• DAVE HUNT, FOUNDER • WWW.THEBEREANCALL.ORG

"[The Bereans] . . . searched the scriptures daily,



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[to see] whether those things were so.' —Acts 17:11

Ambassadors in Babel

Carl Teichrib

[Carl is a researcher, writer, and lecturer focusing on the paradigm shift sweeping the Western world, including the challenges and opportunities faced by Christians. He has been a frequent guest speaker at TBC conferences, and his talks can be found on our website: https://bit.ly/3LRrmpw]

BEST REMEMBERED FOR its remarkable tower, Genesis 11 tells us this was more than just an upright structure; it was a city assembled with a cause.

"Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens," reads the famous chapter. "Let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

How large was the community and how tall was the tower are moot points. It is the intention that is remarkable: a human agenda of collective aggrandizement, to engage in an act of idolatry that would elevate mankind into the heavens—"let us."

A parallel can be found in Isaiah's proverb against Babylon's king: "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14).

Indeed, the roots of Babel are planted in the lie presented within Genesis 3:5—that in the act of transgressing God, you can be as God. In other words, Babel was an affront against the Lord Most High, an act of unified deception wrapped-up in the greatest of hubris, an unabashed cockiness that goes beyond mere arrogance. It can be stated this way: *we* are the masters of our destiny, irrespective of what God desires, and we will prove this absolutely. Here is where we raise our pride, here is where we make our stand, here is where we affirm our power. Spiritually, it is collective foolishness, a broad road to destruction.

We know the outcome. Sometime during the building phase, as the people were attempting to ascend, God came down and invoked judgment, confusing their speech, "and they ceased building the city" (Genesis 11:8). But at the same time God issued His judgment and brought their action to an end, He also demonstrated *grace*, saving them from the consequence of greater rebellion. Implied in verse 6 is that, if left to succeed, this endeavor would set in motion other acts of rebellion: "Indeed, the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do: now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them."

A wealth of meaning emerges from Genesis 11. It provides an example of solidarity in naming, for in the group we define our purpose and boast in it. It is a proclaimed independence from God, as we now pursue our common design apart from His order. We assert our own security, achieved through power-inunity. Faith is found in the works of our hands; it is discovered within us instead of relying upon the Lord. In other words, *cooperatively we participate in our own salvation—we act as our own messiah*.

Who needs God when we can be as God?

Two points emerge. First, God Himself steps in as man ultimately oversteps. There is a limit to humanity's unholy action, and the timing of God's judgment is—and will be—right and just. Second, we are incapable of letting Babel fade away; it is a tantalizing illusion of human progress, and mankind is drawn to its variants as a moth-to-the-flame. Babel, synonymous with collective idolatry, is a blueprint of humanity's delusion.

Hence, when considering our contemporary era, we are inescapably faced with a multitude of Babel imprints, this quest to be our own masters apart from God—to build "heaven on Earth" in our own image.

The transhumanist movement fits this design. The desire to use technology in order to become "more than human" and therefore birth a planetary civilization—even to enter the heavens as cosmic beings—is a dream that has jumped past the pages and scripts of science fiction and entered the conversations of Silicon Valley titans, bioethicists, neuroscientists, futuristic philosophers, and even religious figures.

Many years ago, in June 2013, I attended the Global Future 2045 International Congress in New York City as a researcher. There I witnessed the heady excitement as technicians and scientists gushed over the works-of-theirhands, pointing to the year 2045 as our "date with destiny"—the hope of immortality and God-like capabilities. We would take hold of evolution and transform ourselves into something greater, so the narrative was repeated. We were "on the path to a new evolutionary strategy."

Space entrepreneur Peter Diamandis talked about humanity's convergence into a "metaintelligence": that as everyone on the planet becomes deeply connected through information technologies, we emerge as a "new organism." Our collective information experience, he explained, will usher in the "ultimate form of our evolution" and we become "conscious on a cosmic level." In other words, *we ascend through our technology*.

Those infamous words from millennia ago come rushing back: "Come, let us build."

One of the 2045 Congress speakers, a religious leader delighted by the unifying promise of technical transcendence, pieced together a boast with words that were not his own: "You are the light, you are the truth, you are the beginning, you are the end." Bold? It's more than that.

