

News and Current Events :: the beginning of the birthpangs..?

the beginning of the birthpangs..? - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/12/29 5:26

The Times, UK 29 December 2004

“Sumatra is thought to have moved by as much as 120ft and the Earth to have shifted on its axis

The earthquake responsible for the Asian tsunami was so powerful that it changed the local geography, shifting islands and the mainland of Sumatra by as much as 120ft, American seismologists said yesterday.

The energy released by the quake was so huge that it may even have caused the Earth to wobble on its axis. Geophysicists are calling it a megathrust, the term used for the most powerful of changes in the Earth's surface. Pressure built up over nearly two centuries was released in a single snap.

And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth. (Isa 2:19 KJV)

The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. (Isa 24:20 KJV)

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh. (Luk 21:25-28 KJV)

"But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs. (Mat 24:8 NASB)

Re: the beginning of the birthpangs..? - posted by RobertW (), on: 2004/12/29 9:17

Quote:

-----megathrust

Megathrust? :-o Who ever heard of such a thing? The shocking thing is that these things are happening and few seem to feel the need to repent. This is the type of thing that should awaken even the most careless of sinners. It should awaken every sleeping Saint.

I am reminded of how Peter said we have a more sure word of prophecy whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. (II Peter 1:19) When a prophecy is fulfilled it is more powerful for the purpose of authentication of truth than an eyewitness account. Abraham told the rich man that if a person will not repent by the word of Moses and the prophets, they would not repent even if one came back from the dead to warn them! Moses and the prophets? The fulfillment of the prophecies Moses and the prophets should have convinced the rich man's family to repent. No use in sending a dead man if a fulfilled prophecy won't do it.

What about us? We have Moses, the prophets, and the New Testament. We have seen many prophecies fulfilled in the last 100 or so years (even if we exclude Israel as a nation). The fearful words of Revelation are even now coming to pass; "Yet they repented not..."

God Bless,

-Robert

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2004/12/29 10:51**

Quote:

-----the sea and the waves roaring;  
-----

How greater can a wave roar than a 40' tidal wave traveling at 500 MPH?

**Re: - posted by rocklife (), on: 2004/12/29 12:32**

Quote:

----- The shocking thing is that these things are happening and few seem to feel the need to repent. This is the type of thing that should awaken even the most careless of sinners.  
-----

The bible says something about "how can they believe unless they hear?" and in many of these asian places, it is a third world, poor, not even consistent electricity and good water and sanitation (bathrooms), so they don't have TVs and things at their disposal to watch TV preaching. In blindness, there has been resistance and persecution to Christians in many of these places, so we must pray and support the Christians and people that their eyes will be opened and God will draw them to himself. The missionaries work and are working hard (like in Gospel for Asia ministry), but still many do not know and understand the name Jesus Christ.

I do hope with those of us who do know what is going on with God and His plan, we will be spurred to labor in truth and love in His harvest. Not just with our words, but with action (faith without deeds is nothing). Lord, please thrust forth laborers into the Father's harvest. Thank you Lord Jesus for hearing our prayers and answering according to the Father's will in heaven. His will be done. In Jesus' Name I pray, amen.

**Re: the beginning of the birthpangs..? - posted by Rahman, on: 2004/12/29 13:08**

The thing that struck me most, past such massive destruction, was listening to all of the western news people who kept saying, "What a devastating natural phenomena", or something to that effect ...

But the most ironic thing I saw/heard on TV was a Buddhist, in a Buddhist temple who said, "This destruction is of biblical proportions. It's like a flood out of the Old Testament ...

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2004/12/29 13:09**

Quote:

-----I do hope with those of us who do know what is going on with God and His plan, we will be spurred to labor in truth and love in His harvest. Not just with our words, but with action (faith without deeds is nothing). Lord, please thrust forth laborers into the Father's harvest.  
-----

Amen. Let us be off to the fields as God hath sent us. I don't know about you guys, but I feel an awesome unction to preach. Just last night I watched God moving among the youth, pouring out His Spirit. This is the time. This is the hour!

God Bless,

-Robert

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2004/12/31 9:48**

I thought I would do a little web surfing to find out a little more about earthquakes. Others who are interested can find more at Earthquakes FAQs

**Re: - posted by rookie (), on: 2004/12/31 12:57**

And another sign:

Matt. 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. 6 And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. 7 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows."

Men are drunk with the passion for wars. Rumors of wars are talked about in our newspapers. Fortunately we are running out of money to start other wars.

