

About The Author



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In 1981 he had an overwhelming experience of the Holy Spirit and was called into ministry in 1983 to *'proclaim the Good News, to heal the sick and suffering and set the captives free.'*

He served as a Deacon and Elder at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church and Counselling Co-ordinator at Kilsyth Community Church.

With his wife Andrea he was involved in pastoral ministry, counselling and discipling individuals and couples for over thirty-five years. They were blessed with four grown-up children and five grandchildren.

*A Story of God's Faithfulness
over forty years*

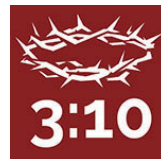
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LEAVES IN FALL

PETER HODGE

Leaves



In Fall

from

The Journal of a Journey

PETER HODGE

Leaves In Fall



Painting by Lorisa Zorina © Adobe Stock Images

*We live for 70 years, or 80 if we're healthy, yet even
in the prime years there are troubles and sorrow.*

The years pass by so quickly and we fly away.

PSALM 90:10 ISV

*Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

PSALM 90:12 NIV

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A huge thank you to Derek and Zoe for constructive criticism, which turned a series of random stories into something approaching a coherent attempt to tackle the big questions of how we can know God is real without kissing good-bye to our brains.

To our son, for endless hours over the years spent wrestling with the big issues and not being afraid to agree to disagree, in spite of his upbringing!

To our four children and five grandchildren, for their love and patience with a father and grandfather, who has driven them wild at times!

To Andrea, who showed us what quiet courage and trust in God means in the face of chronic suffering, and is now filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

To godly parents, who brought me up in the ways of the LORD, and have gone ahead to be part of the welcoming party, when we get to heaven.

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To Jim, my old mentor and former minister at Chalmers-Ardler Parish Church, Dundee, for all his encouragement, when we were going through the *crisis of belief*.

To the numerous individuals, with whom it has been a privilege to walk a mile or two in their moccasins at different stages of the forty-year journey. Their names in most cases have been changed to protect their anonymity.

Ultimately, as JS Bach wrote on every page of his music,

- S.D.G -

- Soli Deo Gloria -

'Glory to God Alone.'

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A Journey.....and a journal

Leaves In Fall are leaves from the daily journal of a nobody named Simon, born a child of Adam, born again a child of God, and called to '*proclaim the Good News* ('*Your God reigns*')¹, and demonstrate its arrival by healing the sick and setting captives free.²

If God is real, why is the world in such a mess and all man's efforts rendered meaningless by the pitiless march of death? How might one know for sure that death is not the end and God is knowable in reality, not just in theory?

Simon made up his mind he would believe in God, if he showed up in situations neither he nor others could control or manipulate. In short, in a supernatural intervention of some sort that could be verified.

On the 21st of January, 1981, he heard an inner voice telling him to start a diary, saying:

'You will see what I will do.'

The diaries, from which these leaves have fallen, trace a spiritual journey searching for answers to the questions Simon posed. Over the years they have borne witness *not only* to the reality of the devastating results of Adam and Eve's disobedience in a garden, *but also* to the results of another Man's obedience in another garden, demonstrating that God is real and death is not the end. Above all, they show God wants a relationship with individuals, who are genuinely seeking him, and confirms he is real in words and actions that are verifiable.

The journey from a lost paradise to paradise regained is the story of human history - a journey each of us will take one way or another.

¹ Isaiah 52:7 ² Luke 4:18-19

Chapter One

The Journey Begins

The Journey Begins.....with a crisis and a supernatural encounter

When Simon and Andrea met as students at St Andrews University, they were sincerely religious, and called themselves Christians, but they were unconverted. Andrea was from a Methodist background; Simon from an Anglican one. They were married in 1965, and moved to Lenzie, just outside Glasgow, a year later, when their eldest daughter was born. Two years later, Andrea gave birth to two more beautiful girls.

In May 1974, Andrea was diagnosed with MS (multiple sclerosis) and by 1975 was struggling physically. One day two Christian neighbours found her in tears and offered to pray for her. Somewhat reluctantly, she agreed, if it made them feel better! Some weeks later she was sitting in the sitting room listening to a Mahler symphony. In a vision she saw two mediaeval princes, one in white, the other black, jousting for her hand in marriage. She realised she had a choice - either to go with the White Prince (Jesus) or the Black. There and then she gave her heart to Jesus and experienced a peace she had not known before. A year later Andrea gave birth to a baby boy to the delight of the whole family.

In 1980 Andrea was asked to host a prayer group for the Luis Palau Crusade in Glasgow the following year. The group met in September 1980 for the first time. On the 23rd of November, Simon asked for prayer for help to give up smoking forty to fifty cigarettes a day. Three days later a locum dentist asked: '*How long have you had these white patches in your cheeks?*' and indicated it might be a sign of cancer. Christmas dinner was a painful affair, because of the stitches they had used to sew up the inside of his cheeks after taking biopsies.

On Boxing Day 1980 everything fell apart. The telephone rang and it was Simon's mother to say his father was in hospital after an emergency operation, during which he suffered a mild heart attack and they discovered a tumour in his pelvis. Andrea burst into tears and admitted that she couldn't cope with a lively four-year-old son running rings around her because of her MS, and Simon was facing the prospect of cancer from his smoking. In desperation he went into the back room, fell on his knees and cried out:

'God if you're real, I need you to show up, because this family is going down the tubes.'

Delivered From Smoking.....with a word

It wasn't an eloquent prayer - just a desperate cry for God to show up. In the middle of January the results of the biopsies came back from the Dental Hospital in Glasgow to say it wasn't cancer. But, in spite of the warning, he was still smoking heavily. Little did he realise that when God speaks, he always shows up to prove he is the LORD.¹

On the 31st of January, ten days after hearing the words '*you will see what I will do,*' Simon came out of a class on Christian counselling at St Mary's Parish Church, Kirkintilloch, and as he lit up a cigarette in the dark, cold winter's night, felt a hand on his right shoulder. He turned round to see who it was. There was no one there and he heard the inner voice say:

*'And do not grieve the Holy Spirit with whom you have been sealed.'*²

When he woke the next morning, he had no craving for the early morning cigarette he always had before going off to work. Over the following four days it gradually dawned on him he had been delivered from the addiction, that had kept him a prisoner to a sense of shame and failure for years. He still didn't realise, however, this was just the beginning of a journey and, to begin with, it caused him to wonder, when he had actually been converted.

When Simon was fourteen, he had been confirmed in the school chapel by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Geoffrey Fisher, and had taken vows to follow Jesus. But three days after hands were laid on his head, he was dismayed to find he was the same fallen adolescent he had been before. Disillusioned, he had concluded there must be another way to God, if he exists at all.

What Simon heard that January night was the first part of the verse in Paul's *Letter to the Ephesians*, in which God says he will seal his children with his Spirit '*for the day of redemption.*' It was just the start of God showing him that he is real and wants a relationship with those, who seek him with all their heart.³

¹ God says this in several places in the Bible: eg Exodus 7:5; Ezekiel 7:27; John 14:20;

² Ephesians 4:30; ³ Jeremiah 29:13

Baptised With Holy Spirit.....and with fire

In the Gospel of Matthew, John the Baptist announces to the crowds, flocking to be baptised in the River Jordan and wondering if he was God's long-awaited Messiah:

*'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'*¹

A month after being delivered from his addiction to cigarettes, Simon went with a Christian friend to a conference on Revival being held in Shawlands Cross Parish Church, Glasgow. The minister, The Reverend Alistair Sandison, was one of a group of evangelical Church of Scotland ministers, who held a monthly *Festival of Faith* in different churches in the city. After a time of worship and some drama sketches Alistair talked about the conditions for revival. He emphasized that every revival over the centuries had been preceded by a hunger for God's Word and an earnest seeking of God in prayer, as a result of a sense of increasing spiritual desperation at sin in the society. He mentioned the Welsh Revival of 1904, when the young preacher Evan Roberts had prayed:

'O God, bend me!'

When he said that, Simon found himself bent double in the pew, and found it difficult to breathe. It lasted for perhaps two minutes, and then he was able to sit up and continue taking notes. He thought it was rather strange, but soon became engrossed in what the speaker was saying.

Towards the end of his talk Mr Sandison described the events preceding the revival in Lewis in 1948, under the ministry of The Reverend Duncan Campbell. In particular he told of how a number of deacons had met regularly for prayer in a barn to ask God to pour out His Holy Spirit in revival power. Nothing had happened for several months, until one night a young deacon had stood up and prayed the words of verses three and four of Psalm 24.

*"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."*²

¹ Matthew 3:11; ² Psalm 24:3-4

Then the young man had cried:

'O God, are my hands clean and is my heart pure? Bend me, O God!'

With these words Simon found himself again bent double in the pew, but this time there was tremendous heat, and his eyes were like a couple of taps with water pouring out of them. This continued for what seemed ages, although it was probably only for four or five minutes.

Shortly afterwards, the meeting came to an end, and they all decamped to the hall for tea. Simon found himself shaking, in need of several cups of sweet black coffee, and wondering what on earth had happened - was it some kind of psychological disorder heralding a nervous breakdown?

The next day he was taken by a Christian friend to see The Reverend David Black, Pastor of Bishopbriggs Christian Fellowship, who was known to move in the gifts of the Spirit. After listening to his account of what had happened, Mr Black said:

'Well, it sounds to me, Simon, as if the LORD has baptised you with His Holy Spirit. After delivering you from smoking, He is now cleaning you up inside'.

The Scientific Proof of Deliverance & Healing Forty Years Later

Stobhill Hospital: Diagnostic Imaging Report		Page 1 of 1	
Ref. Locn.: GP PRACTICE	DOB: [REDACTED]	CHI No.: [REDACTED]	
Referrer: Dr David Gilmore	CRIS No.: [REDACTED]	Curr Ward: G107HAAU	
VERIFIED: Verified By: Dr Gregory O'Neill 23-Sep-2020 1514.			
Clinical History:			
cough for 8 weeks			
XR Chest:			
The heart is not enlarged. The lungs are clear.			
RECEIVED - 5 OCT 2020		<i>NORMAL</i>	

The proof of this miracle of grace came on the 19th of October 2020, almost forty years after prayer for deliverance, when the GP reported a chest x-ray showed Simon's lungs were 'Clear' and 'Heart Not Enlarged,' as shown in the report above.

One of Simon's Bible readings for that day was headed: *Are you salty?* and quoted Mark 9:49 *Everyone will be salted with fire!*

¹ TodayGodIsFirst October 19, 2020 *Are you salty?*

Blaise Pascal's *Night of Fire*

Blaise Pascal was a brilliant seventeenth century French scientist and mathematician, famous for inventing the *Pascaline* - a forerunner of the modern computer - and for experiments in physics, resulting in a unit of measurement - the *pascal* - being named after him.¹ When Pascal died, inside the lining of his jacket they discovered a note, referred to as his Memorial, in which he described an experience of being overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit of the Living God. The note read:

'The year of grace 1654, Monday, 23 November, feast of St. Clement, pope and martyr, and others in the martyrology. Vigil of St. Chrysogonus, martyr, and others. From about half past ten at night until about half past midnight,

FIRE!

