

New England Christian Bulletin

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FREE

Jesus: Prophet, Priest, and King

By Brian Violette

Jesus once asked the question, "Who do men say that I am?" Two thousand years ago many people had different opinions about Jesus. Well, nothing has changed much today. For example, Muslims refer to Jesus as only a prophet. The Jehovah's Witnesses refer to Jesus as being a great man, but deny His deity. Jesus is commonly recognized as Lord, God, and Savior to Christians. The truth is that Jesus has many titles or offices that refer to Him in the Bible. We will examine three of those titles: Prophet, Priest, and King.

Prophet: While Jesus was on earth, specifically when he had rode in on a donkey to Jerusalem, multitudes recognized Jesus as the Prophet from Nazareth of Galilee. Jesus spoke truth, not only about future events, but also about the present or past circumstances,



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"The mountains quake before Him..." (Nahum 1:5)

and about people as well. Even people that He just met. For example, the woman at the well in Samaria. The woman's reaction to Jesus is recorded. John 4:16-19-"Jesus said to her, "Go

call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."

(Continued on page 2)

Dear Lydia: A Letter

By Scott Lanctot

I'm your brother in Christ, Scott, writing to you in your time of struggles and grief over your past sins. I hope these words will help you and comfort you. What does Scripture say? "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). I hope my words and the Scripture will comfort you to move forward in your Christian walk. Scripture says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Lydia, your past is your past. We can't change our past. We can only learn from it.

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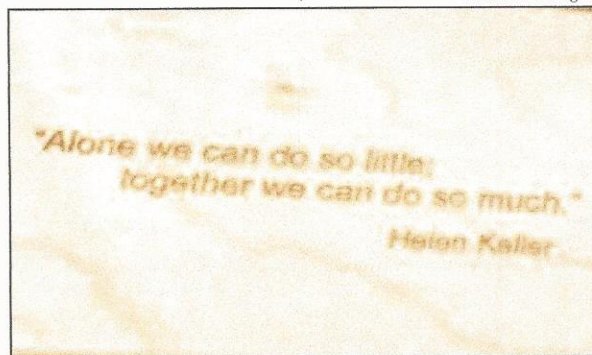
Confronting Racism in America: There is One Human Race

By James Moriello

Historically, racism in America has largely been along the lines of skin color. It had its origins in the African slave trade. Both Europeans and Africans were complicit in taking human beings captive and selling them across the Atlantic. Under the Law of Moses, such a thing, to the extent that kidnapping was involved, was punishable by death (Exodus 21:16).

Theologically, American slavery was defended on the basis of two things. First, slavery is found in the Bible, and there is no law outlawing the practice entirely. This is true, but I would argue that God was simply responding to the evil propensities of men, and that it was His permissive will but not His

perfect will. Men enslaving other men is an affront to the dignity inherent in the creation of all men and women (Genesis 1:26-27). Likewise, divorce and polygamy are acknowledged in the Bible, but they are a violation of God's perfect will of one man-one woman marriage (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-8). Second, it was argued that Africans were descendants of Ham and Canaan, and were therefore cursed by God to be servants (Genesis 9:18-27). While some of Ham's descendants did migrate to Africa, the specific son upon whom the curse fell was Canaan. And Canaan settled in the land which God later gave to Israel. His descendants were not even Africans! This shows how important it is for Bible students to learn the Word of God, study it, and cut it straight. The fact of



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"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)

the matter is that the descendants of Canaan were Canaanites, and were later subjugated by Israel in Joshua and King David's days. So the prophecy has been fulfilled already in history, and has no legitimate application to American history.

It is high time that we realize two basic

Bible truths. First, all people have equal access to salvation spiritually through Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28-29). This teaches us the high intrinsic value of every soul, for Christ's blood was shed for all peoples (1 John 2:2).