Here's another example from Mark Pesce, a pioneer in web interfacing, as excerpted from his documentary, *Becoming Transhuman*:

We seek, therefore, to bless ourselves with perfect knowledge and perfect will, to become as gods, take the universe in hand, and transform it in our own image, for our own delight. As it is on Earth, so it shall be in the heavens, the inevitable result of incredible improbability, the arrow of evolution lifting us into the Transhuman, an apotheosis through reason, salvation attained by good works.

This is hubris...and it isn't going to work.

The Babel model also dovetails with the rallying cry for global order. From United Nations summits to World Federalist events to the scheming of the World Economic Forum, in political unity we save ourselves and remake Paradise, becoming the planet's selfproclaimed messiahs.

This line of thinking has been circulating for decades. Consider what American Peace Society member, Raymond Bridgman, wrote in 1905—his was an intoxicating vision of human empowerment, a "political unity of the world":

The world, unified and intelligent, would for the first time in human history come to the grandeur of its existence as one, and would feel the thrill of intelligent unity...knowing its unlimited powers, looking over the earth and recognizing its directorship amid all the forces of nature and man, feeling its strength and realizing its boundless opportunity, will say "I will." Thus and then would be accomplished the grandest revolution in human history. The world would have found itself, would have come into self-consciousness, realized its true supremacy, and declared its opportunity.

Such a boast!

Fast forward to the late 1990s and actress Jean Stapleton. Like other luminaries of that era, such as news anchor Walter Cronkite, Stapleton believed in the potential of world government. Her endorsement of the World Federalist Association—now renamed Citizens for Global Solutions—the longest-running world government lobbying group in the United States, is telling. Notice the messianic tone: "The goal of the World Federalists is peace through unity of government. We must support their vision of oneness in diversity for it is the salvation of humanity."

This hope in cooperative human salvation can be found in the Parliament of the World's Religions, the mother ship of the interfaith movement. While at the 2018 Parliament in Toronto, I listened as Swami Agnivesh expressed his vision for one planet: "We, the peoples of the world, need to unite and demand a world government, and a world parliament, based on an Earth constitution."

After six days of sessions where religious leaders and political figures held hands, the closing plenary offered gratitude for the work done during the Parliament: "Thanks to all of those who are committed to the salvation of the Earth."

This kind of salvation-in-unity rhetoric is prevalent within the global interfaith community. Consider this montage of quotes, as taken from my notes during the 2023 Parliament in Chicago: "It's the world's religious leaders who ultimately bring the world together.... We're building Heaven on Earth, we birth Heaven right here.... [It's the] end of the old world order; the start of the new world order—one humanity, one earth.... Salvation is not individual but is collective, and only in the community are we saved.... We are the resurrection who leads to the Promised Land."

The gospel of Babel is being openly preached.

Glimpses of this ancient-future structure can likewise be seen at transformational events like Burning Man, which had a 60-foot tall "Chapel of Babel" in 2023. Plastered over its walls were thousands of photographs of animals and people, and inside was a confessional booth where you could unload your soul. It was an appropriate edifice, for Burning Man is a place where the world comes together—a place that bridges spirituality with secularism,

materialism with mysticism, and where the individual finds purpose in the collective hive.

So what might Babel 2.0 entail?

I am reminded of a workshop I attended at Burning Man in 2018. The subject was Artificial Intelligence (AI) and spirituality, and the discussion was led by a major personality in the field of digital currencies. A new paradigm will be necessary to birth a new civilization, so went the narrative. And with this in mind, our real-time information becomes the energy that enables AI to participate in this global civilization. But as we are spiritual beings, how will AI understand this? Is it possible to "make AI spiritual"? In seeking to build the "pure information community," we were told, Artificial Intelligence will need the capacity to "read people" and respond in ways that reflect our spiritual evolution. Over the course of the workshop, it was evident that *this* version of Babel would require four building blocks to complete its tower.

First, a new spirituality: out with the Christian worldview and in with the mystical and shamanistic. Second, a new social contract or ethos: a re-fashioned culture geared to radical tolerance and the exploration of identity, all painted in environmental green. Third, a new means of exchange and validation: with everything digitalized, economic behaviors could be monitored and adjusted to fit the acceptable standards of blocks one and two. Finally, global management: Artificial Intelligence will need to be integrated into our daily lives, knowing us individually and guiding each person towards our collective social and spiritual development.