GOD of Abraham, GOD of Isaac, GOD of Jacob not of the philosophers and of the learned.

Certitude. Certitude. Feeling. Joy. Peace. GOD of Jesus Christ.

My God and your God. Your GOD will be my God.

Forgetfulness of the world and of everything, except GOD.

He is only found by the ways taught in the Gospel.

Grandeur of the human soul.

Righteous Father, the world has not known you, but I have known you.

Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy.

I have departed from him: They have forsaken me, the fount of living water.

My God, will you leave me? Let me not be separated from him forever.

This is eternal life, that they may know you, the one true God,

and the one you sent, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ.

I left him; I fled him, renounced, crucified.

Let me never be separated from him.

He is only kept securely by the ways taught in the Gospel:

Renunciation, total and sweet.

Complete submission to Jesus Christ and to my director.

Eternally in joy for a day's exercise on the earth.

May I not forget your words. Amen. '2

¹ <https://sciencing.com/pascal-unit-8714810.html>;

² B.Pascal Memorial <https://ccel.org/ccel/pascal/memorial/memorial.i.html>

23:11:1654

*

there was a fire that night
that set pascal ablaze -
the God of abraham, of isaac and of jacob
in epiphany so overwhelming
his whole body soul and spirit
blazed with light and joy
to show him that the heart
has reasons of which
reason of itself is ignorant -
a blow to egotistical expressions
of belief in man's ability to reason
God out of all our logical equations

perhaps his own near-death
experience in an accident and
visits to his sister in the convent
softened his proud heart to open up the door
and let the Spirit in to settle things -
no need to bet a wager any more
upon the possibility of God's existence
but to now stake everything on Jesus
as the priceless pearl worth all the treasure
in the field of human exploration
he'd been seeking in his physical experiments
and mathematics all those years

the dice was thrown the matter settled -
he would wager both his life and death
on Jesus Christ to gain the crown
of life eternal and find grace and
peace in Him alone -
to know the one true God and Jesus Christ
whom He had sent whom he had fled
renounced and crucified
in years before now found
in unconditional surrender
to be lost no more

*

A Promise Of Resurrection.....for a dying man

Over the course of 1981 Simon's father's cancer gradually progressed and it was clear that he was dying. He and Simon spent long hours on the telephone sharing their thoughts about life in general and their different experiences of God. His father in particular admitted that God had done a sovereign work of grace in his son in a letter, in which he said *'you and Andrea have clearly had a conversion experience.'* This was something he had never said before and came as something of a surprise to Simon, who could not remember ever hearing his father using that sort of language.

Simon grew up as an only child in a Christian family, where his father was an Anglican minister for nearly fifty years, who had met and married his mother out in Singapore, when she was working as a Sister in a T.B. (tuberculosis) hospital run by the Church Missionary Society (CMS) before the Second World War. They had returned to Britain in 1948, where his father had been Vicar of several country parishes in Kent and Hertfordshire. When Simon had shared his experience of deliverance from smoking and baptism in the Spirit, his father confessed that he had no experience of such things himself. His faith was founded squarely on the Word of God, although there were whole areas, where he confessed to being agnostic.

When he heard his father saying this in early January 1982, Simon was worried and consulted an Anglican minister in Lenzie to ask if such questions about faith were common, when we are approaching death. He said it was quite common, but that God is faithful and we can trust him, even when we ourselves cannot hold on. As Simon trudged home through the snow and ice on the 5th of January, he heard the inner voice again saying:

'Hosea 6:2.'

It seemed bizarre because it felt just like the game of charades (*'Think of a Book'*) they had been playing a few nights before. He knew Hosea was one of the Minor Prophets in the Old Testament, but had no idea how many chapters it contained, nor what the verse said. In any case, he was cold and he dismissed the thought until after tea and the usual hustle and bustle of bath-time were over.

When Simon did remember later, his first thought was to look to see if it made any sense before he shared it with Andrea. But immediately, he realised that if it really was from God, it would be obvious, and so the pair of them sat down to read the verse together. They were not prepared for what they read in Hosea verses 1- 2.

*'Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.'*¹

Verse 2 is a specific promise of resurrection on the third day - a promise especially precious because both Simon and his father realised he was dying. On Thursday the 21st, Simon received a phone call from his mother to say his father's situation had deteriorated and he had been admitted to hospital again. Simon travelled down to Lancaster the next day and went in to visit him. The following day he took his mother in to the hospital to visit and, while they were there, his father said at one point:

'I see a man with his hands out towards me.'

This was a most uncharacteristic remark, because he always said his faith was based upon the Word of God and not on special experiences. When Simon asked his mother if she would like to visit again that evening, she said she was finding it too difficult. And so Simon found himself going into a strange hospital on his own at night, not knowing how he would cope, if he was there when his father died, but also wanting to be there so he did not die alone.

When he got to the ward, it was clear there was a real battle going on. He approached the bed, took hold of his father's hand and said:

'It's OK, Dad. I love you, Andrea loves you, the children love you and God loves you.'

As soon as he said that, the battle seemed to cease, as if his father realised he could let go, and there was a sense of peace. To all appearances his father was unconscious and unable to engage in any conversation. Five minutes later, however, he announced out of the blue:

'It's marvellous!'

Simon asked him what was marvellous, but got no reply.

¹ Hosea 6:1-2

Five minutes later Simon found himself repeating the first verse of a Psalm over and over again.

*'Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, praise his holy name.'*¹

As he repeated the words over and over again - something he had never done before and has not done since - his father appeared to hiccup three times and died in front of him.

The ward was busy with visitors, but eventually a nurse arrived. She drew the screens around the bed, she took his other hand and said:

'He was a lovely man!'

Simon looked at her and said:

'Are you a Christian?'

'Yes,' she replied. And there in that busy ward of a strange hospital, Simon saw the Father's loving-kindness in meeting his needs as an only son, as he gently took his earthly father to be with him.

¹ Psalm 103:1

Baptism In Water.....as an act of obedience

Not long after being baptized in the Spirit on 28th February 1981, Simon became aware of the issue of baptism in water. The problem was he had been brought up within the Church of England to affirm Paul's words ¹ *'There is one Body and one Spirit - just as you were called to one hope when you were called - one LORD, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'*

Water baptism represented three problems for Simon. He had been baptized in water as an infant, when he was christened at the age of three weeks in Colombo, Ceylon, by believing parents. Secondly, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland had recently dealt severely with a minister in the north of Scotland for 'rebaptising' adults, who had been 'born again' as believers. And thirdly, he was reluctant to do something that might hurt his father and mother. But after his father's death, the question of believer's baptism presented itself in two ways, that also demonstrated God's sense of humour.

The first was while reading Matthew 3:13-17 in his daily Bible reading one day, particularly verses 13-15. The Holy Spirit drew his attention to Jesus' words:

*'Let it be so for now; it is right for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.'*²

Simon thought to himself:

'But Jesus had already fulfilled all righteousness as a true blue Jew: conceived by the Spirit and filled with the Spirit from birth; a descendant of David; circumcised on the eighth day in the Temple; barmitzvahed, aged 13. So what did Jesus mean by saying:

'It's right for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness?'

As he thought and meditated on this, it dawned on him that Jesus was giving us an example as his disciples to follow. John's baptism in water was for the forgiveness of the penalty of sins in response to the people's confession of their sins (verse 6).

John pointed out that he baptized people in water as a sign of their repentance.

'But after me will come one who is more powerful than me...He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.'

¹ Ephesians 4:4-6: ² Matthew 3:11

Baptism in Spirit would be an inner purging by the fire of the Spirit to cleanse and fill us with God's enabling grace to give us victory over the power of sin. As soon as Jesus rose up out of the water, 'at that moment heaven was opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon him. And a voice from heaven said: *'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'* In other words, Jesus was baptized in water and almost simultaneously in Spirit, as an example of the normal Christian baptism into the supernatural Body of Christ (as opposed to merely the fulfilment of a ritual for becoming a member of the Visible Church).

Having been convinced from Scripture of the need to be baptized as a believer, the LORD sent a messenger to reinforce the point, in the shape of a former Higher Latin pupil, whose father was a leader in the local Exclusive Brethren. He phoned to ask if he could come round to see Simon, after hearing that his former Latin teacher had become a Christian. But the LORD also had a surprise in store for him.

After a brief time of small talk, Andrew* came straight to the point.

'You need to be baptized.'

Simon smiled, as he explained he had already been baptized as an infant.

'That doesn't count,' said Andrew.

'You need to be baptized as a believer.'

Whereupon Simon proceeded to pull out a Greek New Testament and show Andrew the passage in *The Book of Acts*,¹ where it says that the Philippian jailer 'and his whole household,' including slaves and children, were baptized.

'Where does it say that?' asked Andrew.

'In the original Greek text,' Simon replied.

It appeared to come as a surprise to Andrew that the King James translation of the New Testament came from a Greek text, from which all other translations have been derived.

¹ Acts 16:33

'Well, I still think you need to be baptized as a believer.' he said.

'Funny you should say that,' Simon replied, *'because that's what the LORD has also been telling me!'*

On the 15th of May, 1983, he was baptized in water as a believer, along with his twin daughters and several others, in Kirkintilloch Baptist Church.

Learning To Recognize The Voice Of God.....by repetition

A year after his father's death, two passages of Scripture kept appearing to Simon in various contexts over a period of two and a half months from January to March 1983.

*'The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour.'*¹

*'The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour.'*²

In spite of experiencing God speaking to him on several occasions, it took Simon over two and a half months to realise God was calling him into ministry a year after his father died. Between January and March he was presented with the same two passages of Scripture twenty-two times in different settings. The Pastor would open a service by reading one or other passage for no apparent reason. It would appear as a quote at the beginning of the chapter of a book Simon was reading. At other times it appeared in his daily Bible reading notes. Eventually, he began to wonder if God might be calling him into ministry. to *'proclaim the Good News, heal the sick and set the captives free.'*

This feeling was confirmed by the fact that people began phoning up to ask if they could come to see him and Andrea about a personal problem. When folk arrived, Simon explained they didn't have any answers to their problems, but they knew Someone who did, called Jesus. Then they opened each session with prayer, inviting Jesus to take control of the proceedings and listened as individuals shared their deepest feelings about a whole range of issues. Sessions always ended with a time of prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to come and minister in whatever way he felt the person needed.

¹ Isaiah 61:1-2; ² Luke 4:18-19

The Call To Ministry.....officially

In January 1985 Simon was elected a deacon at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church. Until then there had been no official recognition of his call to ministry. On Thursday, the 20th of September he went to hear Colin Urquhart and a team from Roffey Place in the City Halls, Glasgow. Colin Urquhart spoke on *'The Holiness Of God.'* At the end he spoke a prophetic word to the assembled company.

'I've been telling you what to do...I want those of you in positions of leadership to lead My people. I want you to repent and obey. Who will go for me?'

