

Bible Baptist Temple NEWSLETTER

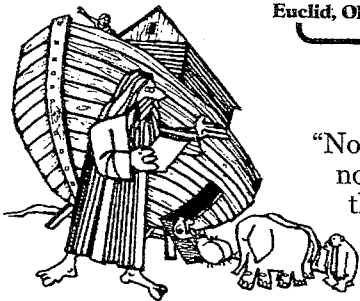
1565 Chardon Road
Euclid, Ohio 44117

216-531-1273

www.biblebaptisteuclid.com

Andrew J. Rusnacko, Pastor

February 2023
#775



NOAH Went into the ARK

"Noah and his family went into the ark and, for a full week, nothing happened, no doubt to the merriment of the ungodly. Little did the careless antediluvians (pre-flood) think they were frittering away the last, lingering remnant of God's patience, that they were abusing His grace, His long-suffering, and His kindness for the very last time.

That extra week of grace was intended to bring them to repentance. Instead, they used it to treasure up for themselves the inescapable wrath (Romans 2:4-5)."

All of Eternity is dependent on what You do NOW!

- John Phillips Commentary, 'Exploring GENESIS', p 86

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world, and became heir of righteousness which is by faith." - Hebrews 11:7

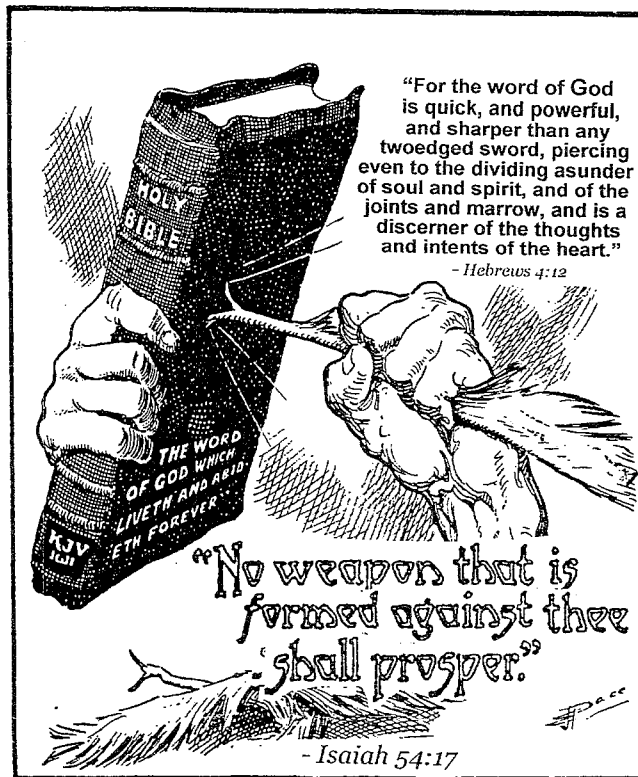
"God is Compassionate

It's a Quality of God Himself. He is *sympathetic* to the suffering of His people. He sees our distress and takes pity on us. However, His compassion is more than mere sympathy and pity.

God's compassion is related to His mercy, kindness, patience, grace, forgiveness, and love. In fact, some of these attributes are so related and interwoven as to make clear demarcations between them difficult. God's compassion compels Him to take action. He is *no impotent observer*, but the omnipotent sovereign ruler of the universe (Romans 9:14-16).

God's sympathy for our lost and miserable state led Him not only to feel our pain, but to provide an atoning sacrifice for our guilt; this He did by sending His Son to die for our sins (Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:1-10)."

- copied



A HALFWAY WORLD

"We live in a world halfway between heaven and hell. In hell there is only evil; in heaven there is only good; on earth the tares and wheat grow together, with the tares vastly outnumbering the wheat. So corrupt is human nature, so ungodly and rebellious the race of mankind, that the true friend of God is not likely to be accepted by the world ... But the more Christ-like men become the surer they are to feel the force of our Lord's words, "... but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you", John 5:19.

FREEDOM IS NOT

"FREEDOM is *not* the right to choose between right and wrong, but the ability to choose and do only right! There should be no 'freedom' to kill someone, nor a 'right' to steal, to do wrong, etc.

FREEDOM should be defined only by doing what is right.

