

MY G.O.A.T. GREATEST OF ALL TIME

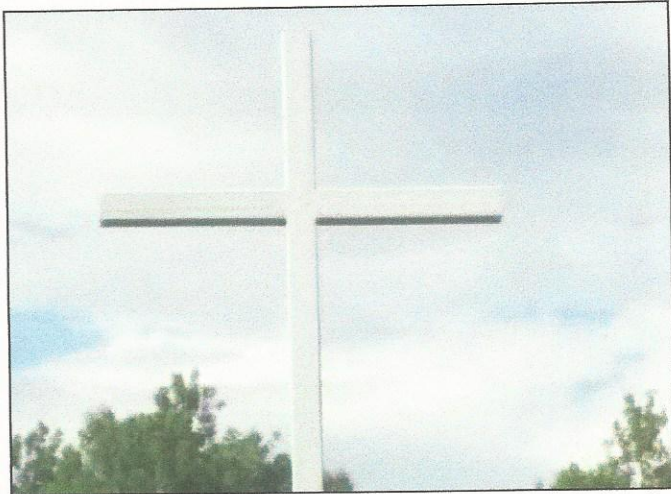


Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe" (Ephesians 1:19)

What the Old Testament Goats Teach us about the Work of Jesus Christ

By Jim Landry

Let's compare the Day of Atonement and the sacrifice of Jesus.

A "type" in the Bible is a picture in the Old Testament that foreshadows (foretells or predicts) a fulfillment in the New Testament.

Let's look at THE TYPE: Two Goats

The Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:1-34), also known as Yom Kippur, was a day when the sins of Israel were covered for one year. Yom means "the day" and Kippur

means "to cover."

The High Priest offered a sacrifice for his own sins and then selected two young male goats which he presented to the Lord, to God.

He drew lots, and one lot determined which one would be "the Lord's goat" that would be killed, and the other would become "the scapegoat" that would be set free (Leviticus 16:7-10).

The High Priest tied a scarlet rope made of wool around the neck

of the Lord's goat and another scarlet rope around the horns of the scapegoat.

Isaiah 1:18 explains, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."

The High Priest killed the Lord's goat, caught its blood in a bowl, and took the blood into the Holy of Holies in the Temple where he sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat, which was the lid of the Ark of the Covenant (Leviticus 16:15-20). (Continued on Page 8)

Baby Doe's Eternal Destiny; Do Babies go to Heaven?

By James Moriello

All Christians are forced to grapple with many difficult questions in the course of their lives and ministries. One of the most difficult questions to address is the eternal destiny of children, infants, and babies. This is a particularly difficult subject because it demands taking into account the biblical doctrine of election, which is a doctrine that is based upon the sovereignty and prerogative of God (John 15:16; Eph 1:4; 2 Thes 2:13). It is within this framework of God's sovereign election that we seek the answers here. Are children among the elect? Can we dogmatically affirm that children do go to heaven? If so, do all children go to heaven? What is Baby Doe's eternal destiny? We will examine three views on the subject that can be taken and look at them in light of Scripture.

The first view we will examine here is what we will call salvation by association. It asserts that only children within the New Testament covenant community attain to eternal salvation. Practically, this means that the faith of one or both parents is sufficient grounds for the child "qualifying" for heaven. This is a view held by the Lutheran, Roman Catholic, and some Reformed traditions. Dr. John

Jefferson Davis, Professor of Theology of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary makes an argument in support of this position. His argument rests upon the Covenant Theology understanding of baptism replacing circumcision in the New Covenant based on texts such as Colossians 2:11-12. Even if one accepts this premise, it must be noted that circumcision is not a guarantee of salvation. Jesus explicitly asserted that the unbelieving scribes and Pharisees, who were certainly circumcised, would not enter heaven themselves (Matt 23:13). The salvation by association position also teaches a conferring upon the children of believers "membership in the covenant of grace" based on 1 Corinthians 7:14 and Acts 2:39. However, this "membership" presupposes that baptism can impart saving grace. This often finds expression in the teaching that baptism imparts sacramental grace upon the recipient. Since we know that our salvation is the gift of God apart from works, it follows that the ritual of baptism has never saved anyone (Eph 2:8-9). Therefore, this response to the question of Baby Doe's eternal destiny should be rejected. (Continued on Page 4)

Look Within Taking a Good Hard Look at Ourselves

By Scott Lanctot

The one thing I'm more aware of today is that we are all children of God (Christians in a special sense, but all of us in the sense that we are created in His image). Who am I to pass judgment on someone else because they look like this or that, not fitting into the mold of society? As a Christian brother who has

been walking with the Lord for a few years, what comes to mind is, "Judge not, that you be not judged" (Matthew 7:1), unless you have walked a mile in someone else's shoes. Words like compassion, understanding, and WWJD (What would Jesus do?) come to mind. You might have a nice house, car, or job, but in a

