

On The Frontier

“For the glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

A Miss is as Good as a Mile

by Linus A. Mathis III

This morning a celebrated astronomer announced that an asteroid would impact the earth in the year 2028. Attending this forecast was the obligatory mandate of doom. Comparisons were drawn against past (suspected, not proven) "impacts" and the devastation each of them had wrought. The prediction of the energy to be released at time of contact was likened to the combined force of many powerful nuclear devices. This, they claimed, would produce 100 foot high tidal waves, 6,000 square miles of fire and ultimately, global cooling. Which, according to this prognosticator, could mark the end of life as we know it. Our weather patterns could be forever altered, our growing seasons halted, perhaps eliminated. A famine of vast proportions would most surely be upon us. This, they say, is what happened to the dinosaurs! Oh Lord! If those mighty beasts could not withstand such a force how could mankind possibly fare?

Man!!! All I really wanted was the weather and sports. I wanted to know who was leading in the Iditarod (a long and grueling sled dog race held in Alaska each year)! I wanted to know if it was going to snow! I didn't want to know about an asteroid impact. All of these doomsday predictions give me indigestion anyway. I'd much prefer to hear about the simple promise

God made Noah after the flood.

Genesis 8:20-22

And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

That settles it for me! As long as the earth remains, the natural order of the seasons and plantings must continue. With or without El niño. That doesn't mean that earth won't have her share of challenges or natural disasters. Which sort of makes one wonder how we got to the place of considering the disastrous as "natural" (like dying from "natural causes," *sic*). But, everything must last until the appointed time has arrived and I am certain we will not get that time from Reuters (an on-line news service). Nevertheless, there is a time coming when this heaven and earth are to be replaced.

Revelation 21:1-4

And I saw a new heaven and a

new earth: for the first [former] heaven and the first [former] earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

What wonderful truths from God's magnificent Word! To live throughout all eternity with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! To be with our God and family for ever and ever! Wow!!! There certainly is nothing dreadful in that. Is there?

Verses 5-7

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life

freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

He that overcometh has a lot to look forward to. But who is he?

I John 5:1-5

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

For whatsoever [whosoever] is born of God overcometh the world: *and* this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Have you made him Lord in your life? If you haven't, here's how.

Romans 10:9,10

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto

salvation.

If you have made him Lord in your life, you have overcome. *You* are "he that overcometh." That being the case you have an inheritance as well.

Romans 8:17

And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

I Peter 1:3-5

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Are we set for eternity or what! When the time comes for this old planet, and the heavens in which she is set, to be replaced you can rest assured that we will be well cared for. The truths of God's Word are so easily entreated. One wonders why so many prefer the mental "sword of Damocles" dangled by the media. [Damocles was a Greek courtier of ancient Syracuse held to have been seated at a banquet beneath a sword hung by a single hair.]

Back to the news release about the asteroid impact. Which, I might add, rudely interrupted my search for Iditarod info, but did indeed give

me fodder for this article. By evening NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory was referencing it as "crying wolf." That's right, before the end of the same day they predicted the odds of asteroid XF11 (I can't believe they take the time to name them) impacting Earth at ANY time as 0. Just a slight error in calculation. You see, it isn't going to come quite as close as they projected. It will, in fact, pass by us at a distance of 600,000 miles. I guess a miss is as good as a mile. General consensus regarding an error of this proportion falls into the category of "no big deal." Isn't that something?

A tremendous amount of energy, time and money is spent on the quest to gather information about ECA's (Earth Crossing Asteroids) and NEO's (Near Flying Objects) only to be wrong. To make matters worse, we issue a nationwide press release of our findings before we are certain that our conclusions are substantiated. Are we apologetic? No. Are we embarrassed? Well maybe, but we'd NEVER admit that. Not as long as Chicken Little, Henny Penny, Turkey Lurkey and UFO's are alive and well. How else would we get paid? Besides, look how far we've come in being experts on UFO's.

Exactly what kind of expert is unable to identify that which he is expert in? (Isn't a UFO expert like fast food? Not really either.) Maybe they could study DFO's. Dangerous Flying Objects. In which case, I suggest that they start with words.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Matthew 12:37

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Words are VERY powerful! Written or spoken, they should be chosen carefully before they are believed.

Psalms 33:4

For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

II Peter 2:1,2

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

I Timothy 1:4

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

There are those who do give heed to them and the result is:

II Timothy 4:4a

And they shall turn away their

ears from the truth . . .

The way I see it, the most Dangerous Flying Objects are worldly words.

But I have bigger fish to fry. Consider how poorly God is represented. In fact, most of the time He's misrepresented. What makes it all the worse is that those who misrepresent Him are the very ones who are considered by many to be authoritative. The list is long so I'll keep it brief. For instance, how does one get born-again? You know, saved, redeemed. I know what you'd say, Romans 10:9 of course. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him (Jesus) from the dead. If you do that you shall (not maybe) be saved (born of God). But what are most pulpits telling folks to do? The sinners prayer. Confess your sins. Say, what if I missed one? There are so many. No big deal. Right? Wrong! Big deal. Why? Because you would still be un-saved. That is, if that's the way you get saved. But it isn't. Thank God! It's so easy to get saved. It's free too! Why doesn't it cost you anything? Because it cost God the life of His Son. He paid the price!

You see sin is not a problem, God took care of that when He gave His Son as the sin offering, the propitiation, the total payment for the sins of the world. No, sin is not a problem. But, rejection of the Saviour is. Denial of God's Word and His provision for man is.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

I Timothy 2:5,6

For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

There is NO OTHER WAY TO GOD. There is no other name given among men for salvation. If you try for salvation any other way you are going to fail and a miss is as good as a mile. Save YOUR efforts and accept HIS accomplishments.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Ephesians 2:8,9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God:

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

God is misrepresented when His Word is wrongly rendered. He is misrepresented when one section of His Word is elevated above another. He is misrepresented when the written Word is not the source for doctrine and practice. Perhaps the most repugnant of all is seen in the giving off of an appearance of piety while holding the words of men in higher esteem than those of the All Mighty.

Matthew 15:1-9

Then came to Jesus scribes and

Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying,

Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread.

But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is a gift*, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.

But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

God's Word tells us that there will be those who look godly but aren't.

II Timothy 3:5

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Turn a deaf ear to them.

We must be able to document what is being set forth from the written Word. If we cannot, then it is unacceptable for us to believe. On the other hand, when our present beliefs are challenged by the written Word, we must be willing to change. If something can be documented from the Word, if you can read it, even if it is diametrically opposed to all you hold to be true, change your thinking and believe it. It is possible for your mind to hold on to an un-biblical belief without even realizing it. When this comes to light it is a time for rejoicing. We want to believe that which is right. Then and only then will be assured of the proper results. Just because we hold something to be true doesn't make it so. You'll remember that the Earth was once believed to be flat. This was a widely held belief. One could say that they were missing the mark and a miss is as good as a mile. Isn't it?

However, there is a day coming when ALL will be changed and it isn't the "day of the comet." It will be a wonderful day. A day like no other!!

Isaiah 35:4-ff

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

Say to them *that are* of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *even* God *with* a recompence; he will come and save you.

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Then shall the lame *man* leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness

shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, *shall be* grass with reeds and rushes.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it *shall be* for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err *therein*.

No lion shall be there, nor *any* ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk *there*:

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A miss is as good as a mile and to miss the Word by a mile is not good!