Just think, the U.S. has just committed 35 million dollars to help aid the remaining people of the area struck by these tidal waves. That sum of money is less than 1% of the money the U.S. spends each month trying to give Iraq a new form of government.

The hearts of many grow cold.

In Christ  
Jeff

**Re:, on: 2004/12/31 22:32**

Gentlepersons,

RE:

For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many.

I see no sign of this happening. Who, exactly, besides the obviously insane, is saying "I am the Christ"? and is deceiving people? Plenty of atheism and agnostics about, granted. But in these days of rampant scepticism about God and the Holy Spirit, how are many being deceived by a false Christ? Ain't happening, and we are not going to see this for many ages, if ever. The end is not near! Don't put every world event in context of Revelations. It is a false trail. By means of its maleable and easily misconstrued words, it (Revelations) is a deception in itself!

Pray that God be in your heart, words and works. That is sufficient for Grace and honors our Creator-God-Father. Looking for the END is a fools errand. God works on His own time and it is presumptuous to think we can find it out.

Bubbaguy

**Re: - posted by jouko (), on: 2004/12/31 23:25**

Here's one "another christ":

By Sarah Junk - CNSNews.com

(CNSNews.com) - When the Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife were crowned the "King and Queen of Peace" on March 23rd -- inside the Dirksen Senate Office Building with Members of Congress looking on -- few news outlets took notice.

But in the months since Moon's March 23rd "coronation" as Messiah, a growing number of people are questioning the appropriateness of allowing a "coronation" to take place inside a government building.

At a press conference on Wednesday, Jewish, Muslim and Christian representatives from the organization that sponsored Moon's coronation unapologetically defended the ceremony, its location, and Moon's Messiah declaration.

"It was the spirit world that said he was the Messiah," said Archbishop George A. Stallings, Jr., pastor of an independent African-American Catholic congregation. Moon, founder of the Unification Church, was merely repeating the message, said Stallings.

Here's another:

# God operates by spiritual law and is obligated to obey the "FAITH FILLED" words. "Faith is a force and words are the containers of that force."

# The demotion of God and the deification of man - "The biggest failure in the whole Bible is God." (Kenneth Copeland)

# "You are as much an incarnation of God as Jesus Christ was. You are a little god." (Benny Hinn)

# "God could not intervene since He had made Adam the god of the earth. God was left on the outside looking in." (Kenneth Copeland)

and another...

After being won over by the ritual of the Catholic Mass, Hahn plunged into traditional Catholic teachings and errors. He turned to a dark teaching: the "Melchizedek" priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church. "When the priest speaks the words of institution 'This is My body... This is the cup of My blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant,'" wrote Hahn, "he is not merely narrating, he is speaking in the person of Christ, who is the principal celebrant of the Mass. By the sacrament of Holy Orders, a man is changed in his very being; as priest, he becomes 'another Christ'."

Later in the book he reiterated, "now we can understand why we call priests 'Father' and the pope our 'Holy Father,' because they are other Christs,..."7 Does Rome support Hahn's statements? Vatican Council II Vol. II, No. 77, *Dominicae Cenae*, 24 Feb. 1980, Section 8, page 74 reads: "The priest offers the Holy Sacrifice in persona Christi; this means more than offering 'in the name of' or 'in the place of' Christ. In persona means in specific sacramental identification with the eternal High priest."

Paul warned in 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 about deception in the form of another Christ, "... For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted you bear this beautifully."

Be warned, "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed" --Galatians 1:8.

So Rome does endorse "another Christ" and when Hahn takes this supposedly transubstantiated wafer he receives it from "a man" who "is changed in his very being" into "another Christ," and he bears this beautifully. In turn, every Roman Catholic who trusts in this "host" as being the actual body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ is taking "another Christ" from "another Christ." This is heresy of the highest rank, and their very souls are at risk of being separated from the true Christ forever because of their trust in another Christ.

jouko

**Re: - posted by KeithLaMothe, on: 2004/12/31 23:27**

Greetings bubbaguy, and welcome to our forums.

There's something of an edge to your tone; I don't mind terribly, but I thought I would mention it in case it was unintentional.

In any event, I have some sympathy with those that object to the prevailing idea that the end is near. There has undoubtedly been a large amount of irresponsible twisting of Scripture and current events to fit the eschatological theories (and, dare I say, desires) of various people. We ought be more discerning than to take every headline and attempt to shoehorn it and some verse or another out of Revelation or Daniel together into a halfway-plausible argument that the world is ending, at latest, next Tuesday.