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The Order Of Creation

By Tanya Hay

God is responsible for the creation of everything around us, and amazingly He did it all in a week. Yes, in six days He created light, dark, the heavens, the earth, water, grass, animals...and on the seventh day he rested. Extracted directly from the Bible, here is the story. First

Day-"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness."

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A Bible Study: Walking In The Spirit

By Scott Lanctot

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

Qualities of a Christian:

1. Love: "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—" (Ephesians 3:17-18); Further verses: Colossians 3:14, 1 John 4:16

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Jesus: Prophet, Priest, and King

(Continued
from
Page 1)

By Brian Violette

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; In that you spoke truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet." Others perceived Jesus to be a Prophet when they had witnessed the divine signs such as the feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish (John 6:14). However, what truly separated Jesus from other prophets is that he spoke with authority. No man ever spoke like this man! While other prophets cite what God has said, Jesus was different. In the sermon on the mountain, Jesus said in Matthew 5:21-22-"You have



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:8)

heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the coun-

cil. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. So Jesus would speak and teach with authority, raising the standard of the holy law, not only in the sense of doing an immoral act, but thinking an immoral act as well.

Priest: In the Bible concor-

dance, a priesthood is the office of man's representatives before God. Why this title to describe Jesus? A priest would offer up daily sacrifices to God on behalf of a sinner. Hebrews 5:1-3-"For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that

he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins." (Continued on Page 5)

Love Today!

What are you waiting for?

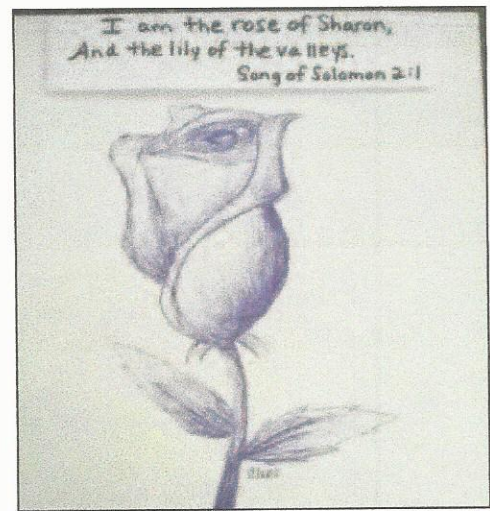
By Tanya Hay

The main theme of the Bible is love. How often do we show it? Many of us spend so much time in the "busyness" and hustle-bustle of day-to-day activities that we limit showing our love. Many of us only show love on special days and holidays.

Birthdays, Valentine's Day, Christmas, and Thanksgiving are all opportune days to visit each other, exchange gifts, and spend time together, but how often do we do those things on other days outside of a special occasion? We are commanded

to love. This command applies to each and every day. "And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also" (1 John 4:21). Even small gestures show love. I encourage you to give someone a phone call, pay someone a visit, send a card, or text someone who you've been thinking of. Give someone an apology that's long overdue, write someone a note or letter, tell someone that you love them, or just simply give someone a heartfelt smile. All

of these efforts are free, quick, and easy to do. They are all signs that show someone else that you care and that they mean something to you. Love yourself. Love your neighbor. Love your family. Love your friends. Love your enemies. John 15:12 says, "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." Spread some extra love and kindness today. Shine your God-given light in this dark world. Love today because tomorrow, my friends, isn't guaranteed.



Artwork by Alexandra Hay

"I am the rose of Sharon, And the lily of the valleys" (Song of Solomon 2:1)

