



CHRISTIAN ARTICLE COLLECTION

Good Content for your Soul

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A collection of 38 articles for your reading pleasure.

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INTRODUCTION

I HAD A DREAM.....

The Dream

I found myself standing at the entrance to what looked like a place of business with a long u-shaped counter running along the three walls. The entire frontage was made up of glass doors that had been folded together to give an open-air effect. Behind the counter were attendants waiting for something to begin.

Suddenly, it began. For some reason I was in a race with others to collect a packet of salt from each attendant and the first one to go around that u-shaped counter and get to the end first with enough salt would be the winner. Each attendant had to be approached with a "Please, may I have salt!" and only with these words would they hand the salt over.

I managed to get ahead of every person in the race and won. With all the salt I had collected, I went to sit down at another counter on the right side at the entrance. At this counter a man wearing an apron was making milkshakes. He looked at me and offered me a delicious-looking milkshake. I turned him away with a firm, "No thanks!". I just somehow knew I had to wait.

That's when I noticed that this place was located on top of a high cliff with the vast sea below and that there was a path running slightly upwards towards us between this place and the cliff edge. Two women wearing robe-like dresses were walking up this pathway towards me. They suddenly stopped. The one was young and the other quite a bit older. Then I heard sobbing and weeping coming from the younger woman, lamenting that her child had been taken away from her and hoping that someone would return the child to her

Compassionately, the older woman, with her arm around the shoulders of the younger one, said, "Don't be concerned. Someone will return your child to you. With that, the older woman turned around and walked back in the direction from which she came. The younger woman stood there, placed a sheet of paper on a flat rock in front of her and wrote something on it. She folded the sheet of paper once and dropped it in front of her and in the same motion also turned back and started walking.

I sprang up and ran forward towards the paper floating down and managed to scoop it up just before it could hit the ground. As if in a hurry, with a sheet of paper in one hand and a lot of salt in the other, I ran back past the frontage of the business where I had collected the salt and into the open doorway of the adjacent shop.

To my amazement, all the walls in that shop were lined with row upon row of shelving from the floor to the ceiling, absolutely filled with all kinds of shapes and sizes of raw meat. With no further thought I immediately knew that it was my task to apply salt to all that meat and that this process would pave the way for the return of the missing child to the younger woman. The sheet of paper from her contained the instruction to do just that.

The Interpretation

My zeal for the Word of God drove me to compete and win the salt-collecting race. The milkshake (milk of the Word) was no longer part of my diet. The younger woman represented the New Covenant Church and the older woman the Church under the Old Covenant.

The missing child in the New Covenant Church was none other than Jesus and His power through the Holy Spirit. The meat of the Word had no taste and had to be savoured in order to be enjoyed and spiritually digested and understood. And every person who partakes thereof will be able to rise and walk in the Spirit and the Power of the Holy Ghost, for the sea of lost humanity had to be reached with nothing less.

I do not place myself above any other child of God, for I can do nothing, am nothing and have nothing without Christ. But what I have received I would like to pass on to anyone willing to listen. (Jack Vorster)

Beware the Deadly Trap of Offences

by Jack Vorster

If you are born again, Spirit-filled and meditate in the Word day and night, then you should be immune to being offended by those you meet up with in the world - even family members - purely because it would come (super) naturally to you to face the world with the mind of Christ.

However, we live in a world of offences, a consequence of the very first offence as committed by the first man. Rom.15 verse 17 reads, "For if by one man's offence death reigned by one;...." and verse 18 tells us, "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation;...." It is, therefore, by this very first offence that the world of humanity now lies in darkness and awaits judgment - except for those who have been delivered and restored to righteousness, a free gift from God through Jesus Christ.

Now just exactly what is an offence and why is it so important to avoid it?

The Greek word for offence is "Skandalon", meaning, a steel trap that is baited. And to be entrapped by it can cause one to stumble, hence, a stumblingblock on the path forward. But how does this fit in with us and why should it be considered a deadly trap as the title suggests? Let me explain by using the following scenario.

A wild animal approaches a baited trap in the woods. Although wary, the animal is lured by the bait on offer and goes for it. Immediately it is caught in the trap that ends up destroying him. Note, that it is not the bait, but the trap that killed the animal. He could not defend, nor protect himself once he was inside that trap. The emphasis here is on the loss of protection as a result of the offence, that is, the bait.

Likewise, the first man, Adam, was baited by Satan. He could have avoided it, but the bait became an offence to him ("For if by one man's offence..") and the trap he fell into not only destroyed him but also the whole of mankind. Why did this bring about spiritual and eventual physical death for Adam and all of us? As with the wild animal, Adam lost God's protection (anointing) when he became entrapped by the enemy.

About four thousand years later that anointing (protection) was restored through Jesus Christ for all those who believe. However, the enemy is still walking about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour and destroy through offences. He is using believers and unbelievers alike as the bait to the trap for those who walk closely to the Lord. How?

Think carefully. Has anyone ever said an untrue thing about you to your face or behind your back and you took offence - to such an extent that it caused you to seethe and to mull over it, even causing you to lose sleep at night? If so, did the thought of revenge grip your heart and did you find that, somehow, you lost the sense of anointing within your spirit? Did you start feeling vulnerable as if you lost all the protection you had before as a child of God? Exactly!

What had taken place is that you took offence (the bait presented to you) and you found yourself engulfed by the trap to which the bait was attached. By your own doing, you were now no longer protected for you had stepped out of God's anointing into the trap set up to destroy you. It became your choice, against the will of God. And God had no choice but to stand back.

This is why so many tragedies have struck Christians and their families. Or, at least, the suffering of loss of material and financial blessings.

As shocking as this may seem, God confirms this situation in His Word. "Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!" (Mt 18:7). Yes, we may take offence and suffer for it until we come to our senses, but woe indeed to the person who acts as a willing agent for the enemy.

So, tread carefully, the next time the bait of offence is dangled before you, just smile and walk away from it - like Jesus within you would do.

Imminence of the Rapture - The Greatest Sign

by Jack Vorster

The greatest present-day sign of the nearness of Christ's second coming is the transfer of power to women, now escalating at a rapid pace all over the world. It is taking place in both the private and public sectors. This is not just a natural trend taking place as a consequence of the 'emancipation' of the fairer sex. It is a supernatural phenomenon nobody can stop.

Humanity is not in control of its destiny. The physical world is a product of the spirit world and the latter holds sway over its creation. Even as individuals we are orchestrated as to our very place of habitation and general direction in life, all for a purpose. And out of this cauldron of supernaturally-induced cause and effect has emerged a quantum surge towards the consummate destiny for mankind - the closing of the lid for the final simmer.

Men, in general, are failures. To put it bluntly, they marry for sex and while in matrimony they also seek it elsewhere while expecting their wives to serve them hand and foot. Alongside this caveman approach is a never-ending boyish tendency to find pleasure in self-gratifying activities such as golf days, drinks with the boys and discussions about the next car they would like to buy. Wives and children are left to sort themselves out at home and even if present, they find their escape by watching sport on television.

Men have failed to fulfill their God-given role to lead and head the family in accordance with His Word. Is it any wonder then that roles are being switched?

There is a battle looming. And it is on the horizon. It is called the Great Tribulation. Men have always been assigned to fight battles on the fields of war and this seven-year purge upon mankind is going to all but annihilate the male population of the earth, leaving a ratio of approximately seven females to one male to continue life on this speck of dust hurtling around the sun. Does this explain why women need to start taking over the reins at home and run matters while the men are being slaughtered en masse? It certainly seems so. "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." (Isaiah 4:1)

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, leading up to this forthcoming destruction, mankind is hard at work fighting amongst themselves for wealth, power and supremacy - and vying for the hosting of huge sporting events at the neglect of the poor and the hungry and de-prioritising the need to focus on crime and drug addiction. Yes, we have our very own self-imposed battlefield of death and destruction. Does anyone care? Of course not! There's that Wednesday round of golf to play and a Friday business lunch to attend.

Analysis of an Earthbound Spirit

by Jack Vorster

Man is an earthbound spirit living through a physical body. The components of the human spirit are the heart, mind, word and soul. The latter, however, embraces the former three.

The following renders a broad definition of these parts including the human spirit. The Christian reader might find it surprisingly different to what has been commonly taught, but will find that it reflects what the Bible teaches.

The HUMAN SPIRIT is a living being, of spiritual substance, and has spiritual shape and form not unlike that of your physical body through which it personifies itself.

The HEART of the human spirit encompasses the consciousness of the human spirit as a living entity and seats your individuality, intellect and emotions. This is where your personality is formed and reflected to the world you live in. And, importantly, the place God looks at.

The MIND of the human spirit is the decision-maker of the heart. It takes what is in the heart and decides how to portray it or how to apply it to circumstances. Depending on the condition of the heart, the mind can be honest or deceitful in its deliberations. Your mind is the executive officer of your life.

The WORD of the human spirit comprehensively covers the entire nature of you as an individual spiritual being. Your word reflects the condition of your heart, which your mind extracts and offers to the world. You are your word. You have nothing else. The world judges you by your word. And so will God.

The SOUL of the human spirit is nothing more than a representation of the sum total of you as a living being with spirit, heart, mind and word and history of your life. You are counted as a soul, such as in a census of human population. God counts you as either a saved or lost soul.

Where does the human brain fit in? Would it surprise you to hear that the human brain does not think, has no so-called "brain power" and neither does it not hold any memories? It is the heart of the human spirit where thoughts are generated and memories are stored. The brain is purely the (physical) mechanism used (and powered) by the human spirit to express itself to the physical world. The next time you point to your head in front of others to indicate that you are busy thinking - think again. Thought processes are taking place through the brain and not by the brain - that is why it might feel like it's all taking place up there.

Just to stress the reality of man being an earthbound spirit enacting itself through a physical covering, let's look at a few scenarios and maybe have a little laugh up our sleeve at some of them.

A man mowing the lawn is a spirit mowing the lawn.

A group of people having a chat around a table is a group of spirits having a chat.

Gossipers are spirits gossiping about other spirits.

Boxers in a ring pounding each other are spirits battering each other's bodies.

A man speeding past in a flashy car is a spirit catapulting his body forward in a modern chariot. He hopes to impress the bodies of other spirits.

A fashion model strutting unnaturally on a ramp with a far-away stare like a motorized robot, is a spirit doing just that.

A suicide bomber killing as many people as possible is a spirit destroying the bodies of many spirits. Little does he know that nobody dies - they only move on to the spiritual realm.

A person consulting a psychiatrist is a spirit consulting another spirit, neither looking beyond the brain for answers.

People drinking it up in a pub are spirits filling their bodies with alcohol, making it difficult for their sober spirits to communicate via numbed brains. Drug addicts do the same.

And then there are earthbound spirits who live in greed and corruption at the expense of other earthbound spirits. Some are leaders of nations who find reasons for war for the sake of monopolistic economic power.

Make no mistake, as earthbound spirits we are supposed to live through physical bodies. The physical body of man is a wonderful creation, fused to the spirit so that it responds instantaneously to the actions of the spirit, like a puppet with millions of strings attached. And although the senses of our bodies, effectively, provide sensual benefits to the body only, they are only functional because of the spirit within.

God is a spirit and He speaks.

Angels are spirit and they speak.

We are spirit - and we speak.

A Sweet Fragrance from Life to Life

by Jack Vorster

Did you know that you are a sweet fragrance to God regardless of whether or not you have appropriated salvation through Jesus Christ?

We all died within a single body, that of Christ. When God looks upon you and me, He sees Christ within us, Who paid the penalty for our spiritual death. Christ stands clean before God and we enjoy the same status, but only because of Jesus Christ.

However, there is a condition attached. Let's look at 2 Cor. 2:15,16. "For we are unto God a sweet savour (aroma, fragrance) of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish. To the one (that perishes) we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other (the saved) the savour of life unto life".

We see here that we are a sweet fragrance to God regardless of whether we are saved or not. That sweet fragrance of Christ reaches to God either from "death unto death" or from "life unto life". It's a matter of which category we fit into. If you have accepted Christ, then you have passed from spiritual death to spiritual life. You therefore have the life necessary to pass from life unto life. If you have not accepted Christ - even though you are a sweet fragrance of Christ to God while you are alive - then you remain in spiritual death and will pass from death unto death the day you die physically.

That poor beggar on the street is a sweet fragrance to God in Christ. Likewise, that convicted man behind bars is a sweet fragrance to God in Christ.

*If the beggar is saved then he is a sweet fragrance from LIFE to LIFE.
If the prisoner is unsaved then he is a sweet fragrance from DEATH to DEATH.*

The saved beggar, however, is living in poverty ONLY because he has failed to gain knowledge from the Word of God concerning his status as an Heir of Salvation and the benefits attached thereto. Satan is busy devouring him and keeping blind to God's blessings.

The beggar is trying to live by bread alone and not "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4)

All those yet unsaved, like the unsaved prisoner, still have hope while they live - but they need to hear the Word, from you and me.

Beware to Whom You Hand Your Microphone

by Jack Vorster

Each one of us has a built-in microphone that we use to turn unspoken words (thoughts) into words. Our microphone has a wiring system that leads to its speaker, namely, our mouth. This microphone, which is none other than the mind of our spirit, can be commandeered and used by the mind of an alien entity to the detriment of ourselves and those at the receiving end.

If your mind is not transformed to a state of complete renewal so that you speak your mind in accordance with the will of God, then righteousness, peace and joy will not always be in the sound of your voice. Your microphone (mind) is held in the hand of your spirit and it extracts from the contents of your heart whenever situations and circumstances call for an utterance. The heart - the place God looks at - can be honest or deceitful, depending on what it has been filled with from the world we live in. This is where all our thoughts take place and by listening to your heart, your mind - the microphone of your spirit - conveys it to the listener. "For as he (man) thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7)

However, there are spiritual forces at play in the spirit world standing ready to intercept and inject a few words of their own into that microphone, using your very own mind to speak it. While incapable of knowing the thoughts of your heart, they certainly have thoughts of their own. Now here is the problem. Your mind is like a master of ceremonies. It states what suits the occasion and to do that it had to be fed with information beforehand. If the information is from the enemy and not from your own heart, your mind (the microphone held in the hand of your spirit) can cause considerable damage to your walk in the faith.

It has to be borne in mind that we are spiritual beings clad in physical bodies. Job spoke from his spirit when he said, "You have clothed me (my spirit) with skin and flesh, and have fenced me (my spirit) with bones and sinews." (Job 10:11,) This was the mind of the spirit of Job making this statement. He certainly had God-given knowledge of the make-up of man.