He continued:

'I believe God is calling some here tonight to the ministry. Some He's been calling before. Others have never thought of it...If you feel God is calling you to ministry, come out to the front. I believe God is going to use three men out at the front in a very particular way.'

Simon found himself down at the front of the City Halls, Glasgow, standing next to an architect, who was a member of Shawlands Cross Parish Church, where the LORD had baptized him in his Spirit four years earlier! Colin prayed for them all that they might know the LORD's anointing and blessing as they sought to be obedient to his call on their lives.

An entrance in the diary read:

'Felt very unemotional, almost in a daze, but also that it is His call. Also the loneliness of the call and the need to wait on the LORD. Had a picture of a desert scene, like those in Westerns, of miles of desert broken only by cactus plants - a picture of utter loneliness.'

The Bible reading in *Our Daily Bread* the following day appeared to confirm what Colin Urquhart said the previous evening.

*'So prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled. Set your hope fully on the grace given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written: Be holy because I am holy.'*¹

¹ 1 Peter 1:13-18

Later that evening Simon went to a House Group meeting. At one point the leader read Colossians 3, including verse 3, which Colin Urquhart had quoted the previous evening. That Sunday a visiting preacher preached on Colossians 3:1-17, Romans 12:2 and 1 Peter 1:13-16 *Rules For Holy Living*.

When Simon mentioned his sense of call to the Pastor, he said:

'Well, you should test it, by applying for ministry with the Baptist Union of Scotland. The next meeting of their Joint Ministerial Board is in February or March.'

At the beginning of March, 1986, he was interviewed over two days by the Ministerial Recognition Committee of the Baptist Union of Scotland and accepted as a candidate for ministry. In the summer of 1986, he began part-time studies at home and over the next two years sat and passed the exams for the Cambridge Diploma in Religious Studies. In the autumn of 1987, he even found that his teaching timetable at school left him with no classes on a Friday morning - the only time in his teaching career this had happened - enabling him to attend the Sermon and Homiletics classes at the Scottish Baptist College in Glasgow!

Everything looked set fair for full steam ahead.

‘What Do You Mean: ‘You Hear God Speaking’?’

When an individual first hears God speaking to him/her, they don't always realise God is speaking. A lot of times it is because s/he has never been taught to expect to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd. We see a classic example of this in the Old Testament story of how God spoke to the young boy Samuel, as he was serving as an altar boy in the Tabernacle at Shiloh, under the tutelage of the old priest Eli.

‘Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.’¹

The Greek phrase translated as ‘the word of the LORD’ in the Septuagint (LXX Greek) Old Testament is ‘*rhema Kuriou*’ or ‘a *rhema*, or spoken, word of the LORD.’

Notice that Samuel did not yet know the LORD and God had not taken the initiative up to that point to speak to him. It was the start of a process that resulted in Samuel becoming the foremost prophet in Israel in the years that followed, including God using him to anoint David as King twelve years before he actually ascended the throne.

Simon and Andrea saw an example of this one day, when Shona came for coffee in June. Shona's husband came from a Dispensationalist background, and believed the gifts of the Holy Spirit died out at the end of the Apostolic Era. During discussion Shona said:

‘What do you mean that you hear God speaking? I’ve never heard God speak to me.’

Simon replied:

‘You must have done, or you couldn’t be a Christian. Jesus said “My sheep hear my voice; I know them and they follow me.”² So if you’re a Jesus sheep (baa!), you’ve heard the voice of the Good Shepherd. Think for a moment and ask yourself: ‘When was the last time I definitely heard God speaking?’

¹ LXX 1 Samuel 3:7; ² John 10:27

Shona thought for a moment and then said:

'It was in January this year, I think.'

[NOTE: This was just after she said she had never heard God speak!]

'What was God saying?' Simon asked.

'He was telling me to be baptised as a believer,' Shona said rather sheepishly!

'And have you been?' said Simon.

'No! I think I need to speak to the Pastor!'

Simon suggested they did an experiment to see if God would speak through his Bible reading that day in *Our Daily Bread*, which happened to be from Isaiah. It's a wonderful passage, where God speaks tenderly to his children, beginning with the words:

'Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" ¹

In spite of the fact all three of them were graduates, Simon felt he was to read the passage out aloud. As soon as he started reading the words:

'Comfort, comfort my people, says your God,'

there was a tangible sense that Jesus had already begun to minister his love to each of them, and especially to Shona. And as he continued reading, it was as if the LORD was saying:

'Don't be anxious or worried about whether I'll speak to you or not. Just let me come into every room in your house by my Spirit and be continually filled.'

Afterwards, Shona said she felt excited, as well as slightly apprehensive, about what God might say.

¹ Isaiah 40:1-31

Two days later she came up to Andrea at church in great excitement. She said that when she had gone home, she put on the television, while she did some ironing. The program happened to be a public, or schools, service broadcast all about pottery. She watched as a potter threw a lump of clay onto his wheel and began fashioning a beautiful jug. She said:

'I stood there transfixed at the care that potter was expending on that piece of clay. I remembered God's picture of his children being like clay in the potter's hands. If a potter can take so much trouble over a mucky old piece of clay, how much more precious must we be to our Father. I never realised God could speak to me through the television!'

Simon and Andrea marvelled at God's sense of humour and his loving-kindness as our heavenly Father, who just longs to speak to his children and hear them speaking to him in prayer. A few years later Eric was ordained as a Baptist pastor, with Shona supporting him in a pastoral ministry.

‘Open Your Mouth & I Will Fill It’.....a word for a neighbour

In the summer of 1987, a new lodger moved into the house across the road. Blonde-haired, tall and carrying a violin under her arm, Sarah* looked like a musician, and turned out to be a student at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. Simon and Andrea discovered this one Sunday, after they stopped and offered her a lift on their way to church. She accepted gratefully and said she was going to Matins at the local Episcopal Church in Lenzie. As they dropped her off, they said:

‘If you ever feel bored with studying and would like a coffee, our kettle is always willing!’

A few weeks later the doorbell rang and it was Sarah.

‘I wondered if that offer of coffee still stood?’

‘Yes, of course,’ Andrea replied.

Soon the three of them were sitting, drinking coffee and making small talk in the kitchen. Sarah shared how she came from a naval family - her father and one of her brothers were both serving in the Royal Navy - but she had a music scholarship at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama. She was a gifted violinist and enjoyed her music. The conversation flowed quite naturally, and, when she left, Andrea said she was welcome to come across anytime. It soon became clear that this particular visit was just a reconnaissance expedition to check them out.

A few weeks later in November, Sarah appeared at the front door again.

‘Can I come in? I really need to talk to someone, and I know you two are Christians. I’m confused about the direction I should be taking, and wondered if I could talk things through with you.’

Sarah shared how she enjoyed her music, but was obviously concerned about her family's reactions. Simon said they didn't have any advice to offer, but suggested praying and seeing what the LORD had to say. Sarah agreed, and the three of them decamped to the sitting room.

Before they prayed, Simon read some words from James' Letter:

'If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. ¹ So let's pray and ask God to give us His wisdom on the matter,' he suggested.

All three bowed their heads and waited in silence. As the minutes went by, there was a sense of God's peace in the room, but also a complete absence of an answer to Simon's prayer! A short while later, he was aware of a picture in his mind of a completely blank, white wall! He thought:

'LORD, I'm confused. I've asked you for wisdom and all I can see is a blank wall.'

No answer. A few minutes later he was aware of the words:

*'Open your mouth and I will fill it.'*²

Simon discovered later they are from Psalm 81. But he found himself even more confused and almost arguing with God.

'LORD, I've nothing to say to Sarah. I hardly know her, and I don't have any wisdom to give her. That's why we're asking you for it!'

How would you feel in a situation like this? He felt completely non-plussed and thought:

'This is silly. I can't open my mouth, because I've got nothing to say.'

A minute or so later he was aware of the same words again:

'Open your mouth and I will fill it.'

He still didn't realise the LORD wasn't saying Simon had anything to say. He was saying:

'You don't know what to say to Sarah, but I do. So open your mouth and I will fill it.'

Simon was ashamed to admit he was so spiritually dull and immature, that he didn't understand what God was saying. But God is patient and faithful. A minute or two later He said the same thing a third time (remember the boy Samuel).³ This time Simon's response was one of impatient unbelief.

¹ James 1: 5; ² Psalm 81:10; ³ 1 Samuel 3:1-12

'OK, LORD, if this is really you, I'll open my mouth for you to fill it. But I sure hope you're in this or we're all going to look pretty silly.'

With that Simon opened his mouth and began to say something like:

'I don't know whether this means anything to you, Sarah, but.....'

He didn't get any further. All of a sudden there came a gut-wrenching cry from Sarah, as she poured out one of the most powerful prayers of confession they had ever heard. When she had finished, and they had recovered from the shock, Sarah told them the following story.

She had been at Spring Harvest, a Christian festival geared particularly to young people and young families, at Easter time. One morning at the end of a seminar, they had broken into groups to pray. At one point the guy sitting next to her had said he felt the LORD giving him a word for her. Sarah's reaction had been very negative.

'I thought to myself - I don't believe God could speak to me through someone like him,' and she had left the meeting angry and determined to dismiss any idea of it being a word from the LORD.

During their time waiting for God to speak that morning, God had reminded Sarah of the incident, and had shown her she had been wrong to dismiss what he had been saying to her through that young guy. And so her tears and prayer had been of confession and repentance for her pride.

Greatly relieved that God had really spoken, they had another coffee before Sarah left, a completely different woman from the one who had come in that morning.

Before she left, Simon warned her that the Recruiting Officer at the Royal Navy Recruitment Office in Glasgow would take one look at her and say:

'You're exactly the kind of person we're looking for!'

A few days later, she came to see them again and said:

'It's really funny, because the guy said the exact words you said, Simon!'

Andrea and Simon never did find out what the LORD had said to Sarah at Spring Harvest. But a few weeks later she popped in to say she was leaving. It transpired that a life on the ocean wave appeared to be beckoning.

Warning Of Trouble Coming..... in an angelic visitation

In July 1988 Andrea and Simon's eldest daughter graduated from St Andrews University and decided to take a year out, before deciding what to do next. She arranged to work for a year as an *au pair* to a Christian family in Atlanta, Georgia, looking after their three children.

In August 1988 Simon received news he had passed the exams for the Cambridge Diploma in Religious Studies, which had been part of the requirements to be met as a candidate for ministry with the Baptist Union of Scotland, and had even been given leave from the school to attend the Sermon and Homiletics classes at the Scottish Baptist College on a Friday morning. All seemed set fair for moving on with progress to ministry.

On the 25th August 1988, just before his daughter was due to fly out to Atlanta, Simon woke from a dream, in which he heard the front door bell ring. When he opened the door, there was a person standing in front of him - he couldn't see his head, only his torso - who said:

'I have just come to warn you trouble is coming.'

As Simon looked across the road, looming up over the terraced houses opposite was a huge bank of black clouds. They were moving imperceptibly towards him out of the north-east. His immediate reaction was concern about Zoe's impending trip to America. But when the storm broke, it came out of the north-east, just as he had seen in the dream.

