, then there must be a reason.

One thing Pastor Morro has said - and I believe it is true - is that "God works through faith, not through doctors." Now *that* is found in scripture. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that if we do not have faith, it is "impossible" for us to please God. If we do not please God, are we in a position to have our prayers answered?

One argument by Christians in favor of earthly medicine is that Luke was a doctor. Once the disciples were commissioned by Jesus to take up their cross and follow Him, did they ever go back to their former jobs? If they had, they wouldn't have been members of the Kingdom of heaven. In Luke 9:62, we read the words of Jesus: "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

I don't see anywhere that Luke continued practicing medicine once he began following Jesus. Just as Matthew stopped collecting taxes for a corrupt,

worldly governmental system, Luke stopped practicing medicine by the means of man. They were given the Holy Spirit, by which they could heal in the name of Jesus. This is the Kingdom's way of healing that works through the faith of one seeking healing.

Prescription drug commercials and advertisements are everywhere - TV, magazines, internet, etc. The big message is that this or that pill is going to make you as good as new, and the smaller message - or the fine print, depending on which type of advertisement - is a list of "possible side effects" you will have to endure to relieve yourself of the first problem.

If you experience any of the side effects, there is also a drug to combat every one of them. And every one of those drugs has a list of their own side effects.

The world of modern pharmaceuticals appears to be a business intended on keeping a person sick for the financial gain of legalized drug dealers. I believe we have no idea how much corruption is involved in what transpires between the drug companies and the doctors that put on their compassionate faces when a patient is in the examination room.

This says nothing of the doctors that misdiagnose or mis-prescribe medications.

I won't say every doctor feigns compassion. I will say not every doctor became one *because* of compassion. The two little letters "Dr." before a name carry a lot of respect in this world.

But as with anything that impresses the multitudes of the world, such a title carries little weight in the Kingdom of God. This is something that must be kept in perspective when visiting a doctor or soliciting his/her advice. They have knowledge many of us don't have who haven't gone through the schooling they did, but it is still limited knowledge. Some may have knowledge, but lack wisdom. In other words, when we deal with doctors or other health care workers, we are still dealing with men.

God's knowledge, and wisdom, are infinite. True healing initiates when our faith meets with God's willingness to heal us. Please note that God is always willing to heal us. He can do it without drugs. He made us. He knows what it is going to take to heal us.

One last note I've mentioned before: God *wants* us to come to Him for healing. I'm reminded of King Asa when considering how much "human intervention" I want in my healing. 2 Chronicles 16:12 tells us, "And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians."

This indicates that he didn't pray *at all* for divine healing, but instead went to man. The chapter then ends, saying that he died in the "one and fortieth year of his reign."

This incident is preceded by the seer Hanani telling

him that because he sought help from the king of Syria instead of seeking the Lord, he did foolishly and would continue to have wars. There is always a consequence to our actions in any situation when, knowing we should have faith in God, we first go to man before seeking God.

Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

- Jeremiah 17:5

THE GULF OIL SPILL

The worst of the Gulf oil spill appears to be over, and somewhat contained, but its effects will live on. We don't yet know the magnitude of the economic effects on Gulf businesses. We have seen the effects on wildlife - pelicans, fish, other birds, and other innocent creatures dying as they are covered in oil.

A World Net Daily report recently surmised the reason behind the oil spill. They quote an internet video posted by Carl Gallups of the Hickory Hammock Baptist Church in Milton, Florida, as well as prophecy and Bible teacher Hal Lindsey's comments on the matter.

This is a quote from the Gallups video: "April the 19th, Israel celebrates its independence in 2010. On April the 19th, Fox News reports that the U.S. will no longer automatically support Israel in the United Nations. The next day, on April the 20th, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig explodes. Coincidence? Or the hand and judgment of God?"

Then they quote Hal Lindsey: "I believe this is evidence that when you turn your back on Israel, especially when you've been a supporter, you're going to see judgments come from God...It's finally reaching the point where God is removing His protection from us. I believe we back away from being a friend to Israel at our peril. We need to come back to be a supporter of one who is so important in God's plan."

Lindsey continued: "I think that this disaster is just one of many disasters. Our country is falling apart economically. The current government is overturning our constitutional republic, turning it into a socialist country. That's about as big a curse as you can get. We just have one catastrophe after another and then we have this big wake-up call in the Gulf."

BIZARRE WEATHER AND INCREASED CASES OF SINKHOLES

It's said when there isn't much to talk about, we can always talk about the weather. Supposedly it's a topic of discussion that isn't very exciting. But lately

that hasn't been the case. We haven't seen such crazy weather patterns as we have in 2010 - in my lifetime anyway.

