

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

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"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword"...
Hebrews 4:12

Dear Friends and Family,

Rodney and I are just about finished with our move to Florida. It is hard to tear-up your whole household and move everything you own to another location. If you have ever done this I am sure you know what I mean. Many things you used to need may not be needed in your new location so you go through the process of sorting out everything and getting rid of what you can no longer use.

It reminds me of Abraham in the Bible and how they lived in tents and moved often. But of course they didn't have all the modern-day gadgets and things we think we cannot live without. I think they were better off; life was more simple. Harder, but more simple! I often think of when the Israelites left Egypt and wandered in the desert all those years. They never knew when they were going to move on; following Jesus in the cloud by day and the fire by night. They had to be ready to move at any time. We also have to be ready to move at anytime the Lord directs us to, but I miss all my dear friends and neighbors and Rodney's daughter, her husband and all our church friends so much!

MESSAGE FOR THIS MONTH: CHOOSE LIFE

SHE SAVED 219

Mrs. Betty Tisdale is a world-class heroine. When the war in Vietnam heated up back in 1975 she knew she had to save the 400 orphans who were about to be put on the streets. She had already adopted five orphaned Vietnamese girls with her former pediatrician husband, Col. Patrick Tisdale, a widower who already had five children.

Tom Dooley, a US Naval doctor in Vietnam in 1954 had helped refugees flee from the communist north. He was an influence on Betty and changed her life forever. She took her life savings and traveled to Vietnam 14 times on her vacations to visit and work in the hospitals and orphanages Tom Dooley had founded.

"The first time I went to Vietnam and I found An Lac [orphanage] and they opened the gates to the orphanage, I couldn't believe my eyes," Tisdale said. "I walked into the nursery and I saw babies in rusty cribs with no diapers or rag diapers with one pin."

"I had to help these children. That is what started the whole thing," Tisdale added.

Tisdale spent years raising funds and volunteering for the An Lac orphanage. She raised money, gathered donations and made several trips to Vietnam herself.

But in 1975, as the Viet Cong drew closer to Saigon, hundreds of the orphans' lives were at stake.

"I knew I had to go over and bring those children back," Tisdale said. "I had no idea how to do it -- where I was going to put them. I had to find planes, a place for them and find parents for them."

While in Saigon, she fell in love with the orphans at An Lac (Happy Place), run by Madam Vu Thi Ngai, who was later evacuated by Betty the day Vietnam fell, and returned with her to Georgia to live with Betty and her ten children.

When Betty realized the 400 children's plight, she went into warp speed action. She told Madam Ngai she would come and get them all adopted. She didn't know how she would do it she just knew that she'd do it.

In moments she began to move mountains. She visualized all those babies growing up in good Christian homes in America, not under communism. This kept her motivated.

She left for Vietnam from Ft. Benning, Georgia and arrived in Saigon and miraculously conquered every obstacle to airlift 400 out of Saigon. The head of Vietnam's social welfare, Dr. Dan would only approve children under ten years old and all had to have birth certificates. She knew war orphans were fortunate to simply be alive. They don't have birth certificates.

She had no idea when, where and to whom they were born. She obtained 225 blank birth certificates and quickly created birth dates, times and places for the 219 eligible babies, toddlers and youngsters.

Birth certificates were the only hope they had to depart the place safely and have a viable future with freedom. It was now or never!

Now she needed a place to house the orphans once they were evacuated. The military at Ft. Benning, Georgia resisted. She could not get the Commanding General on the phone, so she called the office of the Secretary of the Army, Bo Callaway, from Georgia. She was never able to reach him by phone either. So she contacted his mother and pleaded her case. She told Betty she would do what she could.

Virtually overnight the Secretary of the Army responded and arranged that a school at Ft. Benning be used as the interim home for the orphans of An Lac.

She tried to charter a Pan Am plane but Lloyds of London had raised the insurance so high that it was impossible to negotiate at this time. She went to Ambassador Graham Martin and pleaded for some sort of transportation for the children and he agreed to help if all the papers were cleared through the Vietnamese government.