In September Andrea flew up to Shetland to spend a month with her father and visit friends. Things were a bit strained between them, but Simon put this down to their usual communication problems, and to the fact that he had been closeted away for months studying for the exams. Now that these had been successfully negotiated, things seemed to be on course for the next stage.

What Simon hadn't realised was that Andrea had been having more and more misgivings about the whole idea of 'The Ministry,' but had felt unable to communicate her concerns to him. She could not see herself at all playing the role of a traditional minister's wife in a manse situation. But she had felt unable to raise her concerns with Simon.

The Crisis Of Belief.....the storm breaks

Towards the end of September Andrea had made up her mind that she had to address the problem and decided to prolong her stay in Shetland. Their daughter Eilidh had gone up for a short holiday, and came down on the 21st of September, bearing a letter from Andrea, because there was a postal strike.

The first couple of pages were filled with news of the holiday. Andrea was enjoying being able to see her father. It was just a normal newsy letter until Simon reached page three, when things suddenly became a lot more serious. Andrea said she had been doing a lot of prayerful thinking 'since our call to the ministry' and had 'reached some conclusions, she had been unable to communicate.'

There followed two pages describing Simon's autocratic behaviour towards her and to the children, culminating on page seven with a statement saying she was not going into 'The Ministry' with him, and she was not returning until Simon was doing something about his 'sickness.'

Simon could not believe his eyes. It was a complete bolt out of the blue, and yet it ought not to have been. The warning signs had been there for years. They had suffered, like many married couples from problems of communication - he was the talker, Andrea was the silent one. He was so concerned to be a dutiful husband and parent that he couldn't allow himself to admit that others might be right or spend time with the family!

For her part Andrea misunderstood what the term 'The Ministry' meant for Simon. He meant a pastoral ministry for them both to folk in need of counselling, healing and deliverance, as well as opportunities to preach. It didn't matter Andrea had MS and was in a wheelchair.

When the storm broke, Simon was reminded that the LORD had even warned him a month earlier in the dream that trouble was coming, and it had even come out of the north-east. Strangely, he felt no anger or animosity - just a general numbness and terrible sorrow things had reached such a serious state, and he hadn't even noticed it. That night he slept like a log, in spite of the turmoil that was beginning to build up inside, as the reality of what was happening began to sink in.

At 5am the next morning he woke and was aware of the Holy Spirit highlighting a number of things - eleven in all - about his failings, which he noted on a pad he kept beside the bed. When he woke later, it all seemed just a nightmare, but there on the pad were the words the LORD had given him a couple of hours earlier.

Friday was a school holiday, and he arranged for his son to go to a friend's, while he went through to see Jim Powrie, Minister of Chalmers-Ardler Parish Church, Dundee, to seek his wisdom on the situation. Jim was an old friend, whom Simon had taught Higher Greek, when Jim was studying for the ministry in Aberdeen twenty years earlier. He listened, as Simon poured out his heartfelt anguish at the situation, fearful of what his friend's reaction might be. His response was immediate.

'I believe this is the beginning of Andrea's healing, and the start of the LORD's training course for you!'

It was such a relief for Simon to be able to be real, and not rejected. Before he left, Jim gave him a couple of verses, which were like gold dust during those dark and confusing days. The lines are from a hymn by John Newton, who also wrote *Amazing Grace*:

*'And can He have taught you to trust in His Name,
And thus far have brought you to put you to shame?'*¹

Simon returned to Lenzie, not knowing what the future held, but convinced God was somewhere in the confusion. The key was to be willing to submit to whatever he wanted to do.

¹ J. Newton *Olney Hymns* Book 3 Hymn 37 *I Will Trust And Not Be Afraid*

The Sifting.....but Jesus is praying

Shortly afterwards, a meeting was arranged with Dr Charles Anderson, a retired physician and gracious man of God, who had been used greatly over the years to help ministers and other Christian workers, whose lives were falling apart. Dr Anderson listened attentively to Simon sharing the problems, as well as his clear sense of call 'to preach the Good News, heal the sick and set the captives free,' before highlighting two main issues - a decision about the ministry, and the relationship with Andrea. He pointed out the real problems with a traditional pastoral ministry in the light of Andrea's MS and also because of the fractured nature of their marital relationship.

'The primary issue is to assure Andrea that the marriage relationship is the most important thing, more important even than the call to ministry. Andrea can see the problems and does not want a patched-up job. There's clearly a need for counselling for you separately and together.'

When Dr Anderson had finished, he turned to Simon and said:

'Do you have any questions, Simon?'

'Just one,' Simon replied.

'Where does all this leave me, as regards what I believe to be a clear call from God to preach the Good News, heal the sick and set the captives free?'

He replied:

'The present relationship problems would certainly be a barrier to pastoral ministry at the moment, although there might be the possibility of a teaching ministry without the disturbance of a manse situation.'

He went on to say:

'You often find that God puts those He calls into ministry through the mill first as a form of training,' and he mentioned the chapter headed 'Two Diagnoses' in Paul Tournier's 'A Doctor's Casebook,'¹ pointing out there is the medical diagnosis (for example, anxiety issues), but also the question:

'What is God saying in all this?'

¹ P. Tournier A Doctor's Casebook Chap.2 Two Diagnoses SCM Press, 1963

Dr Anderson continued:

'I believe God is saying to you, Simon. "I'm preparing you through this time of stress for ministry. You don't know what that is, but I do."

Jesus once said to Simon Peter: "Simon, Simon. I'm letting Satan sift you. But when you are turned again, feed My lambs." The LORD obviously has some form of ministry for you both.'

As they drove back to Lenzie, Simon felt a great sense of relief - relief that someone could see God's hand in all the confusion, and that God would show the way forward, if Andrea and he were willing to submit to His discipline and undergo counselling for their problems. It was clear there could be no ministry without a loving relationship between husband and wife, undergirded by the unity only the Holy Spirit can give us.

On the 28th of October 1988, a month later than originally planned, Andrea flew back from Shetland, and the long process of learning to forgive and love one another again began.

Chapter 2

Shattered Dreams

High Hopes.....and shattered dreams

They had gone with such high hopes to the meeting in Govan Town Hall, Glasgow - the eight-year-old boy with his mother and father - to hear a Christian speaker, who was reputed to have the gift of healing. He had experienced cramp being healed one night, when his father prayed and asked Jesus to remove the pain and it had gone. So he was sure Jesus would heal his mother's MS (multiple sclerosis) and that she would get up from her wheelchair and walk out of there.

The speaker even had a 'word' for the worship leader's wife, who had been unable to conceive, that '*she who has been barren will conceive a child within a year*' and it had happened a year later, when she had the first of her two boys. There was an air of anticipation as the speaker invited people, who would like prayer for healing, to come forward. A short while later, some people in the ministry team had gathered round his mum and prayed for God to come and heal her. There had been a sense of peace, but the three of them had left with his mother still in her wheelchair and with him in tears.

That day saw the results of Adam and Eve's rebellion in The Garden of Eden in a way that only really became clear years later - the pain of the loss of intimate communion and disappointment with God, described in a poem titled *Wilderness* at the front of a book by Louis de Bernieres,¹ containing a series of whimsical cameos of life in an English country village of a bygone era. Ironically, years later the boy had given a copy of the book to his father, who grew up in English country villages just like that described, but had not realized the significance of the poem.

The poem beautifully describes the way the enemy of our souls shatters our world of childhood innocence, where God is in complete control, by selling us the lie that God is indifferent to our cries and to our painful longing for an intimacy that has been stolen.

¹ L.de Bernieres *Notwithstanding: English Village Stories* Vintage Books, 2009

Wilderness

There is a wilderness where once I lived
Whose every inch I knew and loved.
I roamed there as a dreaming boy
Before reality began;
I walked there still, remembering,
As I grew up to be a man.

Sweet little in that wilderness I knew
Of God's indifference and of lovers' pain.
Too young to suffer, I remember
Longer summers, deeper slumbers,
Better laughter, Warmer rain.

They had been to a service of healing in 1981, just after Simon's deliverance from smoking, in the hope of a miracle at the hands of a nun named Sister Nina, who had witnessed healings across the world at similar events conducted by a Roman Catholic priest named Francis McNutt, who had an international ministry of healing for many years and authored a classic book on Healing.¹

The atmosphere in the church that day had been highly charged, but when Andrea finally got to see Sister Nina, she had said the word she had for her was '*Courage.*'

They had left discouraged, but the years that followed showed it had been a 'word' from God through all the struggles of life confined to a wheelchair most of the time.

These experiences raised well-known and rehearsed objections to the whole idea of a God of love, who is supposed to be all-powerful and all-loving, and yet allows babies to die of terrible diseases, while seemingly doing nothing about the evil in the world.

For Simon it posed a real dilemma, because he was living with the reality of having been soundly converted and delivered, and yet having to watch as his wife's MS progressively grew worse. How come these twin realities were true? And where was God amid the chaos of the world, that seemed to be increasing year by year?

¹ F McNutt *Healing* Bantam Doubleday, 1977

Trouble In A Garden Centre.....a story of lost intimacy

That day in Govan the enemy fired a missile into the heart of an eight-year-old boy, who had invited Jesus into his life as a five-year old and later was baptised as a believer at the age of sixteen in the same Baptist Church his father and twin sisters were baptised years earlier, while his father held his towel - a mortal wound to childhood faith that led him to abandon trust in God and turn instead to the scientific, rationalism of the New Atheism, propounded so seductively by writers such as Richard Dawkins and Stephen Hawking.

It is a story only too familiar to those, who have been searching for an intimacy that only God himself can satisfy - a desperate search for love that is the source of all our idolatrous addictions. For at the root of all addictions is the lie that God, if he exists at all, cannot be trusted and that we must seek the god within us to survive. Ever since 'The Fall' human beings have experienced a longing for intimacy, that has led them to look for love in the wrong direction and to use other human beings, or substances, as substitutes for the love that has been lost.

The problem is that every substitute for love has an addictive power that requires more and more of it to anaesthetize the pain of what has been called 'love hunger'. Alcohol, drugs, exercise, food, gambling, pornography, relationships, sex, smoking and an overwhelming need to prove oneself by beating others are all idols that not only act as agents to anaesthetize the pain but also lead to the bondage of addictions. By the time we realize what we have done, we are enslaved. The only One who is able to deliver us is our Maker, who has loved us with an everlasting love, the Bible says.³

Over the years of ministry that followed Simon's call, he and Andrea witnessed the disastrous consequences of a diabolical rebellion, that had its origins in heaven before it was transferred to earth.

¹ R Dawkins *The God Delusion* Transworld, 2006; ² S Hawking *A Brief History of Time* Transworld, 2011; ³ Jeremiah 31:3

The Origins Of Evil.....*man's desire to be God*

Genesis Chapter 3 is a picture of the desecration of God's perfect creation as a garden with two trees at its centre: the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil* and the *Tree of Life*. They symbolize two aspects of God's character: his *omniscience*, in knowing the reality of absolute good and evil (ie truth), and his *omnipotence*, in terms of his eternal power and immortality. Ever since The Fall, mankind has been searching for both these attributes in his desire to be God. For, as Sartre exclaimed, "*to be human is to long to be God - or, if you prefer, humanity is fundamentally a desire to be God.*"¹

This rebellion can be seen writ large in the modern preoccupation with two goals:

- The **Scientific search for *omniscience* and *immortality***; and
- The **Occult search for *secret knowledge* and *secret power***.