Demons are disembodied spirits seeking physical bodies to possess and control. They cannot possess your body unless you give them permission to do so by your words and deeds portraying your willingness to side with evil. It is tantamount to laying down a welcome mat to an open door. Furthermore, evil spirits, like any spirit good or bad, have no problem moving through solid objects - your own physical body included. We are all spirit-beings living in a spirit world, but man is designed to experience only the physical product of the spirit world. God is a Spirit and He created the physical world to which man is confined.

It stands to reason then, that agents of Satan can whisper prepared agendas to your spirit which your mind picks up as a thought.

Now here's the thing. Whatever is absorbed by your mind becomes stored in your heart as information and memory, ready to be mulled over and "microphoned" when the chief executive officer of your heart (your mind) decides to transfer it to a world of human listeners.

The point? If you are a mature Christian having made substantial progress in being conformed to "the image of His Son" (Rom.8:29) and "the mind of Christ" (1 Cor.2:16) holds sway over your own mind, then you would be in a strong position to recognize and withstand the wiles of the devil, but if you are a believer still drawn to the world and its attractions, be alert - there are unseen agents of destruction wanting to grab your microphone.

Loitering in the Foyer of the Kingdom

by Jack Vorster

You heard the Gospel and God's call penetrated through to your heart. You believed. And immediately you were translated from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light, but you've been standing around in the foyer of the Kingdom ever since.

The vast majority of Christians have been "loitering" in the foyer, not going further through the many doorways from there leading to the treasure chests God has been lying in wait for them. Perhaps many mistakenly feel that the Kingdom Of God awaits them one day when they go on to Heaven.

There's the story of Elisha who was determined to receive double the portion of Elijah's spirit, upon whom the Power of God was manifested. This is what Elisha asked of his master, Elijah, when the latter was about to be taken to Heaven. Elijah agreed.

The day came when Elijah departed in a chariot of fire. Elisha, without any hesitation, "took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of the Jordan...and smote the waters, and said, where is Jehovah, the God of Elijah? And when he also had smitten the waters, they were divided hither and thither, and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho over against him saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha." (2Kings 2:12-15)

When Elisha tore up his own clothes he signified that he would no longer remain within the bondage of the weakness of darkness over his old life, but would put on the mantle of newness and enter fully into the Kingdom promised to him. He simply was not going to hang around after watching Elijah go up and ponder in the "foyer" and not take up the full Power imputed to him. He went straight through the doors leading from the foyer.

Elisha went on under the anointing resting upon him and was responsible for more works of miracles than Elijah.

Today, as Christians, we have far more than Elisha. Unlike Elisha, we do not have to ask, "Where is Jehovah, the God of Elijah?"

God is right inside of us in the Spirit of Jesus and the Power of the Holy Spirit. Our old lives were torn up by God and we became new creatures in Christ.

The Power of the Kingdom only rested upon Elisha, whereas the Kingdom of God is within us. We don't have to hang around in the foyer anymore. The mantle of the Holy Spirit is in our hands and we can divide the waters of despair, weakness, sickness, strife, destruction, lack and the attacks of the enemy so that they part "hither and thither" before us. This is what it means to overcome. Overcomers can only overcome from within the Kingdom.

There is a difference between entering the Kingdom - and entering INTO the Kingdom, as expressed by Jesus. The former puts us in the foyer where the nearness of the shadows of the cares and attractions of this world of darkness still beckons us and even at times pulls us right back into a backslidden state. Entering INTO the Kingdom only becomes a reality to us if we approach it with the zeal and determination of Elisha and in full expectation that the promises of God will be received exactly as per His Word.

Like Elisha after Elijah, we are supposed to do "greater works" than Jesus, Who gave us much more than a mantle, but we tend to be like the "sons of the prophets" standing afar off and waiting for others to take up the mantle.

We are the Temple of God and the foundation thereof is Jesus Christ. There is a reward for what we build thereon, provided it is not the world's gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay and stubble, which will be burned, leaving only the works that abide and that cannot be burned. (See 1 Cor. 3:10-16)

Indeed, faith without works is dead - it remains in the foyer.

As He is so are we in this World

by Jack Vorster

Imagine this. Up to this point in your life you have committed horrendous crimes. You get arrested, stand trial and receive a life sentence without parole. A man stands up in court and, addressing the judge, says that he will take the blame for your crimes and serve out the sentence in your place. The court is in a state of mesmerism, completely overtaken by the authoritative presence of this man. Overwhelmed, the judge accepts, sets you free and orders that your substitute be taken to prison.

After only three days in prison, your substitute turns the prison world upside down. His influence is overpowering. Wardens tremble in his presence, but prisoners cling to him. Rehabilitation becomes an overnight miracle. The prison authorities rush through paperwork for the release of this man and all the inmates of this prison. All of their sentences are considered served in full. They all walk out of prison, following the man who came to set them free.

The man who took your place in prison comes to you and says, "I served out your sentence. My life became yours. Your life became mine. Now follow me so that, TOGETHER, we may set all the captives free."

The above refers to our redemption and union with Christ.

A New Citizenship

The fact of our UNION with Christ is clearly illustrated in Eph. 2:4-6. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us TOGETHER with Christ (by grace ye are saved), and has raised us up TOGETHER, and made us sit TOGETHER in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Our citizenship is in Heaven, but we have a job to do on earth. We are the Body of Christ, which is in Heaven and on earth. We are in SPIRITUAL UNION with Christ for as long as we remain in our physical bodies on earth. Our empowerment comes through the Holy Spirit, Who has placed us in the Kingdom of God. And that Kingdom is within us. This is how we can be both in Heaven and on earth at the same time. We are already seated in Heaven where Christ is and Christ is wherever we are.

If we are spiritually seated in heavenly places together with Christ, even while we are physically present on earth, then our conduct, wherever we find ourselves, should be as if we are conducting ourselves right before the sight and hearing of Jesus. "For our conversation is in heaven". (Eph. 3:20) In other words, when you speak to anyone whether it is a fellow student, a work colleague or your spouse you should converse with them as if you are seated right there in that heavenly place, with Jesus overhearing your every word. We should live our lives in constant awareness of this.

A Blessed Union

Many years ago I was struggling with the reality of this question of our union with Christ and Galatians 2:20, in particular, presented me with a problem. It reads, "I

have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Not only does Paul state here that Christ now lives in us, but also that the life we now live in the flesh we live BY the faith OF Christ. While meditating on this verse, I suddenly found myself suspended from everything around me. I was in the process of having an "inner" vision. I saw myself lying in bed. It was early morning. A voice came to me and said, "Son, rise up, get dressed and take a walk." I duly obliged, left the house and started walking down the street on the sidewalk. When I came to a park opposite the road, the voice of the Lord came to me again.

"Son, take a walk through that park." I obeyed.

While walking through the park I noticed a hobo sleeping it off on a bench. He was dirty, smelly and clutching an empty wine bottle. I could not help turning up my nose at this sight. That's when the voice came again.

"Son, go over to that man and wash his feet."

I replied, "Lord, I know you said in your Word that we should wash one another's feet, but, surely, this is not what you meant?"

Then He said, "Son, it is no longer you who live, but I who live within you. Now take ME over to that man so that I may wash his feet."

What a revelation! This experience had nothing to do with the washing of feet. This had to do with the faith OF Jesus. The Lord was showing me that HE is the One Who does the work THROUGH us in the same way that the Father did the works through Him when He was on earth in His physical body, and that HE accomplishes whatever needs to be accomplished by HIS FAITH through US.

We take Jesus where He needs to be. We are here in His place as if He, Himself, is still here, "because as he is, so are we in this world. (1 John 4:17). The Bible speaks of varying levels of faith, such as weak faith, unfeigned faith, strong faith and growing faith. However, in carrying out the commission, the level of faith of the individual members of the Body of Christ does not come into play. Yes, like Peter, we need faith to boldly go forward in the name of Jesus to carry out the commission and, in so doing, to let Christ come to the fore, but only the faith of Jesus can heal and deliver those in need. What we lack then is faith in the faith of Jesus. How do we overcome this problem, especially when we, ourselves, are in need of healing?"

We are not going to be healed by going to a church every Sunday. We are not going to be healed by having fellowship with other Christians. By this I do not mean that that we should not attend church or have fellowship. You see, it is not the environment or atmosphere of a church building that brings healing to our bodies. And neither is it our spiritual re-birth that guarantees this miracle.

What brings healing is our UNDERSTANDING of what was wrought for us on the Cross. And if we understand it then we will KNOW that it is the FAITH in the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in Christ and that WE are now in POSSESSION of this RIGHTEOUS FAITH by the LIFE of CHRIST now LIVING in us. We are here on earth in the PLACE OF Christ. God wants US to take the initiative and CLAIM what is RIGHTFULLY ours as children of His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is WITHIN us and the King of the Kingdom, Jesus, is in us too.

The Meaning of the Rent Curtain

by Jack Vorster

What is God's attitude towards his human creation today? Where is God when a toddler is busy drowning in a pool? Why is a good person allowed to die tragically while bad people appear to get away with murder? Why do thousands of poor people die in "natural" disasters and the survivors left homeless? Why do we not appear to see the Hand of God in the affairs of human society today like we did in the days of the Old Testament as recorded in the Bible? Why does it appear as if God has abandoned the human race?

These are some of the questions being asked today. A great many people have discarded their belief in God because they cannot see any evidence of God's existence in a world gone mad. However, the answer to this dilemma lies in the difference between the Old Testament (Old Covenant) and the New Testament (New Covenant).

Let's consider the following scenario. A very rich man decided to construct a large building in which he would house marvels and wonders for the world to see. No-one - except himself and the architects and workers - was to be allowed access to the building during the construction period. The mystery of the project had to remain intact until the building was completed and officially opened to the public. A high, temporary wall was erected around the construction site with security people to guard it. Finally, the time arrived. The security wall was demolished and the day of free access to this wondrous place was announced. No longer did the world have to wait. They now could enter freely and enjoy all that was on offer inside this amazing place, that is, all those who wanted to enter.

The moment before Jesus died on the Cross, he said, "It is finished." These words signified the end of the Old Covenant. Jesus Himself had met all the conditions of the Old Covenant on behalf of man. He had fulfilled it and by the act of His crucifixion He instituted a New Covenant between Himself (and therefore between man) and God. When He died, the massive curtain covering the entrance to the Holy of Holies was rent in two from top to bottom. Access to the Presence of God was now open to all. The High Priest of the Old Covenant became obsolete. Jesus was the new High Priest, Mediator, Surety and Advocate of the New Covenant between God and man.

From that moment onwards the ball was in man's court. God had done all that He was going to do to save man. Jesus was sent "that He should taste death for every man". (Heb.2:9). We were "baptized into His death". (Rom. 6:3). This message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as contained in the New Testament spells out God's involvement with mankind. That rent curtain opened up to us all the benefits of God's Kingdom right here on earth. By this event we were redeemed from the Curse of the Law. We were set free from the bondage of darkness and all of its suffering and pain. It gave us free access to the throne of God to ask, claim and receive all that we may need as His children.

God no longer sees a defeated people. His Son had conquered evil once and for all. You and I are a sweet fragrance to God in Christ. God no longer regards our sin

condition. All sin had been placed on His Son and offloaded in Hell. Sickness and disease were nailed to the Cross. God had set to man only one condition to meet and that is to believe in His Son.

And this is why it appears that God had abandoned mankind. In actual fact, it is the other way around. We are the ones who have abandoned God. God has provided the way, the truth and the life which is Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection marked the start of God's period of Grace upon mankind during which we have the opportunity to come to the knowledge of Salvation. Salvation from sin, eternal condemnation, poverty, sickness and disease. It's all been taken care of. But we continue to suffer because we lack knowledge of God's Word. God declares in His Word that, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you" Entertainment and self-satisfaction are our preferences and so we destroy ourselves.

God gave us His very own Righteousness by which we possess the ability not only to overcome all our earthly problems, but also to avoid them. All it takes is for us to get a little education on the matter. Until we get that education, God is going to do nothing further. He wants us to do it ourselves by means of the Power He has placed in our hands. We're not talking about religion. We're talking about God and His Word for all peoples of the planet.

The Simplicity of the Anointing

by Jack Vorster

Christians, in general, tend to either seek types and hidden formulas in the Scriptures for attaining a higher level of awareness of the "things" of God or they cry out to God for a special anointing in order to grow in their walk in the faith. We live in the natural, and so we are inclined to anchor ourselves to the physical realm as earthbound creatures severed from the spiritual. In other words, God is on the one side and we are on the other and no matter what He says to us through His Word concerning our position in Christ, we still confine ourselves to what meets the natural eye.

"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:17)

How is He?

In the above-quoted verse we read, "because as he is, so are we in this world." This reference to the status of Jesus does not reflect back to when Jesus walked the earth, but it is a picture of Him right now where he is seated in heavenly places with all power and authority and a name above every name.

Therefore, as Jesus is right now, "so are we in this world." We have that same power and authority – underpinned by His Name. That's why Jesus said, "...greater works than these" shall we do, "...because I go unto my Father."

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

What shall we say then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

(Romans 8:29-32)

Careful reading of the above verses cannot fail but to leave us in absolute astonishment. It is awesome! It is mind-boggling! What would be the exact meaning? Jesus was the first to be born again from the dead. Our own re-birth followed. Now we are just like Him.

We have been called and have been justified. What is more, we have been glorified, like Christ was glorified (with the glory He had before - John 17:5).

The glory Jesus has in heaven right now, we have right here on earth.

Indeed, "What shall we say then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?" Freely, we are now (as co-heirs with Christ) being "given all things."

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7)

Are we alone?

Eph. 2:4-6. "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us TOGETHER with Christ (by

grace ye are saved), and has raised us up TOGETHER, and made us sit TOGETHER in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

No, we are not alone. We are absolutely one with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. "But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." (1 Cor 6:17) And if we are one with such a mighty force, even glorified, even "as He is", then, as such, we are a "dangerous" anointed force to the enemy - the forces of darkness now at work in the earth.

Just stop her for a moment and think. Jesus operated under the Law. He was the Son of Man. He had to be anointed of God to operate in the Power of the Spirit. But right now He is the anointing and we are just like Him. "Because as he is, so are we in this world." We are, like Paul said, "prisoners" of Jesus Christ, prisoners of the anointing. We are not like Jesus was when He walked the earth. We are like He is right now - glorified.

We are at two places at once. Our citizenship is in Heaven, but we have a job to do on earth. We are the Body of Christ, which is in Heaven and on earth. We are in SPIRITUAL UNION with Christ for as long as we remain in our physical bodies on earth. Our empowerment comes through the Holy Spirit, Who has placed us in the Kingdom of God. And that Kingdom is within us. This is how we can be both in Heaven and on earth at the same time. We are already seated in Heaven where Christ is and Christ is wherever we are.