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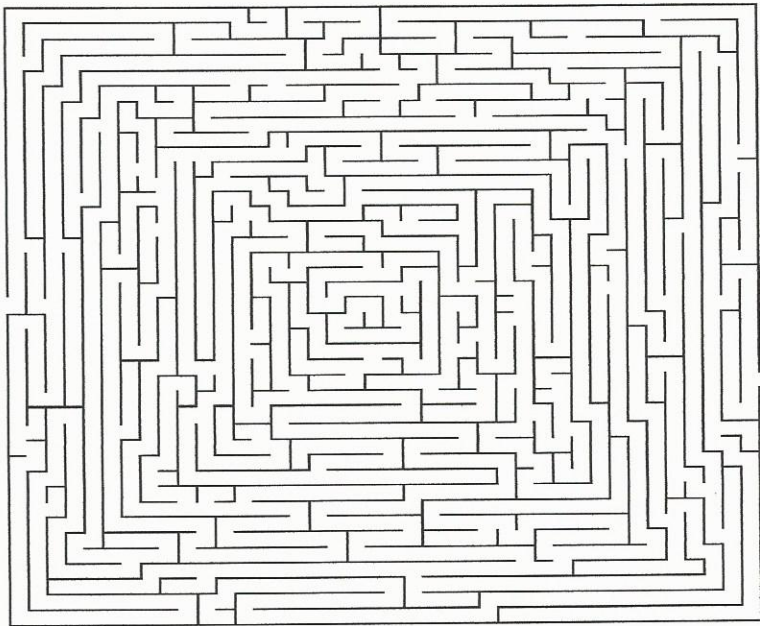
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NAMES AND TITLES OF JESUS

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O U O R M E Y E I I L N I N I
L P D P O I A S N K E I T D N
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J G W L A Z T H S R I P F R I
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|-----------|--------------|----------|
| ALMIGHTY | BEGINNING | BREAD |
| COUNSELOR | DAYSPRING | EMMANUEL |
| FAITHFUL | FIRSTBORN | GOD |
| KING | LIGHT | LORD |
| PRINCE | RESURRECTION | RULER |
| SERVANT | SON | WITNESS |
| WONDERFUL | WORD | |

CRAZY MAZY



Walking In The Spirit: A Bible Study (Continued from Page 1)

By Scott Lancot

2. Joy: "And not only *that*, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation" (Romans 5:11); Further verses: 1 Peter 1:7-8; Acts 8:39



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verses: Galatians 1:3, 2 Thessaloni-

ans 3:16.

4. Long-suffering: "by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering" (2 Corinthians 6:6); Further verses: Colossians 1:10-11; 2 Timothy 4:2

5. Kindness: "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;" (Colossians 3:12); Further verses: Titus 3:3-4

6. Goodness: "Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, But who can find a faithful man?" (Proverbs 20:6); Further verses: Romans 11:22 and 15:14

7. Faithfulness: "I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations"

3. Peace: "I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; For You alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8); Further



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"The Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed." (Genesis 2:8)

(Psalm 89:1); Further verses: Psalm 89:2-21; Lamentations 3:23-24

8. Gentleness: "to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men." (Titus 3:2); Further verses: James 1:21, James 3:13-189.

9. Self Control: "to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if

these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:6-8); Further verses: Proverbs 25:16, 1 Corinthians 9:25

Characteristics=Qualities-Do we possess this as Christians?-Patience and Longsuffering too? "Eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor,

and immortality;" (Romans 2:7). "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand" (James 5:7-8).

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

The Order of Creation (Continued from Page 1)

By Tanya Hay

God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day (Genesis 1:1-5).

Second Day--Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it di-

vide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day--(Genesis 1:6-8).



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"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser." (John 15:1)

Third Day--Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry and Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day (Genesis 1:9-13).

Fourth Day--Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days

"God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day."

(Genesis 1:5)

and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day (Genesis 1:14-19).