Delusional? Yes, and not without its consequences and dangers. Nevertheless, the bottom line is that this workshop demonstrated the persistence of Babel.

Pages could be filled with similar plans and schemes. *There is nothing new under the Sun....* And an echo from the original prototype comes to mind: "...now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them" (Genesis 11:6).

Options For Christians

Professing Christians have three primary options in response to the growing shadows of Babel.

First, we can ignore it, naively thinking we are somehow unaffected. But an indifferent approach will only last so long. As the ballooning size of Babel encroaches, we will inevitably find ourselves in a situation hostile to the Christian message of absolutes, of sin and salvation, and of the need for an exclusive Redeemer, Jesus Christ. We will become increasingly marginalized as the dangerous other, and wondering how we arrived in this difficult situation.

The *second option* is deeply troubling: To find shelter under the shadow of Babel, and attribute this to something Christian. As the

HONOUR ALL MEN.

HONOUR THE KING.

FEAR GOD.

LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD.

—1 PETER 2:17

world becomes syncretistic, many churches likewise blend with the spiritual and secular flavors of the day-from accepting and amalgamating mystical practices, to "greening the faith," to participating in woke ideologies. To mirror the world and call it Christian is thus our second option. Sadly, it's a road too often chosen.

Option three is to be *in the world* but not *of* the world, and in so doing, to take seriously our Biblical call to be Ambassadors for Christ. Paul said the following to the church in Corinth,

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)

What does this entail?

Upfront, an ambassador is the official and *legal* representative of one's government to a foreign country, wherever you may be; increasingly in our case that land happens to be blanketed in the dimness of neo-Babel, and so we must let our light shine—the light of Jesus Christ—as a beacon on a hill. I cannot think of a higher calling than being His ambassador.

Being an ambassador also means we know the power and position of our King. We represent His interests and have aligned our priorities with His mission. We are trained in His ways, and we are cognitive as to how our actions reflect God's character.

Moreover, as per any other ambassadorship, we too need to be aware of the cultures and traditions of the place we find ourselves positioned in. Yes, we are set apart from ungodly customs, and at the same time we are not uninformed regarding the character of our surroundings. Like the Apostle Paul in Athens (Acts 17:16-34), we should know the settings and beliefs well enough to engage with a level of knowledge.

discernment, and discretion.

As part of the royal diplomatic office, our task is twofold. First, we must effectively communicate the King's message, regardless if the land is hostile or friendly. Second, we are to be vigilant as to the deceiving schemes of antagonistic powers, recognizing challenges to the King's message. Then, as an ambassador

should, we petition for intervention while alerting others in His service to areas of concern, seeking to build up one another in sound doctrine, knowledge and love and faith. The work of The Berean Call is part of this mission.

Being an emissary is a serious undertaking: "Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God."

It is time we take this calling to heart, looking to our savior Jesus Christ, even as the "temple of man," neo-Babel, is being built around us.

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QUOTABLE

When the church stoops so low as to acknowledge the wisdom of this world, who will observe any distinct testimony for God? All sinks down to one common level, and the enemy will have his own way. In this way the voice of truth is hushed and God is forgotten. The attempt to accommodate truth to those who are of the world can only end in complete failure. Let truth stand upon its own heavenly height; let saints stand fully and firmly with it; let them invite sinners up to it; but let them not descend to the low and groveling pursuits and habits of the world, and thus rob truth of all of its edge and power. It is far better to allow the contrast between God's truth and the world's ways to be fully seen, than to identify with them, when they really do not agree. We may think to commend truth to the minds of worldly people by an effort to conform to their ways; but, so far from commending it, we in reality expose it to secret contempt and scorn. The man who conforms to the world will be the enemy of Christ, and the enemy of Christ's people. Let us shake off the world's influence, and purge ourselves from its ways.

We have no idea how insidiously it creeps in upon us. The enemy at first weans from really simple and Christian habits, and by degrees we drop into the current of the world's thoughts. What is needed is the single-minded devotion of people to whom the Lord is everything and the world is nothing. May we, with holy jealousy and tenderness of conscience, watch against every approach of evil.