New York minute, they can all be gone. When you even think you have your act together compared to someone else, take a hard look at yourself and compare yourself to Jesus. That might knock you down a few pegs. Romans 3:23 says that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Continued on Page 5)



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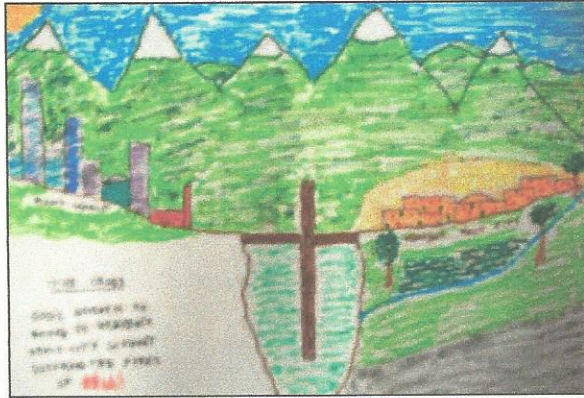
"Examine yourselves...test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5)

Stand in the Gap (An Excerpt from the Sermon)

By Brian Violette

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one" (Ezekiel 22:30).

In this text, God sought for a man that would stand in the gap to lead a nation to repentance, to turn from their evil ways and seek God. The city of Jerusalem was on the verge of having to deal with the judgment of God. Israel as a whole acted in defiance of God, and was in need of some spiritual refinement. In the beginning of the chapter God shows Jerusalem many of the abominations she had committed, such as shedding innocent blood, idol making, and acts of sacrilege, to name a few. The tone of God is very stern with anger. He outlines the various abominations using the words, "in you." This is directed specifically towards Jerusalem, but even more so towards the leaders. The leaders are held largely responsible for the moral decay of the nation. Ezekiel 22:23-31 reads, "And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 'Son of man, say to her: 'You are a land that is not cleansed or rained on in the day of indignation.' The conspiracy of her prophets in her midst is like a roaring lion tearing the



Art by Bob Lockhart

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap" (Ezekiel 22:30)

prey; they have devoured people; they have taken treasure and precious things; they have made many widows in her midst. Her priests have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they

have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Her princes in her midst are like wolves tearing the prey, to shed blood, to destroy people, and to get dishonest gain."

(Continued on Page 8)

Bible Trivia

Submitted by the Hay Family

1. What is the name of the book of wise sayings in the Old Testament?
2. Many books are letters written to people or churches in the New Testament. What is another name for these letters?
3. I denied knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed twice, who am I?
4. God supplied the Israelites with what food during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness?
5. What did God create on the first day?
6. What is the first commandment?
7. What woman did an angel visit in a dream to tell her that Jesus would soon be born?
8. Who shut the door to the ark? God, Noah, or an animal?
9. What are the first three words of the Bible?

(Answers on Page 3)

Life's Lies

By Tanya Hay

Life is full of lies. Life leads us to believe that the grass is always greener on the other side, life would be better if we had a new job, if we were paid more, if we had a boyfriend or girlfriend, if we were on vacation, if we had a bigger house... we seem to wish each moment and each day away. It seems we miss constant opportunities to be thankful. Take time to count the many bless-

ings that make our grass greener. The best blessing we are given is a Savior who loves us, forgives us, and who promises us eternal life through believing in Him. James 1:17 tells us that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above". Rather than focusing on earthly life and the lies of false happiness, we should look up. God gives all good gifts in our lives. So today, don't focus on being with other people, being someplace else, doing other things, or wanting more time. Find constant and never ending joy when you find your life in Jesus. It's a great exchange to trade in all of the fleeting moments that bring temporary joy for an eternity with Him.



Photo Credit: Alexandra Hay

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17).

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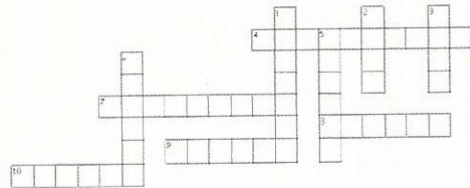
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Firm Foundation Christian Church meets at 84 Cumberland Street, Woonsocket, RI., on Sunday mornings at 10 am and Friday evenings at 7 pm. Our TV Bible Study airs in Northern Rhode Island on Tuesday and Saturday mornings at 10 am on Cox Channel 18 and Verizon Channel 23, and also on Rhode Island Interconnect B Channel 14 every Wednesday at 3:30 pm.

Our mission is the Great Commission, to preach and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ by any and all means possible. Please call us or email us with your comments and questions.