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Jesus: Prophet, Priest, and King (Continued from Page 2)

By Brian Violette

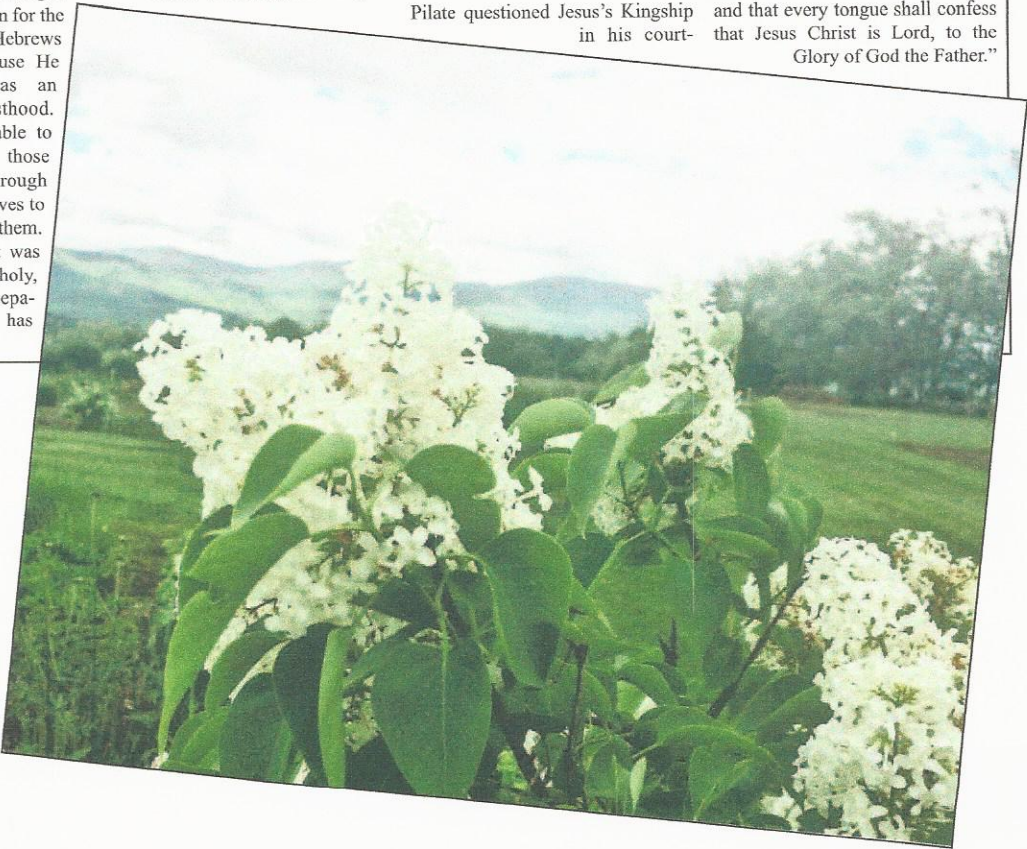
Earthly priests are truly limited in what they can do, considering they are sinners in need of a Savior as well. The author of Hebrews wrote in chapter 9:9-“It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience.” Furthermore, a priest can’t make intercession for another forever because they are prevented by death from continuing. So the need for a new priesthood was in order. A faithful high priest. Jesus! Hebrews 2:14-17-“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things he had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.” Hebrews 7:24-28-“But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has

become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people’s, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.” Praise God that we have such a high priest sitting at the right hand of God the father in heaven!

King: The last title we will cover is the title of King. Jesus the Christ was prophesied as a King, died with the inscription “King of the Jews”, and one day will return as King. Messianic prophecy is revealed, that the Messiah would be King. Isaiah 9:6-7-“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and jus-

tice.” Micah 5:2-“But you, Bethlehem Ephratha, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” The birth of Jesus was a great time to rejoice! The wise men traveled a long distance to worship him. Matthew 2:2-“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east and have come to worship him.” Later on in Jesus’s life, He would fulfill the prophecy from the prophet Zachariah when the people of Jerusalem would acknowledge Jesus as King. Matthew 21:4-5-“All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey.’” Many of the people of Jerusalem welcomed Jesus as King. This warm welcoming didn’t last too long. Jesus didn’t fit the Jews description of a King when He didn’t meet their expectations that He would bring them out from under the Roman rule. Soldiers would mock Jesus as King at Calvary. They forced Jesus to wear a crown of thorns. Pontius Pilate questioned Jesus’s Kingship in his court-

room. John 18:33-37-“Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered him, “Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?” Jesus answered, “My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a King then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a King. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.” One day every person will acknowledge that Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Philippians 2:9-11-“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father.”