The Search of Science for Omniscience & Immortality

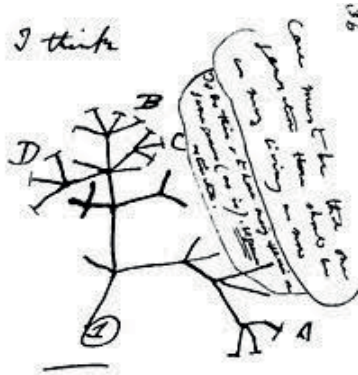
The New Atheism's claims that science can explain everything is the result of Eve's disobedience in eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because it would make her wise in her own eyes. Science's preoccupation with the search for a way of extending human life, through scientific breakthroughs such as the human genome 'Tree of Life,' is part of man's desire for immortality in the face of death. Indeed, there are even some who claim that one day mankind will find the elixir of life beloved of mediaeval alchemists and fakirs. At the other end of the scientific spectrum are those, who have put their faith in the new religion of Techno-Humanism, espoused by people like Yuval Noah Harari and ex-Google engineer Anthony Lewandowski, with his robotic *deus ex machina* in the First Church of Artificial Intelligence (AI) (page 47).

The scientific counterfeits of the Biblical 'Tree of Life' are to be seen in:

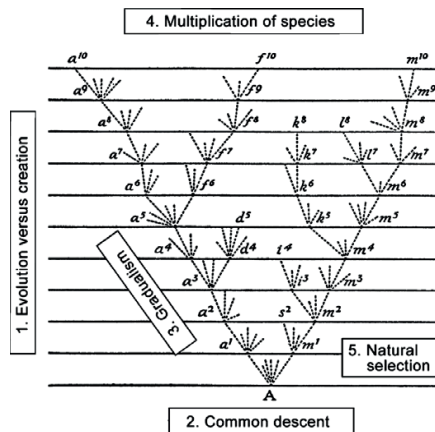
- a. **Darwin's Tree of Life**, which posited a single origin for all living things
- b. **The Discovery of the Double Helix** by Crick, Watson and Wilkins in 1953.

¹ quoted by Alister McGrath *The Twilight of Atheism* p151

- a. **Darwin's Tree of Life** - seen in an early form in the sketch from one of his notebooks.



Darwin later developed this idea of a common origin of all living things further as shown in the diagram below.



a section from the original phylogenetic tree in Darwin's *The Origin of Species* (1859)

Source: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Reproduction-of-a-section-from-the-original-phylogenetic-tree-in-Darwins-Origin-of_fig6_26814265/download

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In what is sometimes referred to as 'Darwin's Doubt,' however, Darwin realized the fossil evidence was lacking for the ideas of a common origin of all living things and continuous development of different species through a process of natural selection.

Evolution by natural selection *within* phyla ¹ is not in dispute. But recent research since 1985 has shown a difference between Darwin's 'Tree' from a single origin and modern evolutionary theory, based on the fossil evidence of the sudden simultaneous appearance of different species in the Cambrian Explosion 530 million years ago. Schroeder points out that since 1985 'the fossil evidence indicates that all animal *phyla* appeared almost simultaneously 530 million years ago in the Cambrian period. All further development was confined to variations within each phylum,' ² as shown in the diagram below highlighting the difference between Darwin's 'Tree' and modern 'Bush' of life.

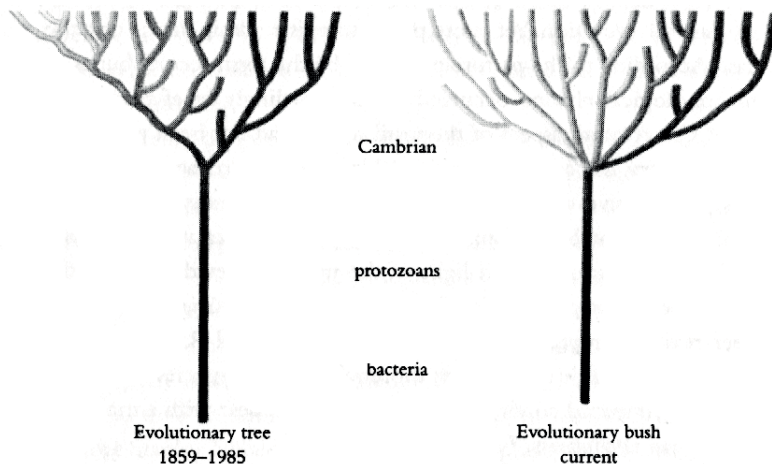


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The only 'transitional form found in the evolution of modern birds from reptiles' is *archaeopteryx*, which combines both classes of reptiles with jaws, not beaks, and birds with feathers in a single animal. But Schroeder offers a convincing argument from Leviticus that actually this link between two separate animals is the 'link' that was never missing.³ More recently, Woese's third domain of *archaea* has suggested even more differentiation at the base of the phylogenetic 'tree of life' than was previously hypothesised.⁴

¹ *Phylum* (plural *phyla*): a principal taxonomic category that ranks above class and below kingdom, equivalent to the *division* in botany. ² GL Schroeder *The Science of God: The Convergence of Scientific and Biblical Wisdom* pages 88-89; ³ Schroeder op cit pages 94-96; ⁴ C.R. Woese https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Woese#Discovery_of_the_third_domain

The other scientific take-over of the Biblical picture of man's origins is to be found in the writings of other scientists, including Francis Crick of 'double helix' fame. It needs to be said, however, that not all his scientific colleagues share his atheist beliefs, as witnessed by Francis Collins, former Director of The Human Genome Project,¹ who has stated that belief in a creator God is not as incompatible with a scientific rigour as some of his colleagues like to claim.

b. The Human Genome & DNA: The Work of Crick, Watson & Wilkins (1953)

The discovery of the 'Double Helix' by Crick, Watson and Wilkins in 1953 was hailed by the press at the time as the scientific 'Tree of Life' and later represented in paintings and diagrams like the one below.



Image may be subject to copyright

It is another example of science employing biblical language to serve the atheist agenda of those, who dismiss the idea of the supernatural as creationist myths. Francis Crick even described his transition in 1947 from the study of physics to evolutionary biology as "*almost as if one had to be born again*".²

¹ FS Collins <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2931629/>

² F.Crick <https://www.crick.ac.uk/about-us/our-history/about-dr-francis-crick>

Scientific Arguments For & Against God

Examination of the literature shows scientific arguments both *for* and *against* the idea of a Creator God and intelligent design of the universe. These arguments are summarised in the table below.

Arguments for God (<i>supernaturalist</i>)	Arguments against God (<i>anti-supernaturalist</i>)
The Kalam Argument the universe had a cause	Who created God?
The Big Bang involved immense power & supernatural creation	Spontaneous Generation The Universe arose spontaneously: no need for God to light the touch paper
Orderliness of Universe enabling scientific research	Evil & Suffering in Nature denies idea of a good Creator God
The Cosmological Constant involving fine-tuning of constants such as electro-magnetic force & gravity	Anthropic Argument no answer for the 'Goldilocks Enigma' & the fine-tuning of the universe
Intelligent Design seen in the fine-tuning of the universe and the coding in DNA of life forms	Less Than Perfect Design a creator God could do better with the design of some aspects
Sudden Appearance of Phyla in the Cambrian Explosion with no evidence of transitional forms	The Origin & Evolution of Species the result of evolution through natural selection, not by creative design
The Moral Argument human beings created by a personal God distinct from the rest of the animal world	The Natural World Is Amoral and operates on materialist laws of cause and effect
Humans Have Free Will to make moral choices between good & evil	Universe Governed By Laws deterministic, beyond man's control
The Beauty In Nature is evidence of a Creator of beauty	The Universe Is A Closed System there is no such thing as the supernatural

Table 1: A Comparison of Scientific Arguments For and Against God

A Select Reading List:

R Dawkins	<i>Unweaving The Rainbow: Science, Delusion & The Appetite For Wonder</i> Penguin, 2006
M Denton	<i>Evolution: Still A Theory In Crisis</i> (revised edition) Discovery Institute, 2016
R Feynman	<i>Surely, You're Joking, Mr Feynman</i> WW Norton, 2018
S Hawking & L Mlodinow	<i>The Grand Design</i> Bantam, 2010
J Lennox	<i>God & Stephen Hawking: Whose Design Is It Anyway?</i> Lion Hudson, 2011
J Lennox	<i>Can Science Explain Everything?</i> The Good Book Co, 2019
AE McGrath	<i>A Fine-Tuned Universe: The Quest for God in Science & Theology</i> [The Gifford Lectures 2009] Westminster/Knox Press, 2009
AE & JC McGrath	<i>The Dawkins Delusion? Atheist Fundamentalism & The Denial Of The Divine</i> SPCK, 2007
GL Schroeder	<i>The Science Of God: The Convergence of Scientific & Biblical Wisdom</i> Broadway, 1997
WJ Warner	<i>God's Crime Scene: A Cold Case Detective Examines The Evidence For A Divinely Created Universe</i> David C Cook, 2020

Satanic Stealth Tactics..... the big lie

In his book *People Of The Lie*, author M Scott Peck maintained that evil ultimately arises from the free will to choose to submit oneself to one of two higher powers: God or the devil.¹ Confronted with such a choice, why would anyone choose evil?

The answer is to be found again in Genesis 3, where we see satanic stealth tactics used to convince the first human beings of the big lie: “*God’s not good.*” It goes like this.

Step 1: Cast doubt on what God says. “*Did God say...?*”

Step 2: Distort what God said: “*...you can’t eat the fruit from any of the trees?*”

Step 3: Deny the truth of what God said: “*You will not die!*”

Step 4: Sell the lie: “*God is just a killjoy and not good. You can be God.*”

It is a strategy that has worked well over aeons and continues to deceive mankind in their millions today. The trick: to mingle truth with lies and so deceive the unwary that there’s no harm in seeking to be God yourself.

