



On The Frontier



“For The Glory of God and the furtherance of the Gospel”

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Happy Holidays

God bless you richly in the glorious name of Jesus The Christ!

May glad tidings of great joy be your anthem through every waking hour of the new year. Of a truth our God has given us good Hope in the person of His Son and it is in this that we joy and rejoice.

My family and I love you very much and pray for you upon every remembrance. Regardless of what this season brings your way, we want you to know you are held close to our hearts. Miles may separate us but **NOTHING can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**In His love,
Linus, Sue and Family**

Isaiah 9:6

For a child is born to us, and a son is given to us, whose government is upon his shoulder: and his name is called the Messenger of great counsel: for I will bring peace upon the princes, and health to him. - - LXXE

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!!!

Editors Note#

This issue of "On The Frontier" contains a compilation of articles written for our local newspaper "The Frontiersman." By doing this we wish to give you, the reader, an idea of how news-media may be utilized to further the Gospel. Hopefully this will inspire you to pursue your local resources for the same purpose.

The Origin Of Fear

Fear is considered an emotional response or feeling. It's based upon an abhorrence to something or a perceived threat to safety. It ranges in intensity from moderate wariness to phobia and paranoia. Closely related terms describing linked emotions are: worry, anxiety, terror, fright, horror, panic and dread. Fear either diminishes freedom of action or it evokes irrational behavior. Fear is the greatest motivator put into practice today. We are conditioned to fear from the moment we are coherent. Viable exceptions are more properly called defense mechanisms. These are innate to both man and beast designed by the Creator for the proper continuance and well being of life. Two that come to mind are: fear of falling and fear of loud noises. These should be considered self-preservation "sensors" as they precede the release of adrenaline, e.g., stepping into an active roadway you're suddenly aware of a truck's high speed approach. What happens? Your adrenaline levels rise and you run out of harm's way. This is an essential reaction to an actual danger.

Proverbs 3:25a Be not afraid of sudden fear . . . (1769 AV)

As Franklin Roosevelt once said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." However, there's nothing wrong with good healthy self-defense mechanisms. They're proper and natural, e.g., fear of heights. Infants have this and it's designed to protect them. Puppies and kittens have it too. If you think not, then you've never been the first to pick up puppy. When you pick up puppy for the first time, the little rascal hugs you for all it's worth. Both puppy and baby must learn to trust that you will not drop them. Therein lies the rub. Fear, you see, erodes trust. Worldly agencies promulgate fear which countermands faith. This is why the Lord instructed Isaiah as follows:

Isaiah 8:11-13

For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying,

Say ye not, A confederacy, to all *them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid.*

Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and *let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.* (1769 AV)

[#Note that "fear" or "dread" in the sense of "God Fearing" means "To regard with reverence and awe".]

An alliance with ungodliness leads to an acceptance of same. Along with this, trust in God is lost and faith is replaced by fear. Fear conditioning takes place.

Proverbs 6:27

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? (1769 AV)

You cannot play with fire and not be burned, period! Today, the psychology of moving people is fear. If you don't do this, you'll get that. If you don't take this, you'll get sick from that, etc. Fear, fear, fear. All negative and unproductive, but all designed to motivate. An alternate and superior motivator is love. Of the two, fear produces the swiftest results. However, fear leaves scars whereas love does not. Fear is bondage, it paralyzes and debilitates. Fear stops you from doing what you should and gets you to do what you know you shouldn't. The fear that man brings incapacitates you.

Proverbs 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. (1769 AV)

Trusting in the Lord is what delivers us from fear. Fear and faith are mutually exclusive, you cannot have one where the other is present.

Psalms 34:4

I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. (1769 AV)

Today we're taught to "cope" with our fears. The promise of God is, if you seek Him, He will DELIVER you from ALL your fears. There's a big difference between coping with and being delivered from. When confronted by fear, seeking the Lord is the answer. This is true, thus the opposite must

somehow be connected to fear's origin.

In the beginning God gave the man Adam a single command:

Genesis 2:16&17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (1769 AV)

Obedience was called in question! Not apples!

When confronted by the Serpent, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's command. This left them in the following state:

Genesis 3:10

And he [Adam] said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. (1769 AV)

What to do now . . . ?

