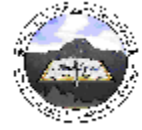




On The Frontier



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

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Editors Note#

For the present “On The Frontier” will consist of a compilation of articles previously written for a column in “The Frontiersman,” our local newspaper. 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.

How We Got The Bible Part Four

We have been considering the topic of how the Bible came to be. As we pursue this understanding we must continually acknowledge the Bible as the written, revealed, Word of God. There may be many “writers” but there is only one Author.

The Bible is not to be catalogued with the works of men. The Bible is not a history book, but when it speaks on history it is unerring. The Bible is not simply a work of literature, though it is the finest literary work in existence.

The Bible is the revealed Word and Will of God. Consequently, we must first understand how we got God’s Word (as revealed in the Bible). To do this we consult the Bible. Not what men have to say about it, but what it has to say for itself. Any and all information of any reliability about the Bible must be taken from the Bible. Men come and go, but the Word of the Lord lives and abides forever.

II Peter 1:20-21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost. (1769 Authorized Version)

The very first thing to understand is that the Word of God is not subject to private interpretation. Why? Because men did not “will” the prophecy into being. It came when holy men of God (men upon whom God put His spirit) spake as they were moved (the Word was brought forth) by holy spirit.

Since we dare not interpret it, it then must interpret itself. And it does, either in the verse (right where it is written), context or prior usage. Therefore, we do not seek outside sources for their “interpretation.” No scholar, minister or historian can speak more authoritatively on God’s Word than God Himself.

Notice this record as penned by the great Apostle Paul:

Galatians 1:11-12

But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1769 Authorized Version)

These holy men of God would speak first, and later as God gave them leave, they would write.

Any spiritually minded person will acknowledge the following:

I Corinthians 14:37

If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord. (1769 Authorized Version)

There are some who claim that Moses did not write certain sections of God’s Word. That, however, is the statement of foolish, arrogant men, not the testimony of God’s Word.

Exodus 17:14a

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this *for* a memorial in a book, . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Exodus 34:27a

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words: (1769 Authorized Version)

The Word also identifies other holy men of God given the same charge, i.e., write.

Jeremiah 36:2a

Take thee a roll (scroll) of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

Revelation 1:11a

Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book . . . (1769 Authorized Version)

These are but a few of the testimonies of God’s Word on the

subject of writing what God told men to write. For simplicity's sake, think of it as dictation. God spoke and they wrote. There are many other ways to prove this and given space and time much more documentation can easily be supplied for those who desire it.

If we want to know God's Word we must study the literature of eternity and ignore the literature of today. What the Bible has to say about itself is principal, what men have to say about it is of no consequence.

As God's Word the Bible is not full of "stories." Rather it is a divinely crafted record of God's Will. For instance, when the Bible gives the account of Joseph being sold into slavery, it's a record of that event NOT a story.

Far too many "ministers" and "theologians" deceive the hungry searcher into thinking the Bible is a compilation of stories or myths.

Consider the biblical record:

I Timothy 1:4

Neither give heed to fables [*muthos* = myths and stories] and endless genealogies [*genealogia* = records of decent or lineage], which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *so do*. (1769 Authorized Version)

Titus 1:14

Not giving heed to Jewish fables [*muthos* = myths and stories], and commandments of men, that turn from the truth. (1769 Authorized Version)

I Timothy 4:7a

But refuse profane and old wives' fables [*muthos* = myths and stories], and exercise

thyself *rather* unto godliness. (1769 Authorized Version)

You decide who to believe, men or the Bible!

March 4, 2007

How We Got The Bible Part Five

In this series we've seen how the Bible was translated from ancient manuscripts. The original languages were Hebrew for the Old Testament and Greek for the New. There are also some Aramaic manuscripts. Once these translations were reworked they became versions.

We have also acknowledged the additions added to the text by the scholars who worked it. The originals had no punctuation, no upper or lower case letters, no chapter or verse references, no chapter headings and no red letter text. All of which were intended as helps and aids for the Bible student. However, they are misleading at times and never to be considered as having any Divine authority. We thus conclude that no Bible scholar (recent or otherwise) dare add to or delete from the information gathered from these critical manuscripts. The same would apply to the Bible itself. Even should they be legion who would elevate their vapid egos above the Word of God, we would do well to consider them the anathema their words declare them to be.