The only sensible and correct way to interpret real 'freedom' is by being 'free' to do what's right, not 'free' to do what's wrong!"

"New Doctrine? Beware!

That's like inviting a person to visit a factory where they are manufacturing antiques."

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday Services, 10:30, 11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Wednesdays - Bible Studies - 7:00 pm

Quotes

"No nation can survive apostasy."

"Never get angry at someone for knowing more than you do, isn't their fault."

"When we cease to be 'fishers of men' we become keepers of the aquarium."

"An Onion can make people cry, but there is no vegetable that can make people laugh." (:

"A large part of faith lies in the 'Thou shalt nots'."

"You don't thank a terrorist for improving airline security."

"The big cities of America are becoming 'Third World' countries."

"There is in every willful sin, a contempt for the goodness of God."

The BLESSING of the RIGHTEOUS on the UNRIGHTEOUS

"The blessing and consequent joy that comes to others when the time has come for it to 'go well with the righteous'.

By the blessing of the *righteous* the city is exalted ... Even the bad in a kingdom have cause for joy when the righteous have the pre-eminence in a community; whatever be their condition, they would be much worse off under the rule of unrighteousness. The lost in hell and those who are being lost on earth are in a better condition from having the Righteous God upon the throne of the universe. The greatest criminals in our prisons find it better to have a just and righteous 'jailor' than an unrighteous one.

So the whole city has reason to rejoice in the pre-eminence - in the success of the righteous ... Righteousness is a stronger wall than any material defense. Sodom would have been spared if there had been ten righteous within the city.

Unrighteousness in a nation must bring national calamity, but a minority of good men delays the visitation (judgment). - copied, 'The Preacher's Homiletic Commentary', Proverbs 11:11, p 207

A Theology Lesson ... The Self-existence of God

"By self-existence we mean that God has the ground of His existence in Himself. We have the ground of our existence outside of ourselves; but God is not dependent for His existence upon anything outside of Himself ... He is the first cause, Himself uncaused. His self-existence is implied in His affirmation, "I am that I am", Exodus 3:14 ... Yet God's self-existence is not grounded in His will, but in His nature: He exists by the necessity of His nature. It is not correct to say that God is His own cause; for if that were the case, He would have the power to annihilate Himself." - Henry C. Thiessen, "Lectures in Systematic Theology"

WHO SAID YOU GRADUATED?



Sunday School is for Adults, Too.

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."

- Psalm 27:13

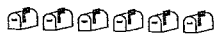
GOD'S LOVE & FORGIVENESS

"While *God's love* is unwavering and unrelenting, it is *not unconditional*.

According to the testimony of Scripture, when it comes to the subject of God's love, there is the unavoidable issue of moral integrity. In the sphere of God's love, evil is neither condoned, nor tolerated. Note carefully the remainder of Apostle Paul's statement (*Romans 12:9b*), '*Abhor (i.e., intensely hate) that which is evil; cleave ('cling') to that which is good.*'

So, genuine love, God's love, exists (*only*) within a framework of moral good and evil. Those who assert that morality is relative or unimportant, have no conception, nor connection with real love. Beware! Their pontification about '*love*' may be nothing short of a ruse to divert attention away from their lack of virtue and integrity. Over the past several decades, religious liberalism and its stepchild post-modernism have spawned a literal *cult* of unconditional love and forgiveness.

Consequently, nearly every manner of evil is tolerated in the name of this *hypocritical 'love'* or excused on the basis of a *false form of forgiveness.*" - Gary Gilley



THIS & THAT
From HERE & THERE

English Words

"The number of English words, if you include scientific and technical terms, is about one million. That makes it *by far* the wordiest of the world's languages (by comparison, French has roughly 100,000 words." - copied

'God Willing'

"In practice, the Apostle Paul did not often use the phrase, '*if God wills*' or the equivalent. Yet he often spoke of his plans ..." - copied

"English

"Is there a word in the English language that contains all five vowels?

Unquestionably!" - copied

Most Annoying

"A poll has found that the most annoying word or phrase used in casual conversation in America is '*whatever*'. The word irritates 38% of Americans." - The Marist College Poll

What's happened to America?

In a nutshell, there are two Americas today: the Old and the New, and they are at war ...