To be continued:

The Origin Of Fear Part Two

Previously we exposed fear for what it is. A powerful but negative motivator. We understand that the natural occurrence of fear in both man and beast has the Divine purpose of self preservation. As a self-defense mechanism there are two basic fears, loud noises and heights. All other fears are learned,

some with the deliberate goal of producing a conditioned response.

Fear is debilitating. Fear binds, encases and enslaves. Fear prevents us from being the type of men and women we want to be. Fear causes us to do what we shouldn't and stops us from doing what we should. We have learned that fear and faith are antithetical. Where there is fear there cannot be faith and where there is faith there is no fear. It should also be noted that perfect love (also a motivator) casts out fear.

I John 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. (1769 AV)

God is love (I John 4:8) and love and fear are mutually exclusive, as are fear and faith. God is not responsible for our fears nor does He use fear as a motivation to repent. Consequently, when "fire and brimstone" are used as motivators, such action must be considered ungodly. Consider the following:

Romans 2:4

Or is it that you think slightly of His infinite goodness, forbearance and patience, unaware that the goodness of God is gently drawing you to repentance? (1912 Weymouth)

II Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (1769 AV)

Not only does fear not come from God, but He will deliver us from all

our fears even as He did for King David.

Psalms 34:4

I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. (1995 Revised Webster Bible)

It is of note to reiterate at this point that "fear" or "dread" in the sense of "God Fearing" means "To regard with reverence and awe."

Since fear does not come from God, where does it come from and how did it originate?

In our last article we left you to consider Adam's plight. The following chronicles Adam's condition immediately following his disobedience to God's command:

Genesis 3:9-10

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. (1769 AV)

This is the first record of fear in the Bible. Prior to this event Adam had an intimate, loving relationship with God. Something happened to change that. But what?

When God brought Adam into existence, He made him a three part being.

Genesis 2:7

And the Lord God made man from the dust of the earth, breathing into him the breath of life: and man became a living soul. (1965 BBE)

God formed Adam's body from the dust and breathed soul life into him. Adam was body and soul. However, Adam lacked spirit. [Note# there's a difference between spirit and soul]

Genesis 1:27a

And God created man in his own image, . . . (1901 ASV)

What is the image of God? Obviously we don't all look alike! It cannot be in physical appearance.

John 4:24a

God is a Spirit . . . (1769 AV)

His image is spirit! God gave man spirit, this was the Crown of Creation! Now Adam is a three-part being. Body (formed of the dust), soul (made alive) and spirit (God's image created in man).

Isaiah 43:7

Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him (1769 AV)

Adam had one command. He knew he would die the very day he disobeyed. Yet after being disobedient he lived on. What died? Spirit, man's connection with God! This is the nakedness that made him afraid. Adam was spiritually (not physically) naked and hid in fear from the God he once loved. Sin and death now held sway. It is this breach that Jesus Christ came to repair. His sacrificed life made possible the redemption of mankind. And on the day of Pentecost spirit for believing man was reinstated.

Jesus told the disciples that they would be clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

What is power from on high? What did it mean to them? What does it mean to us? What about fear and death?

I Thessalonians 5:23

And the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved entire, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1901 ASV)

The Origin Of Fear Conclusion

Adam's disobedience opened the door for sin to enter. Along with sin came sickness and death. At that very moment of disobedience, Adam lost his most precious possession, a spiritual connection with God. God's Word chronicles Adam's altered condition.

Genesis 3:7-10

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where *art* thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I *was* naked; and I hid myself. (1769 AV)

They knew something had changed! God had made them three part beings. He gave them bodies, soul life for their bodies and His spirit. They had but one command in a world of abundance. They were unrestricted, unfettered and untainted. Until they chose to break that one single directive.

Genesis 2:16&17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (1769 AV)

Much speculation has been given regarding the identity of this "tree." Theologians have suggested everything from illicit, lustful acts to the eating of apples. However, if you wish to know what God is saying you must study His Word. Having done that, we find He never tells us what this "tree" is. Thus, we shall never know. The answer is not contained in the particulars of Adam and Eve's disobedient act, but in the act of disobedience itself. The whole point is, they disobeyed. At which time they both died, just as God had said. The critics contend that they both lived on for a number of years producing children. What they do not want to understand is what it was that died.