"For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Books of the Bible



Across

4. the last book in the Bible
7. Fruit of the Spirit found here
8. out of Egypt
9. written by Paul to those in Rome
10. Samson is found here

Down

1. the first book
2. second book of the New Testament
3. contains the shortest verse
5. contains the longest verse
6. has the most chapters

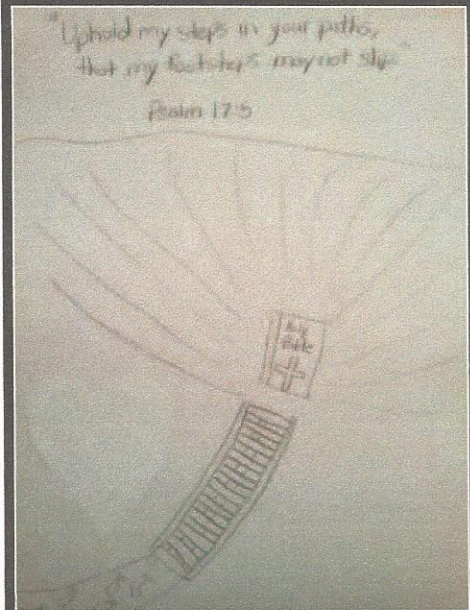
The Form of Sound Words (Excerpted from the Sermon)

By C. H. Spurgeon

What is a, "FORM OF SOUND WORDS"? Ten thousand persons will quarrel upon this. One will say, "MY creed is a form of sound words." Another will declare that his creed, also, is sound if not infallible! We will not, therefore, enter into all the minute details which distinguish creeds from each other, but just simply say that no system can be a form of sound words unless it is perfectly Scriptural. We receive no doctrines as the doctrines of men—whatever authority comes to us which is not the authority of the Holy Spirit and inspired by God, is no authority at all to us! We laugh to scorn all the dogmatism of men. We care for nothing they assert, however strongly they declare it, or however eloquently they plead for it. We utterly reject and discard it! We hold it a sin to "take for doctrines the commandments of men." We give no heed to the traditions that are handed down to us. If our opponent cannot quote or verse for anything he advances, we hold no

argument with him! Scripture is the only weapon we can acknowledge. But since it is said that texts may be found to prove almost everything, we must remark that a form of sound words must be one that exalts God and puts down man. We dare not, for a moment, think that any doctrine is sound that does not put the crown upon the head of Jesus and does not exalt the Almighty. If we see a doctrine which exalts the creature, we do not care one fig about what arguments may be brought to support it! We know that it is a lie—unless it lays the creature in the very dust of abasement and exalts the Creator. If it does not do this, it is nothing but a rotten doctrine of pride. It may dazzle us with the brilliant malaria rising from its marshes, but it can never shed a true and healthful light into the soul. It is a rotten doctrine, not fit to be built on the gospel, unless it exalts Jehovah Jesus, Jehovah, the Father, and Jehovah the Holy Spirit!

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Artwork By Arianna Hays

"Uphold my steps in Your paths, That my footsteps may not slip" (Psalm 17:5)

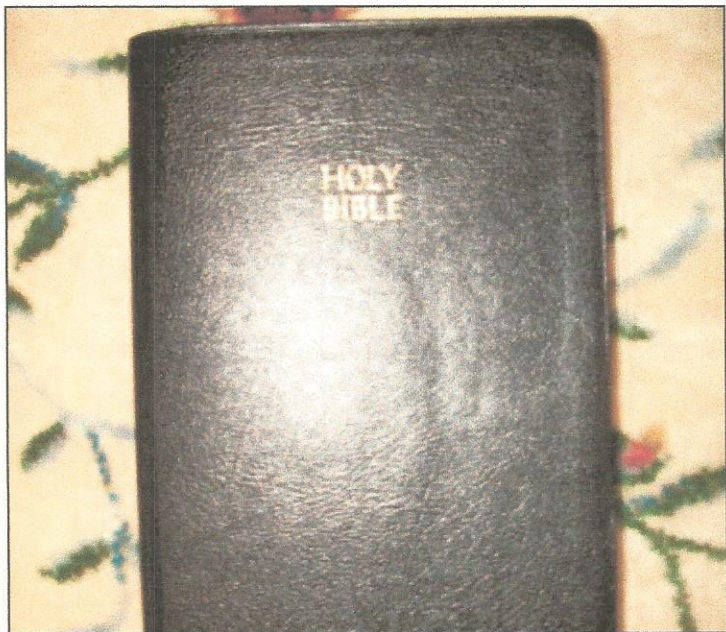
Water Baptism is not Required for Salvation