"We love Him because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

The Order Of Creation (Continued from Page 4)

By Tanya Hay

Fifth Day—Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God

saw that *it was* good. And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." So the evening and the morning were the fifth day (Genesis 1:20-23).

Sixth Day—God created animals and man. And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:29-31).

Seventh Day—And on the seventh

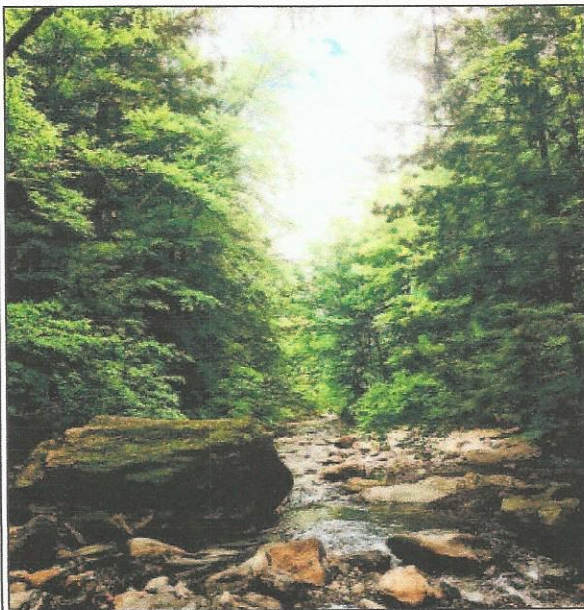
day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made (Genesis 2:2-3).

This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, be-

fore any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; but a mist went up from the earth and watered

the whole face of the ground. And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being (Genesis 2:4-7). Wow!

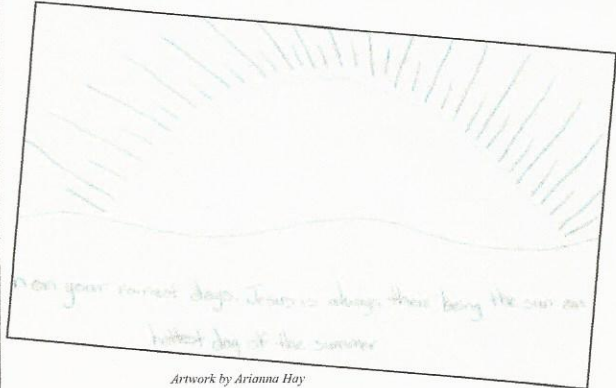
Incredible gifts, given to us by God thousands of years ago. The next time you observe a beautiful sunset, enjoy time with your pet, look lovingly upon your child, or simply smell the ocean air, remember that the order of creation and all of these beautiful and perfect gifts are for you from our loving heavenly Father.



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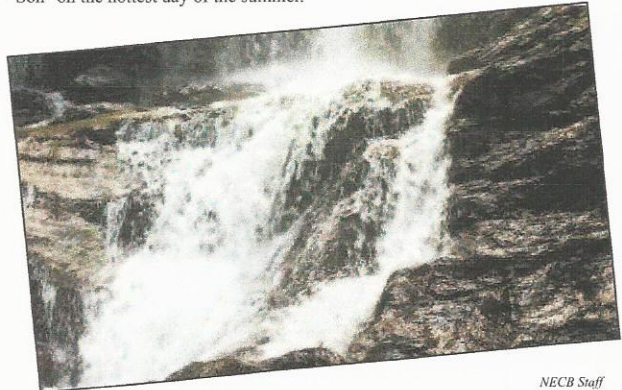
"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38)