Adam and Eve had two life forms, i.e., spirit and soul. It was not their soul (breath life) that died that day but their spirit. This God had given them upon condition. The moment they disobeyed they lost it. The Bible defines such an absence as death. They died spiritually.

This reality is what constituted Adam's nakedness. He knew he no longer had a connection with God and consequently felt bare and vulnerable before Him. Adam then did two things: 1. He tried to cover himself with his own works (first act of religion). 2. He hid in fear (first mention of fear for man). Modern man still hides from God, riddled with fear and guilt. Man still agonizes vainly hoping his religion will make him righteous and acceptable. A task only God is suited for.

Adam's disobedience was sin and with sin there's sickness, death and fear. This is the origin of fear and the introduction of death. The latter being the root source of ALL fear!

God sent His Son to reconcile fallen man by becoming the sacrifice for sin and making possible spirit for man. This spirit would make man once again a three part being with a spiritual connection to the Almighty.

Jesus said to the disciples:

Luke 24:49

And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high. (1901 ASV)

The Father's promise is power from on high!

Acts 1:8a

But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit (not capitalized in the text) is come upon you: . . (1901 ASV)

God's promised gift of holy spirit is power from on high! For the

disciples that meant they would be spiritually clothed, no longer spiritually naked! Not a mutation, but the way God originally intended, a three part being. Body, soul and spirit.

This is the beginning of the promise of man's redemption from sin and its consequence. The consequence of sin being death [Romans 6:23]. The gift of God is the answer to man's dilemma and the solution to all of man's fears.

Hebrews 2:14&15

Since therefore the children partake of blood and flesh, he also, in like manner, took part in the same, that through death he might annul him who has the might of death, that is, the devil;

and might set free all those who through fear of death through the whole of their life were subject to bondage. (1884 Darby)

Accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and be delivered from the fear of death!

Who Were The Wise men?

It should seem odd to you, if not exceptionally disquieting, that of all the belief systems in extant the one most often censured is Christianity. Ironically, it's often tradition that's under fire not truth. One must pause and ask why? The short answer is, in most instances, tradition has supplanted truth. Tradition is that which man and culture develops. Culture generally guards its own tradition. Even

though changes and deletions take place over time, traditions tend to survive generations. By truth I mean the Bible which records all things relevant to godly faith and practice. Any other source is nothing more than a cheap and inaccurate imitation. Of course we are still under obligation to do as II Timothy 2:15 commands.

Today there's a movement underfoot to remove the Nativity Scene from public areas and government buildings (somehow the emblems of non-Christian religions are exempt). They say these displays are a government endorsement of a religion. Those who defend the display say it's secular not religious. Which is it? To determine that we will have to examine the Scripture. Any information regarding the birth of Jesus must be taken from the Bible as that's THE only reliable source. Others are tainted and fallible. For this study we shall use the AKJV.

Matthew 2:1

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men (*magos*) from the east to Jerusalem, (1769 AV)

The Greek in the Stephens Text of 1550 (New Testament translation source) uses the following words for "wise": *phronimos* = quick to perceive AND *sophos* = skilled expert. For "man or men" the Greek word is *aner* from *anthropos* = human being . In Matthew 2:1 there's but one Greek word (*magos*) which the translators rendered as "wise men." I'm certain these men were wise but *magos* should have been translated as Magi.

They were a religious sect (taught by Daniel during his captivity in Persia) of astronomers who studied the constellations for the promised birth of the Messiah. [Note# The Word was in the stars long before being written or perverted by astrologers.]

Tradition holds that there were three of them. This idea came from the three gifts they gave, i.e., gold, frankincense and myrrh. The number of gifts doesn't dictate the number of givers. Both protocol and culture demanded valuable gifts such as these to honor the birth of a king. Certainly an event of this magnitude demanded the presence of more than three Magi. They traveled in caravans of 30-50. Being from Persia they had a great distance to travel. The only safe way to travel such distances would be in a caravan. Traveling in such a small number as three would invite highwaymen to waylay them.