To teach that water baptism is necessary for Christian salvation is a major doctrinal error, for it adulterates the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord pronounces judgment upon those who change the gospel (Galatians 1:6-9). Baptism is a human work albeit one pleasing to the Lord, and as such it cannot save. Read John 3:16, 5:24, Romans 4:1-8, and Ephesians 2:8-10, and you will see that baptism is not mentioned as a condition of salvation in the clearest texts speaking to salvation. One finds peace with God through believing upon Jesus Christ and trusting Him and His finished work for his or her eternal destiny. Baptism does and should follow salvation, as an external profession of an internal reality that has already taken place. Take a

look at Acts 2:37-38. These people were saved in verse 37 but were told to repent—which is a continual process for the believer which begins at the point of salvation, and to be baptized in verse 38. The word translated "for" in verse 38 is conjunctive, and most scholars agree it should be translated "with a view to". In any case, the confusion is cleared up in Acts 10:34-43 and 16:30-33 in which belief clearly precedes baptism. Acts 22:16 standing alone may lead someone to believe that baptism is necessary for salvation, but the context of Acts 22:6-16 indicates that Saul's conversion had already taken place internally. Another verse that false teachers use to teach that water baptism is necessary for salvation is Mark 16:16. Read it carefully. The

idea here is that obedient believers get baptized. However, in the second part of the verse, condemnation is not for failing to be baptized but rather for failing to believe. This interpretation is right in line with Jesus' words in John 3:18. Some false teachers appeal to 1 Peter 3:21, but conveniently ignore the context. Reading 1 Peter 3:20-21, we find that water is used symbolically. Just as floodwaters themselves did not save Noah, neither do baptismal waters themselves save New Testament believers. Finally, consider the criminal on the cross in Luke 23:43, who found himself in the presence of Christ that night even though he was not baptized. Surely water baptism is not required for salvation.

Bible Trivia Answers (From Page 2)



1. Proverbs
2. Epistles
3. Peter, Mark 14:66-72
4. Manna, Exodus 16:31
5. Light, (day and night), Genesis 1:3-5
6. "You shall have no other gods before me," Exodus 20:3.
7. Mary, Luke 1:26-31
8. God, Genesis 7:16
9. "In the beginning", Genesis 1:1

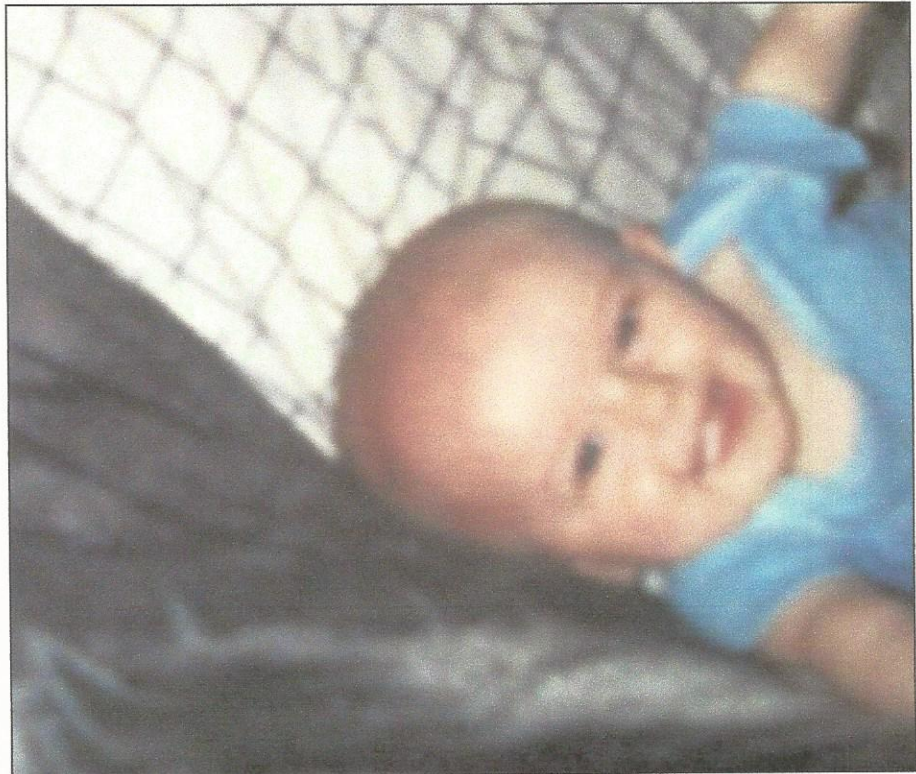
was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only be-

gotten of the Father, full of grace and truth...And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him" (John 1:1-5,14,16-18).

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word

glory as of the only be-

"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me."
(Matthew 18:1-5)



Baby Doe's Eternal Destiny; Do Babies go to Heaven? (Continued From Page 1)

By James Moriello

The second view we will examine here is what we will call the sovereignty view. It asserts that since God's election is sovereign, finite human beings cannot know for certain which children are elect and which are not. The Bible teaches that we are all conceived in original sin and are therefore unfit to be in the presence of a Holy God (Rom 3:9-10; 5:14; Psalm 14:2-3; 58:3). Saving faith comes by believing in Jesus Christ and responding in faith (John 1:12-13; 3:5-7; Rom 10:14). Saving faith as defined by Scripture implies intellectual understanding to know what one believes. It is at this juncture that the sovereignty view cannot find an answer to the question of where Baby Doe is spending eternity. Spurgeon articulated this position well, stating that "with regard to infants, Scripture saith but very little, and therefore where Scripture is confessedly scant, it is for no man to determine dog-

matically". This position sees this question as one that we must turn over to the Almighty God whose thoughts and ways are much higher than ours (Isa 55:8-9). This view is true to the Word of God, but does it withstand the objections to its proposition that we cannot know for sure if children, infants, and babies go to heaven? Interestingly, Spurgeon finally came to the conclusion that we can know for sure, and took the third view.