But I think this latest "birthpang", as it were, does warrant consideration in light of Scripture. Though I think eschatologic

al theories should take the back burner compared to our being tools of God in dealing with the situation: physically through obvious means of support and assistance, and spiritually through bringing the Word to those who may have not heard (this does open quite a window of opportunity into generally intensely Muslim areas, as well as generally unreached areas) and reminding others who may be shocked into a more receptive state by recent events.

And, for the record, there have been a number of people in the not too distant past claiming to be Christ, or Christ reincarnate, or some kind or another of Messiah. The fellow leading the "Heaven's Gate" group comes to mind, and so does another guy whose website I came across some time ago (<http://www.strongcity.com/>), I don't think his previous website is still up), and I don't properly recall whether David Koresh made claims of that nature.

I agree, though, in that I get the impression from the text that the number and/or temporary success of these impostors will be somewhat greater than we have seen.

edit - of course, the Roman Catholic system of "impersonating" Christ has been exceedingly successful in terms of numbers; they have more than we do. But only a small percentage (or so I get the impression) really understands what Rome teaches on that.

**Re: - posted by crsschk (), on: 2005/1/1 0:06**

Welcome Bubbaguy,

And thanks Keith, well said. I think if you were to look around a bit here bubbaguy you would find a mixed reaction and yet I believe level headed.

One of the things that always comes up when these catastrophes happen is past history. We have had pandemics that have wiped out hundreds of thousands, wars, genocide, the holocaust... and for the bible believing I am sure that those who survived, lived through these things must have had similar thoughts, that this was the beginning of the end, if not the end.

One of the threads here related to recent events started off with the comment "I don't know and I don't think any of us knows" 'why' this happened.

So I don't think anyone is making the leap to a conclusion. The 'beginning of birth pangs' was a heading with a question mark and that possibility is just as likely as the opposite, being that the Lord Himself said this would happen.

So I did find this comment interesting;

Quote:

----- Ain't happening, and we are not going to see this for many ages, if ever. The end is not near!  
-----

What makes you so sure?

And more puzzling was;

Quote:

-----Don't put every world event in context of Revelations. It is a false trail. By means of its maleable and easily misconstrued words, **it (Revelations) is a deception in itself!**  
-----

Maybe you meant something different than I am reading it. The 'false trail' of narrating every event to specific prophecy, I could understand that point of view, but you are not saying that the book "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" is a deception are you?

Re: - posted by no\_stamp (), on: 2005/1/1 0:36

Quote:

-----For many will come in My name, saying, "I am the Christ," and will deceive many.

I see no sign of this happening. Who, exactly, besides the obviously insane, is saying "I am the Christ"?  
-----

**The Mormon's, Jehovah Witnesses and other cults are teaching of a different Christ a different Gospel. Im sure they can be considered as false Christs.**

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/1/1 4:52

hi bubbaguy

You don't know Mark Jacobson by any chance do you? He was a regular here for a long time and there is a remarkable similarity in your postings.

Anyway, 'the Christ' is a role as well as a person. Jesus of Nazareth was acknowledged by God as 'both Lord and Christ' but many before him and after him have claimed to be the 'uniquely authorised one'. The Bar Kochba rebellion of AD 135 was led by one who many regarded as The Christ. Anyone who says 'but I say unto you' and in so doing sets himself up as the authoritative voice of God does the same. In this sense Muhammed was a 'Christ', so is the Papacy (as a system not as a person), atheistic communism is a 'Christ'. These all produce totalitarian authority systems.

Anyone who claims to be a self-contained authority without reference to the absolute authority of the scriptures is on the borderline. Many early Quakers were on the borderline, some crossed it.

I think you are reading the "I am Christ" to mean 'I am Jesus of Nazareth'. It may mean that and some have claimed it, but the real meaning is "I am God's uniquely authorised Leader". Sadly there have been very many of these.

Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/1/3 15:24

Hi Jake aka bubbaguy

Quote:

----- from a personal email... *The problem for the scriptures here is that in order for "many" to be deceived by an imposter, returned "Christ" they have to be believers in God the Father in the first place. You cannot believe in the son of God without first believing in a Godhead. Those who put their faith in God, then will have to be willingly allowed by God to be deceived, when they have faith in God, and then be sent to the unquenchable fire!! God comes out being duplicitous in this affair, saving some who believe and casting others into the fire for being misled by a Satan created by God to do this job! He creates imperfect creatures (or those he knows will become imperfect through sin) and goes about judging them and sending them to hell. WHATAGUY!*  
-----

So I was right, I did recognise that voice! Well I think we have been around this circle often enough to know where it going to go, but personally I don't mind your reappearance here. The problem is that your views are so distant from most of the folk here that there is just no point of contact, so we end up talking past each other. Your view of the Bible is one of 'pick n mix' and the Bible only used to confirm your own insights. Your final authority is yourself and your witness, ours is the inerrant word of God. We do not always understand it but when we don't we don't bin it, we bin our opinions.