If we are spiritually seated in heavenly places together with Christ, even while we are physically present on earth, then our conduct, wherever we find ourselves, should be as if we are conducting ourselves right before the sight and hearing of Jesus. "For our conversation is in heaven". (Eph. 3:20) In other words, when you speak to anyone whether it is a fellow student, a work colleague or your spouse you should converse with them as if you are seated right there in that heavenly place, with Jesus overhearing your every word. We should live our lives in constant awareness of this.

We have the faith of Jesus. We take Jesus where He needs to be. We are here in His place as if He, Himself, is still here, "because as he is, so are we in this world. (1 John 4:17). The Bible speaks of varying levels of faith, such as weak faith, unfeigned faith, strong faith and growing faith. However, in carrying out the commission, the level of faith of the individual members of the Body of Christ does not come into play. Yes, like Peter, we need faith to boldly go forward in the name of Jesus to carry out the commission and, in so doing, to let Christ come to the fore, but only the faith of Jesus can heal and deliver those in need.

What we lack then is faith in the faith of Jesus. How do we overcome this problem, especially when we, ourselves, are in need of healing?

We are not going to be healed by going to a church every Sunday. We are not going to be healed by having fellowship with other Christians. By this I do not mean that that we should not attend church or have fellowship. You see, it is not the environment or atmosphere of a church building that brings healing to our bodies. And neither is it our spiritual re-birth that guarantees this miracle.

What brings healing is our UNDERSTANDING of what was wrought for us on the Cross. And if we understand it then we will KNOW that it is the FAITH in the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in Christ and that WE are now in POSSESSION of this RIGHTEOUS FAITH by the LIFE of CHRIST now LIVING in us. We are here on earth in the PLACE OF Christ. God wants US to take the initiative and CLAIM what is RIGHTFULLY ours as children of His Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is WITHIN us and the King of the Kingdom, Jesus, is in us too

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live: yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20)

We see then, as with Peter and Paul, the clear UNDERSTANDING gained of what and who you are in Christ, builds your OWN faith - the faith that pleases God. Your own strong faith completely trusts God to deliver on His Word and has total faith in the faith of Christ within you.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:14-20). As you go, Christ within you will do the work by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are here now in the place of Christ.

So we see then that the anointing is not acquired by applying a sad, sombre, "oh, Lord, send us a revival" mental approach for the purpose of "processing" a burst of power from above.

You are a living, walking, glorified anointing "in this world but not of this world" and what you already possess in "heavenly places" you now present to the world in order to set captivity free.

However, if you are a born again child of God, it will not be possible for you to operate under the anointing if worship, fellowship and prayer do not form part of your daily devotion; you're a lazy reader of the Word and you hardly meditate therein; you conform to this world in many areas of your life.

But, the anointing remains for as long as we walk in constant awareness of who and what we are in Christ. "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (Rom. 12:2)

The anointing never leaves us. Rather, it is the other way around - should we not comply to what is required of us.

Righteous living and the anointing are partners. Both remain, even if we desert them by not operating under them.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." (2 Cor. 5:21)

and

"But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is

truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him." (1 John 2:27)

Therefore, what we have been made - anointed and righteous - remains. It is up to us whether or not we want to operate within this capacity. We need to renew our minds, "until Christ is formed in you." (Gal. 4:19)

Paul emphasizes this union with Christ, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 2:5). He reminds us in 1 Cor. 2:16. "But we have the mind of Christ." Paul also speaks of his continued teaching of fellow Christians "until Christ is formed in you." (Gal. 4:19)

The LOVE of God is UNCONDITIONAL, but operating under the ANOINTING is CONDITIONAL.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7)

So we see then that it is our established spiritual mindset that determines whether the anointing flows through us or not. In other words, what is in us will show itself when the need for it arises.

If you are new man in Christ, then Christ will come to the fore in any given situation. But if the old man in you has not yet been entirely "put off" (Eph 4:22) then his deeds will be reflected to a greater degree than the new man.

Let's consider one small example. You're driving along somewhere when a reckless motorist causes you to slam on brakes and you stop inches short of a collision. You become infuriated and shout out some choice superlatives to that reckless driver, despite the fact you are one in spirit with the most powerful Divine Force in the universe. You calculate that had you applied the brakes one second later there might have been a fatal accident.

If the new man in you were fully established, after coming to a halt he would have thankfully exclaimed, "Thank you Lord....for that one second". In acknowledgement, your guardian Angel would have smiled.

In Bondage to the World God Hates

by Jack Vorster

The day Adam sinned against God control over the minds of men transferred to Satan. And to this day he has been manipulating every aspect of everyday life on earth. He controls governments, financial institutions, politics, education and especially the entertainment industry. Hollywood is his pet project with the sex and drug industries following close behind.

The unsaved world does not know that it is serving Satan and does not know that what the world produces has been prescribed by Satan. And neither does it realize that the world, with all its beauty, is cursed. God did not impose that curse. It entered in along with the author of sin, Satan.

It is for this reason that God hates the world and that is why God sent his Son to save us from this cursed world. "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17)

1 John 2:15 makes it explicitly clear that if we love the world then the love of the Father is not in us. Even more explicit is James 4:4. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

It is clear. To be an enemy of God means being a friend of the world, enjoying it, paying attention to it, participating in its pleasures and getting satisfaction out of the message it conveys. Remember, the world is under a curse, which means the devil is having his way with it and that humanity, through sheer ignorance, is trapped within this curse.

Now what about Christians? Although saved, is it possible for Christians to be classed as enemies of God? In order for this to be so, Christians need to be adherents to the works of the devil and therefore have the works of the flesh evident in their lives. "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contention, jealousy, wrath, selfish ambition, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelry, and the like, of which I tell you beforehand, just as I have also told you in times past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the Kingdom of God." (Gal. 5:19-21)

Not inherit the Kingdom of God? This is serious stuff. Shall we put this to the test and see whether we are friends of the world and loving it and therefore disinherited from the Kingdom of God?

Satan has only one thing in mind - and that is to get people so busy with worldly things that they remain blind to the truth and at the same time subject them to a programme of repetitive brainwashing with everything that opposes God. He gets people to oppose God's Word, to blaspheme, to use God's name in vain, and to use the name of Jesus as an expletive. He promotes drugs, pornography, adultery, divorce, hatred, revenge, bitterness, jealousy, greed, corruption, crime and sexual promiscuity. These are the traits of a depraved, cursed world and these activities are

followed by those who are in darkness and not by those who have been translated out of darkness into God's glorious Light.

Are you a follower of these activities? Before we find out, let's look at one more verse of Scripture in this regard. "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." (Eph. 5 11,12)

Now this might seem as if we are looking at real-life situations and the fact that it is so abominable that "it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." Not so, these are the very things we are being bombarded with by people who portray these characteristics in movies and soap operas.

Satan's favourite people are movie and soap opera scriptwriters. He orchestrates them to perpetuate the idea of blasphemy, adultery, divorce, hatred, revenge, never-ending strife, anger, bitterness, jealousy, greed, corruption, crime and sexual promiscuity.

The world is addicted to soap operas and those who watch religiously are being brainwashed to finally believe that it is the norm. Pretty soon they even start acting and speaking accordingly, using the very lines of expression used over and over in these dramas on the screen. God warns us to stop partaking in these things. They belong to Satan and the cursed world, which God hates. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." (Titus 2:11,12)

In other words, if we know of the salvation wrought for us through Jesus Christ, then why do we go against God's instructions and still seek after the filth of the world? "I have set before you LIFE and DEATH, blessing and cursing: therefore choose LIFE, that both thou and thy seed may live: {Deut. 30:19)

Let's use this as a poser. If you regard yourself as a Christian and you're engrossed in your favourite soap opera just at that moment when the Rapture hits the world and you find yourself left behind on that couch of addiction and the things that God hates (to the extent that He denies entry into His Kingdom for all those who love even the portrayal of the works of the flesh), will you, at that moment, know why you were excluded from this event? It is likely that it will take you quite a while to figure it out.

Anyway, should this happen to you, don't despair. Be of good cheer. You will still have a chance of entering the Kingdom during the seven-year tribulation period - provided you are prepared to lose your head as a martyr for your faith in Christ.

Why God destroyed the Human Race

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

God is considered to be cruel, vicious and unloving by many. However, there is the other side of the coin to examine.

It is estimated that more than 150 million people were destroyed in the Noahic flood and several million more during the time period covered by the Old Testament – all either directly or indirectly at the command of God.

A great many people today conveniently refuse to believe in a supposedly loving God, using as an excuse the “cruelty” of a God who would destroy men, women and innocent children. Even the tragedies of today are being attributed to and blamed on God.

Is there any justification for such a stand against the Creator of the Universe and everything therein? A quick overview of the circumstances leading to the extermination of those millions of people might reveal a different picture.

Cain, the very first human being born into this world, murdered Abel, the second human being born into this world. Their parents, as well as their offspring to follow, all lived for almost a thousand years each – enough time for them to generate a population count of 150 to 200 million people within 1700 years. However, the race of human beings living at that time were wicked and corrupt, with nothing but evil intent existing between them. They were about to wipe each other out without the help of God.

Just think, the world population at the present time is 7 billion – and we are able to destroy the Earth and every human being along with it virtually overnight for the same reasons those mere 150 million people back then had to turn it into a reality. In other words, had God not intervened there would not have been a single human being living on this planet today. God made it possible for the human race to exist today by destroying all but eight people and then laid down laws for them to keep to ensure the longevity of the existence of mankind. He named them Israel. To further ensure their survival God commanded them to root out the evil numbers - from their own offspring who had formed nations and shunned the laws of God - from the face of the Earth. We exist today as a result of God-fearing Jews.

Even so, the human race is responsible for the death of more human beings since then than had ever perished at the Hand of God. Over the last 30 years alone the people of the United States of America have slaughtered 50 million of their own children in a process given the name of abortion. Were they allowed to live the population of the USA would have almost doubled by today, which means, in effect,

that they killed off almost half their population, diminished their economy and lessened their strength as a nation.

Two thousand years ago a Jew by the name Jesus – the Word of God made flesh – entered the equation and kept God's laws on our behalf. He took the wickedness of the nations upon Himself and dealt it a death blow, so that we could live in love, peace, health and prosperity. But mankind has obliterated and outlawed His Name in the public domain and now want to destroy the land (Israel) He is about to set foot on as promised and from where He will reign as King of His Kingdom on Earth.

Alas, we prefer to steal, kill and destroy – and blame God.

Why God did not Evict Satan

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

Throughout the Bible we read and learn of the presence of Satan in the world as if he had a right to be here and ply his trade of wickedness. Why should a righteous God permit the devil's continued presence and works of evil upon mankind on this planet?

The facts

In discussing this matter with a life-long Christian friend of mine, Winston Graham White, he came up with a valid overview of the situation as follows:-

(Quote) I don't think there is a short answer. Of course, God could have dealt with Satan any way he liked. But here is my brief thinking on the matter.

Firstly, Satan is God's creation – a created (not begotten) son of God. (Job 1:6) "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them." He is not a creation that came out of a dualism of natures, good and evil . He was created out of the unity of God . I think this is the crux – the UNITY of God. We see in the OT how God even used Satan to test and try His people. He tempts Job only by divine permission, so God is always in control, just as in similar instances with David (1Chr 21:1) etc.

Secondly, and this is my best shot right now, because Satan was created a being with a free will, just like we are, he is being left for a limited time (entirely within God's control) so that we would have free choice. I don't believe God wants robots who love Him because he manipulates their wills. He wants us to willingly accept Him and love Him. So there must be choice. Satan is the alternative. Choose good or chose evil – God or Satan. It is for this time that God allows Satan free reign that we need to choose – it is God's dispensation. And because Satan rebelled against Him, God now uses Satan to separate the goats from the sheep.

This could and should be dealt with more deeply, but that is the essence of how I see it. (Unquote)

By revelation

Indeed, there is no short answer, but what is striking is the fact that God does not spell it out in His Word, the Bible. However, God does say that He will provide answers by revelation through the Holy Spirit. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but

whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.” (John 16:13-15)

The Title Deed

While not claiming this to be a clear-cut, factual reason for the devil's continued presence, it is, nevertheless, the picture that comes to mind and the way I see it.

We all know what happened in the Garden of Eden. God gave man dominion over the Earth. In effect, He gave the title deed to man and man, in turn, gave the title deed to Satan. Therefore, God no longer had it and man no longer had it. Satan then became the “god of the Earth” and “prince of this world”.

Satan even offered the title to Jesus if Jesus would worship him.

Now if God had removed Satan after he had deceitfully usurped dominion over the Earth and attained the title deed in the Garden of Eden, then the title deed to the Earth certainly would not have been left to man in the (non-existing) last will and testament of Satan. And a righteous God certainly would not have illegally seized the title deed. So, the title deed would have been irrecoverable and, therefore, there would have been no point in redeeming a fallen man. Man would have been unredeemable and the Earth would have become an irredeemable piece of real estate.

Satan had to remain in order for man to be redeemed and to orchestrate a legal means of regaining the title deed.

Man versus the devil

It was from man that Satan took the title deed and it was going to have to be man that would take it back, but only a redeemed man would be in a legal position to do so. That's why the “Son the Man”, Jesus, brought about that redemption on behalf of man. We defeated Satan through Christ.

However, as redeemed men we became citizens of Heaven and we longer are of this Earth.

Satan, therefore, still possesses that title deed and all unbelievers remain under his reign. They are in this world and of this world. (Christians are in this world but not of it)

After the rapture and after the return to Earth together with Jesus, redeemed man (in Christ) will regain the title deed and Satan will be bound for a thousand years. Only then will redeemed man, under the Kingship of Christ, once again have dominion

over the Earth. Those who have not made the rapture and have made it through the Great Tribulation and the “goat and sheep separation” and live on the Earth in their natural state, will fall under the rule of Christ and redeemed Christians, who will then exist in a glorified state.

A clear and present danger

The fact of Satan's presence is made clear in Eph 6:12. “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

However, Jesus Christ has destroyed the works of the devil on behalf of man, enabling us to overcome the devil's evil antics. “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.” (1John 3:8)

Ignorance or rejection

The world at large is either not familiar with this victory or simply just rejects it in unbelief. For those who do believe recognize that the devil is active, but they have chosen the abundant life. “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

So, although the devil remains, his works are ineffective to those who believe and know that is only a matter of time before the title deed is officially handed back. And as ironic as this may seem, had God not permitted his continuance, man would have been doomed forever.

A sword over his head

We can now look at the scenario as follows.