God's Revelation in Nature: Pictures that Prove God Exists



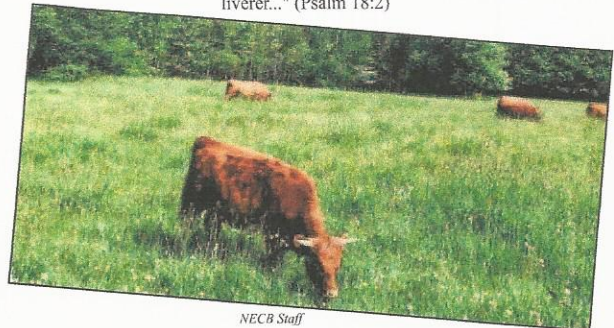
Artwork by Arianna Hay

Even on your rainiest days, Jesus is always there being the "Son" on the hottest day of the summer.



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"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer..." (Psalm 18:2)



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"Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth?..." (Job 35:11)



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"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23)

Confronting Racism in America: There is One Human Race
(Continued from Page 1)

By James Moriello

The second Bible truth is found in Acts 17:26. "And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings." There is one human race. We are all descen-

dants of Adam and Noah. There are therefore no distinctions based on color or ethnicity, with regard to the value of each person.

What should the church do? Sadly, we have predominantly "white" churches, "black" churches, "Spanish" churches, and so forth. And so it ever shall be, just as we will always have the

poor among us. The Bible answer for the church is simple. Preach the gospel and seek to live out the Great Commission before and to all people. Respect others, and do not encourage people to think of themselves as victims of injustice. Instead, may we all think of ourselves as recipients of divine love, grace, and mercy inestimable! And teach all others that they are the

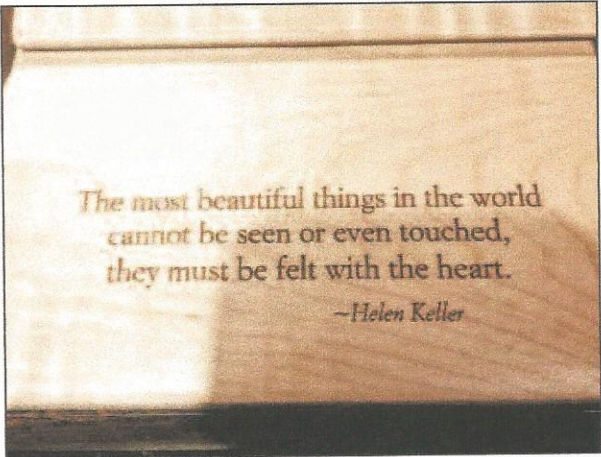
same. When we preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ first and foremost, and not the false social justice gospels, we shall have greater effect in the world for Christ. Social justice has its place, but it cannot be achieved without the conversion of the human heart through the hearing and believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dear Lydia: A Letter
(Continued from Page 1)