The word 'Christ' had many definitions which is why Jesus was reluctant in using it. When He was asked 'are you the Christ?' He hardly ever gave a straight answer. The reason was that His definition of The Christ and their definition had hardly any points in common. They thought in terms of military conquest and Israel's domination of the world as a super-race. He thought in terms of substitutionary sacrifice of His own life to set the sinners free. To say 'yes' to the question 'are you the Christ?' would only have confirmed them in their folly.

False 'Christs' in this sense are those who say 'God says' when He hasn't. People who submit to no external authority because they say they themselves are 'christed' and are equal in authority to the apostles and to Christ Himself. They arise inside churches and outside them. They belong to organisations or are independent. Their common characteristic is 'autonomy'; self-authority. Some will claim to be 'Jesus Returned', some will deny He ever came in the flesh, the motto is 'we will not have this man to reign over us'.

IÂ'm not sure what your point is in this posting. I know that you reject Paul and the Book of Revelation. I know you only accept the occasional verses which fit into your own pre-formed notions. So I am not surprised to hear that you reject these words of Christ. Do you still think of yourself as a Christian?

Quote:  
----- from the same personal email...*I am satisfied that Jesus lived to preach and demonstrate "love one another as I have loved you" and that if we follow after His example, loving and forgiving others as best we can, we are Christians. Beliefs about the literal or figurative Bible are all secondary and usually not fruitful. Jesus' message and examples shine clearly through the many translations and interpretations of the Bible, and that, for me, is the only real test of its Truth.*  
-----

This Jesus that you believe in who was not virgin born, and did not die as God's substitute for all sinners, and who did not rise from the dead, is a figment of your imagination. You are putting your faith in the 'Gospel according to Jake', and I tremble for you.

**Re: - posted by KeithLaMothe, on: 2005/1/3 17:07**

I'm not sure if Jake wants others to respond, or if we really want to walk these paths again, but a few questions I think would be helpful for me to understand exactly where he's coming from:

You (Jake) seem to affirm some of what the Bible teaches, particularly those parts concerned with humans loving one another as they love themselves. Do you believe Jesus actually existed, had a ministry, and taught that concept? Why do you affirm that men should love one another as they love themselves? By what standard do you judge such a concept?

On the other hand, you reject other parts of the Scripture, particularly those parts concerned with God creating beings and then damning some of them. Do you believe that Jesus, the prophets, and/or the apostles taught such concepts? By what standard do you judge these concepts as being wrong?

Why do you trust your standard?

Thank you,  
-Keith

**Re: - posted by Spider, on: 2005/1/3 18:07**

If you have no love for yourself you will not be able to show love to others. Let us define this "love." It is not an egotistical, self gratifying love, but one that is best illuminated in 1 Corinthians 13.

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/1/3 21:18**

Quote:  
----- You are putting your faith in the 'Gospel according to Jake', and I tremble for you.  
-----

I agree. I think of II Timothy 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some,... The problem with these types of false teachings is that they are like leaven. The lies spread like a miasma, making excuse for those who oppose themselves and dispelling the fear of the Lord. It's the age old tactic of the Devil!

1) Undermine what God said with foolish questions

if that don't work

2) Undermine the penalty for sin

if that don't work

3) Make the penalty seem way distant in the future

There is no new thing under the Sun. Yet, for those of us who know better and have seen the same line up of evidence as those who don't believe God's word, there are those who are immediately taken off guard by this stuff. It makes new converts waver in the faith. Listen to this passage; 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. (II Peter 2:1) It would be a horrible thing to have to be judged of God in order to have God's word authenticated in your own eyes. Think of it, your judgment becomes the confirmation; yet, you can't take heed because you are gone. Personally, I would not want to be confirmation for someone else. Damnable heresy is about as serious of sin as it gets. If there is even a drop of fear of God- I pray it kicks in!

**Re: - posted by markm, on: 2005/1/4 5:14**

Quote:

3) Make the penalty seem way distant in the future Yet, isn't that the most pertinent lesson of this disaster? Our life is but a vapor. On vacation one day and washed into eternity the next. Preparing a meal for your family one moment, and fighting to save your life the next. Will you have time to repent?