The third view, which we will call the condition of accountability view, makes the argument that we can know for sure. From an emotional standpoint, this is the view many people take. Nobody likes the idea that any baby, infant, or young child could be damned to hell by a loving God. Therefore, we must be diligent to search the Scriptures in order to get to the truth of the matter. The question is whether or not all children are part of the elect of God. The Bible is clear that all inherit a sin nature from the moment of conception

(Rom 5:1-19; Isa 48:8). This means they need a Savior. If children are to enter heaven, God must first choose them. He can, and has, elected babies in the Holy Writ (Jer 1:4-5; Rom 9:10-16). The statement that they can be chosen for a purpose before having known about or done "any good or evil" is of particular importance here (Deut 1:39; Rom 9:11). The proponents of the condition of accountability position infer from texts such as these that since babies do not yet have a developed moral compass, then it follows that God does not hold them morally culpable for their sin. They have not yet had the opportunity to either respond in faith to God's call to salvation or go down the proverbial road to depravity (John 1:12-13; Rom 1:15-32). Indeed there are several Scriptures that speak of the "innocence" of young children whether or not they are members of the covenant community (Jer 2:34, 19:4-7, Ezek 16:20-22). There are three Old Testament

passages that are often appealed to in support of the condition of accountability view. The first is Job 3:11-19, which is part of Job's first recorded response to the tragedies that had befallen him. He speaks of stillborn children as being "hidden" and in a place of "rest". Critics have noted that this is Job's emotional response, not a theological treatise. However, Job did have an excellent theological understanding. That was evidenced by His awareness of the fallen human condition and the sacrifices he offered the Lord before the Bible was even written (Job 1:5, 19:25-27). He got his understanding from somewhere (God) and we should not dismiss this text too easily. The second text is Second Samuel 12:13-23, which recounts the death of the child whom David and Bathsheba had conceived. In David's response to those who questioned why he was not mourning in the customary manner for the loss of the child, he finished with the statement that he

"shall go to him, but he (the child) shall not return to me". Supporters of this position see this as a statement that David is absolutely certain that the baby has preceded him to heaven and that he will be one day reunited with his child. Detractors would reject this interpretation, instead understanding this passage in the same way as they do the passage in Job--as an emotional response and not a theological statement. The third passage which is significant to us is First Kings 14:9-13. Ahijah the prophet prophesies the destruction of Jeroboam and his family but notes that the "child" is the "only one of Jeroboam who shall come to the grave, because in him there is found something good toward the Lord God of Israel (YHWH)". Since there is "none who does good" except Jesus Christ, the good that was found in this child was a result of God's electing the child for salvation (Rom 3:12; 2 Cor 5:21).

(Continued on Page 7)

The Fall of Lucifer: How an Angel Became the Devil (Isaiah 14:12-15)

By James Moriello

We shall consider one of two prominent Old Testament passages which give us some details about the fall of Lucifer. The name Lucifer means "morning star" or "day star". Lucifer is called the "son of the morning" (14:12). Since Lucifer, also known as Satan, the Dragon, and the Devil, is already present in the Garden of Eden, his fall must have occurred prior to that (Gen. 3:1). The parallel passage in Ezekiel concerning the fall of Lucifer describes an earth in line with that described in Genesis: "The earth



was without form, and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep" (Gen. 1:2; Cf. Ezek. 28:11-19). Isaiah, speaking of the creation, states that God "did not create it in vain", and that He "formed it to be inhabited" (45:18). All of these passages taken together point to a cataclysmic event in time, before the fall of man, which involved the fall of Lucifer and one third of the angels of heaven (Rev. 12:4). Since Lucifer is an angelic being, and the creation of angels is not specifically attested to in the Genesis account of the days of creation, some scholars believe that the fall of Lucifer occurred between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2. This is known as the "gap theory". The traditional view, and the more likely view in this author's opinion, is to place the fall of the sinning angels at another place in the creation days, possibly on the second creation day. The scriptural evidence for the traditional view takes a more literal



Photo Credit: Tanya Hay

"Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

interpretation of Genesis chapter one (Cf. Gen. 2:1; Exod. 20:11; Job 38:1-7; Neh. 9:6).

The sin of Lucifer that led to his downfall was pride. This is clearly evident in the things that he asserted in his heart. Lucifer makes five "I will" assertions:

1. "I will ascend into heaven" (14:13).
2. "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God" (14:13).
3. "I will also sit on the mount of

the congregation" (14:13).