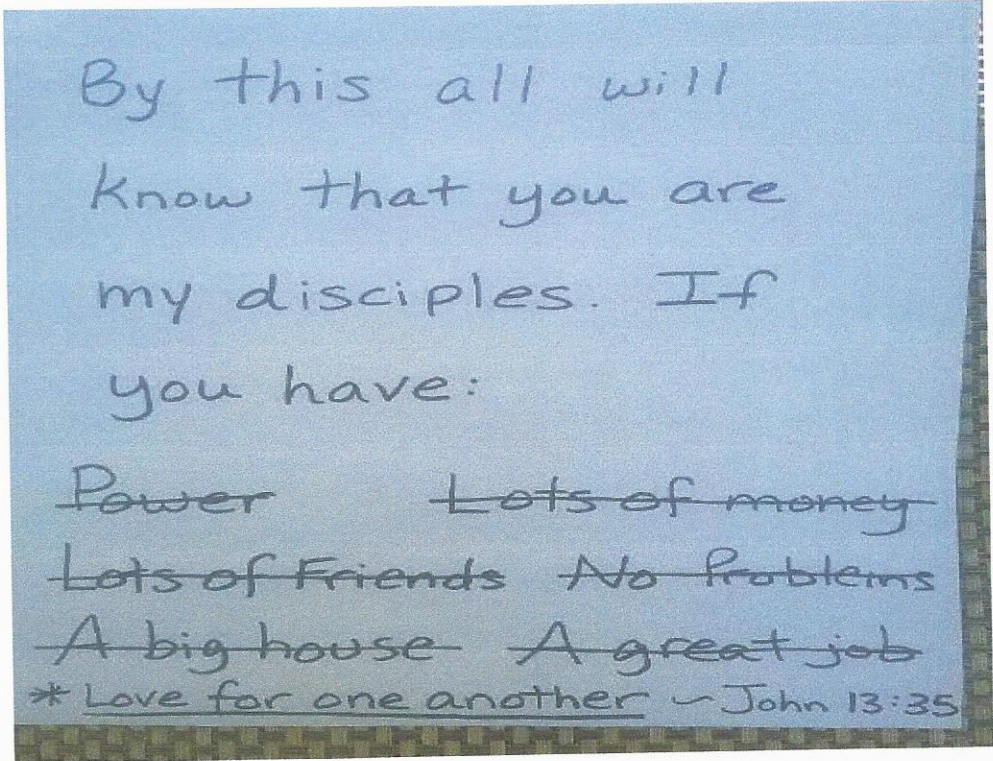
By Scott Lancot

Today you are a child of the Most High God. I know this from Scripture, using Jesus' own words, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11). Lydia, no person is perfect. Not even a Christian. We all fall short of God's standards. He looks into your heart. We have Holy Spirit guiding us, and Christ Jesus interceding for us. We have the Holy Bible to

go to for all the answers, weekly church services, Bible studies, and our prayer life. All of these help us grow into the likeness of our Maker. Take a look at Matthew 7:7-8. "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Action is the key word. God bless you, Lydia. I hope you find peace.
Your Brother in Christ, Scott



"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more" (John 8:11).



Ask the Pastor: Which Church is the First Church? And Which Church is the True Church? A Biblical and Historical Protestant Perspective

By James Moriello

Some teach that the first church was the church at Rome, namely the Roman Catholic Church. This teaching is in conflict with the Book of Acts in the New Testament of the Bible. According to Acts 2, the first Christian church was at Jerusalem, and it was founded about 30 AD, at Pentecost, at the coming of the promised Holy Spirit. From there, the church branched out to Asia, Europe, and Africa. Each city had more than one "bishop" or "overseer" (Philippians 1:1). Many years later, in Acts 15, Peter, along with James the half brother of Jesus, was functioning as an Apostle in Jerusalem, settling disputes that arose regarding doctrinal and practical matters of the faith. Peter had no wish to assert anything of the sort of "papal pri-

macy" over all Christendom as an elder. To the contrary, Peter calls himself "a fellow elder" (1 Peter 5:1). The concept of the full authority of the church at Rome over the churches at all the other cities was something that did not gain traction until hundreds of years later, when the Roman Church allied itself with the Western Roman Empire. Historians are divided as to whether Leo 1 (440-461 AD) or Gregory 1 (590-604) was the first Pope of the Western Church based at Rome.

Some also teach that the true church is the church at Rome, namely the Roman Catholic Church. The first problem with

this is that since the first church was in Jerusalem, that would mean that there was no true church at the beginning of the New Testament age, which would contradict Acts 2:47. The second thing with that is that Paul affirms to the early church at Ephesus that "there is one body

and one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:4-6). When we also consid-

(Acts 2:5,47)

er the seven churches of Revelation (chapters 2 and 3) that were operating under the authority of the Apostle John (who was then in exile, but formerly was based in Ephesus), we find that there are two ways to define the universal (catholic is simply another word which means uni-