Even if I haven't figured out who the Antichrist is, I could be gone tomorrow. Jesus may not come next week, but you might go to Him.

There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

"Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

(<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke%2013;&version=50;>) Luke 13:1-5

**Re:, on: 2005/1/4 12:20**

"Your final authority is yourself and your witness, ours is the inerrant word of God."

This is not so. My final authority is the Holy Spirit, available to each and every one of us in the here and now. The Holy Spirit is of Jesus Christ, so I know that Jesus lived and died for us.

The Bible is not inerrant. It is a collection of writings about God's people, the Jews, and the movement, Christianity, which grew out of it. Much of the new testament writings were recorded decades after the events described. You have to believe that God became present in each writer of the Old and New Testaments and all the subsequent interpreters for these writings to be literally true. But they aren't intended to be literally true. They are intended to convey a message of truth and love.

For example: Noah's Ark is a story about the destruction of the world by flood. It has definite truths to it, but they are not literal. Mankind is descended from one small clan. And we are responsible for the welfare and survival of all God's creatures. But any person honest with themselves will not argue that polar bears and penguins were on the Ark. The boat described in Genesis would not float with all those animals in it, nor would it have room for the necessary food. It would have required many sump pumps to keep out the water. So, a thinking person concludes that the story is about something not literal, but nevertheless very important. The real point of the story is that God's patience with sinners is not endless and that we are charged with taking care of the earth and creatures God made for us.

You are right about one thing, I couldn't care less whether Mary was a virgin. Krishna is claimed to be born of a virgin as well. Big whuppedo. His followers can exalt him with such superlatives all day long and it doesn't change a thing. I believe that Jesus was the son of God because of his righteous words and deeds conveyed through several witnesses in the Gospels. Not all of these witnesses need to be completely accurate for me to have an understanding of who Jesus was and what His purpose was. No, to argue against Jesus is to argue against love. and that is clearly foolishness. God bless you all.

Jake

**Re: - posted by Nasher (), on: 2005/1/4 12:30**

Psalm 118:8

It is better to take refuge in Jehovah Than to put confidence in man.

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/1/4 13:08**

Hi Jake

Quote:

-----This is not so. My final authority is the Holy Spirit, available to each and every one of us in the here and now. The Holy Spirit is of Jesus Christ, so I know that Jesus lived and died for us.

-----  
But the Holy Spirit witnesses to His physical resurrection through the words of the same recorders who gave you your evidence of his life and death. I presume you did not come to believe in his life and death by immediate revelation but by reference to the gospel record. (Matt 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20,21) The very recorders whose witness you receive are the ones whose witness you reject. Can you not see the inconsistency of your position?

**Re:, on: 2005/1/4 14:12**

Ron,  
Yes, I do rely on corroborating testimonies about Jesus presented in the Gospels. That I don't view the Bible as inerrant does not mean I throw out the baby with the bath water. But if I didn't have the experiential witness of the Holy Spirit in the here and now, I'm not sure that I would accept it. Jesus tells us He is sending a comforter and counselor, and if you open yourself to it you can learn that it is true and come to rely on it. God speaks to our hearts and minds through His servants of the past ages and His Holy Spirit in the now.

In a way, I see the requirement for an inerrant Bible to be a crutch. Lots of tough questions, ones that can shake a person's faith, don't have to be addressed if you unquestioningly take the bible as inerrant.  
Jake

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/1/4 14:39**

Jake

Quote:

----- Jesus tells us He is sending a comforter and counselor, and if you open yourself to it you can learn that it is true and come to rely on it.

-----  
This 'it' you are relying on is a feeling and not to be confused with the 'Him' that Jesus promised.

Quote:

----- In a way, I see the requirement for an inerrant Bible to be a crutch. Lots of tough questions, ones that can shake a person's faith, don't have to be addressed if you unquestioningly take the bible as inerrant.

-----  
The Bible definition of faith is that it 'comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God'. What you are calling faith is not faith, but an idolatrous presumption. Here is a little quotation from William Tyndale which will explain why I describe it as idolatry...

*Thou seest also that to have faith where God hath not a promise, is idolatry.*

**Re:, on: 2005/1/4 17:17**

Ron, I didn't know that you are an arbiter of other people's religious and spiritual experiences. Many Quakers have spoken and written clearly of their encounters with the Holy Spirit. Their testimony speaks to the Truth that Jesus presented to us all. I will believe this testimony over that of someone who claims that the world is less than 10,000 years old or that Moses lived hundreds of years -- simply because the Bible says so -- every time. (I mean really, a Grand Canyon carved out by water in less than millions of years??? Physics don't lie.)