Revelation 22:18-19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the

prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. (1769 Authorized Version)

The Bible is not full of stories and myths, men are! History is full of those who stop at nothing to further their own desires. Their labors are aimed at discrediting God Himself. Men come and go, but the Word of God lives and abides forever. Who would you rather believe? The man whose hollow words die with him, or the Word of the Living God! Just what do they believe who think the Bible is a "story" book? What is their "Christian" rule for faith and practice if not the Bible?

Perhaps the greatest secret in the world today is that the Bible is the revealed Word AND Will of God! Many believe the Bible to be the Word of God but few believe it to be His Will. Now that you know, you need never again pray "Lord IF it be thy will."

I John 5:14-15

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (1769 Authorized Version)

The following record is possibly the most concise explanation in all the Bible of how we got this wonderful Word of God:

Jeremiah 36:1-4

And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, *that* this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

Take thee a roll [scroll] of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day.

It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll [scroll] of a book. (1769 Authorized Version)

God spoke to Jeremiah who spoke to Baruch who then wrote it down.

His purpose for doing this is sated clearly in verse 3.

Here again:

It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.

All got to hear this Word when Baruch read it to them per Jeremiah's charge. But the king and others rejected the Word and treated it disrespectfully by cutting it up and burning it. What they could not do was dispense with the Author.

Jeremiah 36:27-28

Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying,

Take thee again another roll (scroll), and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll (scroll), which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned. (1769 Authorized Version)

You can bind men, but not God!

II Timothy 2:8-10

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, *even* unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Reject the apostates and take God at His Word!

March 18, 2007

Demand Accuracy In Your Acquisition Of Knowledge

God's Word is very clear regarding His Will for mankind.

I Timothy 2:4

who is willing for all mankind to be saved and come to a full knowledge of the truth. (1912 Weymouth Version)

Many Christians are enthusiastic about the first part of this verse, but complacent or ignorant regarding the second. They settle for opinions, experiences and denominational creeds.

We should both desire and demand accurate Bible teachings. If the outcry were loud enough, the "powers that be" would have to comply or abandon the lectern. We should settle for nothing less in our Churches and fellowships.

This same demand for accuracy must be applied to all material dispensed in public school. Especially text books and teaching curriculums. Consider Intelligent Design vs. Evolution. The debate rages over which if either (or both) should be taught. The demand for accuracy would settle this.

There are no less than 16 theses which refute Darwinian Evolution. Why are these valid scientific arguments not considered when printing text books? Darwinian Evolution is based upon several logical fallacies, in particular a "post hoc propter hoc" type of argument. Post hoc means after the fact. Hence the, post hoc ergo propter hoc (after this therefore because of this) fallacy. This is based upon the erroneous notion that because one thing happens

after another the first is cause of the second. This is confusing concurrent relationships with causes. Additionally, the term "survival of the fittest" is a tautology predicting an undefined winner. One which can only be identified by the outcome of the competition. This tautology is ambiguous at best. A tautology being an empty or vacuous statement composed of simpler statements in a fashion that makes it logically true whether the statements are true to fact or not. For example, "Either it will snow tomorrow or it will not. This "circular reasoning" is a vain attempt to prove itself by repetition.

From all current appearances the DNA molecule simply occurred intact as we see it today. Where did it come from? This should be a serious question set forth by the fields of science and biology. Why then is it not? Why should we continue to promulgate the 150 year old notions of those who had no clue as to the "origins of life?"

Consider this, Darwin himself offered important criterion by which to test his theory. He said, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory would absolutely break down."

Keep that in mind and consider this, Darwin added a chapter to his book, called "Difficulties on Theory," in which he openly admitted the existence of difficulties in the following terms: "Such is the sum of the several chief objections and difficulties which may justly be urged against my theory. I have felt these

difficulties far too heavily during many years to doubt their weight."

Understand also that to Darwin the cell and its inner workings were a mystery. Today we understand the complex inner workings of molecular machinery and cellular systems. Science has discovered a phenomenon known as "irreducible complexity." This is based on empirical evidence and literally constitutes the antithesis of Darwin's theory. To Darwin it was a mystery, but not to modern science.

All the actions of living organisms are an integral result of the DNA molecule and thus pre-ordained in the molecule when formed and before life begins. This has assuredly existed in its current form since the beginning of all organic life. Therefore, organic life demands an explanation outside of the current evolutionary theory.

All the errors in Darwinian theory can be disproved by the scientific method alone. No reference to a belief system is required. Anyone claiming to be a "scientist" believing evolution to be factual is biased to the point that their opinions on *any* topic involved with the field of biology must be deemed suspect. In truth this is no different than the opinions (when not based on biblical accuracy) of those others call "Bible thumpers."