The Evidence That God’s Not Good: The Problem of Evil & Suffering

The classic strategy the enemy employs is to point to all the suffering and evil in the world. If God was really good, he would not allow poor creatures to endure such pain. And if he was omnipotent, he would do something about it. It is a devastating strategy, as we saw earlier, and one seen in the apparently random cruelty of an impersonal universe and in the meaninglessness of life subject to the inevitability of death. It can be seen in Darwin’s dawning realization that his faith in God was misplaced, because natural selection pays no attention to human feelings, the proof of which was to be seen in the death of his dear daughter Annie at the age of ten in 1851, eight years before *On The Origin of Species* was published.²

The ultimate expression of the lie that ‘*God’s not good*’ is to be found in Nietzsche’s nihilism and in existentialist claims that this world is all there is, that God is dead, if not indifferent, to human pain and suffering, and that ‘Hell is other people,’ as Sartre put it in *Huis Clos*.³

¹ M Scott Peck *People Of The Lie: The Hope For Healing Human Evil* Ebury, 1998;

² C. Darwin *On the Origin of Species by means of natural selection* London: Murray, 1859; ³ J.P.Sartre *Huis Clos* Paris, 1944

From there it is a short step to the claims by Dawkins and others that religion, and especially Christianity, is the source of all the evil in the world and should be eradicated like a coronavirus from the face of the earth. Such claims, of course, fly in the face of the history of man's inhumanity to man since the so-called Enlightenment, with all the horrors of the French and Russian Revolutions, Stalinism, two World Wars, the killing fields of Pol Pot's Cambodia, and the Chinese Cultural Revolution under Mao Tse Tung.

The Deceptiveness of the Spider's Web

A second strategy is to show God is not nearly so attractive as alternatives that seem harmless: the sparkle of the silken spider's web, with no sign yet of spider. This can be seen increasingly today in the various ways people try to avoid the reality of death and concentrate instead on seeking pleasure and relief from pain by using substitutes for love such as alcohol, drugs, exercise, food, pornography, relationships, sex and work, or by turning to the occult to satisfy the craving for a spiritual reality without God.

The Search For Pleasure And Relief From Pain

The Roman emperors realized that in order to keep the masses happy and prevent riots, they needed to provide for their physical needs and entertainment. Hence the rise of what became known as 'bread and circuses' - free bread and gladiator fights in the arena.

Modern versions of such tactics can be seen in social welfare programmes and mass entertainment on TV and on the Internet, including programmes like *The Hunger Games*, with its nod to Roman bloodshed as public entertainment.

The Resort To Occultism In The Search For Knowledge And Power

The attraction of the occult is also to be seen in TV programmes like *Medium* and *The Witches*, as well as in the rise of New Age spiritualities, Witchcraft and Freemasonry.

The Occult Search for Secret Knowledge & Secret Power

The huge upsurge in occultism, evidenced by the popularity of the *Harry Potter* books and prime time TV programmes, like *FortSalem* and *Long Island Medium*, as well as the open dedication by high profile singers like Madonna and bands like Black Sabbath, Venom and Slayer to demonic entities, has been accompanied by an increase in divination, sorcery and witchcraft. It is the increasing brazenness and savagery of the satanic that is so breath-taking, as evidenced by the openly anti-Christian tour by Madonna, *Desecration of the Bride* and album covers by groups like Venom and Slayer (below).



Venom: *Welcome To Hell*



Slayer: *Repentless*

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The attraction of the occult is the search for *secret knowledge*, through divination (eg Tarot, Ouija, palm reading and horoscopes) and *secret power*, through sorcery and witchcraft, including New Age techniques of healing based on Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism (eg Reiki, Yoga and Acupuncture).

In recent years some Christians, including pastors like Rick Warren, have even promoted 'Holy Yoga' as being of God, denying the reality of its occult roots and maintaining it is simply a healthy form of exercise to be practised within a biblical framework of prayer, Bible reading and worship.

‘Holy Yoga’ *an oxymoron*



The Yoga Tree of Life, The All-Seeing Third Eye, The Serpent & Chakras

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The occult origins of so-called ‘Holy Yoga’ can be seen in the illustrations above, which show the occult Tree of Life and All-Seeing Third Eye (*left*), a worshipper in the lotus position with the seven *chakras*, *Kundalini* Serpent Spirit and an occult version of the cross. It shows clearly how Christians can be deceived by the enemy, who is able, Paul wrote,¹ to transform himself into ‘an Angel of Light’.

On two occasions Simon had evidence that ‘Holy Yoga’ is demonic and part of Satan’s strategy to deceive the unwary.²

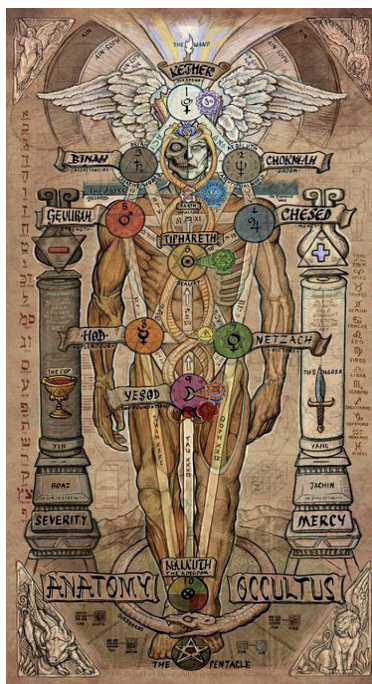
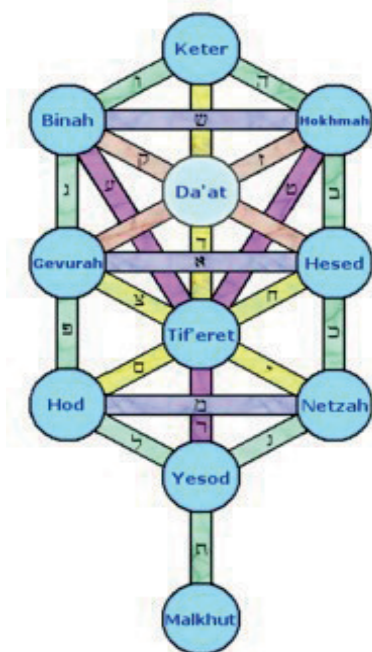
¹ 2 Corinthians 11:14; ² ‘*The Hood of the Cobra*’ (page 155) and ‘*A Dream about Holy Yoga*.’(page 137)

The Perversion of Judaism.....The Kabbalah & The Occult Tree of Life

Traditional Judaism is not immune to the perversion of the *Torah* by those seeking the source of secret knowledge and secret power down the centuries. This is seen most clearly in the three-stage development of the *Kabbalah*, from a theoretical exegesis of Jewish scriptures to sixteenth century mysticism and magick.

*“The ultimate purpose in the study of Kabbalah is the perfection of the Self..... Making the Self into a better, more expanded individual, more transcendent, more attuned to the roots and essence of one’s soul.” ~ from ‘What is Kabbalah’.*¹

The occult nature of Kabbalah can be seen in the images below of the ten sephiroth in the occult Tree of Life. Below are examples of the Tree of Life (left) and the *Anatomy Occultus*, (right) including the twin pillars of Boaz and Jachin to be seen in Freemasonry.



Images may be subject to copyright

¹ Source: https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/170308/jewish/What-is-Kabbalah.htm

There are striking similarities between Witchcraft and Freemasonry, both of which are referred to as '*The Craft*', as can be seen from the table below.

FEATURES	WITCHCRAFT	FREEMASONRY
<i>Nickname</i>	'The Craft'	'The Craft'
<i>Open/Secret</i>	Secret	Secret
<i>Meeting Place</i>	'Temple'	'Temple'
<i>Central Point</i>	Pentagram	Pentagram
<i>System</i>	Three Basic Degrees	Three Basic Degrees
<i>Initiation Rites</i>	At Each Degree	At Each Degree
<i>Ceremonial Cleansings</i>	Of 'Temple' before each ritual	Of 'Temple' before each ritual
<i>Biblical Symbols/ Rituals</i>	Perversion of Biblical symbols	Perversion of Biblical symbols
<i>Candidates Stripped</i>	Of All Secular Clothing & metal	Of All Secular Clothing & Metal
<i>Candidates Blindfolded</i>	'Hoodwinked'	'Hoodwinked'
<i>Candidate's Chest Pierced</i>	By Sword	By Compasses
<i>Tools Used</i>	Symbols of Genitalia	Symbols of Genitalia
<i>Passwords</i>	Secret	Secret
<i>Death & Resurrection Ritual</i>	Initiate is the Heroine	Initiate is the Hero
<i>Use of Fear for Control</i>	Painful Rituals & Terror	Painful Rituals & Terror
<i>Oaths & Curses</i>	At Each Stage	At Each Stage
<i>Perversion of Truth</i>	Darkness=Light	Darkness=Light
<i>Object of Worship</i>	Goddess & Horned God=Satan	TGAOTU; Satan
<i>Destiny</i>	Eternal Death	Eternal Death

Table 2: The Similarities between Witchcraft & Freemasonry

The 'New Enlightenment'when darkness is light

The Third Millennium witnessed the arrival of a New Enlightenment - one dedicated to initiating a New World order: One World Economy, One World Government and One World Religion. The evidence for this was to be seen increasingly in 2020 with the coronavirus pandemic, which showed how easily the whole world can be paralysed and taken over by a global system.

The evidence, however, is perhaps more subtle than the move to global economics, health regulations, or the rise of the Chinese Empire, and can be seen in things such as satellite technology, the worldwide web, and the development of the Cloud - a move for control by an unseen power, which the apostle Paul referred to as the '*Prince of the Power of the Air*, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience.'¹

Such a statement is immediately labelled a 'conspiracy theory' by those who reject a supernatural, Judaeo-Christian worldview - hardly surprising, when you realize that the spider is never seen until its victims are well caught and escape is now impossible. The evidence, however, is all there for those with eyes to see and ears to hear.

Consider for a moment the following facts:

- Satellite technology, unknown until the twentieth century, has now made possible worldwide communication of a kind impossible when the apostle John had a vision, in which he saw that Jesus will return and every eye will see him.²
- Jesus himself said: "*For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.*"³
- The development of the worldwide web and the Cloud now means that the control of personal data has passed from the individual to an unseen body, which could be used for evil purposes as well as good. Such global control smacks of George Orwell's book '*1984*', in which a totalitarian regime controls the lives of every individual.
- The moves to a One-World Economy, Government and Religion are to be seen in the existence of the World Monetary Fund (WMF), the United Nations (UN) and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

¹ Ephesians 2:2; ² Revelation 1:7; ³ Matthew 24:27

The Death of God & The Deification Of Man

GK Chesterton once wrote: *“When a man stops believing in God, he does not believe in nothing; he believes anything.”* With moral relativism we see the outworking of the Nietzschean idea that, if God is dead, *“morality is no longer defined with reference to God, but solely with reference to human needs and aspirations.”*

This denial of absolutes of good and evil is what Ivan in Dostoevsky's classic tale of faith and unbelief, *The Brothers Karamazov*, observed:

*“If God does not exist, everything is permitted.”*¹

Evidence of this in recent years is to be seen in the cynical murder by poison of political opponents by the Russian government, the barbaric assassination by the Saudi government of the journalist Jamal al Khashoggi in an embassy in Turkey, and the wholesale imprisonment and ‘re-education’ of over one million ethnic Uighurs by the Communist government of The People’s Republic of China.

Evidence of the deification of man is also to be seen in the tyrannical rule of the Sung dynasty in The People’s Republic of North Korea and the erection of idols to its leaders in Pyongyang, reminiscent of Nebuchadnezzar’s demand to be worshipped in Daniel 3:1-7.