If you want to win converts to Christianity, you need to make the parameters less difficult to comprehend and more believable. I fear your version of Christianity is irrationally exclusionary, because you have much higher requirements for faith

h and belief than did Jesus.  
Jake

**Re: - posted by KeithLaMothe, on: 2005/1/4 17:42**

Jake,  
Inerrancy is perhaps the one issue Evangelicals are most likely to "take for granted" and not be able to defend (except on a case by case basis, and that quite effectively, but not really as a system). I think this is partly because that, at least until very recent times, inerrancy was viewed as the "watershed of evangelicalism," to use Francis Schaeffer's term. It seems to me that it is a dangerous thing to question, but ultimately I think we should be prepared to examine what we believe even in that area. I know a few good Brothers who couldn't *quite* call it inerrant by the normal definition, and the question certainly comes up when looking at, for instance, both the KJV and NIV; what do we mean by inerrant in that case?

But even those I know who wouldn't exactly toe the Evangelical line on inerrancy wouldn't have any significant practical differences (due to that) in how they read the Bible from me. Do they trust what they read therein? Yes. Their problems are not with the content, as far as I can tell.

Questions, if you don't mind:

You say the Holy Spirit speaks to you; how do you know it is the Holy Spirit? Are you ever "spoken to" in such a way and doubt that it was from the Holy Spirit?

**Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2005/1/4 18:52**

Quote:  
-----In a way, I see the requirement for an inerrant Bible to be a crutch. Lots of tough questions, ones that can shake a person's faith, don't have to be addressed if you unquestioningly take the Bible as inerrant.  
-----

Inerrancy of Scripture is no mere crutch, it is a firm foundation upon which faith can stand. Biblical faith is not blind faith as you imply, God does not ask us to believe without also providing answers to our questions, they are the only real answers that life can be consistently lived by.

Speaking of tough questions, can your science answer the really tough ones like the existence of the universe? Can it explain the uniqueness of man in that universe? Or does it explain how man can reach such heights of achievement and yet fall to such depths of depravity? Can your philosophy answer those questions with answers that you can consistently live by? The Bible can.

In Christ,

Ron

**Re: - posted by philologos (), on: 2005/1/5 3:34**

Quote:  
-----Ron, I didn't know that you are an arbiter of other people's religious and spiritual experiences.  
-----

You don't have to make a profession out of this in order to see that your final point of reference is yourself.

Quote:  
-----I will believe this testimony over that of someone who claims that the world is less than 10,000 years old or that Moses lived hundreds of years -- simply because the Bible says so -- every time. (I mean really, a Grand Canyon carved out by water in less than millions of years??? Physics don't lie.)  
-----

You know that I am not a 'young earther' and Moses lived for 120 years, rather than hundreds. Although if you want to say

See what hydraulic power can do in a short space of time you have just had a powerful reminder in the Indian Ocean.

Quote:  
-----If you want to win converts to Christianity, you need to make the parameters less difficult to comprehend and more believable. I fear your version of Christianity is irrationally exclusionary, because you have much higher requirements for faith and belief than did Jesus.  
-----

In other words, as the tailor said to his client, never mind the quality feel the width!

**Re: - posted by Ethan (), on: 2005/1/5 6:29**

Ron, I didn't know that you are an arbiter of other people's religious and spiritual experiences. Many Quakers have spoken and written clearly of their encounters with the Holy Spirit. Their testimony speaks to the Truth that Jesus presented to us all. I will believe this testimony over that of someone who claims that the world is less than 10,000 years old or that Moses lived hundreds of years -- simply because the Bible says so -- every time. (I mean really, a Grand Canyon carved out by water in less than millions of years??? Physics don't lie.)

If you want to win converts to Christianity, you need to make the parameters less difficult to comprehend and more believable. I fear your version of Christianity is irrationally exclusionary, because you have much higher requirements for faith and belief than did Jesus.

Jake

Brother Jake

From the beginning it is the heart of man to disobey, disapprove or rebel against the Holy God. I don't know what you believe. But I tell you I was a Hindu Brahmin (priestly) person who has been touched by God and was transformed to the Kingdom of His Son. When I came to understand who my God is I know one thing -- that the very Bible I was holding (every word) I know it has been breathed into the hearts of people by Holy Spirit and they wrote. It is faith.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. That's why in Peter, the author affirms that by faith believe the heavens were of old and earth stands on water. We believe in faith that God created the heavens, earth and all in it in six days.