Dr. Dan signed the last manifest; literally as the children were boarding the two Air force planes.

The orphans were malnourished and sickly. Most had never been away from the orphanage. They were scared. Babies and children were loaded onto the planes. The babies, some newborns, were carried in handmade baskets and then transferred to cardboard boxes that were placed on the floor.

The volunteers who helped with feeding them and strapping them into their seats; were deeply touched that day as the 219 children were transported to freedom. There was a \$21,000 expense for a United Airlines to charter from the Philippines to home. Dr. Tisdale guaranteed payment because of his love for the orphans. Had Betty more time, she could have probably got it for free. But time was a factor so she moved quickly.

Within one month of arriving in the United States the Tressler Lutheran Agency in York Pennsylvania, which specializes in getting handicapped children adopted, found a home for each orphan.

Many of the children from An Lac now have successful careers and are raising families of their own.

"She's given us such a gift, and I think it's our obligation to just live quality lives and do our best," said Adam Strouse. "That's the best gift we can give her."

"We were all her children, and she would come and give you the warmest hug and say you know you have another mother in me," said Elizabeth Berg.

As Dr. Tom Dooley once said, "it takes ordinary people to do extraordinary things."

God can and does use ordinary people to do great things!

DECODING THE BOOK OF DANIEL AND REVELATION CONTINUED.....

Read Daniel 9

In the beginning of Daniel chapter nine, we find Daniel in prayer. He and most of the former inhabitants of his nation have been in captivity for nearly seventy years, because of their sins and their worship of pagan gods.

Daniel read in the writings of Jeremiah that after seventy years God was going to allow Jerusalem to be restored and the temple rebuilt. In the destruction of Jerusalem the temple had been destroyed and no lambs had been sacrificed for the sins of the people since its destruction. This helps us to understand the taking away of the "daily sacrifice", mentioned in chapter eight. The sacrifice of the lambs pointed to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. (read Jeremiah 25:1-11)

"Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for **OUR** righteousnesses, but for **THY** GREAT MERCIES." Daniel 9:17,18

While still in prayer the Angel Gabriel who had appeared before him in vision at the beginning, touched him.

“And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to show thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.

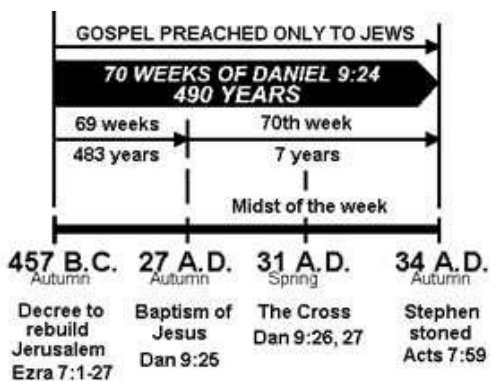
SEVENTY WEEKS are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

Know therefore and understand, that **FROM THE GOING FORTH OF THE COMMANDMENT** (or decree) **TO RESTORE AND TO BUILD JERUSALEM UNTO THE MESSIAH THE PRINCE** SHALL BE SEVEN WEEKS, AND THREESCORE AND TWO WEEKS: THE STREET SHALL BE BUILT AGAIN, AND THE WALL, EVEN IN TROUBLOUS TIMES.

AND AFTER THREESCORE AND TWO WEEKS SHALL MESSIAH BE CUT OFF, BUT NOT FOR HIMSELF: AND THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE THAT SHALL COME SHALL DESTROY THE CITY AND THE SANCTUARY; AND THE END THEREOF SHALL BE WITH A FLOOD, AND UNTO THE END OF THE WAR DESOLATIONS ARE DETERMINED. AND HE SHALL CONFIRM THE COVENANT WITH MANY FOR ONE WEEK: AND IN THE MIDST OF THE WEEK HE SHALL CAUSE THE SACRIFICE AND THE OBLATION TO CEASE, AND FOR THE OVERSPREADING OF ABOMINATIONS HE SHALL MAKE IT DESOLATE, EVEN UNTIL THE CONSUMMATION, AND THAT DETERMINED SHALL BE Poured UPON THE DESOLATE”. Daniel 9:22-27

Note: there were three decrees issued by the rulers of Persia to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. (1)- Cyrus in 536 BC (See Ezra 1:1-4) (2)- Darius in 520 BC (See Ezra 6:1-16

(3)-Artaxerxes 457BC. (Ezra 6:14) Now that the last decree or



commandment was given to restore Jerusalem in 457BC we have a starting point

for the two prophecies.