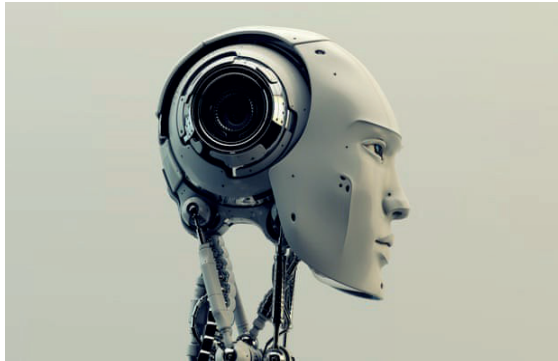
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Worshippers in front of statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, Pyongyang

¹ Fyodor Dostoevsky *The Brothers Karamazov* Part 4, Book 11, Chapter 4

Techno-Humanism & the A.I. *Deus ex machina*

The ultimate deification of man is to be seen in the creation by ex-Google engineer Anthony Lewandowski of a robotic 'god', to be worshipped as part of his First Church of Artificial Intelligence, which he has named *Way Of The Future* (WOTF).



Photograph: © Ociacia/Getty Images/iStockphoto

Author Yuval Noah Harari in *Homo Deus* ¹ has claimed that traditional Judaeo-Christian religion will shortly be a thing of the past and be replaced by Techno-humanism and Datism - the use of data to control and manage human affairs. In such a situation there will be no need for a personal Creator God of Christian mythology, he claims.

The prophet Isaiah said something about this two thousand six hundred years ago. 'This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven's Armies:

"I am the First and the Last; there is no other God. Who is like me? Let him step forward and prove to you his power. Let him do as I have done since ancient times. [.....] You are my witnesses—is there any other God? No! There is no other Rock—not one!" All who worship idols will be disgraced along with all these craftsmen —mere humans — who claim they can make a god. They may all stand together, but they will stand in terror and shame." ²

¹ Yuval Noah Harari *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow* Vintage, 2016;

² Isaiah 44:6-11

The Palaeontology of the New Age.....*New Age, Old Religion*

The roots of the New Age can be traced back to the rebellion in The Garden and to Satan's lies that cast doubt on God's goodness. They consist of four statements:

- **Lie No.1 You Will Not Die** - the basis of Atheism and Reincarnation
- **Lie No 2 Your Eyes Will Be Opened** - Occultism & Eastern Mysticism
- **Lie No 3 You Will Be Like God** - New Age teaching to find the god within
- **Lie No 4 You Will Know Good & Evil** - postmodern Moral Relativism & Scientific Rationalism that claims to have all the answers to life

New Age practices like Yoga, Reiki, Meditation, and Mindfulness all have their origins in the Eastern religious systems of Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism, which aim at creating altered states of consciousness in the practitioner to open the spiritual channels for demonic access, while deceiving the individual into thinking s/he will find the god within. The reality, of course, is that once helplessly trapped like flies within a web of lies, they realise too late they have become the slaves to demonic spirits with an invitation to an audience with '*Their Satanic Majesties*', as in the title of the Rolling Stones' rock music album.

The ultimate goal of every form of New Age occultism is the same: to lead the participant to surrender to the 'Prince of this World', as Jesus called him: Satan.¹ It comes as a surprise to many to discover Satan is in control of this present World, because the moment Eve and Adam disobeyed God's explicit instructions not to touch or eat the fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they ceded all authority to Satan. This is the extraordinary claim he makes as he tempts Jesus just to worship him and all the kingdoms of this world will then be his.

*'And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours."'*²

¹ John 14:30; ² Luke 4:5-7

The Unholy Trinity of Father, Mother, & Son

At the heart of this rebellion against the Almighty Creator God was the Father-Mother-Son trinity of Nimrod, Semiramis, and Tammuz, later seen in the other pagan religions as Baal, Ashtoreth, Tammuz (Canaan), Osiris, Isis and Horus (Egypt); Zeus, Hera, Dionysus (Greece); and Jupiter, Juno and Minerva (Rome).



Egyptian trinity of Osiris, Isis and Horus
Image may be subject to copyright

The worship of Virgin Mother and Child to be seen in these religions appears later in Constantinople with the Empress Pulcheria in 450 AD, who introduced veneration of the Virgin Mary in an amalgamation of Roman civic and religious rituals - the origin of Roman Catholicism's later idolatrous worship of the Virgin Mary as 'Queen of Heaven'.¹

¹ Vasiliki Limberis Divine Heiress: the Virgin Mary and the creation of Christian Constantinople, Routledge, 1994

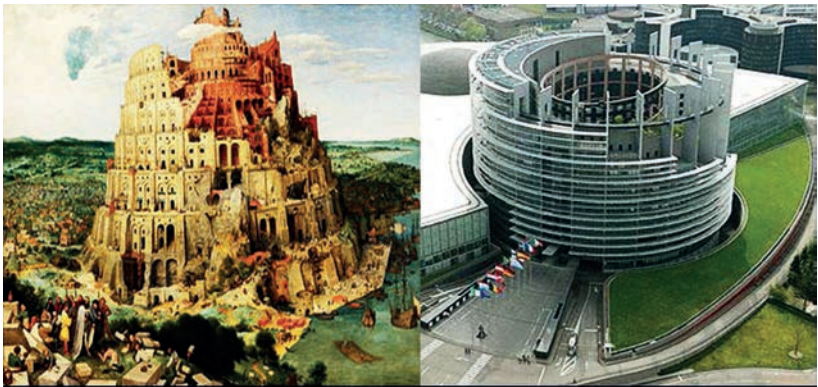
The Tower of Babel.....man's aspirations to be God

In Genesis ¹ we read the story of a tower built by rebellious King Nimrod reaching to the skies as a deliberate challenge to God's authority on earth.

"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth."

The story of Nimrod and the Tower of Babel is the origin of the polytheistic religious systems that spread through Sumerian, Akkadian, Assyrian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman empires.

The foundation of a new 'Roman Empire' is to be seen in The European Union, with its Parliament Building in Strasbourg looking unfinished just like the Tower of Babel. Such an idea is ridiculed as a 'conspiracy theory.'



Photo©nixseraph.deviantart.com

Is it simply an amazing coincidence or a deliberate enactment of the age-old rebellion? The European Union even printed posters reversing the Biblical 'confusing of their tongues' by replacing it with the slogan: *'Europe: Many Tongues, One Voice.'*

¹ Genesis 10:8-10 and 11:1-9



Source: <https://www.capitalandconflict.com/geopolitics/the-blockheads-of-babylon/>

In another 'coincidence' at the front of the European Commission HQ there is a sculpture of a bull with a woman on its back - a reference to the Greek myth of the rape of Europa by the Greek god Zeus, who had transformed himself into the appearance of beautiful white bull. It is an image seen in *The Book of Revelation* 17:1-5 of the woman riding on a bull.



Statue of Europa riding on the Bull in front of the European Commission, Brussels

Photo: © Sebastia Giralt on www.flickr.com

Doorways To Danger.....the deceitfulness of the New Age

There is nothing new about the New Age. Its roots go back to the Garden of Eden and the serpent's stealth tactics to deceive Eve. What is new are the methods Satan employs today to seduce the gullible. Jesus warned:

*'For false Christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.'*¹

And the tactics are the same: to mix truth with lies and to make the potentially lethal appear attractive and harmless. Below are some examples.

Twisting Scripture: A New Age Take on 'The Woman At The Well'

" Christ Jesus was waiting at a well in Samaria, while his disciples went to the city to buy some food, when a Samaritan woman came along and drew some water from the well. Christ asked her for a drink, whereupon she was very surprised, because Jews did not normally have anything to do with the Samaritans. Then Christ told her about the "Living Water". He said to her: "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him, shall become in him a well of water, springing up to eternal life!"²
" (Christ Jesus - John 4:13b-14)

The "Living Water" that Christ was talking about was what the Hindus call "Kundalini", which means, "coiled energy". Kundalini energy is what Christians call "the power of the Holy Ghost". This power of the Holy Ghost is located in the Sacrum Bone. The Greeks (actually it was the Romans!) called it "sacrum" meaning "sacred". They obviously knew the secret knowledge of our inner being, which has been the sacrum's sacred secret! Shri Mataji Nirmala Devi has been revealing this secret knowledge of our inner being for the last 30 years or so, and this is what she said regarding the power of the Holy Ghost." - from an article entitled "The Holy Spirit and Kundalini [Living Water]" (emphasis added)

Simon was struck by Satan's perversion of Scripture in the same way as he did in the Garden of Eden, taking a statement by God and twisting it to deceive the unwary into thinking the *Kundalini* spirit (coiled serpent at the base of the spine) of the New Age is the same as the Holy Spirit of John Chapter 4.

¹ Matthew 24:24; ² John 4:13b-14

Cracked Pot Religion

Another modern form of Eastern mysticism in seemingly Christian garb is the recent fad for *Kintsugi* - based on the Japanese story of *The Cracked Bowl Mended With Gold*.

It seems so innocent and such a beautiful idea - that the broken pieces of our lives can be put together and healed by simply focusing on the Self and essential goodness in ourselves.

An example of how this has been 'Christianized' was seen when a woman, claiming to be a Christian, gave Simon a card with the quotation from Psalm 46 verse 10: '*Be still and know that I am God,*' and the words: '*Love Kim in Him.*'

Be still and know that I am God

Psalm 46 v10

Love

Kim in Him



"When the Japanese mend broken objects, they aggrandize the damage by filling the cracks with gold. They believe that when something's suffered damage and has a history it becomes more beautiful."

Billie Mobayed

The person who handed out this card was also handing out agate pebbles, saying she had to hand out a million of them - an occult commission.

Kintsugi stresses the beauty of working through brokenness to healing of the self from the woundedness of life experiences through a more positive mind-set, as seen in a website titled *Beauty Starts With Me*.¹



'As this beautiful song states, we are light. Our souls are sparks of the light of G-d. When you are feeling sad or down, just remember YOU ARE LIGHT.

*Humm the song softly to yourself.....I am Light, I am Light, I am Light.....
I am Light, I am Light, I am Light....I am Light.*

***You are NOT the things your family did, or the voices in your head.
You are NOT broken pieces. YOU ARE LIGHT.'***

Notice there is no mention of Jesus Christ the Son of God, who came in the flesh as a man, and said: 'I AM The Light of the World,' nor of the G_d (sic) being worshipped. Rather you, the reader, are Light.

'As a philosophy, kintsugi can be seen to have similarities to the Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, an embracing of the flawed or imperfect...and to the Japanese philosophy of "no mind" (無心, mushin), which encompasses the concepts of non-attachment, acceptance of change, and fate as aspects of human life. (Wikipedia)

¹ <http://beautystartswithme.com/beautifully-imperfect/>

A Forensic Examination.....*exposing generational evil*

A classic example of the extent to which Satan has perverted God's good order was to be seen, when Simon was invited to investigate the underlying problems of a man, who had had an international ministry for over thirty years. But every time he returned home, he experienced the enemy's spiritual attacks in the form of a spiritual torment, that would incapacitate him for days.

