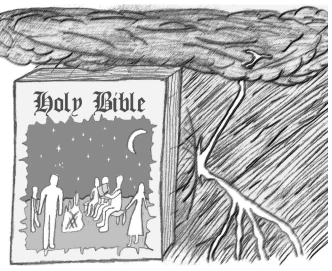
Shelter in the Word



He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. ***—Psalm 91:1; 119:114***

Vol. 4, No. 6 Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty **Nov-Dec 2001**

Who Wages the War?

by Norman Edwards

Christians have sometimes wondered why the Bible has so many war stories—many of them quite violent. How we can benefit today by reading millennia-old stories about one king who attacked another king and the strange or evil things his military commanders did to defeat their adversaries?

Here is the answer: **Reading these stories of the past gives us the understanding of:**

1. How various kinds of people operate in crisis situations.
2. How nations operate in crisis situations.
3. How God deals with both individuals and nations.

If we want to understand the September 11 attack and the war in the Middle East, we must understand how people and nations operate, and what God expects of individuals and nations. So many classic stories, both written and film, are essentially a story of the "good guys" versus the "bad guys". The "good guys" do good, the "bad guys" do bad. Their identities are clear and when a struggle occurs, usually the "good guys" win. While this type of struggle rarely happens in the human area, it is the one most frequently portrayed by governments when they are attempting to gather support to fight a war. The Bible is refreshingly different in that it points out the errors of "good" men, and gives credit to "bad" men when they occasionally do good.

Bible Examples of Crisis Conduct

The Bible contains hundreds of valuable human conduct examples of crisis conduct—how men react in times of difficulty. Only a few will be mentioned in this short article, along with the lessons of how they might apply to the USA's war today:

1. A pharaoh of Egypt made the Israelites suffer in slavery then ordered the death of all their male children, not because of any immediate danger, but because he was afraid that he might have to fight them at some time in the future (Ex 1:9-22). Similarly, King Herod had thousands of boy babies killed in an effort to kill just one—a future king that would not even be old enough to rule in Herod's lifetime (Matt 2:1-16). **Evil leaders will commit great atrocities even in situations where their success is far from assured.**
2. God himself has occasionally ordered "genocide". He told Saul to completely destroy the Amalekites (1Sam 15—God created all life and He has the right to end it now and deal with it later in a resurrection, Rev 20:11-13). When Saul disobeyed, he was rejected as King and the prophet Samuel killed the Amalekite leader with a sword. Obviously, one needs a direct command of God or from one of His true prophets to wipe out a peo-

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A separate article, *Biblical Calendar Basics, is included at the end of this issue.* *While this article may be too technical for some believers, it is important to anyone seeking to observe the biblical Feast Days. The article begins with an explanation of those days, then explains the somewhat uncertain Biblical Calendars used to determine when they are observed. The paper's message is largely timeless and will still probably be useful years from now.*

ple. **Since there are many false prophets, we should not be surprised today that many think they are following God when they try to destroy a nation.** How can people know if a prophet is of God? He will speak according to the scripture and he will not make prophecy in error (Is 8:20, Deut 18:22). When one sees so many Christians, claiming to have the Holy Spirit, continue to follow prophets and prophecy teachers who have made obvious prophetic errors in the past, is it any wonder that other people follow violent religious prophets who have also made error? Is not the main reason that we continue to follow erroneous prophets is because we have followed the same or a similar one in the past and we are afraid to admit that we wrong both then and now? More on this, later.

3. Abner and Joab, two opposing commanders who had fought together years ago, came suddenly upon each other's armies with the pool of Gibeon between them. They agreed to pick out 12 young men from each army and have them fight so they all could watch. They young men all killed each other and a battle followed (2Sam 2:13-17). These leaders could have used this face-to-face encounter to make peace (something Abner did later—2Sam 3) and save much war. **Military people do not always see war as a "necessary evil", but have seen so much fighting that they actually enjoy it. This happens even with "good" leaders.**
4. The military commander Abner became so powerful that he could do whatever he wanted and his King Ishbosheth was afraid of him (2Sam 3:6-11). **Even today, the military, police, intelligence organization or even paramilitary organizations (frequently called "terrorists") of some countries may become so powerful that the official civilian government is afraid to challenge them.** While the government officially has the authority to dismiss or arrest the leaders of these groups, they know that these leaders may well try to kill them first (and make it look like an accident). So, the civilian leaders frequently find it easier to tolerate powerful groups rather than force the issue and see who dies in the fight.
5. Abner went to King David to end the war and make David King over all Israel. Joab falsely accused Abner of running a spy mission, and then asked Abner to come back and talk, then killed him (2Sam 3:17-30). He did this without David's knowledge or for any good purpose, but to settle an old score when Abner had killed Joab's brother in a war. David cursed Joab, but did not take him out of his position. **Leaders do use their government positions for their own personal goals, and other good leaders do not necessarily always discipline them for it.**
6. Even though Joab killed Abner and others unjustly, and even though he rebelled against Solomon (1Kngs 2:28-30), there was a time when he stood up against David on behalf of God. God told the leaders not to number their people. King David sinned by numbering the people of Israel (2Sam 24). (He wanted to know the nation's strength—military, economic, etc.—the same reasons leaders want to assign numbers to all their people today.) God taught leaders that the people belong to him, not to the leaders. Even though this numbering might have increased Joab's power as an army commander, he stood up to David and recommended he not do it. But David prevailed, and many Israelites died because of this sin. **Unrighteous men sometimes do righteous things—we ought to be glad and pay attention when they do.**
7. Another interesting principle can be learned from the "numbering of Israel" story in 2 Samuel 24:

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Circulation: 2100

Send subscription and literature requests to the nearest address. (If you want to help defer our costs, please write checks to the name shown below).

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Shelter in the Word is published 6 times a year by Church Bible Teaching Ministry, 3690 Bath Rd, Perry, Michigan 48872 (this is **not** a mailing address). **Subscriptions are free** to people who request the publication and are genuinely interested in it. The publisher reserves the right to refuse subscriptions for any reason. Postmaster: send address changes to *Shelter in the Word,* PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107.

The people did not resist David's desire to number Israel, and so they suffered because of the sin as well.