4. "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds" (14:14).

5. "I will be like the Most High" (14:14).

Lucifer sought to usurp the rightful place of God as the King of the universe and all creation. "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). Great was his fall. Since there is no provision for the salvation of sinning angels, the lake of fire will be his inheritance (Rev. 20:10). It was not

enough for Lucifer to lift up his head against the Most High, so he fomented rebellion within the angelic realm, taking one third of the angels with him to the same destination (Rev. 12:4). The devil is still active today, "seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). He especially enjoys taking those in the professing church and turning them aside from the faith. To this, your best defense is the knowledge of God's Word and sound doctrine.

Look Within: Taking a Good Hard Look at Ourselves (Continued From Page 1)

By Scott Lanctot

As a believer, I understand that it is only of mercy and grace. Our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus, who died on the cross. He is the spotless Lamb who came

to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Believe in faith upon Jesus alone, and you will be saved. Become "a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). And walk the Christian walk, daily seeking to be more Christ-like. People's opinions

are all over the map about Christianity. Some say, "You want me to believe what you believe." The right response is, "What does the Bible say?" Objective truth is not just what I think or feel. Christian living is not always easy or popular in this world we live in. If we endure to the end, we will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:21). Find out if these things (I write and that you find written in this paper) are true. Read your Bible. If you call yourself a Christian, why would you not read the Word of God to find out what is true and what is

"Well done, good and faithful servant"

(Matthew 25:21)

false? A quote from Billy Graham: "Just because you stand in a garage doesn't make you an automobile." The one thing that's going to happen to all men is that our hearts will be tested, and the only sinless Person to walk the earth was Jesus. Today, seek Him "who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father" (Galatians 1:4).



Plum Beach Lighthouse. Photo Credit: NECB Staff

Just because you happen to be on a little island near the shore doesn't make you a lighthouse!

“And it shall come to pass in that day,” says the Lord God,
 “That I will make the sun go down at noon,
 And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;
 I will turn your feasts into mourning,
 And all your songs into lamentation;
 I will bring sackcloth on every waist,
 And baldness on every head;
 I will make it like mourning for an only son,
 And its end like a bitter day.
 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God,
 “That I will send a famine on the land,
 Not a famine of bread,
 Nor a thirst for water,
 But of hearing the words of the Lord.
 They shall wander from sea to sea,
 And from north to east;
 They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord,
 But shall not find it.”
 (Amos 8:9-12)



A Kind of Famine

Submitted By Jim Landry

Famine. We hear about it in the news but many of us have probably never witnessed a famine. That is, unless you're talking about a non-food famine.

Almost all of us have a Bible in our home. If you own a smartphone, there are Bible apps available to download. So you would think since we have one in our home or on our phone, we are probably reading it EVERY day, right? Well, here's what I think. I think there is a famine here amongst us and it involves the lack of reading God's Word. Only this kind of famine unfortunately does not make the national news.

The present famine for the Word of God was not sent by God. On the contrary, it is evident God has provided for a "feast" and not a "famine"! We enjoy an abundance of Bibles. Never before in the history of mankind has the world enjoyed

such free access to God's Word.

Indeed, today's famine for the Word of God is SELF-IMPOSED! Despite such access to the Bible, I wonder what your Bible would have to say about you. What do you think? Unfortunately, for many of us, the following "Diary Of The Bible" illustration is often so true:

January: A busy time for me. Most of the family decided to read me through this year. It was part of something called a New Year's Resolution. They kept me busy for the first two weeks. Now, I'm forgotten.

February: My owner used me for a few minutes last week. He had an argument with someone and was checking references. Hopefully he used the information he found since I have all the answers.

I'm not so sure though because he hasn't been back.

March: Grandma visited us. She kept me on her lap for an hour, reading Psalm 23 out loud to me.

April: I had a busy day. My owner was appointed a leader of something and used me. I got to go to church the first time this year...Easter Sunday. It was awesome!

(Amos 8:11) May: I have a few grass stains on my pages. I had some early spring flowers pressed in me.

June: I look like a scrap book. They have stuffed me full of clippings. One of the girls got married.

July: They put me in a suitcase today. I guess we're off on a vacation. I wish I could stay at

home, as I will have to stay in this thing for a month.

August: Sigh. Still in the suitcase.

September: Back home again, and in my old place. I have lots of company. Two "Sports Illustrated" magazines and four "Reader's Digests" are on top of me. I wish I could be read as much as they are.

October: They used me a little today. One of them is sick. Right now I'm all shined up and in the center of the table. I think the preacher is coming.

November: Back in my old place. Sigh.

December: They are getting ready for Christmas. I'll be covered under wrapping papers and packages for a while.