Let's do the math! In Daniel 7:25 and 26 there are two periods of time mentioned in the prophecy, SEVEN WEEKS AND THREE SCORE AND TWO WEEKS. Using the day-for-a-year principle: (See Eze 4:6 and Numbers 14:23) (In Jewish reckoning there are thirty days in a month. A score is 20.) As the prophecy said, at the end of the forty-nine years Jerusalem would be restored. (See chart)

DANIEL'S PROPHECY PROVES THE DAY FOR A YEAR RULE

The following is just some of the evidence that shows the day for a year rule is correct when prophecy is symbolic.: The book of Daniel was written while the Jews were in Babylon in exile because of their sins. Daniel 9:24-27 contains a prophecy from the angel Gabriel to encourage the Jewish people that they would be given a “second chance” to return to Jerusalem, rebuild their temple and ultimately receive Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Thus we have a prophecy of “seventy weeks.” Gabriel subdivides the period into three smaller periods of **seven weeks** (verse 25), **sixty-two weeks** (verse 25), and **one week** (verse 27). (7+62+1=70) Seventy weeks = 490 days and on the day for a year rule is actually 490 years. The prophecy starts with a “*commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem*” (verse 25), after the Babylonian captivity, and reaches down to the first coming of Jesus Christ. After 69 weeks (483 years), “*shall Messiah be cut off*” (verse 26), i.e. the Messiah would die. After the 69 weeks, and in this final week, it says, “*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease*” (verse 27). The sacrifices and offerings ceased, of course, when Jesus became the final perfect sacrifice for us. Matthew 27:50-51. Here we see how the day for a year rule fits history perfectly. If we did not apply the day for a year rule, Jerusalem would have needed to be rebuilt in 49 days (impossible) instead of the actual 49 years it did take. The ministry of Jesus would have been only 3.5 days instead of the actual 3.5 years. Daniel was told to seal up this 2300 day prophecy as it applied to a long time in the future which the angel

called the “time of the end”. (Daniel 8:17; 12:4, 9) The 2300 days into the future would not have made it to 400 BC. Hardly what one could call the “*time of the end*” in which we now live. (cont’d next month)

LIBERTY NOTES ON THE BILL OF RIGHTS (CON’T) SEVENTH, EIGHTH, NINTH AND TENTH AMENDMENTS

THE SEVENTH AMENDMENT

Right to a jury trial in civil cases

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

The authors of the Bill of Rights secured the right of trial by jury for *criminal defendants* in the SIXTH AMENDMENT. In the SEVENTH AMENDMENT they sought to extend the right to a jury trial for parties *in civil proceedings* as well. The determination of our early statesmen was to have the people involved in the decisions of the courts. They did not entrust the administration of justice, even in civil proceedings solely to attorneys and judges. They meant for the citizens to have a voice in THE CIVIL, as well as the CRIMINAL, justice systems.

THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT

Protection against excessive measures

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishment inflicted.

Arbitrary rules and fines and torturous executions are the stuff of tyrants, and the authors of the Bill of Rights abhorred such things. They drafted the Eighth Amendment not because they were against the punishment of evildoers, but because they sought a society that was more humane. While they wanted appropriate punishments for crimes, the barbaric practices of English kings and others throughout history influenced them to choose a different path.

THE NINTH AMENDMENT

Rights retained by the people

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

The Ninth Amendment made it clear that the federal government would not have the power to deny individ-

ual rights that were not specifically mentioned in the document.

In the thinking of the Founding Fathers, rights were God-given, not bestowed by government. They believed the function of government was to secure or protect these rights. Because they viewed these God-given rights as numerous, they were hesitant to try to identify them all, for fear of leaving something out.