—C. H. Mackintosh [CITED IN *UPLOOK*, OCTOBER 2000, PP. 18-19]

Q&A

QUESTION: My husband and I just finished watching the video that you appeared in with Chuck Missler and Chuck Smith called "Countdown to Eternity" (see—https://bit. ly/3yvMrmb). I do have a question about

a scripture you all quoted and expounded upon: "Many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase" (Dn 12:4b). You presented the view of travel and human knowledge exploding in the last days. But when I studied it I find that is not what that verse is saying at all! It appears that Daniel is saying that many will go back and forth through the prophets (the books of the Bible, especially the prophetic passages), and knowledge of prophetic events and things to come will increase. This apparently wrong interpretation of Daniel 12:4b reminds me of the days when "everyone" seemed to be teaching that Matthew 24:40-41 referred to people "taken" in the Rapture, but further study shows this is about Tribulation times and they are "taken" in judgment, not in the Rapture. Thanks for your comments about this matter.

RESPONSE: I am not a Greek or Hebrew scholar. nor are most of those who claim to be. A few years of academic language study doesn't make one an expert. But all of us can look up words in our Strong's Exhaustive Concordance and (of most importance) compare scripture with scripture. When I do that with Daniel 12:4. I can't find any basis for your interpretation, though I have scholarly friends who have suggested the same. The entire phrase "run to and fro" comes from the Hebrew word shuwt, which could mean the going back and forth of oars to move a boat and, by implication, to travel. How is the same word used elsewhere? Here are a few examples: "the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth" (2 Chr 16:9); "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem... and seek...if ye can find a man" (Jer 5:1); "run to and fro by the hedges" (49:3), etc. That sounds like travel

Yes, you could find a verse such as Amos 8:12 where there is a running to and fro "to seek the word of the LORD." Yet even here it is not the running of the eyes over pages of Scripture but "from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD...." It seems fully justified to

understand Daniel 12:4 as meaning that travel and knowledge will be greatly increased in the last days; and we are surely seeing that!

The word "knowledge" is translated from the Hebrew *da'ath*. Yes, it is used most often for the knowledge of the Lord and His truth; but that is to be expected because that is the main topic of Scripture. However, it is also used for general knowledge and even for the vain or evil knowledge of this world and Satan: "tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Gn 2:9); "Should a wise man utter vain knowledge?" (Job 15:2); "thy knowledge [referring to occult knowledge of Babylon], it hath perverted thee" (Is 47:10); "Every man [referring to idolaters] is brutish by his knowledge" (Jer 51:17), etc.

What about the context? I find nothing in it to specifically support either view. However,

the rest of Scripture opposes the idea of increasing knowledge of Bible prophecy. We are told that the last days will be characterized by apostasy and a refusal to endure sound doctrine; Christ raises the question of whether He will even find faith on the earth at His return; the wise vir-

gins as well as the foolish are sleeping, etc. This passage would be out of harmony with the whole tenor of Scripture if it suggested a great interest in studying God's Word and an increase of the knowledge of God and His Word in the last days. Therefore, I will stick with the interpretation we presented in the video and which I believe makes sense in every way.

As for Matthew 24:40-41, if there was a day when "everyone" looked upon these verses as referring to the Rapture, that day has passed and the majority view today is that these are "taken" from bed, field, and mill to judgment. This is the view of some of my best friends. I gave an entire address on this subject at the Pre-Trib Rapture Seminar in Texas last December—so I won't go into details (see—https://bit. ly/4fHJnEn).

If these are taken to judgment, then I don't know where any such judgment is mentioned.

Submit your own questions to: PO Box 7019 Bend, OR 97708

Or e-mail: editorial@thebereancall.org

It can hardly be that described in Matthew 25:31-46, for at that time "before him shall be gathered all nations." In fact, there is no judgment mentioned in Scripture where people are snatched out of beds and from fields to be taken there. Furthermore, the conditions at the time of "snatching" are like the days of Noah and Lot, prosperity and partying and no thought of judgment, which can only exist prior to the Great Tribulation, not at the end of it, nor at the end of the millennial reign of Christ. Therefore, this being "taken" can only be referring to a pre-Trib Rapture.