The Form of Sound Words (Excerpted from the Sermon), Continued From Page 3

By C. H. Spurgeon

We think, also, that we may judge of the soundness of doctrine by its tendency. We can never think a doctrine sound when we see plainly upon its very surface that it has a tendency to create sin in men. Unless it is a doctrine according to godliness, we cannot conceive it to be a doctrine of God! Unless the believer of it, earnestly and truthfully believing it, does give himself to virtue—unless that doctrine has in itself a natural tendency to promote in him a love to the right—we are at first sight, suspicious of it. And if we find on examination that it is a licentious doctrine—it may have all the glitter and the glare of novelty, but we cast it away as not being the doctrine of Christianity, because it does not promote holiness in the soul. We shall, perhaps, be asked what we do regard as a form of sound words and what those doctrines are which are Scriptural, which at the same time are healthful to the spirit and exalting to God. We answer, we believe a form of sound words must embrace, first of all, the doctrine of God's being and nature. We must have the Trinity in Unity and the Unity in Trinity. Any doctrine which has not the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as equal persons in one undivided essence, we cast aside as being unsound. We are sure that such doctrines must be derogatory to God's glory. And if they are so, it is enough for us. If any man despises Father, Son or Holy Spirit, we despise him and despise his teachings and cannot even say to him, "I wish you God speed." Now we hold that a form of sound words must look upon man aright as well as upon God



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"Hold fast the form of sound words which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:13, KJV.

aright. It must teach that man is utterly fallen, that he is sinful, and for his sin, condemned. It must teach that man in himself is altogether hopeless of salvation. If it exalts man by giving him a character which is not a true one and clothing him with a spurious robe of righteousness, woven by his fingers, we reject and utterly discard it! And next, we think that a doctrine that is sound must

have right views of salvation as being of the Lord, alone. Unless we find in it everlasting, unchanging love, working out a salvation for a people "who were not a people," but were made a people by special divine grace—unless we find discriminating love, others may say what they will—we cannot consider such a creed to be a form of sound words unless we discern redeem-

ing mercy openly and boldly taught! Unless we see final perseverance and all those great and glorious truths which are the very bulwarks of our religion, others may embrace the doctrine as being a form of sound words, but we cannot and we dare not! We love the old system of our forefathers. We love the old truths of Scripture, not because they are old, but because we cannot con-

sider anything to be truth which does not hold the Scriptural view of salvation. I think Paul, himself, in this very chapter, gives us a form of sound words where he speaks of "God who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."

Baby Doe's Eternal Destiny; Do Babies go to Heaven? (Continued From Page 4)

By James Moriello

Finally, one holding this view appeals to the words spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ, who said: "Unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven...for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 18:3, 19:14). While it is true that the context of the passage is an exhortation for His listeners to come with complete faith and trust to Him, this does not necessarily exclude the possibility that most or all children do literally "enter the kingdom of heaven". Having examined these

"I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:23)

three popular views on the eternal destiny of babies, infants, and children, I submit that the position best supported by Scripture is the condition of accountability view. The sovereignty view does not go far enough—the question is indeed addressed in God's Word. While there are valid objections to some of the interpretations of the

passages in support of the condition of accountability view, the totality of the argument makes a convincing case for its acceptance. It does not stand in contradiction to the doctrines of total depravity of man or election. Rather, it affirms them while at the same time taking a high view of Scripture—or at least a quite literal one. When Baby Doe's parents ask why God allowed their child to die, we cannot always offer an explanation as to why. However, when they ask where their child is, we can tell them with sincerity that he or she is with the Lord in heaven.



Rose Island Lighthouse. Photo Credit: NECB Staff

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My G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time)

(Continued From Page 1)

By Jim Landry

He then went to the scapegoat, laid his hands on its head, and confessed the sins of the people. A designated person led the scapegoat out of the temple and into the wilderness where it was released (Leviticus 16:21-22).

The scapegoat represented escaping punishment for sins. Because "the Lord's goat" was killed as a sacrifice for sins, the "scapegoat" was set free.

There were two goats, but just one offering. It takes both goats to understand what God wants us to see.

Killing a goat meant that someone or something had to die for their sins. The death of the Lord's goat meant that God will accept a substitute for our sins.

The second goat demonstrated the need to remove guilt. The High Priest laid his bloody hands on the scapegoat and confessed the people's sins, which the goat carried into the wilderness

where they (the sins) were forgotten.

The Fulfillment: Jesus and Barabbas

This choosing of two goats, killing one, and letting the other go, was played out when Pontius Pilate brought two men before the multitude. He asked for one to be killed and the other to be set free.

A scarlet rope was put on the Lord's goat. A scarlet robe was put on Jesus. Matthew 27:28 - And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

Two men stood before Pontius Pilate. One was Jesus, the Christ. The other was Barabbas.

It was the custom to release one prisoner at the Passover. Barabbas was guilty of murder and sentenced to die for his crimes (Mark 15:7). Jesus was

accused of being the King of the Jews.