By the time the Magi arrived Jesus was a toddler of about two years old.

Matthew 2:16

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men. (1769 AV)

They found the young child Jesus in a house not a baby in a manger.

Matthew 2:11a

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young

child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: (1769)

The Magi never saw Jesus as an infant. But shepherds watching over their flock did.

An angel of the Lord appeared unto them and said:

Luke 2:11&12

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (1769 AV)

There's as big a difference between a babe and a young child as there is between a house and a manger.

God sent the birth announcement of His Son to simple, believing shepherds not to the religious hierarchy or the rich and famous! Bigger than religion, fame or fortune is the birth of God's Son! The greatest event in His-story is ours to rejoice in!

The Nativity Scene has included; oxen, lambs, donkeys, drummer boys, holly boys, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, etc. Has it become a secular display? Yes, but go ahead and enjoy it. Let no one impugn your celebration. Because at the end of the day what matters is: "For unto us a child is born . . ."

This is America and you still have the right to worship in accordance to the dictates of your heart.

It's nice to know the truth, isn't it!

The Birth Of Jesus Christ

All scripture taken from the Authorized King James Version.

Biblical scholars worth "their salt" have attested for centuries, that Jesus Christ was not born in December. The Romans celebrated the "Saturnalia," for the birth of their sun-god in December. Historical records indicate that the Romish church sanctioned this date as Christ's birth in the third century. A special mass was then initiated for Christ. Hence, the name "Christ-mass" shortened to "Christmas". Along with this date, celebrations, traditions and customs associated with Saturnalia were accepted and incorporated into the remembrance of our Lord's birth.

We know from a study of God's Word, history and astronomy that Christ was born in the fall. Sadly, this truth has been lost in the traditions of men and the coffers of merchants. It's hard to think of "Jesus as the reason for the season" when crushed by the weight of unreasonable debt burgeoned by the non-stop deluge of commercialism. It's also difficult to keep Christ in "Christmas" when one is not Roman Catholic. The Mass being a celebration of the Eucharist, a reference to the Lord's Supper. This word comes from the Greek "*eucharistia*" meaning thanksgiving and is used to emphasize our Lord's giving of thanks before establishing the communion memorial. Mass is from the Latin *missa* meaning "dismissal." This word has been extracted from "*ite missa est*" a Latin phrase meaning "said at the

end of a ritual." Catholicism defines the Mass as: "The victim is one and the same: the same now offers through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross; only the manner of offering is different. And since in this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and offered in an unbloody manner... this sacrifice is truly propitiatory" (Doctrina de ss. Missae sacrificio, c. 2, quoted in Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1367). Clearly, the notion of Mass originated with the Romish church. Yet this appellation and doctrine, i.e., Christ-mass in December, has suffused both Christian and secular terminology and understanding.

Most Bible scholars put the Lord's birth in the time period between late August and early October. The most convincing research I've seen and studied from biblical, chronological, historical and astronomical evidence points to Wednesday, September 11, 3 B.C., between the hours of 6:18 PM and 7:39 PM Palestine time. I've known this truth for decades and if you will but consider this date, it will blow your mind. Unless you believe in coincidences. But I do not.

Dates aside, it's far more important THAT Jesus was born then WHEN. But since we wish to understand our Savior's birth we study God's Word. Thus, we see that on that September evening the Bible catalogs no drummer boys, flying angels or talking donkeys. Only simple shepherds with Mary and Joseph in a quiet rejoicing to God for His unspeakable gift. The Magi from the east, erroneously called three kings, did not appear until a year and a half later as they

followed "his star." (These men were the subject of a previous article and are not our present consideration.)

Luke 2:1

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed [registered or enrolled].

This registration forced political allegiance to Caesar Augustus in preparation for his Silver Jubilee as Roman Emperor. Registrations were typically conducted in fall. The first of these being made in 3 B.C.

Luke 2:4&5

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David).

To be taxed [registered] with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Luke 2:7

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn [because of visiting registrants in need of lodging].

Luke 2:8

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Luke 2:10&11

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

I don't advocate you change the way you celebrate or observe our Lord's birth. But it's nice to know the truth so that you can make informed decisions!

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!

NOTES