THE TENTH AMENDMENT

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States, respectively, or to the people.

Under the system of limited, constitutional government established by our Founding Fathers, only certain powers are delegated to the federal government. In the first three articles of the Constitution, the Founders delegated specific powers to the legislative, executive and judicial branches of our federal government. These powers are very limited.

24 specific or enumerated powers delegated to Congress, with 16 other powers listed elsewhere in the Constitution.

The founders limited the actions of the president to 12 powers. Two other duties are mentioned; the duty to report to Congress on the state of the union and the charge to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” While not necessarily “powers”, they are responsibilities of the office.

11 areas of jurisdiction to the federal courts. One of these, disputes between a state and citizens of another state, was removed from the jurisdiction of the federal courts by the 11th Amendment.

With the exception of these delegated powers and responsibilities, our early statesmen intended the states to handle the functions of government. The powers that state and local governments did not need to exercise were those the people were to exercise themselves.

DISPLAY AND HONORING OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

George Washington had fourteen handwritten copies of the Bill of Rights made, one for Congress and one for each of the original thirteen states.– The copies for Georgia, Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania went missing. The New York copy is thought to have been destroyed in a fire. Two unidentified copies of the missing four (thought to be the Georgia and Maryland copies) survive; one is in the National Archives, and the other is in the New York Public Library.– North Carolina’s copy was stolen from the State Capitol by a Union soldier.

This concludes our study into the 10 original Bill of Rights. It is sad to say that our rights are gradually being taken away. But we thought it might be interesting to see what they are about. I remember studying about them in school. Are they being taught in schools today?

"No people will tamely surrender their liberties, nor can any be easily subdued, when knowledge is diffused and virtue is preserved. On the contrary, when people are universally ignorant, and debauched in their manners, they will sink under their own weight without the aid of foreign invaders." - Samuel Adams

HEALTH NUGGET

DANGERS OF SCREEN ADDICTION ON OUR CHILDREN

When Steve Jobs, the Co-Founder of Apple was asked what his kids thought about the iPhone, he said, "The kids don't use it. **We don't allow it in the home.**"

And before you think that was an atypical tech titan response, a school in the Bay Area of San Francisco is almost entirely tech-free. It's called the 'Waldorf School of the Peninsula', and it doesn't allow iPhones, iPads, computers, etc. The school says that 75 percent of the kids there have parents who are tech execs in Silicon Valley.

So, what is it about screens that some of the wealthiest innovators in the world don't want their kids exposed to?

We are told that the prophet Samuel went to the house of Jesse to anoint the next King of Israel. As he arrived, he looked at seven handsome young men all of which appeared ready to be king. But the one God had chosen was not the one that Samuel would have thought He would choose.

The Lord does not look at the things people look at "for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7 last part).

So, what was it about David that was preparing him to lead better than his brothers? The details we know show us that he spent a great deal of time in nature caring for animals and using his creativity to write and play music.

Speaking about character development, E.G. White, who wrote a lot about best practices for raising children and educating them, and in writing about Adam and Eve in Eden says that they were given "the occupation most

favorable to development--the care of plants and animals" (*Education*, p. 43).

White also posits the radical idea that "the only schoolroom for children from eight to ten years of age should be in the open air, amid the opening flowers and nature's beautiful scenery. And their only textbook should be the treasures of nature" (*Christian Education*, p. 8).

Caring for plants and animals and spending inordinate amounts of time in the outdoors sounds revolutionary in a world of gadgets. So what's the concern with screens?

"I've worked with hundreds of heroin addicts and crystal meth addicts, and what I can say is that it's easier to treat a heroin addict than a true screen addict." says Nicholas Kardaras, author of *'Glow Kids: How Screen Addiction Is Hijacking Our Kid's*.

Kardaras is one of the country's top addiction experts. In his book, he details how compulsive technology usage and reliance on screens *can neurologically damage the developing brain of a child the same way that drug addiction can*. Through extensive research, clinical trials with diagnosed screen addicts, and experience treating a variety of other types of addicts, the author explores the alarming reality of how children could be *"stunting their creative abilities" by constantly turning on and tuning in*.