Imagine the world's most dangerous criminal being brought to trial, convicted, and sentenced in a most unusual way. In laying down the sentence, the judge states: “You have been found guilty of the most heinous crimes imaginable, committed all over the world, leaving people of all walks of life devastated by your cruel and heartless actions against them. This day you are being judged once and for all. Every person in the world can claim victory over you this day. And I decree that insufficient justice will be served by banishing you to jail for life at this point in time. Therefore, you and your gang of thieves, robbers and murderers will remain free to roam the streets of the world where you will be recognized by all and despised by all. This day's judgement will follow you wherever you go. I herewith, by the power of this judgement, grant authority to all the peoples of the world to make war against you and to overcome you when they see you or sense your presence in their midst.

You will flee from all those who resist you. Those who innocently, through ignorance, fall prey to you will be given an opportunity to get their revenge. Those who willingly choose to side with you will eventually join you to banishment for eternity.”

Indeed, we serve a God of Grace and Wisdom.

Are You Well Pleased with your Word?

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

We go about our business each and every day, not realizing that all the events, circumstances and experiences attached to our lives are determined by a single factor.

The key that unlocks tomorrow

What happens for the rest of this day, tomorrow and all your tomorrows will depend on the image factor in your life. Undoubtedly, the image that you already possess within was deposited by the mindset of a world that has been in turmoil since the beginning of human existence.

Ever since you took your first breath as a newborn you've been absorbing sights and sounds responsible for shaping your own mindset. Just like everyone else has been doing, you've lived your life in compliance with the "norms" of the world for the sole purpose of achieving one thing only, and that is survival. Your idea of survival might be associated with wealth or it may cover only the basic necessities. Either way, it is called survival. The latter years of your life will be dependent on the image factor of your former years.

The identity of the image factor

What is that image factor? That image factor is your word. The sole asset of your life is your word. Without it you are merely a shape of animated clay. Your word started forming the day you were born and it was shaped by all the other "words" in the world. Your word is deeply imbedded within the heart of your spirit, where it takes on the identity and individuality of the very nature of your personality and character. You and your word are absolutely one. And, to reiterate, your word was shaped by the words of the world. You are a child of the word of the world.

You will carry this ever-increasing word of yours as a personal database forever by means of your spirit, that is, even beyond the death of your body of clay. This database is known as your soul.

Your great master of ceremonies

Forming part of the substance of your spirit is a "thinking mechanism" called the mind. This is the operator, and also the dictator, of your soul. It determines the output from the content of your soul and presents it to the world, through your mouth, as your word. Of course, what comes out of your mouth will not differ much

from what comes out of the mouths of others in the world. We are all birds of a feather. The only difference will be the degree of greed behind the mode of survival you have decided upon, courtesy of your chief executive officer – your mind.

However, this mind of yours, just as it could be your fiercest enemy, can also turn out to be your greatest ally on the road to your salvation from the world of like-minded followers of followers. It is your mind that opened up your spirit to the receipt of all the words churned out by the world, which turned your soul into a clone of everyone else. Yes, we are all databases differing only in the intensity of the category our survival direction falls under, as processed by our minds.

Many words (people) are sitting in correctional institutions as a result of like-mindedness, regardless of whether they come from wealthy or poor backgrounds. Many words (people), depending on their chosen paths of survival, have either succeeded or failed in life. The quest for supremacy in the wealth stakes by the minds of survival-seeking, word-powered people have led to new and modern technology. Now everyone is attempting to follow suit by attempting to improve upon these inventions – for the same reasons.

Change to another source

The words of the world are so ingrained in us that we have been meditating therein day and night and have been making all our decisions based thereon.

Imagine if we could start listening to new words - words so immense in power and wisdom that it would alter our thinking to the point of turning us into a brotherhood of super-humans, all working together for the common good, desiring to help each other with all that is needed to live without shame and despair. These would be the words that add a brand new dimension to the personality of the word of our soul.

Minds need to be transformed into new thinkers. Minds need to process a different set of words to the spirits within. Yes, you've seen this coming. Minds need to start listening to the Word of Words. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom 12:2)

Transformed to what? Transformed to a new being altogether and able to function as the creative being you were designed to be by following the Word of the Word of Words.

The Word was sent

Assuming you already know that Jesus Christ was the Word of God, and as such He was God in the flesh, then perhaps you wonder, like so many do, that if Jesus Christ was God, then why did God say, "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud

overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”? (Matt 17:5)

God was saying that He was well pleased with His own Word and that we ought to listen to His Word, namely, Jesus Christ. But how could Jesus be God if God spoke about Jesus as if He was a different person? Even Jesus said, “He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.” (John 14:24)

Let me explain.

When you order a cup of coffee in a restaurant you do so by speaking out your word. Pretty soon the coffee is delivered to you. What happened? Your word went to the kitchen and brought you the substance of what you requested while the source, your word, remained with you. Now watch this. “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)

*God sent His Word, Jesus Christ, to accomplish what He had set His Word to do while the Word remained with God, **just like you did in that restaurant**. God was the biological Father of Jesus Christ in whom was the sent Word of God. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...” (John 1:14). **This not only made Jesus Christ the Word of God, but God Himself – just like sending your word is like sending yourself.***

You had a tiny little word to start with when you were born, marking your individuality, but instead of being fed with the Word of God (“hear ye Him”), your personality was formed by the word of the world, thereby alienating you from the Word you should have received and the creative power you would have had in line with the creative power of God, in whose image you were created. But now you possess the image and the weakness of the world.

Prosperity and good success

It’s time to be transformed by the renewing of your mind to the Word of God so that you can start sending your word to do greater things. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12)

We’ve been meditating in the words of the men of the world day and night to make us what we are. It’s time to meditate day and night in the Word of Words so that your prosperity and success may be void of greed and a need to merely survive. “This book of the law (Word of God) shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that

is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

While there is a lot more to be said on the subject, suffice to say that this is a starting point. And pretty soon you, too, will be well pleased with your word and it will not return unto you void of accomplishing what you set it out to do. It shall be the kind of word that moves mountains for yourself and others, laden with prosperity and good success.

Has the devil got you Poised to Strike at your Spouse?

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

Life-long partnerships are few and far between. Marriages founded purely on physical attraction have a very weak base – for there could be spiritual jackhammers lurking in the wings.

Lying in wait

Has the devil got you poised to strike at your spouse and the world around you? As strange as this may sound, your mindset may be not be a depiction of your own thinking patterns, but that of invisible foreign entities, who are at work through those who, unwittingly, might have invited them in.

It is true that we are surrounded by spiritual forces, either with good or bad intent. Those of us who have developed weaknesses in our human make-up - perhaps as a result of deprivation during our childhood years or hurtful disappointments in life - are particularly prone to influence by the darker forces at work in the world. Anger, bitterness, jealousy and over-sensitivity are some of the emotions making us prime targets for a takeover and instrument for use against our fellow man.

Bringing misery to bear upon your spouse and others and not being able to curb the tendency would be a sure sign that you are not in control of that little fellow within, namely, the mind. The human mind is a spiritual battlefield where the devil desires to firmly plant his flag and take a giant step for the powers of darkness.

Marital conflict

If both spouses in a marriage live their lives as if God is real, then their marriage and the relationship they have with one another will be filled with joy and peace regardless of what the devil throws at them.

However, if one of the spouses in a marriage remains reluctant in letting go of past hurts, worldly interests and still enjoys some or many aspects of worldly living, then conflict and strife will always enter the relationship.

If both partners do, in fact, live their lives as if God is real, but one of the partners is self-centred and self-righteous in his/her approach to the relationship – always desiring the focus to be on fulfilling his/her demands and needs, then such a marriage relationship will always deliver stress to the hearts of both partners.

A blend of protection and endurance

The partner who truly serves God and displays the fruit of the Spirit and has no self-serving motives will ensure God's protection and blessing upon the erring partner. However, the "good" partner will just have to endure the "thorn in the flesh" discomfort caused by such a relationship and perhaps even feel restrained from serving God fully.

Christian couples entering into marriage should make sure that the enemy's flag has been removed and that they are equally yoked in their belief structure.

Many people believe in God and Salvation through Jesus Christ, but are not truly born again. They become church-goers and attempt to follow good works - and not Jesus Christ. And this is where the problems, as mentioned above, begin. We were not called to be Christians. We were called to be Christ-like. The former is a title. The latter is a life.

Seven Billion People Woke Up This Morning

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

The world is abuzz. People are running to and fro chasing their dreams and seeking pleasure, but missing the point.

Good morning sunshine

This morning, all over the world, 7 billion people got up to start their day, making it look like a massive Mexican wave because of the respective time zones.

Percentage-wise, the population of the Earth is made up of:-

57 % Asians

21% Europeans

14% Americans (North, Central and South)

8% Africans

And there would be:-

52% women and 48% men

30% Caucasians and 70% non-Caucasians

89% heterosexuals and 11% homosexuals

Regardless of these statistics, all 7 billion people have two things in common. And that is the AIR that they breathe and the BREATH OF LIFE within them. The two are NOT the same. There is something special about the latter.

All I need is the air that I breathe

The AIR that we take in contains the oxygen that our bodies need in order remain functional.

The BREATH OF LIFE is the element that provides consciousness and individuality to our existence as human creatures. And, just as significant, it EMPOWERS our physical bodies to “automatically” maintain the action of breathing in AIR. Therefore, without the BREATH OF LIFE we would not be able to perform the action of breathing.

Have you ever tried speaking while inhaling? You can't. When you speak it is accomplished by exhaling. The air from your lungs passes over the speech organs

to form the words which your MIND decided to publish to the world, but the WORDS that you speak are generated by your BREATH OF LIFE. To be more correct, it is the MIND of your BREATH OF LIFE that formulates the words coming out of your mouth.

Gone missing – Brain Power

It is important to note that the only role your BRAIN plays in this is to take the instruction from your BREATH OF LIFE to mechanically utilize the speech organs for the words about to emanate FROM the MIND of your BREATH OF LIFE. The speech section of the brain “orchestrates” this action.

It should also be borne in mind that the brain is “alive” ONLY because of the BREATH OF LIFE within your physical body. The brain of a dead person is also dead for the simple reason that the BREATH OF LIFE no longer inhabits that dead body. In other words, the necessary consciousness no longer exists within that body. The REAL LIFE of that person, that is, the BREATH OF LIFE, was the consciousness of that body and it “took” that consciousness with it when it departed from that body. In effect, that person is still alive but has moved on to its ETERNAL DESTINY.

Every person born into this world receives that BREATH OF LIFE from God, which makes him a LIVING SOUL. It is, therefore, the SOUL that departs from the physical body upon the demise of the body. No offence or disrespect, but have you ever heard a word come out of the body of a dead person? Our relatives and friends that have passed on are still as conscious as they were when they occupied the Earth. And they are still thinking and speaking, albeit either fearfully or joyfully.

So what is the point?

A top priority decision

Most of the 7 billion people on this Earth still have a decision to make. They have to DECIDE where they want to go to when their physical bodies give in (whatever the cause of it) and their BREATH OF LIFE departs with all the accumulated content of their CONSCIOUS SOULS. If they make no decision, then there is only one place they can go to without the possibility of a redirection. (When it comes to small children the picture is a little different, but it is the subject of another discussion)

Here lies the problem. The vast majority of the 7 billion people are living their lives in nonchalant fashion, perhaps not even aware of the situation and, in actual fact, most are wilfully ignoring this truth until it is too late. Given the fact that their very existence is due to the God-given BREATH OF LIFE within them, one would think that they would make a point of delving into it. There is an URGENCY to listen to and heed the truth.

Dismiss that enemy

There is, of course, a very good reason for our blindness – it is spiritually invoked by an enemy that is holding the world in bondage by plunging it into frenzied activity called entertainment in many different forms and degrees of depravity. This enemy has also instilled into the minds of LIVING SOULS that God is a myth and that embarrassment is attached to the very mention of His Name.

MAKING A DECISION to continue life with unspeakable joy and freedom while still in this world and, most importantly, after physical death, is straightforward. It takes a willing ear, God-instilled faith, and a confession by the MIND of your BREATH OF LIFE while your brain is still in a position to hear from your BREATH OF LIFE and instruct your mouth to utter that confession.

Yes, 7 billion LIVING SOULS woke up this morning. A great many also need to wake up to the Good News of Jesus Christ – and live.

The World is the Biggest Lie on Earth

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

We all know that life is not a bed of roses, but the world that holds life rests on a bed of lies. And we're all cuddling up in it.

WARNING. *Not all readers will be partial to the explicit content of this article for reasons that will become evident. However, for those seeking enlightenment based on Truth, this exposition will provide life-changing information.*

The Holy Condemnation

The world is one big, fat lie. It is the world that God created. And yet, God hates it. He even warns that if we – the human creatures He placed on this Earth – do not hate this world as much as He does, then we are His enemies. He further reiterates that if we do not come to repentance concerning our love for this world we will perish along with it. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world." (1John 2:15,16)

Ignorance is not bliss

How much more emphatic could it be? Every married couple should know that their very first bundle of joy is entering a world that is hated by God. The problem is, very few do know. And so the majority go through life oblivious of this Truth, merrily indulging in the things of this world and trying to outdo the Joneses who are doing the very same thing.

The young offspring of world-loving people soon become teenagers void of the Truth – so they start seeking some form of truth in parties, drugs and the occult. Their ignorant parents then consult with psychiatrists, psychologists and other institutions, hoping that a psycho-analytical process would provide the cure.

What these kind of parents do not realize is that the "mental" sickness of their children was caused by adherence and addiction to a world majoring in "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" – a world devoid of the influence of God.

Where enemies gather

God has a place for His enemies. There is a place at the centre of the Earth called Hell. This is the destination set by God for all world-loving people – parents and all children who have reached the age of accountability. This is where parents will also face the wrath of their children for being ignorant of the Truth and/or disregarding it. A hell within Hell for parents.

The breath of life

Millions of people continue to be born into this world – at the Hand of God, for He provides the necessary Breath of Life for each and every one of the new entrants. “The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.” (Zec 12:1)

“All the while my breath is in me, and the spirit of God is in my nostrils;” (Job 27:3)

“The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” (Job 33:4)

The world at large chooses to ignore the Source of their existence and the Book that spells it out, preferring to believe the books of fellow God-created human beings who strive to contradict the very One Who made it possible for them to put pen to paper.