8. Even with his problems, God described King David as "a man after my own heart" (Acts 13:22). David's worst sin was probably plotting to kill one of his own top warriors, Uriah, in a battle in order to cover up his personal sin with Bathsheba (1Chr 11:26,41; 2Sam 11:14-17). **If righteous men occasionally plot the death of one of their own people simply to hide a personal problem, how much more will evil people do it?**
9. Even though David was largely a good king and loved by the people, his son, Absalom, was able to take over the kingdom by flattery, well-placed lies and conspiracy. The people foolishly followed this charismatic personality. **Leaders sometimes really do a lot of evil to get in power. Today, people still fall for charismatic leaders and slick media campaigns. They rarely obtain and logically evaluate facts about leaders or laws.**
10. The "common people" wanted to hear Jesus, but the evil leaders condemned them for being foolish (Mark 12:37; John 7:48-49). The evil leaders wanted to kill Jesus, but did not because they feared the people (Luke 19:47-48). Yet later, they stirred the people to demand Barabbas' release and Jesus' crucifixion (Mark 15:11-13). **Evil leaders treat the common people like trash, even when they know they are right, and then go on to try to deceive them into cooperating with their evil plans. Yet evil leaders fear that if most of the people ever discover what they are really like, they will reject their leadership—they know that they probably cannot command their forces to kill most of their nation. The "common people" frequently do not grasp their own significance.**
11. Jewish leaders were afraid of losing their power because of Jesus (John 11:48-53), so they sought false witnesses against Him (Matt 26:59-60; Luke 23:10) and convinced Pilate to put him to death, even though he knew Jesus was innocent (Mark 15:10-15). **Evil leaders rarely kill people openly, but usually use the nation's criminal justice system to put them to death, because most people think than anyone who is "in trouble with the law" is probably guilty.**
12. When Jesus rose from the dead, the Jewish leaders did not want the truth of the story known, so they paid the Roman soldiers "a large some of money" to say that the disciples stole the body while they slept (Matt 28:12-15). The story was still commonly believed when Matthew wrote, and is still believed among Jews to this day. Centuries before, an enemy Assyrian commander was besieging Jerusalem and the Israelite leaders asked him to speak in a language that the common people would not understand because they did not want them to know (2Ki 18:25-28). **Leaders frequently do not want their people to know the truth about what has happened, and indeed will pay lots of money to get them to believe what they want. Most people use money to buy "goods and services". Evil people use money to try to buy power, political influence, public opinion, etc.**

These are just a few of many instances where the Bible explains how men behave in crisis political situations. Should we expect them to behave much differently today?

How Are We Affected Today?

The ease with which we can see only our own side was well illustrated by a local newspaper article mentioning that the US Military was achieving its goal of low civilian casualties in Afghanistan—only about 3000 so far. It seemed that the article writer never thought about the fact that when the USA suffered about 3000 civilian casualties on September 11, it has dominated USA politics ever since. Should we expect the Afghani people to thank the US Military for killing only 3000 civilians in the process of looking for Osama bin Laden and his gang, even though we found few of them? Should Americans thank the September 11 villains for their early morning strike which resulted in far fewer deaths than if they had done it later in the day? The answer to both of these questions is "no", it is just a lot more obvious when our people are dying. Few men like to kill civilians, but they certainly have a diversity of reasons that they will accept to justify it.

While God has made mankind so that each of billions of people are different, basic traits of human nature are demonstrated in the scriptures and by people today. Our resulting world environment is so complex that nobody can figure it out (Eccl 8:17). We can always take comfort knowing that He can!

The following table is a generalization about different kinds of people from three different political/religious perspectives. Yes, there really are more types of people and more religious/political perspectives than can fit on this chart. Its purpose is to help us understand the complexity of the problem and be able to view it from all sides. In the end, **it is a matter of righteousness versus evil,** not a simple matter of "good guys" and "bad guys". We cannot control the world, but we can do what is personally right.

Type of People	Religious/Political Perspective		
	Christian--USA	**Jewish—Israel**	**Muslim-Afghan, Palestinian**
Interested only in personal life. These people are not interested in influencing political situations. Most life decisions are made on the basis of what appears good for them at the moment. Most governments are glad to have these people if they are productively working and will go out of their way to avoid offending them and turning them into activists.	A large percent of the USA population is this way, because life is largely good, because our government seems big and far removed from the people and because we have not had an attack on our soil for decades. A "government by the people" does not work well when many people do not care what happens. Sept 11 moved some people out of this category.	Most Jews in this category are in the USA or other wealthy western countries. Those who live in Israel have too much direct experience with war and terrorist attacks in their own country to ignore important issues. Citizen involvement in government is higher than in the USA. But certainly, there are some who have given up on the process.	There are many people in this category, not because they do not want to change the situation, but because it appears that there is no way to do it. Most Islamic countries do not have elections, but are ruled by monarchs or dictators. Most people see that they must simply cooperate with whoever is in power, or else suffer and maybe die.
People who believe their government is basically right and support its policies. They have a tendency to believe that their leaders are telling the truth and do not ask many questions when they are given contradictory information. When governments appeal for citizens to do something (whether it be give blood, join the military, accept the U.N., etc.) they try to do it. They usually participate in government by voting for popular candidates and legislation—not coming up with their own ideas. Governments like these people even more than the previous group.	Many from the USA are in this category. The fact that President Clinton had such a high "approval rating" even while he lied to the American people so many times is proof that there is much blind support for USA leaders. After Sept 11, many more in the USA moved from the previous category to this one. They are now concerned about government and security and they want to have a supporting role. The idea that government sometimes creates the problems is still far away. Even though they have free access to other nations' magazines, radio and Internet, they would seldom use it, or consider that their own news might leave out some important things.	A large number of Jews in Israel are in this category. Being surrounded by nations that have promised (at least in the past) to "drive Israel into the sea", they believe that they must support their government in a unified stand against their enemies. Because so many other groups all over the world "hate the Jews", they are not too likely to accept criticism of their government. Whether or not their government may mistreat Muslims or provoke attacks is not something that they worry about—they are fairly sure that their government is right.	Many of these people do not have access to any other nations' news. They have been taught that their religion and nation is right and that the others are wrong. They have been taught that Americans are greedy and decadent—and may see a smuggled American movie that "proves it". They see American military forces rush to aid an Islamic nation like Kuwait because it is economically important to the USA—but ignore other Islamic people that are in even greater trouble. They see Israel occupying their territory and killing their people with high-tech weapons—and the USA helping them. One can see why they might support their nation, even though they know it has problems.
People who think God is behind their nation and its policies. This is like the above category, but much stronger because a commitment to God is involved. Calculating leaders will frequently use these zealous people to carry out dangerous assignments that people who "work for a check" would reject. But leaders have to be careful, lest they get out of hand doing more then the government wants, or lest they become offended and change sides.	People of this category made our nation in the 1700s. Since God has been unwelcome in schools and public life, there are far less people with a commitment to "God and Country". Today, many in the "Christian right" still believe that God will bless America if it sticks to conservative, usually Republican Party values. But, a growing number of Christians reject much of the government, choosing home-schooling and parties other than the Democrats and Republicans.	While most ethnic Jews are not highly religious, and many who are disagree with the current secular government, there are some who believe God gave them that land, and Muslims should leave or die. Some are probably responsible for "atrocities" against the Arabs. We may never know if they were acting upon "orders" or not. Other religious Jews simply work very hard and diligently to build their nation—something they had to do without for nearly 1900 years.	Arab nations vary greatly in their amount of religious support. Nations that operate under strict Islamic law (such as Iran and Afghanistan under the Taliban) seek religious zealots and attract them in droves. They certainly use them in their military, and maybe as terrorists and suicide bombers. Other nations, such as Saudi Arabia, are more interested in making money, and much of their religion is just for show. Religious zealots that support them are largely ignorant of these facts.