That fact is further confirmed by the Greek. The word for "taken" ("one shall be *taken*, the other left") is *paralambano*, whereas the word *airo* is used in Matthew 24:39 ("the flood came, and *took* them all away [in judgment]"). That

> Christ used two different words must be significant. *Airo* simply means to remove from a place. *Paralambano*, however, means to receive to oneself in an intimate manner. Yes, it is used twice in taking Jesus away to judgment (Mt 27:27; Jn

19:16). However, it is used multiple

times in a comforting way: when Joseph takes Mary as his wife (Mt 1:20, 24), takes her and the child Jesus to safety in Egypt, then back to Israel (2:14, 21); Jesus takes His disciples here or there for intimate lessons (20:17; 26:37; Mk 10:32; 14:33; Lk 9:10, 28; 18:31), Barnabas takes Mark with him (Acts 15:39); the jailor took Paul and Silas and "washed their stripes" (16:33), etc. Furthermore, *paralambano* is the very same word our Lord uses in John 14:3 when He says, "I will come again, and *receive* you unto myself." Is He not referring to the Rapture there? Then why would He use the same word in His Olivet discourse if He meant "taken to judgment"? He wouldn't.

NOTE: Our Q&A section is primarily pulled from the Dave Hunt archives. Although some references may be dated, we believe that there is timeless value within the messages.

LETTERS

Dear TBC,

I had heard about *The Chosen* and originally planned to watch it. With what I've seen and learned here I will never watch it. If God wanted us to know what Jesus looked like He could have inspired one of the Bible writers to describe Him. We are called the people of the book, not of the painting. I will pray for those who do indeed adore these people on the show. I have watched a number of videos of Catholic teachers talking about Mary and the saints and other subjects. They start off saying they aren't worshiping any person or thing and spend the rest of the video proving they are. These producers and actors are distorting the Word of God and calling it truth. PMC (email)

Dear TBC,

Jonathan Roumie isn't leading people to Christ, he's leading people to himself. It's a contradiction to say all these faiths believe the same. They don't all teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to scripture. They are different faiths because they have different beliefs. Biblical Christianity is the truth. Jesus is the Word and the Scriptures are the Word of God. The Scriptures, the Word of God, is God-breathed. No other book, document, person nor any other thing, is God-breathed. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man comes to the Father but by Him, this is Biblical Christianity.

As far as Rick Warren goes, Jesus teaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we are to go into the world making disciples. It doesn't teach about coming together and getting along. Getting along is nice, but without trusting in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, being born again, we are not saved. PD (email)

Dear TBC,

Take a brief moment to seriously consider a gospel-of-works mentality. Try to imagine being able to say, for an eternity..."I did more than so-and-so to get here" (pride) or...

"I put more effort into getting here than soand-so" (pride).

If heaven is like that, it would be no different than this earth and why would we want that?! When Christians say that there is no sin in heaven, guess what's missing? That's right...pride!

I often wonder, do Christians truly understand the meaning of what Jesus did on that cross? Who else loves that old hymn, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"? DD (email)

Dear TBC,

Did not want to "no reply" so you would no longer mail *The Berean Call* to [us]. We enjoyed your publication for many years but there is a season for everything and this season is over. I am 95 years old and still read *The Berean Call* occasionally but the back issues. Dave and Tom have been real warriors for Christ and I set great store by their wisdom. I actually met Dave at a Christian Conference in Buffalo, NY (I think that is where it was) many years ago, shook his hand, praised him and he said, "Pray for me." He was fearless and a huge role model in his Christian wisdom. RD (email)

NOTE: Our purpose in this section is to simply show what kind of feedback we receive. We may respond to some of them in private whether or not we agree with their views.

NEWSWATCH

SAN FRANCISCO DECLARES ITSELF A TRANSGENDER "SANCTUARY CITY"

BREITBART.COM, 6/13/24, "SAN FRANCISCO DECLARES ITSELF A 'SANCTUARY CITY' FOR 'TRANSGENDER, GENDER NON-CONFORMING, NON-BINARY, AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE'" [EXCERPTS]: The Board of Supervisors for the City of San Francisco declared the city a transgender "sanctuary city" on Tuesday—or, officially, a "Sanctuary City for Transgender, Gender

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Non-Conforming, Non-Binary, and Two-Spirit People."