Heaven and earth will pass away but not my words. Vain knowledge profits nothing. I am not here to correct the errors of people but I know the seriousness of these words I read. I am not here to contradict the opinion of people who try to accommodate that between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 there are billions of years. No brother. Then we have to go in to argument which profits nothing.

You wrote:

(I mean really, a Grand Canyon carved out by water in less than millions of years??? Physics don't lie.)

Physics can lie but not God's Word. When Jesus called Lazarus from the dead there was no physics or biology there. It was instant and it was supernatural. When God divided the Red Sea there is no physics it is supernatural. How can it be true? God said that to Israel in many places -- "I am the God who brought you out of Egypt with signs and wonders".

We can take a word, twist and turn to our comfort. For e.g. when Jesus said man shall not live by bread alone but by every word of God. We can argue and debate and say what kind of God is this who makes his children starve. No brother it simply means above all these things even your eating, you should live by every word of God. For this reason Jesus said -- "unless you become like little children, you cannot enter the kingdom of God". Children have innocence and they believe whatever their parents said it is true. There are so many things in the Bible which we do not understand but wait for the Holy Spirit to teach. You have to understand one thing this race is not for the swift or the intelligent one but for the one who endures.

Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes he will lead you into the truth. Whatever is of mine he will take and declare it to you. One thing we lack today is patience.

You quote:

If you want to win converts to Christianity, you need to make the parameters less difficult to comprehend and more believable. I fear your version of Christianity is irrationally exclusionary, because you have much higher requirements for faith and belief than did Jesus.

Sorry brother. We have to live in God's standard and it never changes. I am the God of Jacob, I change not. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Like Paul says we should not peddle the word of God. He is a Holy God. It still requires holiness to see him.

Jesus said, "Why you call me Lord Lord and do not do the things which I commanded you to do?" you see where we fail.

You quote:

You are right about one thing, I couldn't care less whether Mary was a virgin. Krishna is claimed to be born of a virgin as well. Big whuppedo. His followers can exalt him with such superlatives all day long and it doesn't change a thing. I believe that Jesus was the son of God because of his righteous words and deeds conveyed through several witnesses in the Gospels. Not all of these witnesses need to be completely accurate for me to have an understanding of who Jesus was and what His purpose was. No, to argue against Jesus is to argue against love. and that is clearly foolishness. God bless you all.

So many people claimed so many things but there is only one truth. Even muslims say how God can have a son? Then we have to accommodate for them also.

When God said in Isaiah "there is no other gods besides Me" means it is. So I don't have to worry about who is claiming. It is absolutely necessary that you have to believe that Jesus birth was a virgin birth. One thing I do. I read old testament I believe every word and I believe all that is summed up in Jesus. Now I follow Jesus who reveals things which I want to know (In His time) for eg. Why certain incidents happened in the old testament period?. In Corinthians Paul says it is for our admonition and correction and we should be careful.

Brother I may not be good in writing but I think I have conveyed the message to you. Faith is the essential part of our being and every word of God is valuable. We cannot add to it or we cannot take out something from it.

May God lead you into His truth.

In Jesus Christ  
Shankar

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/1/5 9:32**

Quote:  
-----You know that I am not a 'young earther' and Moses lived for 120 years, rather than hundreds. Although if you want to see what hydraulic power can do in a short space of time you have just had a powerful reminder in the Indian Ocean.  
-----

When I studied apologetics in the early days I studied the destructive force of the Tsunami. It was then that I knew that the force of water was far greater than we ever knew. I hold the primordial canopy view as it seems most plausible. One of many things to consider is that the earth's magnetic field has a half life of 1500 years. There was a time when the earth was in symphonic equilibrium. I have heard that Russian mathematicians using quantum algebra have fed in all the variables and determined earth to be young. Either way, there is not enough time for the complexity of all that exists on earth to happen even if we eliminate entropy. Time + chance does not equal life. Time + chance = death.

I have seen the Grand Canyon from both North and South rim. I have also been to Monument Valley, Bryce Canyon, and

d Zion. My impressions, especially at Monument Valley are that what we see is a monument to the world that then was. It is a reminder to those who are willingly ignorant of the world that then was. Not the gap theory version of the world that then was, but the pre-deluge world of Genesis 6. Again, it doesn't matter in the end because there is still not enough time for so-called evolutionary progress to overcome attrition.