Type of People	Religious/Political Perspective		
	Christian--USA	**Jewish—Israel**	**Muslim-Afghan, Palestinian**
People disgruntled with their own country. These people usually suffered a major trauma due to their own government's mistakes or evil policies. They may have suffered at the hands of another nation, but feel that their own government is not doing enough to protect or avenge them. Sometimes, they are the children of disgruntled parents who pass on their hurt. They may or may not be religiously motivated as well. People who have spent years in jail, or who have lost much of their family, can be as dedicated as a religious zealot, but they would rarely work for the government they distrust.	In the past, the USA has typically been tolerant of those who broke lesser laws to protest racism, pollution, the Viet Nam War, etc. They were arrested for trespassing, disorderly conduct, etc., and then released. Today, there is a tendency to classify people who break similar laws in protest as "domestic terrorists" and jail them for years. Corruption in government and the courts have turned many content citizens into disgruntled people. Nearly all of them are non-violent, but the numbers of both types are increasing.	Jewish groups around the world have their share of disgruntled people. This writer has met some who are still upset about evils that befell their ancestors decades or even hundreds of years ago. Similarly, there are many in Israel today who find their government solutions for problems too slow or too self-seeking. Some of these people dedicate themselves to exposing the evils of the government and trying to get the majority of the electorate to see it. Others raise money for causes that their government does not support. Very few resort to violence—suicide is very rarely a Jewish practice.	There are many disgruntled people in Islamic nations—from mistreatment by harsh, non-representative government to those injured in wars with no support from their government. Since there is no participation in government and often no freedom of speech for most people, there is not a lot they can peacefully do. Since they must hide their discontent, the government does not really know who these people are or how many there are. But when opportunity arises, such as a riot or coup against the government, these people can suddenly and quickly emerge.
People more dedicated to their religion than their country. Their actions are determined by their religious understanding, which is not controllable, and subject to change without notice. They sometimes help straighten out their country when leaders have gone wrong. Or, they can cause lots of trouble. Some religious people do not believe in influencing governments, so they are effectively like those "Interested only in personal life". Activist religious people are very difficult for governments to deal with: they cannot be "bought" or controlled; yet it looks very bad to punish religious people.	Many Christians believe they fall in this category, but if the Bible instructs individuals to do something for which their government might arrest them, very few would risk obeying God. Christ and His apostles were frequently in trouble with the government. But Christians should not seek conflict—there is much they can do by peaceful means. Churches should serve as sources of truth and teaching of sound decisions—independent from the political process—**not** using politics to try to further their religious agenda. A true follower of Christ should be willing to "lay down his life" to help others.	There are many Jewish religious groups that indeed do hold their religious practice high above the civil government. Because Israel is a nation bound together largely by religion, they make many exceptions for them. Orthodox Jews are exempt for military service, all Sabbath work, and other things. They won some of these rights by being willing to accept any punishment until they got them. Other religious Jews have settled in Arab sections of Israel, at great personal risk, only to be told to move by their government due to a peace agreement. Those "loyal to God" often refuse.	There are many major sects of Islam, and many subgroups within each sect. Some have little to do with wars and politics, others are organized for that purpose. Because their secular governments have not gotten Israel out of their "occupied territories" by fighting or negotiation, and since Islam promises heaven to anyone dying in a "holy war", it is possible to see why zealots become terrorists. If they would stop and think, they would see that all these deaths have not accomplished anything of lasting value, either. But when religious people that believe they "know God's will", rarely stop and think.
People who participate in government and have some morality. Most will practice the "golden rule" to some degree: they do not want to do something awful to somebody else that they would not want to happen to them—unless it was just really necessary. They have varying degrees of knowledge about how their government works and may simply try to avoid looking into things that might be unjust.	This is probably still the main method of leadership in the USA, but the number of places where the "golden rule" is stretched, and the number of times when leaders overlook evil is continually growing. Politicians frequently ignore the "big questions" of our day (another article will be needed to discuss these). Nevertheless, most want to be perceived as "good" and actually do good when it is convenient.	There are many moderate Jewish leaders who really want peace if it is possible, and do **not** want to kill all of the Arabs. They are not religious, just practical. But if a situation arises where they have to kill or injure many Palestinians to save a few Jews—of if they have to overlook corruption in their own government, they will, because that is "necessary to get the job done".	President Bush has painted the Moslems as mostly moderates, while some Christian and Jewish groups say they are all violent. There are many moderate Moslems that do not practice the Koran's violent teaching, just like most Christians do not practice the death penalties decreed in the Old Testament. The Koran teaches love and compassion. But some Moslems are more interested in the violent parts.