Grace keeps us alive

God does not have to put up with man. If He wanted to, He could simply just “get rid” of us. “If he set his heart upon man, if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.” (Job 34:14,15)

But God has such a great love for the man He created in His image that He made a plan to save him from this world.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.” (John 3:16-21)

Note that God is referring to people in the world and not the world itself. And note further that man is condemned as a result of not believing in what God had done to save him. Mental assent is not enough. It is a matter of having to be born again. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

Nothing is hidden

God created man and the universe by His Word, within His Word and for His Word. And that Word is Jesus Christ. In other words, we all exist by Jesus Christ, within Jesus Christ and for Jesus Christ. Not a single thought goes unnoticed by the Word, Jesus Christ. "For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." (Acts 17:28)

We are the "offspring" of Jesus Christ in that we sprung forth from Him by His Word of Creation and that is why we hung on the Cross together with Him, enabling us to die within Him and be born again within Him. Being born again means literal death through Jesus Christ and literal rebirth through Jesus Christ. It means we start life afresh in this world, and although having retained the memory of our former life, we change all that by renewing our mind. "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Romans 12:2)

This rebirth takes place literally. And when it does we change citizenship. We become citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven. We are no longer of this world. We are saved from it. "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." (John 15:19)

What it is not

Salvation is not about religion. We do not find Salvation through belief in any kind of religion or good works. The world's religions offer idols, the worship of false gods and the practice of good works. God sacrificed His own Son through Whom we could be reconciled to the our Father God. Therefore, Salvation comes only through the Person of Jesus Christ. "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

And no church denomination on Earth can offer Salvation through membership or adherence to their doctrines and traditions. They can only offer it through the Good News of Jesus Christ. No man on Earth is appointed as mediator between God and man. Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and man. We go directly to our Father God through Jesus Christ.

The source of the lie

Millions upon millions of evil spiritual emissaries of Satan are at work in this world to keep humanity blinded to the Truth by keeping them focused on worldly pleasures, activities and desires so that they can torment them for eternity in the corridors, caves and caverns of a burning hell when they get there. In that place will be found adherents to false religions, false Christians, scoffers, blasphemers, unbelievers (in Christ) and lovers of this world. Hell for them started the day their physical bodies succumbed for whatever reason. "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2Cor. 4:4)

What started in the Garden of Eden ends in Hell for all who do not eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life. Jesus Christ is that Tree of Life.

Hell is as real as Heaven is real. The fork in the road to one or the other was marked by the Cross where God's love for man was displayed through His Son, the One in Whom, by Whom and for Whom we live.

And that Cross remains in the fork of the road for all who need to make a decision, but only for the duration of their lives on Earth.

There's a Whole lot of Shaking going on

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

The law of cause and effect in life is in operation at all times and it hardly receives a passing glance. But there is another law that we should take very seriously, for it is violently shaking the very substance of our being with malicious intent.

A magic spell – but don't blame it on the Bossa Nova,

If you were holding a full glass of water in your hand and somebody deliberately shook your arm, you would, undoubtedly, spill quite a bit of that water. If someone else came upon the scene and asked, "How did you spill the water?" it is likely that you would explain that somebody shook your arm and caused you to spill the water.

That's one way of looking at it. However, the real reason why you spilled the water - was because there was water in the glass. In other words, what was in the glass came out of the glass when somebody shook you.

Now what has this got to do with anything? It is this. Just like with that glass filled with water, what is in you will come out of you when you get shaken in life. If you are filled with anger, bitterness, unforgiveness, envy, jealousy and vengeance – then these are the things that will come to the fore when others start shaking sensitive areas of your life. This would be so because of the emotional condition you are in as a result of painful past experiences.

Now just hold on to that for a while. I'm going to paint two pictures for you.

The first picture

The first picture is this. When Adam transgressed in the Garden of Eden he caused the fall of every human creature since then. God called it sin. Sin ushered in spiritual death (spiritual separation from God) and a CURSE upon all men, as well as upon the Earth itself. This CONDITION called sin attached itself to all generations of men since then and the Earth became the breeding ground for all manner of sicknesses and diseases. There was no escape for anyone from this CONDITION. Furthermore, the "container" (like the glass) for this condition was a SPIRITUAL one, which is the very foundation for the life that is in man.

The CONDITION of sin, therefore, is within every man. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" (Romans 5:12)

The point? The CONDITION of sin shakes every man and what is in that CONDITION (including sicknesses and diseases) comes out of man and manifests itself in the physical body of man on a continual basis.

Now please understand this: Regardless of how you try and conduct your life – whether you have committed sinful acts “lately” or not, sin is a condition WITHIN you. You were born with it and the symptoms (sicknesses and diseases) of this sinful CONDITION within you will raise their ugly heads at any time. In other words, this CONDITION never ceases to SHAKE you. And why does it keep on shaking you? It keeps on shaking you because the decreed CURSE upon all things keeps on AGITATING that CONDITION.

So, no matter how good a person you consider yourself to be, you are and remain a prisoner of the CONDITION of SIN. The CURSE has, relentlessly, been contaminating everything in this world.

This CURSE became a LAW unto itself and applies itself indiscriminately simply because it is there and it loves what it is doing. As a matter of fact, it became known as the Law of Cursings when a Law to counter it was instituted, namely, the Law of Blessings

Along with the “inauguration” of the CONDITION of SIN way back then, a new nature was instilled in man – a nature of aggression, conflict, strife, violence and vengeance. This new nature became the kindling to keep the fire of that CONDITION burning at a peak level so as to ensure powerful bursts of sicknesses and diseases, even to the point of fatality.

The second picture

Along came the New Adam – God Himself in the form of flesh. His name was Jesus Christ, the “express image” of God, also known as the Word of God. He came to undo the works of the first Adam. The CONDITION of SIN and the CURSE were about to be rendered a death blow. A whole new bout of shaking was about to rattle the cage of the CONDITION of SIN and flatten it under foot. “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” (1Cor. 15:22)

I believe the whole world is familiar with the Good News that Jesus Christ died for our sins, but it is the implication of this event that needs to be brought home. Most people relate to “our sins” as some of the bad things we have done in our lives – and NOT the CONDITION of SIN we all bear. That is why a “good person” is not considered to be any better than the worst sinner. That good person is drenched in the very same mire of the CONDITION of SIN. “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;” (Romans 3:23)

Christ came to UNDO the CONDITION of SIN and LOOSE us from the bondage of the CURSE once and for all. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" (Gal. 3:13)

Now just who is "every one that hangeth on a tree"? That's you and me, together with Christ. He drew us and the CURSE that was upon us to Himself and He signified it when He said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

The works of the devil – the CURSE and its accompanying CONDITION of SIN - were destroyed on that Cross. "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." (1John 3:8)

There are 39 categories of sicknesses and diseases. Jesus received 39 lashes – one lash for every category, so that we may be freed from it. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

The birthright that we lost in the Garden of Eden was restored to us. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2Cor. 5:17)

There is only one thing left for us to do. And that is to BELIEVE that we now have a NEW CONDITION so that the BLESSINGS that come with it become manifest.

What else? Well, there's that little matter of being shaken in life. As a NEW creature in Christ, when you get shaken again, Christ, and everything He stands for, should be what comes out of you. Why? Because what is in you will come out of you when you get shaken.

Get the picture – both of them?

Throwing some Light on the Human Soul

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

In order for us to have a better understanding of ourselves as human beings it is important to know what the human soul really is. Knowledge in this area can avert a great many ills.

Look what the chicken brought in

Break out a few eggs into a cold frying pan sitting atop a cold plate on your stove and nothing will happen to those raw eggs. Now turn on the power (electrical or gas) and the cooking process will begin. What you have done is to “energize” the eggs in order for them to be “converted” into a form known as cooked eggs. Without the POWER applied to the process those eggs would have had no “life” added to them. In other words, the EXISTENCE of the eggs would have been MEANINGLESS without the POWER applied to them.

Now note this. You had a POWER SOURCE (electricity or gas flame) which EXTENDED power to the frying pan. As a RESULT of the power being present in the frying pan, the eggs underwent a PROCESS to make their EXISTENCE MEANINGFUL for you.

You could also say that the CONTENTS of the pan took on a MEANINGFUL EXISTENCE because of the POWER added to them.

I hope I don't get egg on my face with this illustration, so let me quickly move on.

Throw out all those memories

It is early morning. You have just woken up. Sitting up, you look around you and absolutely nothing makes sense to you. You don't know who, or even what, you are. Unbeknown to you, while you slept your entire memory had been wiped out. Every single event ever experienced by you since birth was gone. Even if someone tried to tell you that you now had the mental capacity of a newborn baby it would make no sense to you simply because you had no understanding of language. The memory of that, too, was erased.

Your very first memory of sights and sounds was gone. The memory of the very first sound of your mother's voice was gone. Memories of childhood and further growing up experiences were gone. Memories of your education and work experiences, all the activities of your life as well as every emotion ever felt, were simply all gone.

Yes, even in your grown-up state, you might as well exchange your pyjamas for nappies and start all over again.

We could handle this situation in one of two ways. If you're still quite young and your parents are not too old, we could start the process all over again and "raise you up" until you reached your former level of MENTAL CONTENT. And let's say that everything would be identical to all you've experienced the first time around.

Or, we could simply just arrange for you to regain all the MEMORY CONTENT that you had lost. How about that one?

Okay, we'll do it. Relieved?

How lucky can you get!

Abracadabra... you have it all back.

The Power of One

You have just regained your SOUL.

You see, the spirit part of your human make-up was made in the image and likeness of God.

Therefore, this is the part of you that has LIFE. It is this LIFE that has consciousness, individuality, intellect, emotions and the ability to store the memory of it all.

Just like POWER was applied to the eggs in the pan to energize them, in like manner your spirit energized or gave MEANING to the EXISTENCE of this SOUL-KNOWLEDGE within you. This means that without the spirit there can be no soul.

Since birth your spirit has been responsible for absorbing KNOWLEDGE, and turning it into MEMORY, within itself. And the more you learn through your physical senses and absorb it into your spirit, the more your soul grows in knowledge-content.

It is your life-giving spirit that decides what to do with the knowledge it gains, that is, what to do with the soul content it has taken in.

Your spirit has an "executive" component called the MIND. The "Chief Executive Officer", if you like. This MIND of your spirit holds sway over what is emitted from the spirit through the physical body in speech and action. And it can only produce from what it has available in SOUL-CONTENT as held by the spirit.

The MIND, therefore, decides how your spirit is going to portray your SOUL-CONTENT to the world.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

What the world sees or hears, therefore, is your WORD. What comes out of you is what your MIND takes from your SPIRIT-SOUL for consumption by those around you. Everyone gets to know you by your WORD, for you and your Word are ONE.

Your spirit and your soul do not play independent roles. By this I mean that your soul has no life without the spirit. In effect, your soul is the personality and character of your spirit (your life) as developed from the point of birth to the present.

Your SOUL counts as a “unit” of life, energized and brought to consciousness by your spirit, complete with individuality of mind, intellect, emotions and memory, but only because of the life of your spirit giving it such status.

The memories of both the good and bad moments of your life remain in your soul.

Your soul is the overall REPRESENTATION of you in spirit, heart, mind, word and body. You are “counted” as a soul, such as in a census of human population. God counts you as either a saved or lost soul.

If, after having read this, you failed to gain a better understanding of the human soul, then at least you learned how to fry eggs. And from now on, behave yourself. Your soul will expose all.

To all the Marble Collectors of the World

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

As human beings we interact with each other as well as with our environment and general circumstances in life, not realizing that every precious moment is a significant event designed to develop a vitally important part of our make-up.

Don't tell me you're not a collector

Perhaps you've never come to realize it, but you've been a collector of marbles all of your life. Without them you will have been but an empty shell of a human being. There might have been times when the stresses of life have made you go a little "crazy", causing other people to say, "He's lost some of his marbles."

If anything, that certainly proves that all of us are marble collectors. If still not convinced, I'm going to set about proving it to you by means of an illustration – and you are going to help me do it, if you don't mind.

*The marbles you've been collecting have come in a myriad of different colours and in quite a few sizes. It will help tremendously if you actually see them. So if you have a little free time right now, please see if you can find some kind of a **glass** container in your kitchen, such as a jar, drinking glass or small dish. And, of course, you will also need a bag of marbles. If you neither have the time nor have any marbles in the house, then your vivid imagination will do the trick.*

Okay, let's get the illustration going.

Welcome to this world

You've just made your entrance into this world by being born into it. After a few hours you start getting hungry. Your mother feeds you and you achieve a sense of satisfaction. Now drop one marble into that glass container, which would then represent the knowledge of hunger and a food substance to satisfy that hunger.

You're now at a place called home where strange sounds and the constant voice of your mother enter your little being. This is just more information beginning to record itself in a "database" inside of you. You can add two more marbles to the container to cover that.

You're growing up fast. Along the way a great many things have been filling up that database through your senses of smell, taste, touch, vision and hearing. Add several more marbles to the jar. You're on the verge of intellectual greatness. Your mother has been telling the whole world that you appear to be exceptionally smart, probably more so than any other child in existence.

Hello Mr. Know-it-all

You have finally become a teenager. The years since birth had exposed you to a vast amount of experiences at home, in the school classrooms and the geographical environment of your activities and wanderings. Boy, all of this is worth quite a few marbles. Throw them in. Your mental and physical prowess is beginning to take shape. Your database of marbles is beginning to become quite colourful.

At this teenybopper stage you probably have not come to realize that the mound of marbles lying within your inner database is really all that you consist of. You are no more than that. Your knowledge, personality and character are all woven into your current collection of colourful marbles, which has fuelled a generator churning out intellectual processes used for informing the world that you have "arrived" and that the marbles your parents possess are at an inferior level of quality. You are even ashamed to be seen these "lesser" marbles.

You've completed your education and have quite a few years, as an employee, behind your back. Many more marbles have found their way into that database. (I trust you're feeding that jar)

Some tough breaks along the way

*The marbles of unforeseen hardships, disappointments - and some happy moments - have found their way in over the many years that followed. The marbles now come in at a much slower rate. The picture of who and what you are has become pretty clear. You are no more than that particular bunch of marbles that only **you** have accumulated. There's not a person in the world with the same database of marbles. Everyone has a different collection of marbles.*

There has to be a moral-story somewhere

Okay, enough marbles, you're waiting for the moral of the story.

*The marbles - that only you have - represent the entire make-up and picture of your soul. The marbles dished out to you – most of them of the kind that **you** chose – make up your identity as an individual.*

Your consciousness as a human being revolves around the content of your soul. And what comes out of that soul will be your word – your word based only on the specific kind of “marbles” lodged in your database of knowledge about yourself and the world as you perceive it. This is your word. This is your soul. You are one with your word and your soul. (May your marbles be of a very special kind)

Is there more to it? Yes, of course.

You didn't always have all those marbles

You started off with the breath of life. This breath of life came from God. He made you in His image, meaning you were made to be a little god complete with part of Him to give you life and to be just like Him – a spirit.

This spirit-life within you is represented by the air inside the glass container you used for this illustration. You had an infant spirit that needed “marbles” to start giving identity to your spirit, which identity was to become your soul and your word. Throughout your life your spirit has been animating your growing soul and presenting it to the world as your word through your physical body, the latter being represented by the glass container.