Every day in the U.S. we read of a new flood in another part of the country. Just a few states hit this year are Rhode Island, Tennessee, Arkansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Arizona. This doesn't begin the list. In late March, Rhode Island Gov. Carcieri said, "None of us alive have seen the flooding that we are experiencing now or going to experience This is unprecedented in our state's history."

Well - as sin around the world continues, even nature groans to be free from its effects: Romans 8:22 tells us, "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now." It will do so until the day Jesus returns and makes all things new.

Rain isn't gently tapping on our roofs anymore. It's pounding overhead and coming down in torrents. Thunder and lightning storm warnings are prevalent. Tornadoes are hitting places they don't normally hit. Hail warnings often accompany heavy rain and thunder warnings.

The largest hailstone recorded is 8 inches and was found in South Dakota last month. The previous record for a hailstone was 7 inches measured in Nebraska in 2003. The 90-to-100-pound (1 talent) hailstones we read about in Revelation 16:21 will no doubt beat these records, but by that time no one is going to be concerned with keeping the records. The main concern of man will be trying to stay alive while he blasphemes God.

These floods and this strange weather is global. China's 2010 rainy season has become "the worst in a decade" with record flooding. Currently Pakistan is undergoing devastating, deadly floods.

In the U.S., winter brought excessive cold and excessive snow, spring brought excessive rains, and summer is bringing excessive heat.

Although this may not be weather-related, we are seeing more sinkholes lately as well. I had never even heard of a sinkhole until a few years ago. The ground just gives way and swallows up whatever is on top of it. We often see pictures of cars and entire homes being swallowed up. It is an odd phenomenon that I link together with strange weather happenings, even though it is not weather per se. It is just as much of a warning sign from God that man is not pleasing Him.

In Numbers 16, we read that a group of men came against Moses. Verse 1 reads, "Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men..."

God was angered at their rebellion and told Moses to step away from them. He was about to deal with

them.

31And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

32And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

33They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

- Numbers 16:31-33

That is what I call a sinkhole! I used to think it was an earthquake, but the Bible would use the word "earthquake" if that's what was meant.

It seems that it is an example of God executing His wrath through a sinkhole.

These strange occurrences of sinkholes, as well as the bizarre, deadly weather patterns, should not be shrugged at. God's anger is in every pelting hailstorm and deadly flood. Stay near to God these days, and be under His protection, for there is surely more to come.

BURN A QURAN!

Finally, someone is taking a public stand against the book that is responsible for the killings of Christians and Jews around the globe.

Below is part of an article, word-for-word, from CNN News on the story:

(CNN) -- In protest of what it calls a religion "of the devil," a nondenominational church in Gainesville, Florida, plans to host an "International Burn a Quran Day" on the ninth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks.

The Dove World Outreach Center says it is hosting the event to remember 9/11 victims and take a stand against Islam. With promotions on its website and Facebook page, it invites Christians to burn the Muslim holy book at the church from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"We believe that Islam is of the devil, that it's causing billions of people to go to hell, it is a deceptive religion, it is a violent religion and that is proven many, many times," Pastor Terry Jones told CNN's Rick Sanchez earlier this week.

Jones wrote a book titled *Islam is of the Devil*, and the church sells coffee mugs and shirts featuring the phrase.

Muslims and many other Christians -- including some evangelicals -- are fighting the initiative.

They won't find any fight here at Faith On The Earth. We are in complete agreement that Islam is of

the devil, and we support this church's burning of the Quran. Anyone who knows anything about Islam also knows that this church's members are taking a risk with their lives to do what they are doing. Violent Muslims have already sent death threats - but then, what else could we expect from adherents of their "religion of peace"?

COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE BEING TOLD WHAT TO BELIEVE

Jennifer Keeton is pursuing her master's degree in school counseling at Augusta State University. She is suing the university after she was told she has to take part in a "remediation program" because she believes that homosexuals and transgendered persons are cases of identity confusion. She was also told she would have to attend "diversity sensitivity training."

School officials told her that she would be removed from the Counselor Education Program if she did not alter her "central religious beliefs on human nature and conduct."

Her belief that "sexual behavior is the result of accountable personal choice rather than an inevitability deriving from deterministic forces" does not sit well with the program's liberal point of view.

In another case, Eastern Michigan University student Julea Ward, a Christian, was expelled from a similar counseling program at the university because she refused to counsel homosexuals. She appealed the expulsion and unfortunately lost the case.

According to a Fox News report, "A federal judge has ruled in favor of a public university that removed a Christian student from its graduate program in school counseling over her belief that homosexuality is morally wrong. Monday's ruling, according to Julea Ward's attorneys, could result in Christian students across the country being expelled from public university for similar views.

"It's a very dangerous precedent," Jeremy Tedesco, legal counsel for the conservative Alliance Defense Fund, told FOX News Radio. "The ruling doesn't say that explicitly, but that's what is going to happen."

Keep tuning in... And keep looking UP.

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