We must demand accuracy and a full disclosure of truth in academic AND Church environs. For too long the "ambitious" have engineered lies. Ask about the Dinosaur Wars, Java man, Piltdown man, Nebraska man, Lucy and the Cardiff giant. Hoaxes and propaganda to gain fame and fortune. And ask your Christian minister what they base their

beliefs upon and what they think of the Divine Authority of the Bible. If they elevate their opinion above the Scripture, you might want to look elsewhere for spiritual counsel.

Don't take my word for it, do a little research on your own. Consider the Bereans!

Acts 17:11b

... they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (1769 Authorized Version).

April 1, 2007

Postscript:

To date the above article has not been challenged by any of our local "scientific minds." Other articles written by Christian ministers endeavoring to discredit Darwinism and promote Intelligent Design have been viciously attacked. They have labeled the authors as religious nuts. These nay-sayers have been swift to reject the Bible as having no part in school. And sadly those in charge hold to the fictitious "separation of Church and State" ideology.

However, it seems even the God rejecting among the field of science cannot argue with accuracy and must then remain silent or appear ignorant. The educators in charge have also avoided challenging our call for accuracy.

In case you are wondering, we have an abundance of "scientific minds" in our little community and only one newspaper.

Liberty & Justice For All

God is not a respecter of persons.

Romans 2:11

For there is no respect of persons with God. (1769 Authorized Version)

God's love is unconditional, irrevocable and never based upon title, position or achievement. God recognizes no external distinctions in man.

I Samuel 16:1, 3, 6, 7

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

And call Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will shew thee what thou shalt do: and thou shalt anoint unto me *him* whom I name unto thee.

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD'S anointed *is* before him.

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart [*lebab* = innermost part or seat of the mind, i.e., what really makes you who and what you are]. (1769 Authorized Version)

People look on the outside. But not God, He looks on the inside!

When we speak of the "heart" we are not speaking of the muscular organ found in the chest. That organ has no mind or intelligence outside of cellular programming. Incredible though it may be, it cannot influence or alter how or what we think. When we speak of a good or evil heart we are speaking of the "heart" of the mind. Saying a person has a big heart or a lot of heart is a figurative expression of their mettle. We use the word "backbone" in this vein as well. It is universally understood that neither are being spoken of in a literal sense.

Do heart transplant recipients become the organ donor who gifted them? The mere notion is ridiculous! The recipient of a heart transplant is merely receiving a muscular pump from another individual. And, though I am not well versed on the device, medical science is working on an artificial heart for transplant patients. It is understood by all that this machine has no mind or identity of its own either. I bring this up because, incredible though it may seem, there are those who think the heart in mans chest has the power to influence thought and emotion. This is in fact a major tenet among the many polytheistic Eastern religions.

For real change you must address the heart of your mind. Trendy notions aside, we live life from the inside out. Better abdominal muscles (good abs aka a "six-pack") will not make you a better person. Yet we are continually led to believe changing our outward appearance will change our lives.

Jesse had many fine looking sons but David, the youngest, was God's choice.

I Samuel 16:12

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he *was* ruddy, *and* withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this *is* he. (1769 Authorized Version)

The Scripture declares David as a man after God's own heart!

Acts 13:22

And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. (1769 Authorized Version)

Your heart is what God wants!

Proverbs 23:26

My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. (1769 Authorized Version)

Faith is a matter of heart as well!

Romans 10:8

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach

I Timothy 1:5

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *of* a good conscience, and *of* faith unfeigned:

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that

he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (1769 Authorized Version)

There is no preferential treatment with God, but He does endorse condition.

I Timothy 4:10

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. (1769 Authorized Version)

To have faith and believe one must have God's Word.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

To say one has heard from God apart from believing the written Word is a lie and a defamation of God's veracity.

I John 5:10

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. (1769 Authorized Version)

I John 2:4

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (1769 Authorized Version)

I John 1:10

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1769 Authorized Version)

Proverbs 30:6

Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar

1 John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 John 5:3

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

How can you keep His commandments if you do not know what they are? How can you believe His Word if you have not heard it? How can you hear it if no one speaks it? How can you be pleasing to Him if you do not know what He finds pleasing?