If you're a parent or prospective one, that last line should arrest your attention. *Could screen time in those formative years be stunting the life potential of a child?* The answer seems to be **yes**.

Why is creativity so important? A study from Oxford University predicts 47 percent of jobs are at risk of being replaced by automation in the next twenty years. We need to make sure our children have a competitive advantage or even fighting chance to survive and thrive in the coming years in the global workforce. If automation is threatening half of our jobs, what will be the skill that sets us apart? Mark Cuban, American entrepreneur and billionaire, seems to believe that "employers will soon be on the hunt for candidates who excel at creative and critical thinking."

PARENTING IN TODAY'S WORLD IS NO EASY TASK. When the stresses of life are pressing in on all sides, it's just so easy to hand a child a smartphone or tablet for example and let them entertain themselves. Take video games for example; do we know what is going on in that developing mind?

"Research shows *that both drug use and excessive screen usage actually stunts the frontal cortex and reduces the grey matter in that part of the brain.*"

“With video games, however, the kid sits and plays for hours of **adrenal-elevated fight-or-flight**. IT IS NOT A GOOD THING. Research has shown that this latest generation of games **significantly raises dopamine levels**, the key neurotransmitter associated with our **pleasure and reward** pathways and **the key neurotransmitter** in addiction dynamics. One study showed that video games raise dopamine to the same degree that sex does, and almost as much as cocaine does. So, this combo of adrenaline and dopamine are a potent one-two punch with regards to addiction.”

And we all know the scenario too well. We see a kid who is so addicted to screens or their games **that they would rather enjoy their digital world than the real one**. “The reason why this effect is more powerful on children than adults—although we all know of many adults who are screen-addicted—is that **children still don't have a fully-developed frontal cortex**, the part of the brain that controls **executive functioning, decision-making, and impulse control**.”

Neuropsychologists today now understand that **THE FRONTAL CORTEX IS THE FILTER AND COMMAND CENTER THAT DETERMINES HOW WE VIEW THE WORLD AND HOW WE DETERMINE RIGHT AND WRONG**. It's also the place where **EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE IS DETERMINED**. Research has discovered that this part of the brain doesn't develop until our early 20s and that it may not have fully developed until our mid to late 20s.

I find that interesting because, in ancient Israel, a man could not be a priest until the age of 30.

“Research shows that both drug use and excessive screen usage actually **stunts the frontal cortex and reduces the grey matter in that part of the brain**. So hyper-arousing games create a double whammy. Not only are they addicting, but then addiction perpetuates itself by **negatively impacting the part of the brain that can help with impulsivity and good decision making**.”

Often in Scripture, we find references to the forehead. God is putting his seal or mark there, or Lucifer is putting his mark there. The underlying concept is really talking about the pre-frontal cortex (i.e. the frontal lobe). It is the seat of judgment, morality, and character in addition to creativity and critical thinking.

The people of God are sealed in their foreheads,” wrote E.G. White. “It is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved” (*Maranatha*, p. 201).

As we all put our hopes in the next generation to pass the baton of hope to, let's be as innovative as possible, even if that means we need to go back to the future.

FROM KATIE'S COOKBOOKS

EASY LASAGNA (Serves 10-12) (Paula Eakins-3ABN)

- 1 (8 oz) pkg. lasagna noodles, uncooked
- 1 med. Onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 4 cups chunky tomato-style spaghetti sauce
- 1 ½ cup water
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese substitute
- 1 Tbsp Italian seasoning
- 1 tbsp chicken-like seasoning
- 2 (12.3 oz) Mori-Nu tofu (silken firm,) crumbled
- 1 (8 oz) pkg. fresh spinach
- 2 Tbsp dry parsley
- 1 tsp onion powder

Preheat oven to 350°. Heat oil in large skillet; sauté garlic and onions. Add spaghetti sauce, water and Italian seasoning. Cook over low heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. In a bowl, mix crumbled tofu, parsley, chicken-like seasoning and onion powder. Set mixture aside. Pour 1 cup of sauce on bottom of a 13x9 inch baking dish. Arrange 3 uncooked pasta pieces length-wise over sauce. Cover with 1 cup sauce. Spread ½ of the tofu filling and ½ of the spinach over it. Repeat layers of noodles, sauce, filling and spinach. Top with layer of noodles and remaining sauce. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese substitute. Cover with foil. Bake 45 min. Remove foil and bake additional 20 minutes until noodles are done. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

That's it for this time....See you next month if the good Lord is willing!