Type of People	Religious/Political Perspective		
	Christian--USA	**Jewish—Israel**	**Muslim-Afghan, Palestinian**
People who participate in government strictly for their own benefit. Their primary goal is usually money and power for themselves, though sex, prestige and other personal benefits may enter in. These people are often willing to let others lose the life savings, go to prison, or die so they can profit in some way. They may form loyalties and alliances as long as it benefits them. They must be good actors and pretend to do good things for good motives. People used to this life style may be difficult to discern, because they make such a conscious effort to appear good.	The USA has too many of these people, small and great, in industry government and spy agencies. Billions of dollars are spent on weapons, aid programs, energy, etc. How much of this money ends up in the pockets of politicians and their friends? This writer has seen evidence that the Saudi's offered the Bush family a fortune in oil interests to rescue them in the first Gulf War, and that securing Afghani land for an oil pipeline to Russia is the goal of this present war. There are procedures that supposedly prevent abuse, but these people are experts at bypassing them, or at paying a bribe.	Some Jews, in and out of Israel have problems with greed like some in the USA. Indeed, Jews are involved in banking and other wealthy businesses to the point where some accuse them of trying to secretly take over the world by controlling its finances. These accusations are hard to prove, because people simply do not admit or publish their secret plans. And if a plan is ever accidentally discovered, everyone involved would declare it to be a "phony" made by an enemy. We need not worry: "For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every **secret thing**, Whether good or evil" (Eccl 12;14).	The general disunity of Muslim nations, and the disunity within specific Muslim organizations indicates that many men are simply there for their own gain, whether religious or economic. Many Moslem leaders live in vast estates with numerous expensive vehicles. While Islam teaches compassion toward the poor, these wealthy leaders seem perfectly content to ignore huge numbers impoverished people in their land. Even some of the religious organizations have been known to accept money to attack (or sometimes not to attack) the USA and Israel.
Genuine evil leaders. These are worse than the above category in that they know they are evil and willingly lie and deceive and plot evil against others. They see every honest and just person as a threat to them, and do what they can to destroy them. These must hide their true nature in democratic nations, but can let it out once they have complete control. Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin both fit this description very well.	Could the USA have "genuine evil leaders? Possibly. Or maybe our visible leaders are just cooperating with other evil men behind the scenes But solid evidence is difficult to find, and some of that is contradictory. Much investigation is required. Most people will not even talk to a researcher who asks questions like, "Is it possible that some of our own leaders either planned or declined to stop the September 11 attack?" Please see below.	This writer does not personally have enough information to classify any present-day Jewish Leaders as "genuinely evil", but it would not be surprising if some existed—there were some in Jesus' day.	Saddam Hussein probably qualifies as an evil leader. By his own admission, he has killed many of his own people as well as those of other nations, often for little benefit. Yet he makes humble-sounding statements about trying to lead his impoverished nation in love and compassion. Is Osama Bin Laden a "Genuine Evil Leader?" Probably so, but getting accurate information about him has been difficult.

Who wages the war?

Muslims do not claim responsibility for September 11 and they do not want the Afghanistan war, but they are certainly capable of terrorism. Some foreign periodicals claim that Israel or a US agency did it. This writer is not sure who did or what is being solved by the ongoing "war against terror".

There is no US Government investigation or trial for the September 11 attack, and private investigators have been kept completely away from the Pentagon. Many people have sent me information indicating US Government prior knowledge or complicity with this attack. Some "evidence" is clearly phony, some is not provable, but some is compelling. One long article contained the FAA and Air Force regulations requiring fighter jets to be sent, within 10 minutes, to intercept any commercial plane that deviates from its flight plan or loses communication. It documented how those procedures had been followed in previous air mishaps, but **were not** on September 11, even though much more time was available.

There were photos of the Pentagon right after it was hit. The impact hole was much smaller than a 757; and yet, there were few plane parts outside of the building, and nothing clearly identifiable as a 757. The Pentagon burned in sections that were isolated from the crash by many intact walls, whereas photos show unburned furniture at the crash site.

There are many unanswered questions—with US, Muslim and "conspiracy theorist" explanations. (The latter often claim to "tell you everything" if you just buy their video.) I do not have time to do a full, honest investigation myself and I know of nobody I trust who does. I do know that I am not afraid to accept the truth, whatever it is, and I pray that the Eternal will help all of us know and stand for what is right. 🕮

Creation Corner

For I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are thy works (Pslm 139:14)

by C. Frazier Spencer
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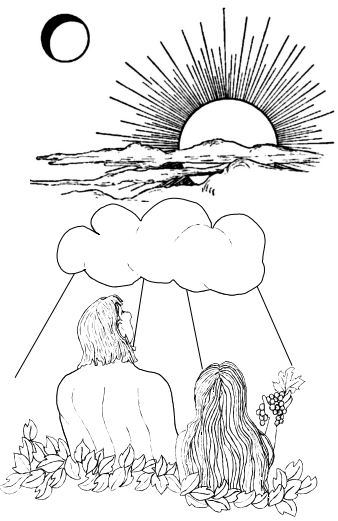

Why have a column like this one?

The Bible is a unique book. It says it was written by a Being who is above all other gods because He created the wood, stone, and metals; the *very material* which are used to fashion other gods. Strong words indeed! Psm 95: 3-5; 115:3-8; 135: 5, 15-18; Isa 44:all; Jer 10:2-15. This Being adds that He is the giver of life. (Job 33:4,; Pro 4:4; 7:2; Rom 6:23; Jn 1:3-4. This Being further writes to us in Rom 1:20 that the invisible things of Him are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are *made.*

Therefore looking at the things that have been made to *prove* this Creator God seems to be a logical starting place for people interested in Christianity. Notice Paul used the Creator God as a starting place (Acts 17:24-25) when first revealing God to the pagan philosophers at Athens.

As the direct opposite to a Creator God, stands Evolution which says every living thing is the result of mindless, purposeless, accidental chance. The Evolution opposite is now taught in our schools and in the various media as established fact. Even worse, the alternative is not only denied equal time, the alternative is not even allowed to be presented! Thus it seems to this writer that Evolution has taken on many aspects of being a dominant Religion in itself.

Consider, if humans are in fact the result of a Creator God, then it seems in our best interests to follow His instructions of how to live.

If on the other hand, humans are the result of a mindless and accidental process, if there is no Creator and Life-giver, if, as Evolution claims, humans are just highly developed animals; then we should eat and drink because tomorrow we die. (I Cor 15:32)

Some say there is a direct relationship between the rise of the Evolutionist "*Humans are Just Animals"* dogma with today's rise in immorality and violence.

So which one is true? A Creator/Life giver or accidental Evolution? We need to know! And to know that we know!

The purpose of this column, therefore, is to help counter today's widely taught Evolution doctrine. It also hopes to present various small parts of the evidence that can be seen of a Creator God.