Romans 10:11-15

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the

gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (1769 Authorized Version)

God loves equity and never desires others to benefit from our loss. Men ask this of us. There is no shortage of special interests demanding we act Christian, not truly knowing or caring what that means. Remember, Jesus Christ died for you that you might live for God. His Word then is utmost.

Romans 12:1,2

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which* is your reasonable [*logikos* = logical] service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (1769 Authorized Version)

II Corinthians 8:13

For *I mean* not that other men be eased, and ye burdened: (1769 Authorized Version)

Thus we know it is wrong to burden the worker with the slacker, the moral with the immoral or the responsible with the irresponsible. One man's increase should never equal another's loss. In any transaction both parties are to be equally blessed. How do I know? The Bible tells me so.

Proverbs 11:1

A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

April 15, 2007

God Is Light & In Him Is No Darkness At All

We have all been witness to or heard of unimaginable cruelty. It seems the least deserving and most promising among us pay the dearest price. Justice and fair play seem distant. Decent human beings are made to suffer or die while the miscreants who violated them seem to go unpunished. Angst ridden mankind lacks answers so they seek out the “experts.” Yet, none of them seem to have answers that truly satisfy. There are however, satisfying answers to be had. But only if you look in the right place.

The Bible is that place! But the Bible is not for everybody. It is not for the God rejecter and agnostic. It is not for the unbelieving and idolatrous. It is not for the naysayer or those who elevate science above scripture. It is not for the religionist holding to self-righteousness.

It is for the believer, for those who want answers. It is for you who love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. It is for us, we who hunger and thirst for righteousness.

On to some biblical answers then:

God is not responsible for death, the devil is. Yes, there is a devil!

Hebrews 2:14

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of

death, that is, the devil; (1769 Authorized Version)

One prominently lacking aspect in the non-answers provided by the “spiritual” pundits queried in these painful times is that they never mention the existence of the devil. Sin and man’s sinful nature is rarely mentioned either. Some may be so bold as to call certain events or individuals evil, but that’s usually as far as it goes. Why? Because, anyone mentioning the devil these days is automatically labeled a “nut-job” and no longer taken seriously.

Don’t you think it odd that a person claiming to believe the Bible and God denies the existence of the devil?

Let me set the record straight for you. There is a devil and if you are a Christian he is your adversary. He is the one responsible for influencing men to do unspeakable evil.

If you acknowledge God and His Word, you know there is a devil. There is a True God and a false one.

II Corinthians 4:3-4

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

In whom the god of this world [aeon = age] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (1769 Authorized Version)

The Bible says there are two gods, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and the devil who is the god of this age. The good news is, our God is God of gods.

Jesus said:

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly. (1769 Authorized Version)

The devil has many names in the Bible, all given for the purpose of exposing a particular aspect of his nature. Such as; serpent, dragon, devil, Satan, the tempter, the accuser, Beelzebub, prince of the power of the air, prince of devils, prince of this world and Abaddon.

All of these refer to the same spiritual entity and he is the epitome of evil. God, on the other hand, is all good.

I John 1:5

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

(1769 Authorized Version)

Exodus 34:6-7

And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear *the guilty*; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children’s children, unto the third and to the fourth *generation*.

(1769 Authorized Version)

Two other reasons for evil are sin and man’s sin-nature. Since

Adam's disobedient act in the Garden, both have been with us along with the devil.

Romans 5:12,19

Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

For as by one man's disobedience [Adam] many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [Jesus] shall many be made righteous. (1769 Authorized Version)

There is evil in the world and the "intelligence" behind it is God's archenemy, the devil. Man's sin-nature and sin make the devil's objectives possible. To ignore him only makes his job easier.

You cannot stand against an enemy by disregarding his existence.

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (1769 Authorized Version)

The devil hates to be made known. He relies on secrecy to be successful. I trust this article to be an uncomfortable disclosure for him!

April 29, 2007

Happy Mother's Day!

We would like to wish a happy Mother's Day to all of our precious mothers. They are the ones who bound up our wounds, cleaned up our messes, did our laundry,

cooked our meals, checked our schoolwork and sat with us when we fell ill. And as we grew and explored our social boundaries, mom sacrificed many a night of sleep. And every mother knows that does not end until she passes on. Our wonderful dads do the same thing but none can deny the centrality of mom's role. It would be a tragedy indeed to relegate our display of appreciation to only one day a year. We need to show our indebtedness daily, not annually. Notwithstanding, we wish them all a very happy Mother's Day!

I am denied this privilege as my mom fell asleep many years ago. I will never forget who she was and what she did for me.