Remember God loves you and so do we!

Katie and Rodney

CHOOSE LIFE

Christians do not die. The moment they give their hearts to Jesus their eternal life begins. On the other hand sinners die twice.

DEATH IS A SLEEP

“David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:” Acts 14:36

“But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” 1 Thesalonians 4:13-17

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52

“And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep

Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. John 11:11-14}

“David “is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day.” “For David is not ascended into the heavens.” Acts 2:29,34.

The fact that David remains in the grave until the resurrection proves that the righteous do not go to heaven at death.

Some preach that 2 Corinthians 5:8 saying absent from the body present with the lord means as soon as you die you are immediately with the Lord. The Bible does not teach this. The Bible does teach that you sleep the sleep of death until the resurrection and all saints are resurrected at the same time when Jesus comes for the redeemed.

Why would there be a resurrection if we go to heaven when we die? What about the spirit which some call the soul going back to God? Let us go to the book of Genesis where God created Adam and see what a *soul* is.

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; **and man became a living soul.** Genesis 2:7

According to this scripture we are a soul as long as we live. When we die what are we?

Think.... Adam *did not become a living soul* until God breathed into his nostrils *the breath of life*. *Oxygen is the breath of life*. Hold your breath for a few minutes and you will discover that.

“The traditional concept of an immaterial and [immortal soul](#) distinct from the body was not found in [Judaism](#) before the [Babylonian Exile](#),- but developed as a result of interaction with [Persian](#) and [Hellenistic](#) (Pagan) philosophies. Accordingly, the Hebrew word [nephesh](#), although translated as "soul" in some older English Bibles, actually has a meaning closer to "living being". *Nephesh* was rendered in the [Septuagint](#) as [ψυχή](#) (*psūchê*), the Greek word for soul. The New Testament also uses the word [ψυχή](#), but with the Hebrew meaning and not the Greek.

Number of times Nephesh and Psūchê are translated into certain English words.

"Indeed, the salvation of the 'immortal soul' has sometimes been a commonplace in preaching, but it is fundamentally unbiblical. Biblical anthropology is not dualistic but monistic: human being consists in the integrated wholeness of body and soul, and the Bible never

contemplates the disembodied existence of the soul in bliss.", Myers (ed.), "The Eerdmans Bible Dictionary", p. 518 (1987).

TWO RESSURECTIONS

The resurrection of the righteous takes place when Jesus returns to earth. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1Thessalonians 4:13-17

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years

And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, **till the thousand years should be fulfilled:** and after that he must be loosed a little season And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls (people) of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years** **But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

(Note: the second resurrection takes place at the end of the thousand years.)

And **when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth,** Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: **and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them."** Revelation 20:1-9

When Jesus comes to get His saints the wicked are destroyed.

"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved" 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

Too many times we focus on the here and now, when we should be focused on our eternal life. This life is like a grain of sand in the sea compared to our eternal existence.

This world is a dressing room, a temporary place. Compared to our eternal abode it is nothing.

"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1Corinthians 2:9

Compared to what God has provided for us this life here is but a mere existence.

Tourists travel the world over to see the world's wonders. There are many beautiful places and things to see.

Here in The United States we have The Grand Canyon, The Redwood Forests, Yellow Stone National Park and many other beautiful sights but they are nothing compared to the beauty of the universe.

I haven't been there yet but I believe the Bible and am anxious to see the things and places God has prepared for those that love Him enough to obey and follow Him.

Heaven will not be a place where we will float on a cloud and play a harp as some have pictured it. It is a real place for real people to enjoy.

"They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of My people, and Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." Isaiah 65:21,22

Rodney Armstrong