Woodpecker Safety Gear

Sir David Attenborough, a fellow of the Royal Society, is a widely acclaimed Natural Science television producer and author of many books explaining Natural Science. He is also an Evolution believer and supporter. Thus his observations and conclusions are all the more striking. His book *"The Life of Birds"* was published in 1998 by the Princeton University Press. Some of the information from his book follows. Italics and underlining added for emphasis.

> "Woodpeckers hunt for insects which are beyond the reach of the tree creeper, beneath the bark and even in the wood below. The *implements* they use are not *tweezers* but *chisels*. A blow from a woodpecker's bill strikes the tree at about *25 miles* per hour".

Let's pause and consider this information for a moment…. First Attenborough sees woodpeckers actually using *implements.* Then he reports about speed. Have you ever seen pictures of test cars that were crashed into a barrier at speeds of 25 miles per hour? Quite devastating. Yet picture this tiny bird doing this many times a minute, *minute* after *minute*. He goes on to explain:

> "…And does so with such *force* that the two mandibles of its beak would *fly apart* were they not, at that moment, held together by a *special locking device.* The shock of the blow is so great that if it traveled directly to the brain, the bird would be knocked unconscious. That does not happen *because* its brain lies above the level of its beak and is *cushioned* by muscles at the base of its beak which act as *shock absorbers.*
>
> Having *hammered* its way into a gallery excavated by an insect larva of some kind, the woodpecker then has to extract its prey. This it does with an *extraordinarily* long tongue. In some species it is *four times* as long as the bird's beak. To accommodate it, a long sheath extends from the back of the beak over the rear of the bird's skull, along its crest and down over the front of the bird's face. Salivary glands around the sheath at the base of the beak coat it with a glue-like mucus and this, together with the barbed hairs with which it is coated, makes it

stick to the soft skin of a beetle grub so that the woodpecker can drag out its victim. This *equipment* is invisible within the woodpecker's head so we tend to forget it is there, but it must surely rate as one of the most extraordinary *devices* for collecting food possessed by any bird.

An additional woodpecker special characteristic is added by Barry MacKay in his book "Bird Sounds": "Stiff bristles, which are *specially modified* feathers, cover the nostrils to protect the bird from inhaling wood chips and dust".

Let's review for a moment what was revealed to us. Here is a list of the *implements* or special characteristics that we have learned are built into the common woodpecker:

chisels
special locking device
shock absorbers
glue like extraordinary tongue
barbed hairs
stiff bristles

At this point we need to ask ourselves a question. Can these be the result of mindless and accidental Evolution, or do they seem to have purpose, to have been intelligently *designed*?

Consider further. The woodpecker is a bird that feeds on insects *inside* a tree.

How, then, could mindless and purposeless Evolution make the connection between a bird outside the tree with its food source hidden inside the tree? It seems Evolution would have immediately settled for food found outside the tree and would have gone no further.

Doesn't it seem logical to conclude only an *intelligent mind* could have made the connection between the woodpecker and its food and then designed the implements, at least six distinct ones as identified by Attenborough and MacKay needed to accomplish the highly specialized job?

Tools for Eating Crows

Some birds even *make* their own *tools*, as the author goes on to point out.

A Crow specie found on the island of New Caledonia has been observed with an even greater proficiency as a *tool maker*.

The first *tool* is a *poker*, a sharp leaf stem several inches long. With this the bird probes around in the crowns of palms. Here, buried in the accumulation of leaf litter lurk big fleshy grubs. Sometimes the crow manages to impale one… but it has also learned that if it does so repeatedly, the grub will become so irritated that it will bite the spike with its powerful jaws and then hang on with such determination that the crow can pull it out.

The second *tool*, used for much the same purpose, is rather more elaborate. It is a kind of *hook*. The bird carefully selects a twig with a curved end, breaks it from its branch and takes it back to its perch. There it *removes* the bark and any leaves it may have and spends *several minutes* using its beak to exaggerate the curve of the hook on the end.

Its third *implement* is a *harpoon*, made from the long stiff strap-like leaves of the pandanus. These carry lines of backward-pointing spines down each margin like the blades of a saw. The crow tears a strip from the edge of one of these leaves, and holding it in its beak with the saw teeth pointing *upwards*, jabs at the grubs so that the teeth snag in the grub's soft skin.

Again, a question. If we observe knowledge and behavior such as in these crows, that appears to have been *programmed* into them, is it not reasonable to conclude that a *Master Programmer* was involved? Reflect also on built in knowledge of nest building by birds, of web spinning by spiders, and on and on.

Living in the Computer Age, I think we have a big advantage over previous humans in seeing and proving the Creator God. Our generation can easily identify and understand the work of a Creator/programmer that previous generations were unable to do.

The Life of Birds

The author provides more information on bird implements and special characteristics.

"**Vultures** have naked heads, for they feed by thrusting their heads inside corpses and feathers would quickly become soiled by blood and guts and would become the source of infections."

"**Boobies** as they begin their dives for fish they pull back their wings and take the shape of an *arrowhead,* thus reducing wind resistance, but retaining their ability to steer as they take aim. At the last moment, within a foot or so of the water, they fully extend their wings backwards and hit the surface at 60 miles per hour. At such a speed, the impact with the water must be very violent, the boobies have a *network* of *airsacs* just below the skin in front of the body which absorbs much of the shock."

"Nor is water driven into their nostrils for these are permanently blocked and the birds breathe instead through the corner of the mouth.

"The huge precipices of the Outer Hebrides and the Orkneys, some over a thousand feet high, are colonized by millions of **Sea Birds** which settle on the narrow ledges, in itself no mean feat of aero-

batics, and there deposit their eggs. Those of guillemots and razorbills are even more pear-shaped than those of plovers, with one end blunt and the other pointed. The reason for this cannot be to allow the eggs to nestle close to one another, as it is for those of plovers, because guillemots and razorbills only produce a single egg. It could therefore be a *safety feature*. If objects with such a shape are pushed or knocked, they will not travel far, but merely roll in a circle, a *valuable* characteristic for eggs that may be laid on bare rock ledges."

"**Grebe** chicks climb up to the back of one of their parents. Once they are on board, the adult raises its wings slightly to prevent them falling off. The first objects Grebe chicks are given are *not* food. They are small feathers picked up by the adult from the surface of the water. Each little chick will swallow a great number."

Questions: Why would a parent bird *gather* for their newborn babies first meal small feathers which are *not* food? Why would the baby chicks *eat* the feathers, which are *not* food?