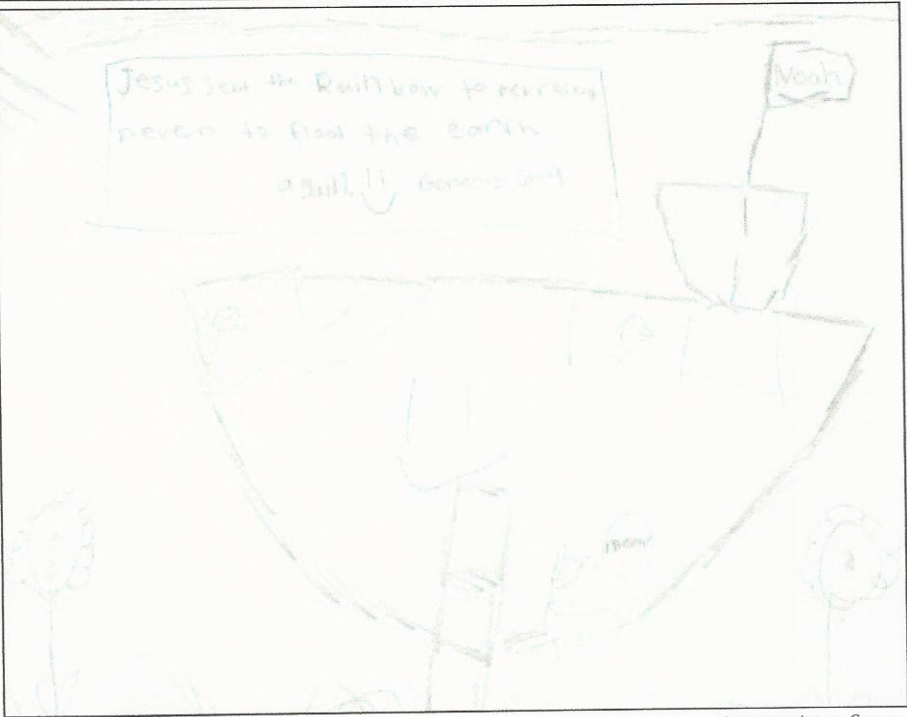
versal) church. There is the professing church, those who outwardly identify with the church of Jesus Christ. Then there is what we would identify as the true church, which is all those believers, regardless of ethnicity, social status, or denominational affiliation, who believe the gospel by faith (Cf. Galatians 3:28-29). The essential gospel content is spelled out for us in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." Salvation is by God's grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ Jesus our Lord, God, and Savior alone. No human grace or institution can add to His salvation work, and the works of believers are fruit of the work of the Spirit (Ephesians 2:8-10; Galatians 5:22-24).

"And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews...the church"

The Unbiblical Mormon Concept Of The Priesthood

By B.B. Johns

From what I've read about the Book of Mormon and their Doctrines and Covenants, they believe that God has conferred on them the Aaronic and Melchizedekian priesthoods; that these two priesthoods are the same and as such they are without beginning of days or end of years (Doctrines and Covenants). Secondly, through the authority of the priesthood, men in their (false) church speak and act in the name of God for the salvation of humankind. But the holy Scripture tells us that these two priesthoods are different, and that it was God himself who established them: Aaronic (Exodus 40:13-15), Melchizedekian (Genesis 14:18). The Aaronic priesthood ended with the advent of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Melchizedekian priesthood is applied only to Christ (Hebrews 5-8). And it is the only viable priesthood standing today by



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"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

virtue of its endless nature (Hebrews 7:11-17). I do not find the Mormon standard to be true to the Scriptures. They differ from the New Testament concept of the priesthood in their ownership of

the Melchizedek priesthood. They conveniently forget their mortality. The New Testament priesthood of believers is implied by our relation to Christ as our High Priest in His atoning work for

mankind. As a result, all believers must stand for his or her self in personal relationship with God. "But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him" (1 Corinthians 6:17).