Pontius Pilate brought Jesus and Barabbas before the crowd and asked which one they wanted released. The people chose Barabbas.

Jesus was sacrificed like the Lord's goat. He became our substitute and died in our place.

Barabbas was set free like the scapegoat. This is a picture of Jesus dying for our sins and us walking away free.

"I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more"

(Hebrews 8:12)

After the High Priest released the scapegoat he washed his hands. (Exodus 30:19, Leviticus 16:24) Do you remember what Pontius Pilate did when he released Barabbas? He washed his hands. (Matthew 27:24)

The High Priest sprinkled the blood of the Lord's goat in the Holy Place on earth. Jesus, our High Priest, sprinkled

His own blood in the Holy Place in Heaven (Hebrews 9:11-12 and 12:24).

Pretty interesting similarities, right? We talk about goats, and more recently, the popularity of the term or acronym G.O.A.T. meaning 'The Greatest Of All Time' - well, my goat is the G.O.A.T. and that is Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

Here's something different: OT - The sins of Israel were forgiven for one year (Leviticus 16:34). NT - Through Jesus, our sins are forgiven forever. God said, "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more" (Hebrews 8:12).

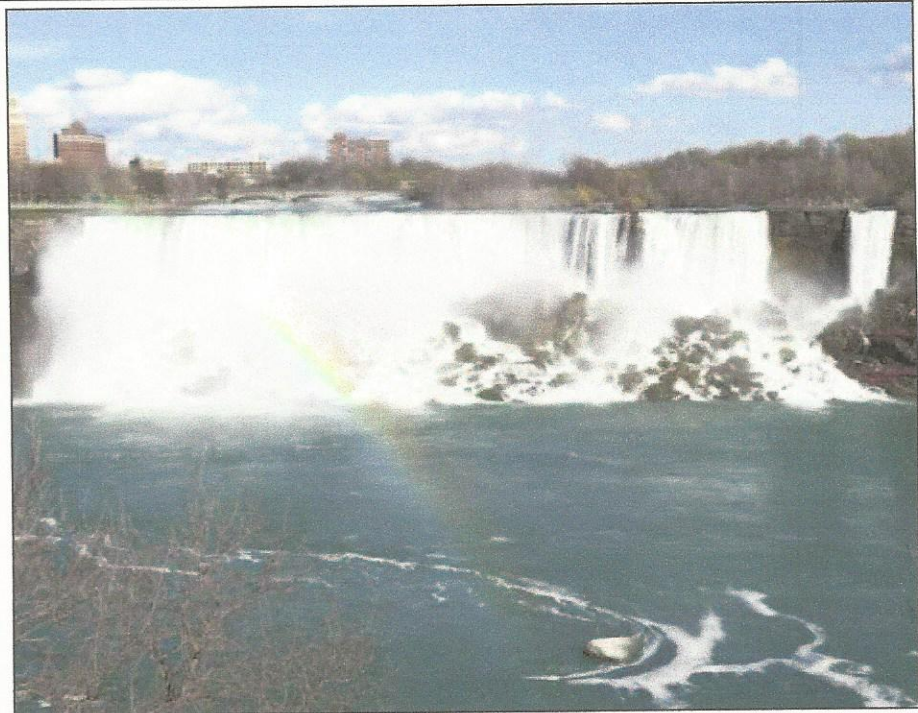
Innocent Jesus took the blame, and we are like the guilty Barabbas who just walked away free.

Stand in the Gap

(Continued From Page 2)

By Brian Violette

"Her prophets plastered them with untempered mortar, seeing false visions, and divining lies for them, saying, 'Thus says the Lord God,' when the Lord had not spoken. The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord God." God chose these leaders to lead a moral society. He chose these priests to teach right living, and the worship of God. But the problem was that these respected people failed to keep their God-given duties. They did not distinguish between the holy and the unholy. They had not made known the difference between the unclean and the clean. So instead of standing tall, these leaders blended in, making no difference between holy living and worldly living. They got lost in the shuffle. These people were supposed to adhere to higher standards, and be an example for the nation. The priests no longer carried out their



NIAGARA FALLS. PHOTO CREDIT: TANYA HAY

"So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap" (Ezekiel 22:30)

God-given duties. The bottom line is that these leaders neglected their duty of serving God as well as serving the people. So I would like to make two applications. First, believer, are you standing for your call of duty? And second, believers, like leaders, are to be difference makers in the lives of others. Are you making a

difference in the lives of others, in a way that draws peoples' thoughts to God? Remember, God has our backs. He is our strength. Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Remember, our chief victory is already won through Christ. Our salvation is secure. God has provided believ-

ers with sufficient armor to fight off the enemy. Let the truth of Scripture fend off all attacks. Press on. Continue to exalt Him whose Name is above every name, the Lion and the Lamb, Jesus Christ! (To listen to the full sermon, please visit www.firmfoundationri.com.)