THE 'OLD' AMERICA

"America was a mixed multitude even from the beginning. The colonies were composed of the most zealous of Christians as well as secular-minded heathen. Many of the colonists were seeking liberty for truth and godliness; others were seeking filthy lucre just as passionately. These two things have always composed the heart and soul of America: righteousness and covetousness. The percentage of born again Christians has always been relatively small even when 'Christianity' predominated.

Few, if any, of the nation's presidents were born again. The central principle of 'old' America is liberty, as enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the First Amendment (*the magnificent Bill of Rights*), and the Second Amendment (*the right to bear arms*). America was created to be an Empire of Liberty, a Beacon of Liberty, the Sweet Land of Liberty ... the Statute of Liberty. The home of men who proclaimed, '*Give me liberty or give me death.*' The land of liberty of religion ... speech ... press ... self-government ... liberty from injustice ... America has been called an Idea, and that idea was liberty. Though the liberty was not enjoyed by all at first, that error has been rectified by the 13th Amendment (*abolishing slavery*), the 15th Amendment (*voting rights regardless of race or color*), and the 19th Amendment (*voting rights for women*). "Liberty was stitched into the fabric of American federalism. In a sense that is hard to appreciate today, throughout the nineteenth century the federal government had little impact on daily life ... Whatever its failures ... Old America was a nation that was *more mightily influenced by the Bible* than any nation in history, other than Israel

Even the more skeptical founding fathers like Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were mightily influenced by the Bible. Everyone was. The Bible was used as a text-book and reader in the nation's schools, both private and public, for the first 250 years. Everything was taught from the standpoint of a biblical view of God and morality. America's first indigenous reader, other than the Bible, was *The New England Primer* (*pronounced prem'-ur*). It was filled with quotations from the King James Bible, Scripture truths, prayers, catechisms and hymns. It was the first textbook printed in America and was the most important educational textbook from 1690 to 1790. An estimated two million copies were sold during that time, and it continued to be published until the 1930s ... It went through innumerable editions ... [It] contributed, perhaps more than any other book except the Bible, to the molding of those sturdy generations that gave to America its liberty and its institutions." *The New England Primer* was followed by Noah Webster's *American Spelling Book ...* (... continued below ...)

Gift of 'Tongues'

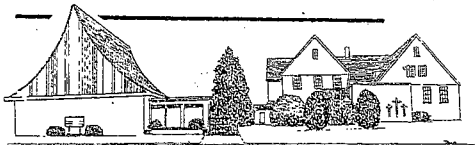
Speaking of the '*gift of tongues*,' he said: "These and other gifts of prophecy, being a sign, have *long since ceased* and been laid aside, and we have no encouragement to expect the revival of them; but, on the contrary, are directed to call the Scriptures the *more sure word of prophecy* (*II Peter 1:19*) more sure than voices from Heaven; and to them we are directed to take heed, to search them, and to hold them fast..."

- Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Preface to Vol. IV of his *Exposition of the OT & NT*, p. vii

BIBLE BAPTIST TEMPLE
P.O. Box 32005
Euclid, Ohio 44132

February 2023

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Services 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Services 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Studies 7:00 p.m.



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(popularly called the *Blue-Back Speller*), which was 'an essential part of the curriculum of all elementary school children in the United States for five generations.' Webster's influence on American education was so great that he has been called '*The Schoolmaster of the Republic.*' Nearly 100 million copies of the Speller have been printed. It taught biblical principles to millions of Americans. Webster also taught the nation to define words with the *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828), which contained 6,000 quotations from the King James Bible. By the use of the Bible and Bible-based textbooks, Americans of the 17th through the 19th centuries were steeped in Scripture from a young age, and this had a powerful influence on society, even among the unsaved. *It was the Bible's influence that produced Old America's greatest qualities:* the belief that the Bible is God's Word; near universal belief in the almighty Creator God revealed in the Bible; acceptance of absolute truth based on biblical principles; the emphasis on good character traits such as honesty, purity, humility, self-restraint, benevolence; exalted concepts of human liberty (as summarized in the magnificent Bill of Rights); love of neighbor; civic mindedness; pursuit of universal literacy; strong law and order; respect for authority; the centrality of the "nuclear family" (*composed of mother, father, children*); private ownership of property; small government under the control of the people. This is the old America ..." With all its faults, it was 'one nation under God,' to a large degree." - copied