After becoming a minister my mom wrote me a letter and in it told me that God had answered another prayer for her. You see, when I was yet a little boy she prayed that someday I would serve God. What could be more beautiful, tender and powerful than a mother's prayer for her child? I long for our Lord's Return when I shall once again see her face-to-face. What a day that will be!

That we honor our mothers is a commandment of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:2-3

honour thy father and mother,

The above verse is reiterating one of the ten commandments, making this a primary directive. As we continue reading we find this command has a wonderful promise attached to it.

Verse 3:

which is the first command with a promise, 'That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live

a long time upon the land. (1898 Young's Literal Translation)

Who among us does not desire a long and fruitful life?

Genesis 3:20

And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living. (1769 Authorized Version)

Eve certainly was not perfect, seduced by the serpent she and Adam sinned thus creating a "chasm" between God and man. To close this breach, God would have to provide a redeemer. Since this problem came from man, the solution would have to come from man.

I Corinthians 15:21,22

For since by man *came* death, by man *came* also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1769 Authorized Version)

Romans 5:12-17

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead,

much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) (1769 Authorized Version)

Genesis 3:14-16

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou *art* cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow [labor] and thy conception; in sorrow [labor] thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire *shall be* to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. (1769 Authorized Version)

Not long after, Eve thought she had the promised seed.

Genesis 4:1

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. (1769 Authorized Version)

Sadly, this proved to be Cain.

Eve knew all women would have the physiological potential to bear the "seed" (Jesus the Christ). But it was not until many, many years later that a woman did in fact receive. That woman was Mary the mother of our Lord. God had to wait all those years for a suitable mother for His Son. But why? What set Mary apart? That answer is found in Mary's response to Gabriel's announcement regarding her first pregnancy (Jesus had half brothers and sisters, same mom different dad - Matthew 13:55,56; Mark 6:3).

Luke 1:38

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her. (1769 Authorized Version)

Mary was bound to serve the Lord and said . . . "be it unto me according to thy word"! A servant willing to make God's Word her will.

God NEVER violates man's free-will. He had to wait all those years for a woman who would make her will subservient to His Word. In doing this she gave birth to the Saviour, God's only begotten Son the Prince of Peace.

The origins of Mother's Day are mixed based on culture. Ours is fashioned after Juliet Ward Howe's vision of a holiday celebrating peacemaking.

Having said that, true peace is only available to those who accept the Prince of Peace! Happy Mother's Day to all and peace upon those that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. May 13, 2007

The Love of God

*The love of God is greater far
than tongue or pen can ever tell;
It goes beyond the highest star,
and reaches to the lowest hell.
The guilty pair, bowed down with care,
God gave his Son to win;
His erring child He reconciled,
and pardoned from this sin.
O love of God how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forever more endure.
The saint's and angels song!*

*When years of time shall pass away,
and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall.
When men who here refuse to pray,
on rocks and hills and mountains call.
God's love so sure shall still endure,
all measureless and strong;
Redeeming grace to Adam's race
the saint's and angels song.*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,
and were the skies of parchment made.
Were every stalk on earth a quill,
and every man a scribe by trade.
To write the love of God above
would drain the ocean dry;
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,
tho stretched from sky to sky.*

*O love of God how rich and pure!
How measureless and strong!
It shall forever more endure.
The saint's and angels song!*

Frederick M. Lehman

In 1917 Frederick M. Lehman wrote this song in Pasadena, California. He added the first two stanzas and a chorus to the lines of a poem which, after a patient's death, had been found penciled on the wall of his room in an insane asylum. General consensus is that this inmate, in moments of epic sanity, had adapted this poem from a centuries old Jewish poem called "Hadamut," written in 1096 by Rabbi Mayer. Others contend the poem was written in Aramaic in 1050 by Meir Ben Isaac Nehorai. Either way, this poem has been translated into at least eighteen different languages since then.

The original third stanza was as follows:

"Were the sky of parchment made, A quill each reed, each twig and blade, Could we with ink the oceans fill, Were every man a scribe of skill, The marvelous story, Of God's great glory Would still remain untold; For He, most high The earth and sky Created alone of old."

The man in the insane asylum reworked it to read as below:

"Could we with ink the ocean fill, And were the skies of parchment made, Were every stalk on earth a quill, And every man a scribe by trade, To write the love of God above Would drain the ocean dry; Nor could the scroll contain the whole, Tho stretched from sky to sky."