Attenborough goes on to explain the first meal of feathers serves a vital need. "The feathers may be indigestible, but they are *very valuable* nevertheless. They accumulate in the chick's stomach. Some form a felted plug in the opening that leads to the intestine. This prevents any sharp fish bones or indigestible parts of insects that the chick will soon be eating from passing through the stomach and damaging the delicate walls of the gut. Others collect into balls with which the fish bones become entangled and held until they are largely dissolved. This practice of feather-eating will continue throughout their lives, but it must be a *specially* valuable precaution at this early stage."

What if feathers floating on the water are not available, you might wonder. Ah, that has been taken care of too. The author explains, "small feathers (….) picked up by the adult from the surface of the water *or plucked from its own breast".* Strange behavior indeed, yet there it is.

As Attenborough points out, the baby Grebe chicks need this first meal of feathers. We are thus confronted with a problem in logic. How could Grebes survive for millions of years while they were evolving various techniques until finally, and purely by accident, they stumbled on the first meal of feathers solution? Yet that is the scenario Evolutionists would have us picture and believe.

Furthermore, once stumbled upon, how was the knowledge to eat the first meal of feathers passed on to each subsequent parent and to each baby bird?

No, the logical answer seems to be there was a *Master Programmer* at work and the needed feathers meal was *programmed* into the minds of the first Grebe parent and the first offspring baby. Programmed so thoroughly that the parent will even illogically pluck out its own feathers if necessary.

Flamingos live predominantly on blue-green algae. These microscopic plants float in the upper surface of the water and the lesser flamingo collects them with one of the *most complex* beaks possessed by any bird. When feeding, it lowers its long neck and holds this beak *upside down* and pointing *backwards*, just beneath the surface of the water where the algae it seeks congregates. The lower mandible is bulbous and has a *honeycomb* of air-filled spaces which cause it to float, so minimizing the muscular effort needed to hold the beak in the right place in the water. The *bend* in the middle of the beak is of particular importance. Were the beak straight, then when it opens, the gap between the mandibles would steadily increase from the corner of the gape to its tip. With a *bend* in the middle, the flamingo is able to separate its mandibles just slightly so that the distance between them is almost the same along nearly all its length. There is therefore no danger of a feeding bird taking in larger objects than it wants."

Internally, the edges of the mandibles are lined by *hinged horny plates*. The birds tongue acts as a *pump*, moving extremely rapidly backwards and forwards. As the tongue retracts, the hair-covered *plates* are swept down flat and water is drawn in. As the tongue pushes forward again, the plates lift, water is expelled and the algae and shrimp are strained off by the hairs. *Backward pointing spines* on the palate and the tongue guide the food particles into the throat. The bird is thus able to swallow its food with a *minimum* of salt water. *Pumping* in mouthfuls twenty times a second, a lesser flamingo can filter twenty liters of water a day and extract from it sixty grams of food.

You Be the Judge

We have considered only a few of the many complex bird design and special characteristics reported in great detail in this 311 page book. A summary of the few we have looked at are these: chisels, special locking devices, shock absorbers, glue like extraordinary tongue, barbed hairs, stiff bristles, a tool *maker* of a poker, a hook, and a harpoon, naked heads instead of feathered, takes the diving shape of an arrowhead, network of airsacs protecting a 60 mile per hour dive, nostrils permanently blocked, eggs specially designed to roll in a circle, small feathers needed to be eaten by newborn grebe birds, a most complex beak, honeycomb of air-filled spaces, needed bend in the middle of a beak, hinged horny

plates, and a tongue that acts as a pump.

We have to ask ourselves, are all of these implements and special characteristics the result of Evolution which admittedly is:

mindless,
purposeless,
accidental chance?

Or, are they more logically the result of:

planning,
design,
master programming,
an intelligent, purposeful Creator?

Which one makes more sense to you? 🕮

Learning Not to Become Offended

by Tommy Willis

As a student of human nature I always try to examine why we do the things we do, and react the way we do. It's important to know ourselves, and the danger of the human nature we were born with, and why we become offended.

Scripture tells us that many Christians will become offended and hate one another as the end of the age draws near (Matt 24:10-13). This relates to the problem of not knowing ourselves and the danger of our human nature. Think about it, if the many Christians that become offended (that this Scripture talks about) would have seen the danger of their human nature, they would have seen more of the need to pray and draw close to God, so that His Spirit would be there to help them react with mercy and forgiveness towards those who have done them wrong.

If we will study the above verses we will see that after Jesus says that many will hate one another and become offended, that He then relates "but he that endures till the end will be saved"; showing the connection of not becoming offended and enduring till the end! Many of the things that happen will be testing points to see how much we are going to seek out God so that we can stay with His love and forgiveness to stay in focus on the narrow road.

The problem is we take things in the personal hurt way the world does when others react badly towards us; we get our feelings hurt and often get offended. This is why Jesus said in the same Olivet prophecy that if we would "watch and pray always" we would have His strength to endure through all these things.

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them" (Ps 119: 165). But this does not mean those who just know the doctrines and laws of the Bible intellectually. One must build up a close personal relationship with the Living Word and have enough of His Spirit inside to react with His mercy and compassion—have His law "written on our hearts", and then we will not become offended.

Many become offended at life itself; they didn't ask to be born and feel they don't deserve the trials they have to deal with (people relate to this subconsciously). But this is a dangerous attitude and could cause us to turn from God.

Everything that happens to you in life will be a blessing if you will not become offended, and let God teach you from it, because God says He is working it all to the good (Rom 8:28).

This is one of the keys to healthy spiritual growth. But we really get out of focus when we become offended; and we don't see the danger we are in. I share this with you as one who became offended for many years, which led to an unforgiving heart towards other Christians. I was in much danger during this time; it was many years before God taught me not to become offended. Had not God been able to clear up my unforgiving heart, I would have been destroyed in the lake of fire with that attitude, because God says that if you don't forgive your brother, then neither will He forgive you (Matt 6:14-15).

Many are offended at their lot in life; they may feel they are from dysfunctional families, or that they don't have much of the world's material goods; or that fate has dealt them many bad roads. But as believers we need to realize that no matter how many problems we have, God says He will be there to guide and direct us and give us His grace to overcome and endure.