I have a whole arsenal of information on the flood for those interested. And nearly all the info was compiled before the net was popular, so it is real book research. :-)

God Bless,

-Robert

**Re: - posted by RobertW (), on: 2005/1/5 9:56**

Quote:  
-----If you want to win converts to Christianity, you need to make the parameters less difficult to comprehend and more believable. I fear your version of Christianity is irrationally exclusionary, because you have much higher requirements for faith and belief than did Jesus.  
-----

Hi Jake,

Men know there is a God and they press Him as far back into their minds as they possibly can. They have a basic sense of right and wrong, but they ignore their conscience and soon that sense is dulled. If a person is being honest when looking at the evidence they will know the truth. If someone is consistent in their analysis of the facts and will set the bar for belief the same as they do with other topics they will conclude rightly every time. But men are wicked and they change the bar up and down depending on what they want to believe. They do not weigh the evidence with the same rule when dealing with God as they do other things; therefore the dice are loaded and they convince themselves every time they are right. What is it? They did not like to retain God in their knowledge.... (Romans 1)

Moreover, sinners are not converted to Christ by argument alone. These things may awaken them to their need, but the Holy Spirit must do the work. You must reconcile these things with your emphasis on the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit's role is as great as your writings suggest, the need to water things down is nonexistent. No matter what you or I do we cannot widen the gate- it is eternally narrow. It cannot be widened beyond the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

-Robert

**Re: - posted by DezCall (), on: 2005/1/5 13:54**

Shankar,

Thank you for your clear and honest words. They do more good to me than many scientific proves of the existence of God and the reliability of the Bible (although they're also helpful of course..)

Jake,

My dad and I both like cars and as a young boy I went with him to several car shows. On one occasion, I remember, he told me how the exhaust-system of a Peugeot 306 worked. I loved to hear it, although I didn't understand it all that well.

Why am I telling this? Well, let's suggest that, after my father had explained this to me, I would have said: "Well spoken daddy, but you and I both know that that doesn't work like this...I'll tell you how it works". That would be rather ridiculous. But this is what you're somewhat doing here. You're arguing with God himself, making Jesus into your own image...

**"Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.**

Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding.  
Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest?

Who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb?" (Job 38:3-4, 8)

You know when God really a WHATAGUY would have been? When He Himself being perfect, would have revealed Himself through a Letter (the Bible) that's not. Or, when He Himself being perfect, would have let people to write about Him and in His name, while they in fact didn't write the truth about Him.

I would never have a book published in my name, when it had faults in it and neither does God. I'm not almighty. People can write about me all they want and I can't do a thing about it. God can. And He did.

When you say you believe in Jesus, you also believe in the word, because Jesus is the Word (John 1).

When you say you strongly believe in the Holy Spirit, you will have a strong HOLY fear for the word of God! You know what is written about the Bible with relation to the Holy Spirit?

"The **sword of the SPIRIT**, which is the **WORD of God**" (Eph 6:17)

You also said that we're not living in the last days. I honestly don't want to offend you, but if you say that, you're like a blind man who is being warned by another man to watch out for a pillar. The blind man says: "There's no pillar, I don't see a pillar". May God open your eyes for His truth.

"O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" (Rom 9:20-21)

As Shankar already said: Physics can lie, God's word can't. And over and over again, the physicians had to change their conclusions, because they had missed a vital issue. The Bible has never!

By believing evolutionists etc. people have placed the creation above the Creator. Believing a man, rather than God.

"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Romans 1:22)

Even if I perhaps won't be able to defend the Bible in all ways, I BELIEVE IT! I will never question God, I only will acknowledge what GOD through Paul has written:

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."

And as the blind man of John 9 I confess: **"One thing I know**, that, whereas I was blind, now I see" (:25).

Jesus paid the debt for my sins at the Cross of Calvary with His precious blood. I've been born again by the WORD OF GOD and through regeneration by the HOLY SPIRIT. I now am able and have a personal relationship with God. And I know I will stand in front of Jesus on Judgement Day and I will be able to thank Him for what He has done for me. He didn't merely change me, He didn't merely save me...He made me a new creation. Praise God for that!

Only the truth will set you free.

Why do I live for Jesus? Because I've been saved? Because I now am able to pray? Because I'm now able to have a relationship with Him? Because He now has a personal plan for my life? That's what I can say to people, in order to make Jesus Christ attractive. But that's not the reason. The reason is very simple:

"I live for Jesus, because Jesus lives!"

A Christian through FAITH in Jesus Christ,

Paul