Yes, the world has been observing your marbles (soul and word) through that glass container – and so has God.

The world has been judging you by your word – and so will God.

And God said, “For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Mark 8:36)

If you don't already know, you need to find out what He meant by that.

The bottom line?

Don't lose your marbles.

Why God Involved YOU in the Crucifixion

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

The world's population is split into only two categories or classes of people. Those who seek the Truth and find it and those who seek to oppose the Truth.

We do what we do but we don't know why

Why did King Herod order the death of all children 2 years and under in Bethlehem and surrounding areas?

There is only one answer that will immediately come to the minds of most people. And that is that he was hoping that one of those children would be the young Jesus. He considered Jesus to be a threat because of a misunderstood prophecy that Jesus would become King of the Jews.

If you also came up with that answer then you would be as wrong as all the others.

Those innocent young children had the sentence of death hanging over them and there was nothing their parents could do about it.

It's all because of our nature

Would it surprise you if you were told that the real reason King Herod did this was because he, like those children, also had the death sentence hanging over him?

And just like those little children who, because of their young age, did not give any thought to it, King Herod also did not give it any thought – but for a different reason.

He did not give it any thought because it was within his nature to commit such atrocities, and he was oblivious to the idea of a sword hanging over his head because of his nature.

Today, the vast majority of people have the same thing in common with King Herod, and that is obliviousness.

Did you know that you also have the sentence of death hanging over you simply because of your inborn nature – and that you also are likely to be oblivious about it?

There were an estimated 200 million people living on the Earth between 1600 and 1700 years after Adam. All but 8 of them were “executed” because they refused to heed the warning that they were under a death sentence. They gave it no thought.

And they were oblivious to it, thinking that it would never happen – just like it is today.

Life goes on beyond the grave

The death sentence I'm referring to is not the physical-death kind, although physical death is the very DOORWAY to that sentence. Beyond that door is a place called Eternal Death, which is a PLACE (not a state of ceased existence) where a LIFE of consciousness and individuality continues. It is a PLACE we simply step over to without the loss of any of our senses.

We are certainly not that naive as to be oblivious about physical death. It is indeed a sword hanging over everyone's head and we all know that we have to die someday, but it is our ignorance about the ETERNAL DEATH that follows. And THAT is where obliviousness comes into it.

If you hate to visit your mother-in-law and can't wait to get away once you're there, then KNOW there is no getting away from the PLACE of ETERNAL DEATH. It is the one place where you'll suddenly discover a great love for your mother-in-law and a desire to rather spend time with her for eternity than in THIS place of torment and utter despair.

I'm going to pretend that you don't know that THAT particular death sentence is hanging over you, in which case you certainly WOULD BE oblivious about it, meaning that you have no reason to be heedful or concerned about it.

If the police came knocking on your door to arrest you for something that you KNEW you had done, it would be too late for you to undo what you had done or not to have done it at all. What you had done was done.

Guilty as charged

It is the same with the DEATH SENTENCE. It is your inborn nature that makes you guilty. However, and fortunately for you, while you're still alive (having not yet transferred to that PLACE) you are in a position to have that sword over your head removed and to be redeemed from the sentence.

You see, like King Herod, it is within your nature to be part of a world society that cannot withhold the tendencies of that inborn nature. Conflict, strife, jealousy, lust, anger, hatred, corruption, greed, revenge, war, murder and genocide are some of the traits associated with that inborn nature. You just can't help it.

The other thing that makes your inborn nature so detestable is the ever-present killers that form part and parcel of that nature, namely, sicknesses and diseases. Guess what? You know the DOORWAY mentioned earlier? Well, these critters, together with their allies, enumerated above, hold the key to that that door and they

can't wait to get you through it before you find out about it and do what is necessary to escape from it.

It was God's mercy that allowed the Earth's population to grow to 200 million until one person and his family emerged from it and who would heed His warning. The rest ignored Noah's plea for them to repent. They all died.

God keeps His Word

Each and every person born into this world receives his/her spirit (life) from God as a result of God's irrevocable Word to the effect that man should multiply upon the Earth. "The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him." (Zech. 12:1)

Ever since the Noahic flood God's mercy has been exercised upon mankind – a mercy that allowed human life to continue with laws attached to it. The vast majority have died unable to keep those laws and have stepped over to ETERNAL DEATH.

Help for the helpless

Two thousand years ago God, Himself, entered our world as a human being for one purpose only – to keep those laws on our behalf so as to ensure our redemption from ETERNAL DEATH.

OUR death sentence was transferred to Him. He took OUR inborn nature and died with it, taking it to that place of no return and dumped it there.

Being God and being without sin Himself, He rose after three days, thereby ESTABLISHING our redemption from the DEATH SENTENCE.

We no longer have that sword hanging over us. God's nature became our nature and He sees to it that we maintain that nature through circumstances in our lives designed to keep our focus on Him.

He became like us

God, in the form of that special human being, Jesus Christ, said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John14:6)

Whether we approved of it or not, God included every single person in the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ in order for that death sentence to be taken care of once and for all. We had to become ONE with Him for this to be accomplished.

On that day 2000 years ago PROVISION was made for everyone to be reconciled to God, to receive His nature, and to be HEALED of all sicknesses and diseases.

It happened. The event is irrevocable. It was the most important 72 hours of your life. It is now up to you to believe it, to accept it – and for that PROVISION to be made a REALITY for you.

But it is all a matter of choice – a choice to our detriment or a choice to our redemption. Both have something in common. And that is TIME. When time for physical death comes, the REALITY of both choices sets in.

Your 72 Hours between Death and Life

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

Mankind struggles through life either because of ignorance or because of rebellion.

A new dawn awaits

Did you know that you have already died, literally, and came back to life after 72 hours? This means that death no longer lies at your door. Now, all you have to do is figure out what to do with that new life.

You might say, "Now wait a minute. If I have already died, does that mean the new life I now have simply carries on where it left off? Surely, it must be, otherwise I would not be in a position to make plans for the new life that I now have if I did not know that I had died."

And I would have to say that you made a very clever observation indeed, though I'd like to point out that you would not be able to make any future plans for your new life unless you actually know that you had died and also knew the reason for your death. Only knowing both will put you in a position to want to make changes to the life you previously had. So it is not a matter of carrying on where you left off.

The state of affairs

Now I'm going to cut to the chase and be quite blunt about it. Why beat around the bush when you are waiting anxiously to jump from the starting line of your new life.

Your former life was one big mess. Even the little bit of good you thought you possessed was like a filthy rag and counted for nothing. In fact, you had the sword of death hanging over you all of your former life precisely for this reason. But the death sentence you had hanging over you offered no return to life once the sentence was carried out. It was to be permanent and accompanied by never-ending torment in that place of death.

Now I suppose you're going to ask, "But if I die, then I'm dead. How can I still retain the consciousness of life after death in order to undergo some kind of physical and emotional suffering?"

Did you know that you never, ever die? It is your physical body that succumbs and in that event the real you are set free from that body. Your real substance of life is the spirit within that body of clay. And because of that sentence hanging over your real life, the state of death lying in wait is a spiritual one. In effect, it amounts to a

spiritual separation from God. That is what spiritual death actually means. To be exact, it means that you carry on living in a place totally devoid of the presence of God. No peace, no joy, no life – only torment upon all of the senses as if you had retained full consciousness and never died – for eternity. I will spare you the full description of the intensity and nature of that torment. A little bit of investigation of your own will reveal all.

Now, exactly how and why did you die? Again, I'm going to cut to the chase. You're working up a sweat like a racehorse in that starting stall and want to get going with that new life.

An irrevocable sentence

It was God who sentenced you to death. You were born a creature complete with an inherent nature of sin. And this condition was and is an abomination to God.

It is for only one reason that God decided to destroy your former life and give you a new one. That reason was LOVE for the human being that He had made in His image and after His likeness. It is likely that you will have heard that God Himself had become a man and took you, together with your condition of sin, into Himself onto that Cross and died. Because of your inborn condition of sin God knew that you would not voluntarily go with Him, so He gave you no choice in the matter. It was His decision. You came from Him and He was going to rescue you regardless. He loved you too much to let you suffer condemnation forever.

For 72 hours God, as a man called Jesus Christ, descended into that place of spiritual death and torment and suffered YOUR fate to a degree of intensity beyond imagination. Because He, Himself, was without sin, once justice was served, He was raised from the dead – and you were raised TOGETHER with Him. He had become sin so that you may be freed from it. He rose again, so that you may be raised again and live.

So you see, you did not escape the DEATH PENALTY. Jesus Christ, however, fulfilled it FOR you.

Been there, done that, but didn't know it

Are you a teenager? You've been to hell and back.

Are you a housewife? You've been to hell and back.

Are you an architect? You've been to hell and back.

Are you a movie star? You've been to hell and back.

Are you yet to be born? You've been to hell and back.

You might wonder how it is possible for a person not yet born to have gone through this process. God knows the name of the very last person still to be born. God lives in no time and provision has already been made for that yet unborn person.

Free moral agency

Now comes the big “however”. There is no doubt that you have heard that God gave man a free will. Therefore, God is not going to force you to accept this great act of redemption. He wants you to use your freedom of choice to UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE and ACCEPT your deliverance through Jesus Christ – by FAITH!

In other words, you have to APPROPRIATE your salvation by CHOICE!

You had NO CHOICE but to die in Christ because you not only existed within Him at the time of the Crucifixion, but you still do. “For in Him we live, and move, and have our being.” (Acts 17:28). But if you refuse to ACCEPT this PROVISION made by God for every person, then it is an act of your God-given free will and it becomes an act of rebellion against the God Who made you and loves you.

Believe the believable

How does one appropriate it? You do so by acknowledging it in prayer to God. You REPENT, tell God that you BELIEVE what was done for you on the Cross through Jesus Christ, and then RECEIVE Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour by asking Him to do to come into your life. You will immediately KNOW that those 72 hours between death and a new life has become a REALITY for you.

The plans for your new life? It's YOUR new life. Seek some fellowship with others who have had the same 72-hour experience and appropriated it - and you will soon know.

Disabling our Unbelief in the Ability of our Inherent Faith

by Jack Vorster

Adam was about to embark on course of eternal creative faith. All the “software” for this purpose was installed within his spirit and ready to go. God was waiting for Adam to turn on his “computer” - an act of picking and eating from the Tree of Life. This action would have been the prompt for God to click the “Enable” button.

We all know what happened. Adam turned on his computer, but picked the wrong tree. His innocence could not be converted to righteousness followed by eternal life. He now stood apart from God, spiritually separated from God – the connection needed for a faith-filled, creative and abundant life.

By an act of deceit, Adam had the software within him manipulated by Satan, who inserted an “Add-on”, which directed Adam to focus on a life of fear and evil. God’s Enable button had to be put on hold until the Add-on intrusion could be deleted.

God instituted interim measures to hold man above water and to preserve his life. These measures took the form of laws incorporating rituals which necessitated ongoing participation for temporary atonement for sin. There were conditions attached. Failure to obey resulted in curses and obedience brought about blessings,

Alas, man was doomed. That Satanic Add-on button had a devastating effect on his life. Man’s attempt at righteousness was as a filthy rag. He failed miserably in trying to keep God’s commandments. Poverty, Sicknesses and diseases, destruction and death, war and strife, were to be the leeches clinging to his very existence.

Four thousand years after Adam’s fall, a new Adam was born into this world – namely, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He was the Tree of Life itself. He came to destroy the works of Satan so that man could be set free and to eat of that Tree. This meant that man would be reconciled to God and once again placed on the path leading to the fruit (bread of life) that would usher in an abundant life of faith and creativity here on Earth – and for eternity.

The second Adam was without sin. He obeyed God and fulfilled the requirements of God’s laws. He was God Himself, come in the flesh to suffer the penalty of death on behalf of man.

The day came. Jesus hung on the Cross. Death and hell were upon Him. He was about to set man free. God’s finger was hovering over the Enable button. Jesus, Saviour of mankind, breathed for the last time. He plunged into hell, taking the sins of man with Him and dumped it at the feet of Satan and crushed the Add-on button before the devil’s face. Simultaneously, on earth, the curtain to the Holy of Holies tore apart from top to bottom. God’s laws were now placed in the hearts of men – through Jesus Christ. Man, once again, had access to his Creator.

On the third day, Jesus ascended from hell and rose from the dead. And then it happened. God's finger came down on the Enable button. Man was officially pardoned, set free – and able to live a sin-free, faith-filled, creative life free from poverty, sicknesses and diseases, destruction and death, war and strife – if he wanted to.

Satan was furious. He could now only influence the lives of men if they allowed him to do so. Every creature made in the image of God now had a hedge of protection surrounding them, that is, those who came to know the Truth and received it into their hearts. Unfortunately, millions upon millions, believers and unbelievers alike, are still struggling to surface from the devil's onslaughts. Some, oblivious to the Truth, are in still in total captivity to him, actually enjoying the fares of wickedness imposed upon them.

How about you?

Did you know that you were absolutely set free from the curses of the law, meaning that you are blessed in every aspect of your life? "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" (Gal 3:13)

Did you know that your body is now the Temple of the Holy Spirit, redeemed, cleansed and sanctified by the Blood of Jesus and that the devil has no place in you and no power over you?

Did you know you were healed of every sickness and disease when Jesus died on the Cross? "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5)

Did you know that you now have the faith of God through Jesus Christ and that it should come naturally because of the supernatural presence of the Kingdom of God within you?

Did you know that you can apply your God-given faith without fear, for it is the faith of Jesus working through you and you are simply doing what God's Word says you can do? "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:15-18)

Did you know that you are a living, walking powerhouse of a creature made in the image and after the likeness of God and that you are also a King and a Priest on

earth and that you may have anything you need or even want? “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” (John 15:7)

You have the righteousness, peace and joy of the Kingdom of God and the love that goes with it, sealed by the Holy Spirit within you. Let your faith-loaded spirit and the words of your mouth bring forth the visible substance of what you need or desire, so that you may please God. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Heb 11:6)

Move the mountains in your life, lay hands on the sick and cast out demons. You are only doing what you’ve been told you can do. Do not be deterred by the denial of the faces looking on or the words of those still under the agenda of the enemy. The signs following you will do all the talking. You are merely declaring that the Kingdom is on earth as it is in Heaven. Jesus came to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and said to John, “The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.” (Matt 11:5)

So you see, you cannot fail – unless you deliberately prefer the ways of the world to abiding in Christ.