The inevitable trials of this mortal life will come; and it's important to learn not to become offended at what God allows to come our way. God is the Master Arranger, and knows just what trials each of His children need; what will work with one child, might not work with another. We need to learn to trust in His provision, and see that if He allows it to come upon us, then He sees we need it; this is one of the keys to healthy spiritual growth. And keeping this in mind will help keep us from becoming offended at the suffering, which is for our benefit. 🕮

Fear Not

by Tommy Willis

> Ps 55:4 My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me.
> 5 Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me.

When I read the above words I thought about all the people are currently going though in this nation. An article in today's newspaper (Oct 24) said that one third of the people in the nation are having problems sleeping because of what happened on September 11; they are having nightmares or other mental disturbances at night. Some cannot get the images of those planes crashing into buildings out of their minds; or they're having images of planes falling out of the sky etc.

As believers we need to understand that fear is not part of God's plan for us. About ten years ago I heard a minister mention that we should ask God to protect us in our dreams and sleep. So I have been doing that ever since. Before I go to bed I ask God to watch over my dreams.

As I said above that fear is not part of God's plan for us. God tells us over and over in the Bible to "Fear not."

God knows that we would have problems with fear, but He also has given us a way to overcome it. We must do something about the fear and not let it eat away at us. David tells us in the Psalms, "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from **all** my fears" (Ps 34:4). Here we see David had fear like we all do, but he took action to do something about it—he went to God and sought out God's peace to deal with the fear. We must do the same.

Psalms 56:3 also relates to the above: "What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee." Here we see with both these Scriptures in the Psalms, that the believer had to do something to come out of the fear. They are good examples for us.

The best antidote to fear is to know God is with us. In Hebrews 13:5 God tells us that he will never leave or forsake us. But it must be more than just knowing the Scriptures intellectually; it must become a reality in our mind. God is not real for many believers. But the reality of God will grow inside of us as we learn to spend more time with Him. That's what David meant went he said I sought the Lord and He delivered me from all my fears; we must spend sufficient time seeking God out. This means more that just spending a little time when we feel like it, it means a diligent search.

> Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

We cannot expect to overcome our fears with a little prayer, and a little Bible study. But we must make a diligent search. But we often want maximum results with minimum effort, but it doesn't work that way.

Fear can paralyze our faith. And God will not be able to use us as He wants to.

God will give us the correct mental attitude to deliver us from our fears. We know that we are not supposed to be afraid, but we fall into the trap again and again. I find the times that I have fear are when I am not staying as close to God as I should. I know this is dangerous, so I try to guard against this by repenting and drawing closer to God.

In the current state of affairs in America today there is plenty of fear to go around. The terrorists have accomplished their goal and have caused terror in the hearts and minds of millions of the people. And according to Scripture there will be more and more terror that will come upon this nation in the future unless America repents and changes it ways.

But as I said above, as believers we need to understand that fear is not a part of God's plan for us. We are not to even fear physical death, Jesus told us, "…do not fear those who kill the body." (Mat 10:28). The only valid fear is fear of God; if we fear God we need not fear anything else.

God promises us peace in the midst of the chaos of the world. We may have to go through much of the tribulation that is coming on the world. But Jesus told us that we should learn to rest in His peace:

> John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

As we learn to rest in His peace we will not be ripped to emotional shreds with the rest of the world as the chaos increases in this nation. Let us learn to seek Him diligently and we will be able to become more aware of His abiding presence. And this will enable us to "Fear not" as He commands us to do. 📖

War or Peace?

by Tommy Willis

President John Kennedy said: "Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind." This relates to what Jesus said, that if those days wouldn't be cut short that no flesh would be saved (Matt 24:22). But thank God those days will be shortened.

Students of history will know that man has always had wars. As we study into human behavior we will see that mankind has a track record of chaos and bloodshed.

But we are now living in different times. We have heard it said that with nuclear bombs man can destroy all of life on earth; but we have heard that said so many times that it doesn't shock us any more. But wars will come, and the chaos will increase, God says so. But what is important for us to understand as believers is that we can have the peace of God amid the turmoil of the world.

In James 4:1 he tells the Christians: "What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members?" (RSV).

The problems with the conflicts we see in the world, and the problems with the infighting in the Church organizations, are because of the same human nature. But there's a tendency to skip over that part—we feel that if we will just get all the doctrines right, and get everyone to agree with us, then we think we will have unity and peace.

But we often fail to see that if doctrine is all we have, then we can become like the Pharisees preaching the Ten Commandments. They kept the right doctrine, but failed to build up a relationship with God; therefore they lacked the mercy and compassion of God. We should seek to get the correct doctrine, but also not let the other undone.

Many of us will go to our graves believing different on some doctrine; but many who believed differently will go to the same Kingdom of God because of the Blood of Jesus Christ—which makes us righteous in God's sight. If one has truly repented of their sins, and accepted Jesus' Sacrifice, then they are cleansed from all unrighteousness—(1Jn 1:9).

It is the blood that cleanses us and makes us pure—not who is the most "doctrinally pure".

Understanding human behavior—and why we do what we do—can be more important than getting every little point of doctrine right. Human nature is at the root of our problems; it's the reason for wars in the world and conflicts in the Church. In or out of the Church, God plainly tells us what the flesh will produce (Gal 5:19-21). And the only way we won't produce these works is if God is there with us, and if we are under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, then we will see the fruits of the Spirit (v 22-23).

But there is something in our nature that makes us feel we are good people; we try to justify our bad behavior. Paul was still learning that there was nothing good in human nature 20 years after his baptism (Rom 7:18-19), and said how he kept doing the evil he didn't want to do.

This article related James 4:1, but let us go on to read verses 2-4. "You desire and do not have; so you kill. And you covet and cannot obtain; so you fight and wage war. You have not because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." We are not to get caught up in the world's ways and attitudes of doing things. And in verse 6 He says: "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

But we will not have the humility necessary if we don't acknowledge our problems. It is God's nature we need; but He opposes and resists the proud; therefore we will never have His humility in us if we continue to fail to acknowledge our failures.

Wars in the world, and conflicts in the Church, all stem from the pull of our Adam-like nature that Paul describes so well in Romans 7. We must come to acknowledge that **we** are the great failures; it is only then that we will seek God as we should, because it is only then, we will see our need for God as we should.

In the above Scriptures we see how important attitude is; we must let God teach us the **childlike humility** so that His Spirit can lead us.

As the conflicts of the world increase, fear is not a part of God's plan for us. Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27).