The resolution, which applies to both the city and county of San Francisco, says it is a response to laws passed in conservative states that limit access to transgender surgery and drugs, especially for children.

There are growing warnings from medical authorities around the world about the negative effects of transgender surgery and drugs on minors.

The vote in favor of the resolution was unanimous, the UK *Independent* reported.

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), who opposes parents' right to be notified about children's gender transitions at school, could not defend that policy when confronted by Breitbart News during a press appearance at a Republican debate last year.

(https://bit.ly/46yHRA6)

ENGINEERING JOINT LUBRICATION

CREATIONMOMENTS.COM, 6/13/24, "ENGINEER-*ING JOINT LUBRICATION" [EXCERPTS]:* In our rapidly modernizing world, engineers are kept busy solving problems. Take, for example, all of the various kinds of transportation. There are millions of problems in this area alone that keep engineers busy inventing better solutions.

Freight trains carry enormous loads in huge freight cars, each one capable of carrying the weight of the average home and everything in it, plus

an automobile. Yet the axles must be able to swivel easily beneath the car as the train moves along tracks that swerve left and right. Consider the problem of setting 100 tons or more on a swivel without hindering the free movement of the swivel. Engineers at Shell Oil finally designed a disc that is placed beneath the body of the car to lubricate the axles for swiveling. Whenever the disc is squeezed by

News stories are selected for reader awareness and as an exercise in discerning the times from a biblical perspective.

the weight of the load above or from too much friction in swiveling, lubrication automatically squirts out of the disc.

It is this same ingenious system that lubricates certain joints in your body. When additional lubrication is needed in a joint, tiny discs release lubricant into the joint. These discs are called bursae. And if you have ever had bursitis, you know what happens when the discs aren't working properly.

It's not science but faith in evolution that leads people to believe that this wellengineered system could be the result of accidental mutations.

(https://bit.ly/4chf0l4)

YOU CAN'T DEFEND ISRAEL UNLESS You talk about Islam

JIHADWATCH.ORG, 8/13/24, "YOU CAN'T DEFEND ISRAEL UNLESS YOU TALK ABOUT ISLAM" [Excerpts]: What do the stabbings in Israel, the assaults on Hindus in Bangladesh, the Muslim mobs roaming English cities and the massacres of Christians in Nigeria all have in common? The politically correct answer is nothing.

And that's why the politically correct answer condones, justifies or ignores the violence.

Islamic attacks on non-Muslim majorities in

India, Europe, America or Israel are justified as resistance by the oppressed, but violence by Muslim majorities against non-Muslim minorities in Indonesia, Nigeria and Bangladesh were justified by claims that the

Muslim majority was economically disenfranchised. Muslim violence is always excused by false claims of victimhood. Muslims see them as Islamic wars, non-Muslims are told that they're everything else but.

Patterns define how we react to things. The question is what is the pattern? Is the pattern that disparate groups of violent men shouting "Allahu Akbar" are killing people around the world for socioeconomic and political reasons having nothing to do with Islam? Or is this a religious war?

The big lie that Islamic violence is socioeconomic and not religious, local not global, only works when no one talks about Islam or recognizes the larger pattern of Islamic violence for a thousand years that is being perpetrated on nearly every continent and against every culture.

Are Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and Atheists all the problem? Or is Islam the issue? When we fail to ask this fundamental question, we lose the argument.

(https://bit.ly/3yElgWA)

TBC NOTES

"Suffer [Let] the Little Children to Come unto Me"

Those words by Jesus in Mark 10:14 were twofold. They were a reprimand toward His disciples who reacted by rebuking "those that brought" the little ones to Jesus. Jesus told them they were to "forbid them not" to keep them from Himself, the One whose love for them knows no bounds. He adds, "...for of such is the kingdom of God." How so? An important quality of a little child is his humble dependence on others.

Jesus underscores that characteristic in Matthew 18: "At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted [repent of your self-reliance], and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (vv 1-4).

As Christ had previously stated in Mark 10, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein. And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" (vv 15-16).

T. A. MCMAHON Executive Director

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