*The only thing remaining is for you to jump for joy and to praise the Lord – for you have been **ENABLED!** The world is at your feet and the devil under it.*

Eternal Damnation - God-imposed or Self-imposed?

by Jack Vorster

A person who has a 9-5 job has to get up in time each morning in order to get to work on time. As a result of knowing that he is required to be self-disciplined for this purpose in order to reap the benefits, he chooses to do so. It is SELF-IMPOSED.

When the Word of God became man, He chose to make Himself of no reputation for a specific purpose. It was SELF-IMPOSED.

When a person hears the Good News and responds positively, he becomes re-born and then chooses to follow and be obedient to the Word thereafter. It is SELF-IMPOSED.

When a Christian sins as a result of giving in to temptation, he reaps what he sows. His choice to sin was SELF-IMPOSED.

"be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." It is clear from this Scripture that God is not going to renew your mind - you have to do it yourself as a RESULT of your salvation and what you already have learned from His Word. It is SELF-IMPOSED.

And neither can Jesus do it for you. Humility is not Son-imposed. God does not impose Himself on anyone with anything. "if you abide in me and my words abide in you". Again, the choice is ours. It is either a rejection or it is SELF-IMPOSED. Jesus IMPLORES us to IMPOSE upon ourselves.

Christians are supposed to make decisions based on the Truth and make it a SELF-IMPOSED resolve to go one way or the other.

Yes, our salvation is SON-IMPOSED when we accept and receive it, but from thereon it becomes SELF-IMPOSITION, in which case He will then IMPART the blessings that go with it. One can also lose one's salvation through a SELF-IMPOSED act.

Self-imposition can also extend to other areas where the consequences are tragic and permanent.

A would-be employer notes on the applicant's resume that numerous short-lived jobs are listed. He turns the applicant away KNOWING a job offer is likely to become another statistic on the applicant's resume.

Just like the would-be employer who turns down an application because he simply knows that the applicant's history indicates a non-conforming attitude, God knows ("before the foundation of the world") who will and who won't come to salvation. Yes, everyone is called to respond, but not everyone will respond positively. This is what

makes it predestination - and not a matter of God choosing to save some and not others.

Our God-given free will is what steers us one way or the other - and God knows the direction beforehand. We are either children of the devil (like Jesus pointed out to the scribes) and remain so or we hear the call of God and come running. Thus, we are either called to salvation or we are not. Predestination - but self-imposed.

Using their God-given freedom of choice, Lucifer and a third of all the Angels rebelled against God and as a consequence they fell. Their decision to oppose God was SELF-IMPOSED. Did this mean that they were more powerful than the Triune God?

Lucifer, now Satan, orchestrated the fall of man and as a result fallen man became an adherent of the kingdom of darkness. It is only by God's Grace that man is permitted to continue to reject God by a self-imposed act of the will.

A test of power does not enter the equation except to use it to reject or accept the Good News.

God's love for man is so great that He won't forcibly drag anyone into Heaven who does not love Him and who prefers to remain captive to the forces of darkness. This preference is a self-imposed one and only once the Truth hits home will a Son-imposed transformation take place.

For Those Who Want To Understand But Don't Quite Get It

by Jack Vorster

All over this world that great, masterful species, the human race, is busy breathing in air. It uses this air to enable it to function, which includes the activities of working, frolicking, warring, destroying and killing. It comes naturally for this species to do these things, for it carries the knowledge of good and evil.

The human race owes its knowledge of good and evil to the very first of its kind, a created human being, who discovered the existence of the freedom of choice when presented with it. Only when making that choice did it become manifest. However, this first human being made the wrong choice and therewith plunged the entire human race into a pit of self-destruction.

All of the offspring of this first human being were born after his likeness. He preferred the evil side of the knowledge he gained and this preference became an inherent choice with all members of the human race to follow. It has to be said, that he was deceived into making this blundering error by a spiritual entity who, as the greatest enemy of the Creator, wanted to gain control over the minds of all the members of the human race and in so doing dictate their livelihood and ultimate destiny. Nevertheless, the first human being, Adam, did receive warning of the consequences should he make the wrong choice.

The tragic addition to this choice was the fact that it carried an unredeemable death sentence – meaning that it was impossible for the human race to save itself from this irrevocable judgment. Man was to live under the resultant curse of sicknesses and diseases, poverty, despair, fear, mayhem, tragedy and eventual physical death. But worst of all, after physical death he was to live on in the spiritual realm in a place called Hell, where he would suffer torment at the hand of the Creator's enemy, who, together with his horde of demon creatures, would inflict horrendous punishment upon the souls of the human race, for eternity – simply because they were made in the Creator's image.

Sadly, today, the vast majority of the members of the human race is oblivious to this reality. In fact, they have been blinded to it by spiritually-inflicted propaganda to make them believe that God is a myth and that man has evolved from the apes. Ironically, it is fellow-members of the human race who have been used by evil spiritual forces to instil these lies through the power of the written word. So-called "schools of thought" have given birth to the theory of evolution, philosophy, humanism and the various names we have for religions. The minds of men have indeed come under the control of the Creator's greatest enemy. They have been indoctrinated to believe that they are "educated", form part of the elitist section of human society and are impervious to any form of foolish ideas concerning creation that might be imposed upon the masses.

So just exactly what are those “foolish” notions? Well, the Creator, who made the human race in His image, so loved this creature that He had a plan of redemption up His sleeve all along. His human creation, which He called man, was to be born again, enabling him to start afresh. But for this to happen He was going to need just one man to bring this plan of redemption to fruition. Alas, there was no such man, so He decided to do it Himself by becoming a man. He created man by His Word, so He would make His Word become flesh through the legal means of entry to the Earth – through the womb of a woman. Emmanuel – meaning God with us – would be the name of that child. But His name would become known as Jesus, the Word of God.

How was the Creator-God going to achieve this act of redemption? This man Jesus, being the very Word of God, would be the only man on Earth without sin, which is the word for the condition of fallen man. He would relinquish the power He had as the Almighty Word of God and subject Himself to all of man’s temptations and onslaughts by that enemy, Satan, and overcome the latter on behalf of man. As the express image of the Living God in the form of man He would announce the establishment of the Kingdom of God on Earth, demonstrate it by introducing what would have been if man had made the correct choice and promising it as a way of life to all who would believe.

At the conclusion of this mission He would perform the final act. He would sacrifice Himself on the Cross. Every member of the human race came out of Him and, therefore, had their existence within Him and is represented by Him. In other words, the entire human race is contained within Him, complete with its condition of sin. The suffering, as a result of the penalty of death and eternity in Hell because of sin, would be taken upon Himself in the place of every man. In Hell itself the torment would be upon Him, the Word of God.

Sicknesses and diseases – the result of sin – would be absorbed by His own body for every man, once and for all. He would take all of it into Hell, suffer torment, humiliation and pain for three days and three nights and then throw it in the face of Satan. He would ascend from Hell, born again, together with every man within Him. And so every man would be made alive within Him and no longer be of this world, but remain in this world as overcomers of sin and death through Christ, the Word of God. The only requirement would be belief in what He had done. By God’s Grace, through faith in the Name of Jesus, every man would be saved and redeemed.

Those who believe would now be able to look forward to the transfer of their souls to Heaven after physical death, as redeemed, sanctified children of God – all at the cost of the Blood of the Lamb of God.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his

Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God". (John 3:16-18)

That Place We Call The Mind

by Jack Vorster

The foundation for human behaviour is information. We all grow up simply accepting the information we absorb through the senses of hearing and sight – and then apply ourselves to life accordingly. Some of us add a little thinking of our own, perhaps even questioning the validity of what is considered to be the norm. After all, are teachers, lecturers, professors and scientists not passing on to us (with some added conviction) what they, in turn, heard from someone else? Unfortunately, our own parents pass on to us exactly the same information about life and then send us to schools and universities to entrench those norms.

I am alluding to the most important aspect of our lives as human beings, namely, the function, purpose and location of the human mind.

We've been "told" by everyone that the human brain is the organ responsible for generating thoughts and words; that it is the seat of our intellect and emotions; that "brain power" can be developed, placing us in a position to outstrip our fellow human beings in the race for success; that it is the storage location for memory; and that our mind, located somewhere in the brain, is the decision-maker for all our words and deeds.

The most peculiar thing is, although brain researchers and all those dealing with the science of the brain have been propagating these assumptions, none of them have been able to prove this accepted norm. The fact is, they are stumped when it comes to proving what everyone seems to believe about the human brain and openly declare that the brain remains a mystery. And so, research continues. The question is, are they looking for the answers in the right place?

Everyone on this planet deserves a breakthrough in this area. Imagine finding the lurking place for that elusive other 90% "brain power" that we've been unable to harness. Imagine the enormity of the exciting consequences should we discover how we really function as human beings. It would be tantamount to starting life all over. Just the mere revelation of this knowledge should make you want to dance in the street as you prepare to tackle the world around you with a new perspective.

I have good news. While others are searching for that elusive 90% (supposedly) unused brain power, it is possible for you to go directly to the seat of the mind within you and find it quicker than anyone else.

We humans regard ourselves as living, physical entities capable of intellectual and emotional expression as supposedly generated by our brain by means of our mind, which, in turn, we presume forms an integral part of the brain. In assured fashion, we

would at times go so far as to point at our head with one finger to indicate that we are busy thinking – simply because it feels like it's all happening up there.

What if you were told that the human brain is empowered by the spirit within you for the sole purpose of controlling the bodily functions of the physical part (including the vocal organs) of our make-up and that it (the brain) has no conscious intellectual or emotional capabilities – let alone contain a memory database? As far out as this may seem, it is fact.

Inside of our human spirit is an area referred to as the heart. This is where it all happens. And this is where the true you is reflected. Your heart encompasses the consciousness and individuality of your human spirit and seats your intellect and emotions. Your personality, in its totality, is located here and it is reflected to the world you live in. How?

Enter the chief executive officer of your heart – your mind. This baby hugs your heart like the mouse to your computer. However, this guy can be mischievous. Like an ethereal roamer around the heart he is supposed to do the honourable thing and reflect the good things of the heart to the world. Your heart contains all the good, as well as bad things that it has absorbed since entering the world. All of your physical senses have gathered information and channelled it to your heart via a conduit, called the brain.

Your physical body is, in effect, your heart's window to the material world. And the heart of your spirit has an unlimited capacity for the storage of information and memory. This is where dreams and ideas are conjured up and processed based on its massive database of knowledge. The decision-maker, the mind, takes what is in the heart and decides how to portray it or apply it to circumstances.

This "chief executive officer" of your spirit, the mind, acts as the spokesperson for your heart. What this spokesperson says, you get. Your brain stands at attention waiting for instructions from the mind to express the whims of the mind by means of the tongue and physical body. Talk about the power of the tongue. This lad is nothing more than the mouthpiece for the inner mind to the natural world. And now you also know why it feels like all our deliberations take place in that cavity filled by the brain.

Depending on the condition of the mind, it can either be honest or maliciously deceitful. What comes out of your mouth is the voice of the mind of your spirit. Aggression, bitterness, hate, love, joy and peace are all items of knowledge stored in the heart as a result of experiences picked up in our world. Your mind decides what to extract from the heart and present to the world. It can make or break those around you – and it can also make or break you as an individual.

Your heart and your mind are bosom buddies. They are all that you have. They are you. If you renew your mind to take only the good things of the heart, you'll have a synergy that can conquer and overcome the world – turning war into peace and failure into success.

Guess what? You have discovered where that 90% "brain" power has been lurking all the time and you are now in a position to saddle it and ride it.

Now that you know all of this, go ahead and dance in the street, but not for too long. What will the neighbours think?

The Bible is a Book about spirits

by Jack Vorster

Adam stood to his feet for the first time. His lifeless physical body, formed from the dust of the ground, had just received the breath of life from a Spirit, enabling him to take in his surroundings as a result of the spirit-life implanted into his adult earthen vessel.

Although he had no childhood experiences, Adam stood before the Spirit that created him with the innocence of a mere baby, totally in wonderment and trust of the One who had put him there. He had no notion of anything such as the concept of built-in intellect or emotions. And neither did he consider the fact that his Creator had provided him with super-level intelligence and ability. It all just came naturally to him.

The idea of good and evil found no space in the mind of his spirit simply because it did not exist for him - yet. He was only aware of a sense of well-being, joy and great expectations. This creature, called man, did not realize that he was a spirit within a physical body - a physical body solely for the purpose of keeping him earthbound so that he could take care of the Earth over which he was given dominion. And neither did he realize that the physical universe was created just for his benefit, nor that it ever would have existed without the reality of the spirit world, of which God was the Supreme and Sovereign Ruler.

Adam, the spirit, was able to communicate with the Creator Spirit by simply speaking out. His God-created physical body possessed the necessary mechanism not only to portray the movement of his spirit, but also to channel the voice of his spirit through a nervous system ending up in sound through his mouth. His physical brain, empowered by his spirit, performed this function of spirit-amplification as if fused to his spirit. His brain, energized by his spirit, also took care of the health of the rest of his spirit-driven body.

The day arrived for another spirit to make his presence felt in the Garden of Eden. His name was Satan - and he was about to test the God-given free will of this new spirit-man creature that was made in the image and after the likeness of God. He succeeded in his quest. Suddenly, Adam had gained the knowledge of good and evil. He had disobeyed the command of God. From that moment onwards, man could not control his preference for evil deeds, for he now had knowledge of it and the spirit of evil, Satan, to guide him all the way.

God confirmed that man was a spirit when He declared, "My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh:" (Gen.6:3)

Job had a revelation about this when he said, "Thou hast clothed me (my spirit) with skin and flesh, And knit me (my spirit) together with bones and sinews." (Job 10:11)

(parenthesis mine). Through disobedience to the One who created him, man brought about his own spiritual separation from God. Man remained a spiritual being, but now had a lust for the things of the flesh, to the extent that he became totally oblivious of his spiritual nature, the inner core of his being.

To this day it has remained so. In fact, man is convinced that he is physically evolved from the apes and that the human brain is the life of the human body responsible for the human intellect, the processor of emotions and the storage of memory - none of which is true.

The world at large does not know that the Earth is a battleground - not for the destruction of the physical body of man, but for the eternal demise of his spirit. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (Eph. 6:12)

A great many people have been spiritually reconciled to God through the Cross of Jesus Christ for the wholesale cleansing of both body and spirit. Once again they know who and what they are.

So we see then that the Bible starts on a spiritual note, continues throughout all of its pages to examine the spiritual aspect of man's existence and all of the spiritual influences determining his destiny - and ends on a high note when spiritual forces bring things to finality and a new beginning.

The Realities Concerning Health and Food Intake

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

The purpose of eating is to maintain a healthy body. This becomes easy if we are made aware of the reasons for this and constantly remind ourselves of the facts.

Before Adam received the breath of life from God his body was lifeless – his blood was not circulating, his inner organs were not functioning and he had no sense of consciousness or any awareness of his existence as an individual life-form. He might as well have been a tree stump lying on the ground.