Jesus is talking about the peace that passes understanding. And it is this kind of peace that we are going to need as all of society comes tumbling down as the wars and conflicts increase.

Jesus came to tell us that the war is over. Even as we see the increase of wars and rumors of wars, if we will learn to take Jesus Christ by the hand and walk with Him, then we can learn to rest in His peace amid the chaos of the world. 🕮

Questions & Comments

from Our Readers

October 30, 2001

Dear Norm:

After what has happened in America, wanted to see how you were all doing. We are all so sad and amazed at what has happened in America (and now Afghanistan). As with victims of any terrorists, our hearts go out to all the victims and their families.

We personally have not suffered any loss in this attack, but know of at least three others who have. A family friend has mates in New York—one lost her father (a firefighter) and another lost her only brother. My husband's workmate lost her friend aboard one of the flights that crashed into the World Trade Center and my son's classmate lost her uncle, also aboard one of the flights.

Only God knows what will happen next and we must all look to Him and His Son for assurance and guidance.

With all that has happened, we do pray that everyone is okay and had a spiritually profitable Feast.

—L Peers, Australia

Dear Ms. Peers,

Thank you very much for sharing your loss with us. Watching a disaster on TV does not affect many of us—it is too similar to the many suspense movies that we watch, then walk away from and go about our business. Realizing that there are people we used to see and whom we will not see again in this life is a whole different matter.

In places like Israel and Afghanistan that have been involved in various wars on their own soil for decades, virtually everybody knows somebody who has been killed in a war. It should help us understand why so many are so eager to arm themselves and fight against these they perceive to be enemies.

— Norman Edwards

The following three letters were passed on to me via e-mail because a* Shelter *reader thought they were good, but the original author is not known. Anonymous letters are not a way to establish facts, but the ideas they present can be useful.

October 30, 2001

[What must we do to be saved?] Acts 2:38 seems clear enough, "repent and be baptized. For added clarity though, we should follow Christ's example: "he who says I know Him should walk even as He walked" (1Jn 2:6) a Christ was baptized then defeated "Satan". So maybe the question should be, "Do I have to follow Christ's example to be saved?" mmmmmmmm **Yes!!!** By all means and with your whole heart, mind and every fiber of your being.

—Dale, via the Internet

Dear Dale,

Your point is well made! In an effort to "win many people to Christ", may Christian groups have trivialized the process of becoming a Christian. Far too many have walked down the aisle at a meeting and believed they were "saved", but are not now "walking as He walked"—and may not even know that they are supposed to be doing that!

— Norman Edwards

December, 2001

Immigrants, not Americans Must Adapt!!!

I am tired of this nation worrying about whether we are offending some individual or their culture. Since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, we have experienced a surge in patriotism by the majority of Americans. However, the dust from the attacks had barely settled when the "politically correct" crowd began complaining about the possibility that our patriotism was offending others.

I am not against immigration, nor do I hold a grudge against anyone who is seeking a better life by coming to America. Our population is almost entirely comprised of descendants of immigrants. However, there are a few things that those who have recently come to our country, and apparently some born here, need to understand.

This idea of America being a multicultural community has served only to dilute our sovereignty and our national identity. As Americans, we have our own culture, our own society, our own language and our own lifestyle. This culture has been developed over centuries of struggles, trials, and victories by millions of men and women who have sought freedom.

We speak **English**, not Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, or any other language. Therefore, if you wish to become part of our society, learn the language!

"In God We Trust" is our national motto. This is not some Christian, rightwing, political slogan. We adopted this motto because Christian men and women, on Christian principles, founded this nation, and this is clearly documented and we should all take the time to thoroughly look this up! It is certainly appropriate to display it on the walls of our schools. If God offends you, then I suggest you consider another part of the world as your new home, because

God is part of our culture. We have allowed too many 'anti-God' persons to cause problems in this country even **erroneously** interpreting the 'separation of Church & State issue. Our founding Fathers didn't want **a state religion** such as some other countries have.

If Stars and Stripes offend you, or you don't like Uncle Sam, then you should seriously consider a move to another part of this planet. We are happy with our culture and have no desire to change, and we really don't care how you did things where you came from. This is **our country**, our land, and our lifestyle.

Our First Amendment gives every citizen the right to express his opinion and we will allow you every opportunity to do so. But, once you are done complaining, whining, and griping about our flag, our pledge, our national motto, or our way of life, I highly encourage you to take advantage of one other great American freedom: **the right to leave!!!!!!**

—[Unknown]

Dear Unknown,

While your approach seems to be more from frustration than love for others, the points you made our valid. Our nation was not founded as a "godless nation", but one where the state would not enforce any one denomination. Nevertheless, many 18th century government documents clearly mention the Christian God and the Bible.

While many people think dissolving all national boundaries is the way to peace, God established nations in Genesis 10 and condemned a "one world government" in Genesis 11. It will be best if the USA keeps its religion and heritage in its land, and respects the right of other nations to do the same.

— Norman Edwards

October 24, 2001

In light of many of the current world events, Isaiah 40:15 is one of my favorite scriptures. "Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing" (KJV).

Please notice (reading further in context) that ultimate correction is done by God Himself, not some righteous religious zealot human movement. I think it interesting that it makes no difference, rich or poor, people still make some other thing, being or set of beliefs as their item of worship, thus a false god. They call upon false spirits as well. Sincerity is not the all in all. False zealots can and will cause a fight in God's stead and motivate masses around the movement if they have great riches or power. God says, "Vengeance is mine" so fights can occur for true righteousness sake. It's His privilege, not mine or any man, to determine the battle. However He allows such to take place to wake up mankind to see their ways, void of Him, are the ways of death and failure.

> All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him? The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains. He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved. Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. (Isa 40:17-25, KJV)

When will people listen to His standards and ways and believe and do them? His ways are the ways to victory, peace, happiness and wholesome success and freedom, ... nothing else."

—[Unknown]

Dear Unknown,

While I think some Christians suffer from not asking themselves, "What does Christ want me to do?", many others suffer from fear, not remembering that Christ has these nations under control.

— Norman Edwards 🕮

Share Your Shelter

Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

1. Talk to them about what you have learned and encourage them to study the Bible themselves.
2. Copy your *Shelter* and give it to them (almost any office or copy store will do this for $1 to $2).
3. Give them your *Shelter* (we will send you a replacement issue if you write or call).
4. Copy just this page or write down the address or phone so they can request their own subscription.

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