Adam's physical body was formed from the soil. The elements within the soil were manipulated by a divine hand to bring forth the substance and shape of this purpose-designed, very first, God-like creature. Eve's body was "extracted" from Adam, which meant that she was an extension of the soil-sourced body of Adam.

Then came that miraculous moment. In order for Adam to become a living soul, he had to be "plugged in" to life. The only way for this to be accomplished was for Adam to receive a connection from LIFE itself. And that LIFE was God Himself. In fact, this LIFE was a spirit – and Adam was about to receive a part of God, that is, spirit-life. This Spirit-God of Life completed this creation process by "extending" His Spirit-life to Adam, but also "inserting" a personality and individuality unique only to Adam, the first human being.

Suddenly, life-consciousness became a reality for Adam. He was "born" an adult. The power of the spirit within him energized every fibre in his body – and it began to function. His brain was now ignited. A surge of electrical impulses started up this powerhouse engine room. Adam's spirit was now in charge of a physical body which, by means of his brain, would animate every spiritual act taking place within. In other words, Adam's body was to be an outer reflection of the spiritual being within. More specific, His brain was a lightning-quick responder to instantaneously channel the motion, emotions, thoughts and speech of this spirit-creature within to the various parts of the body, such as limbs, facial expression and speech organs.

Childhood memories did not exist for Adam and Eve. They were ready-made adults complete with adult (spiritual) intelligence, wisdom and ability. It had to be so. They were the first. And they would raise their offspring to benefit from their God-set standards and experiences.

The purpose for their existence was made clear. They were to be God's representatives on the Earth, taking complete control of everything and being

responsible to God for it. They were fully equipped to do so, for they had the necessary creative power – like that of God – to apply to earthly circumstances. Any threats, onslaughts or attempts to wrest their God-given dominion over the Earth from their hands by other spiritual sources were to be thwarted by means of their own spiritual power.

They were given one single law to keep – that of obedience. Failure to keep this command would serve to plunge them into a state of spiritual death, meaning spiritual separation from God.

They were told to eat. God instructed them to eat of all the fruit and herbs (grain and other vegetable products) for obvious reasons. Their soil-sourced (“dust of the ground”) physical bodies would need to be rejuvenated, revitalized, energized and sustained from the very elements within the ground from which they were put together - through soil-sourced plants containing all the necessary minerals, vitamins and other vital elements. It was only much later that God added meat - another soil-sourced creation sustained by soil-sourced plants - to man’s diet.

Man needed good nutritional food in order to survive. And the Garden of Eden was a place of good healthy food and more good healthy food. But food was only intended for the “upkeep” of man’s physical body so that the spirit-creature within that earthly covering of bone, sinew and flesh could function through a healthy physical body.

It is clear, therefore, that we are very special spiritual creatures and we have to maintain a healthy body for the sake of our spirit and to remain in total awareness of this fact. The only reason we have become unhealthy, overweight human specimens is because we have lost sight of the fact that we are spiritual beings and that our bodies are merely coverings for the spiritual person within.

The way we should look at it is that food is for the body - and not the body for food. Gluttony and/or the eating of totally unhealthy food will serve to generate imbalances within, leading to sicknesses and diseases and finally, an early exit from the body for the real person within. It is that very real spiritual person within that really matters and taking good care of the physical body that covers it is vitally important.

So if you have a weight problem, why not pretend that your home is a shelter on a deserted island somewhere and that all the places where you can purchase fresh fruit, vegetables and grain products are extensions of your island and that you are forced to eat nothing else. Pastries, candy and processed foods simply do not exist on that island and, therefore, you have no need of them. Temptations offered by visiting family and friends are merely mirages. Invite them to your island shelter and introduce them to what’s good for them.

The Tale of Two Cities

by Jack Vorster

Did you know that the activities of every living human being on this planet are being orchestrated to conform to the governing power of two opposing cities? In fact, one of these two cities has a death grip over the world's population and is in a battle with the other city to hold on to its reign over the world's sea of humanity.

Both these cities are huge. They are so big that they are regarded as Kingdoms. However, regardless of their size, they cannot be seen, for they both exist within the spiritual realm. Nevertheless, their influence in the natural realm is so intense and extensive that they might as well be physically present.

Now here lies the mystery. The spiritual city with the death grip on the world is evil. Its reign over the inhabitants of the Earth has transformed the world into the literal version of itself. Babylon is the name of the literal city. Yes, so steeped has the world become in the evil sown by its unseen master that Earth is regarded as an extension of that city.

Mystery, Babylon the Great, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth, is the full title of the spiritual Babylon, also known as the Kingdom of Darkness. And the world is in total captivity to this power of darkness. The grand master of this kingdom is Satan and he has succeeded in turning Earth into a den of iniquity, bringing disease, depravity, destruction and death to all the creatures made in the image of God. The amazing irony of it all is that he has used the minds of men to accomplish this.

Up to this point in time spiritual Babylon has been the launching pad for attacks against all of humanity. Pretty soon it will be plucked from its spiritual location and cast down to the Earth to merge with its counterpart, literal Babylon. That's when we will hear the cry, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit..." (Rev 18:2)

Spiritual Babylon and the literal city of Babylon (the whole Earth) will have become one. Side by side with man will evil spirits dwell and plunder the earth and the lives of men.

In the days of Noah judgment from God came in the form of water. Now judgment will come by fire. No ship laden with goods will be able to enter any port of literal Babylon (Earth), for it will be ablaze. "And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off. And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, what city is like unto this great city?" (Rev

18:17,18)

During the reign of the city of Babylon (the Kingdom of Darkness) over the Earth, the other city, the city of God, the New Jerusalem, also known as the Kingdom of Light, has been rescuing a great many sons of men, translating them from the power of darkness into the Kingdom of God. They remained on the Earth, in this world, but not of this world. They reigned, together with Christ, as kings and priests on the Earth in God's spiritual Kingdom, which was within them.

A few years before literal Babylon was burning, they were snatched away to escape the wrath of God upon literal Babylon (the Earth). Those who refused to reject the reign of Satan over their lives and exchange it for the reign of God (to become subjects of the Kingdom of God) were now facing a new choice - that of whether to die as martyrs for their new-found belief in Christ or to take their chances with Satan.

This then, is the tale of two cities - that was, that is - and will be.

The Uncompromising Spirit of Fear within the Inner Man

by Jack Vorster

The spirit of fear within the inner man is uncompromising. If allowed to take over the reins, it will gallop along and increase speed in order to produce the substance of what is feared without regard for the consequences.

Our display of frustration, irritation, depression or anger does not emanate from the brain, but from the heart of the spirit, which is the seat of man's consciousness, individuality, mind, intellect, emotion and, of course, the location of the memory archives.

The Bible speaks of a troubled spirit; an anguished spirit; a jealous spirit; a hardened spirit; a sorrowful spirit; a contrite spirit; a broken spirit; a steadfast spirit; a hasty spirit; a provoked spirit; a haughty spirit; a humble spirit; a vexed spirit; a patient spirit; a proud spirit; a heavy spirit and many more expressions to do with emotions. This certainly serves to prove that the spirit part of man forms the conscious, living part of man.

The spirit of fear is the offspring of man's inner emotions. It readily steps in to gather all of these emotions and turn them into passengers on a runaway freight train.

This fear-laden emotional state of the spirit of man can hugely influence the health of the physical component. Negative emotions feed through from the spirit to the brain, telling the brain to bring the body into line with the spirit's emotional level and to express it to the world of fellow humans. The poor body, a mere attachment to the big "boss" inside, has no option but to oblige, but not without dire consequences to itself. Indigestion problems follow, blood pressure changes take place, sugar levels run amok, etc, etc. It is amazingly ironic that man's spirit itself, through its stressful behaviour, can be responsible for causing destruction to its own physical abode.

Your spirit is the life of your body and the latter simply animates the former. Your spirit (the real you) is in charge of what your body eats or drinks, not because it has any preferences, but because your body has no life without the spirit. Your spirit (the real you) controls the words that flow over your physical tongue. Your spirit (the real you) determines where your body goes when walking or driving.

And so we find that the emotions of the inner spirit-man have been shaping our lives - both spiritually and physically. Mental disorders (state of the spiritual mind as a result of fearful spiritual emotions) have brought about insanity in some and eating disorders have transformed others into vastly oversized human beings. Of course, most of the latter do not have a "medical condition". They are directly responsible for their dilemma through not considering the fact that their bodies are there for the sake of their spirits. Their spirits simply allowed the over-indulgence.

The solution? Throw the spirit of fear off that moving train, stop the train, sit down – and think. Life is but a vapour, here one moment and gone the next. Why ruin such a brief, beautiful moment by filling it with negative emotions? Your spirit is the bearer of love, power and a sound mind. Use it to start taking control. As a spirit being living within a physical body tell yourself that you're moving in a new direction of spiritual and physical wellness.

You (your spirit) can talk to your body and tell it to respond in the way you want it respond. It HAS to OBEY you. After all, you've always been in charge, but this time the commands will be different and positive. You're no longer on a runaway freight train to disaster. You've stepped over to a leisurely, but productive trip on a luxury tourist bus. Force yourself to enjoy the journey through the uncertainty of life.

There's a name for this kind of life. It's called faith!

The Word of your Life - Your Human Identity

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

Our walk through life, the directions we take and the choices we make are all recorded. It all adds up to our own personal book of life which others are able read and assess.

From the moment we are born we start a process of communication between ourselves and those around us. Inherent in all of us is a need for attention and to impress others. How well we do it determines our rewards in life. For this reason it is vital that we develop the image we would like to project to the world.

Self-examination is a good starting point, but this would serve very little purpose if we do not even know what defines our identity. Knowing who and what you really are will place you in a position to re-invent yourself before launching yourself to the world and quickly establish a benchmark brand for your refurbished identity. So, who are you really?

From the point of birth you started becoming aware of an environment filled with sights and sounds. Soon all five of your physical senses were active in absorbing all there was to offer from one phase of your growth to the next. After years of nurturing, love and affection, and having completed your education, you were ready to face the world that would reward you for your services. The question is, what did you have to offer and what could the sea of humanity expect from you?

Everything you have ever absorbed through your five senses from birth to the present has worked together to form your personality and character. Your thoughts are limited to your experiences and your spoken words will be based on your thoughts. You are what you think and say.

You might have a leaning towards certain traits, tendencies and habits, mainly because of the constant exposure to your parents and peers who have displayed these oddities. You are “filled” with the memories of your life experiences, with all the actions, decisions and choices ever made and words ever spoken. Your intellect has developed as a consequence of these experiences.

You are, therefore, the sum total of what you have seen, heard, smelled, tasted and touched. All of this, put together, represents your word. As a “sense-knowledge” creature, the only thing you can offer the world is your word. People judge you by

your word, for you and your word are one. Your personality and character consist of your unspoken word (thoughts produced by your intellect) and your spoken word. As a living, walking, human creature, you are a “holder” of a word with your name on it. From the world’s point of view, you are nothing more than that.

If anyone should ask of you, “Who are you?” you might as well answer, “I am my word, and the name of my word is John Smith”. Or if someone named Mary paid a visit to your home today, then you could say that the word of Mary was with you today. Ever thought of it that way?

This, then, is your identity – your word. But it does not stop there. This word of yours is also your book of life. You’ve been writing your very own book since birth. You add pages to it every day and you will do so until your life ends.

Now that you know exactly who you are, are you going to make your book a boring one? Or are you going to make it a bestseller? Get off the couch. It’s filling up pages in your book. There are autograph hunters out there and they’re looking for a good book. Let it be yours.

Surfing for Job's Blog

by Jack Vorster

SUMMARY

The world weeps and complains, looking to others on this planet for help and advice to resolve personal issues when they need only read the greatest blog ever written.

The search

I've heard so much about a man named Job that I decided to surf the net for more information. I surfed the net high and low trying to find something that Job had perhaps written about his plight – a website, a blog or an article – but found nothing. Surely, there had to be something.

This poor man could have cried out to the world for commiseration by detailing the events of the uninvited misery that came his way and of which he was undeserved - his struggles, his losses, his diseases and the accompanying medical reports indicating very little hope for his condition. After all, everyone else has been doing it. Why not him?

There is also no record of him being a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show for publicity and empathy for the uniqueness of his situation. And neither has he appeared on the Dr. Phil platform where good advice could have resolved his psychological dilemma. I came across an endless count of websites, blogs and articles covering money-making, self-improvement and health and fitness courses and coaches that could have worked miracles for him.

Yes, every Dick, Tom and Harry can be found using articles and blogs as vehicles to publish the pains of personal troubles, sorrows, disappointments and searches for enlightenment, but Job's silence on the net was deafening.

It was there all the time

And then someone pointed out to me that a fellow by the name of Moses did, in fact, write an extensive piece on the life of Job and that I could find it included in a book called, The Bible. Excited, I looked it up and started reading. What a blog! This guy Moses certainly laid it out precisely. Apparently, his pen was moved by an unseen hand so as to make no mistake about the real Author of this masterpiece, thought to be the very first written book of the Bible, designed to acquaint every living, human being with the realities of their existence.

I discovered that Job did nothing to incur the atrocities upon his life, but that he was merely a mound of activated clay in the Hands of the Potter that made him.

Amazingly, regardless of the intensity of his suffering on that spinning wheel; the moisture being squeezed out of that body of clay; and his very substance of body, soul and spirit being moulded from the original shape to another, he exclaimed of the Potter, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: " (Job 13:15)

It also became clear that there was an intruder and usurper - by the name of Satan - ever active in this world, capable of wrecking and destroying, if permitted by the words of our mouth and at the discrepancy of the Potter.

Advice always at hand

And so the friends of Job conferred with him. He received advice from these other mounds of activated clay to take the course of cursing the Potter, to blame the Potter and to question the Potter, but he stuck to his guns, refusing to push against the Hands of the Potter. Instead, he declared, "Behold, he taketh away, who can hinder him? who will say unto him, What doest thou" (Job 9:12)

Job perceived that he was entirely dependent upon the wisdom of a mighty Creator, that this Creator was not a "respector of persons" (Acts 10:34) and "that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Rom 8:28)

Despite the agonising tragedy and suffering, Job seemed attentive to the quiet, reassuring words of the Potter, "Be still, and know that I am God:" (Ps 46:10)

Job was still. In obedience, he said, "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." (Job 42:2)

And then the Potter went to work.

"And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses. He had also seven sons and three daughters. And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren. After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations." (Job 42:10-16)

Surely, The Book of Job must be the greatest "blog" ever written – and deserves prime placement in the Wordpress spot of every activated mound of clay standing erect in this world.