Prayer ministry from other Christians over the years had revealed the roots lay somewhere deep in a past involving dark and hidden secrets. But each time ministry had stopped short of revealing what these secrets were or how to deal with them.

On the 24th of August 2013, as Simon prayed, he became aware of the words:

'A Forensic Examination.'

What he did not know at the time is that a 'forensic examination' is a legal term referring to a detailed examination of the evidence, especially medical, to be presented in a court of law in cases of suspected sexual abuse. What followed showed just how relevant this 'word' was for uncovering a history of generational sin, which the Bible calls 'iniquity.'

Satanic Dedication of Mr X at Birth

The first sign of trouble was when Mr X reported that his birth had been 'engineered' to happen at midnight on 30th April/1st May, which is called *Walpurgisnacht* - or Beltane - one of the two 'high shabbats' in the Witches' Calendar, the other being *Samhain*, or Halloween. An uncle, who claimed to be a Christian, had arranged for the birth to take place at his house and his mother had dedicated him to Satan in his blood in return for a promise of protection, she believed, in Isaiah 28:15.

Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we have an agreement, when the overwhelming whip passes through it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and in falsehood we have taken shelter"

X's mother believed this meant her dedication of the child to Satan at his birth bought her protection from demonic evil. But she had not read the following verses in Isaiah:¹

This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

*'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb-line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding-place. Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it. As often as it comes it will carry you away; morning after morning, by day and by night, it will sweep through. **The understanding of this message will bring sheer terror** (emphasis added).*

A closer reading of these verses gives a very different picture. Far from providing her with protection, she had *'made lies [her] refuge, and in falsehood [she had] taken shelter.'* The following verses show that because of that, when Yeshua 'the precious corner stone is laid in Zion', God will take his plumb-line to judge the people righteously and 'your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it.' Far from the dedication of her baby to Satan at his birth being a means of ensuring her own protection, she will feel the full force of God's judgment, when her time comes, because of her involvement with witchcraft and the generational iniquity down her family lines. The realisation of this fact would indeed bring her sheer terror.

It transpired that X's mother was a *Grande Dame* named 'Diana' – not her real name – and a member of a coven, that met in the country village, where X was born and lived for many years. This fact had played a major part in his sense of being tormented over the years. At the age of thirteen he had been 'married' to his mother, after they moved to another town and his father and mother went to live with them. The mother had also initiated her granddaughter into witchcraft, and she played a major part in transmitting demonic spirits against X in later years, when he was involved in Christian ministry.

¹ Isaiah 28:16-19

Circumcision on the Eighth Day after Birth

But even at this most evil of beginnings God had his hand upon X, for the same uncle, who delivered him, had circumcised him eight days after he was born, in accordance with Jewish tradition – a fact later confirmed, when it emerged his father came from a long line of Levitical priests. And so, it seems, began a duel between God and Satan for the life of this young boy, involving generational iniquity of the vilest sort on both sides of his family.

A Strange ‘Word’ And A Wrong Interpretation

Interestingly, these early events were hinted at in ‘words’ that were given X at various times, when he had sought ministry. On one occasion a man had given him Exodus 4:24-25, which reads:

‘At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him [Moses] and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, “Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!”’

These verses have been variously interpreted by commentators because of the question of the identity of ‘the LORD’ in verse 24 and the meaning of Zipporah's words in verse 25. X certainly believed they referred to his circumcision on the eighth day, but the question was: How does this fit with the idea of God seeking to put him to death?

The Real Meaning Of Exodus 4:24-25

The real meaning of these verses came in an online article,¹ which contained the answers to two questions:

Q1 Who is the attacker against Moses? God or another?

Q2 Who does the *him* refer to? Moses, his son Gershom or Eliezer?

The following quotations from the article help to explain the meaning:

“In Hebrew, the word “*feet*” is sometimes used as a euphemism for the word “*genitals*.” Very few translators chose to use the word “*genitals*” in their interpretation. The Hebrew for “*bridegroom of blood*” written as “*hatan damim*,” is derived from a Semitic root verb which means “*to perform marriage*.”

In Arabic this phrase is linked to Hebrew, but means “*perform circumcision*.”

¹ Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zipporah_at_the_inn

In ancient Akkadian language related to both Arabic and Aramaic/Hebrew, this phrase means “*to protect*.” Moses’ wife Zipporah was from Midian in the north-western region of the present-day Saudi Arabia, where Akkadian was spoken in Zipporah’s day. Some claim that, in the ancient Akkadian language, casting the foreskin meant “*to protect*.” So “*You are a bridegroom of blood*,” can also mean, “*This blood will protect you*.”

Exodus is unambiguous that it is Yahweh (God) himself performing the attack on Moses. But this would mean God was attacking the very man he had chosen to lead the Children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt. Other texts make the attacker an “*angel of the Lord*”. The version of this episode in the Book of Jubilees (2nd century BC) attributes the attack to ‘*Prince Mastema*’,¹ another name for Satan:

*‘You yourself know what Prince Mastema desired to do with you, when you returned to Egypt on the way, when you met him at the shelter. Did he not desire to kill you with all of his might and save the Egyptians from your hand, because he saw that you were sent to execute judgment and vengeance upon the Egyptians? And I delivered you from his hand and you did the signs and wonders, which you were sent to perform in Egypt.’*¹

The Key to Understanding the ‘Word’ from Exodus 4:24-25

The key to this ‘word’ lies in understanding two things –

- (1) The attacker is not God, but *Prince Mastema* - aka Satan
- (2) The ‘word’ *covenant* the Holy Spirit gave X is not a covenant that X made when he gave his life to Christ (many years after his birth), but the Abrahamic covenant of circumcision that God honoured eight days after his birth.

Satan thought he had X’s life sewn up for eternity, when his mother dedicated him at or before birth to Satan. But God had other ideas, because X is in the line of Levitical priests dating back directly to Aaron through Joshua. God in effect neutralised the satanic dedication in blood at birth by circumcising him as a child of Abraham on the eighth day by the shedding of the blood of circumcision.

¹ *The Book of Jubilees* 48:3-4

The reason for the continued harassment over the years, which intensified when X married, was that the legal grounds for satanic bondage were never removed by confession, repentance and renunciation of every curse brought upon him through personal sin and, more importantly, by ancestral sin on both sides of the family. It also transpired that his wife was involved in the occult.

One of the clearest results of the 'forensic examination' the LORD ordered was the exposure of the extent of the evil in both family bloodlines, which had never been dealt with, because the curses were sealed in such a way that ordinary deliverance ministry would never be able to break them.

Seals on Satanic Curses

Another reason why previous attempts at deliverance had failed was that no one had understood the importance of breaking the seals placed by occultists over curses placed on the victim.

In the course of prayer and listening to the LORD, it became clear that two seals that had been placed on the curses uttered at X's dedication were:

The Sigil of Satan

The Sigil, or 'seal' (Latin *sigillum*), of Satan shown here was placed over the curses uttered against X by his witch mother and the coven at his satanic dedication at birth.



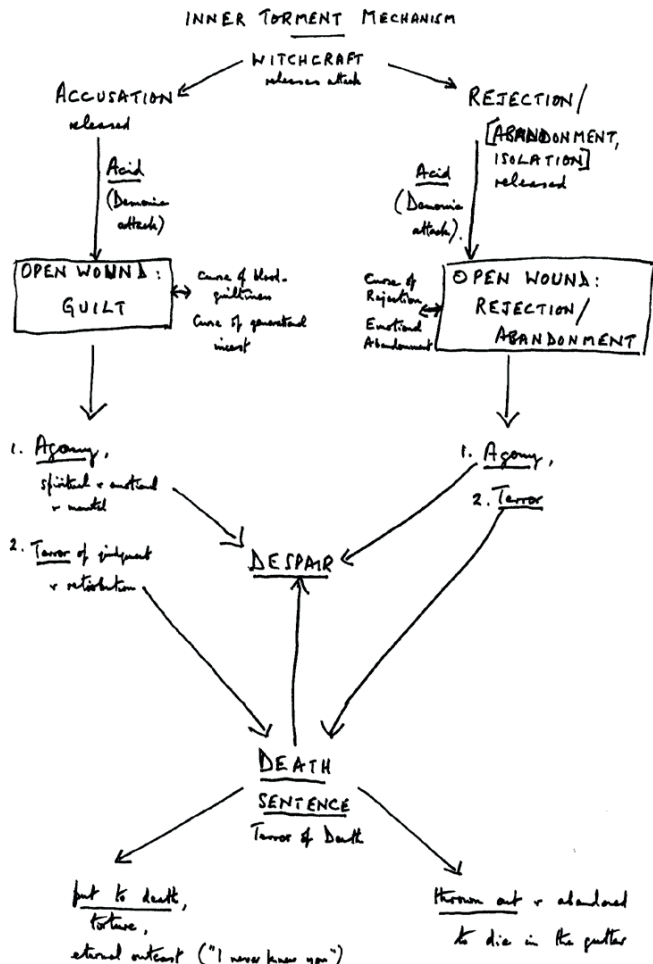
The Seal of Solomon

The Seal of Solomon is in the form of a hexagram inside a circle – a pentagram surrounding the Star of David, referencing the curses associated with X's heritage from a line of Levitical priests.



The Result of the Occult Roots: Demonic Torment

In email correspondence with Simon, X described the effect of these occult roots as almost unbearable torment, which left him incapacitated after each time of ministry. He described it in a diagram (see below) showing witchcraft used to torment him with accusations and feelings of rejection and abandonment, leading to feelings of utter despair, and a terror of being tortured and condemned to death.



Exposing Generational Iniquity in Two Families

The discovery of X's satanic dedication at birth and subsequent circumcision was the start of a lengthy process of uncovering the extent of generational sin on both sides of his and his wife's families.

Some Christians argue that because of Christ's victory over Satan at Calvary, they are no longer subject to the curses of the Old Testament. But they forget that when Jesus said he came not to abolish the Law but to fulfil it, it included all the *Torah* found in the Pentateuch. This highlights the uncomfortable fact that curses can come from God as well as from Satan or other human beings.

The Old Testament Curses In Leviticus & Deuteronomy

The Old Testament books of Exodus,¹ Leviticus ² and Deuteronomy ³ contain explicit statements of God's blessings on thousands of generations of those, who keep his commandments, but his curses to the third and fourth generation of those, who reject him and break his commandments. The latter curses fall into several categories:

- **Idolatry**

which breaks the first commandment to have no other gods but YHWH

- **Immorality**

breaking God's laws regarding sexual relationships with human beings outside the marriage covenant or animals

- **Intentional sin against others**

eg Bearing false witness, Lying, Murder, Slandering a neighbour, Stealing another's property or moving his boundary

- **Mediumship, Spiritism & Witchcraft**

involving divination, sorcery and witchcraft in order to gain secret knowledge and secret power from Satan rather than from God

¹ Exodus 34:6-7; ² Leviticus 19:31; 20:1-6, 27; ³ Deuteronomy 18:9-12

Biblical Curses for Generational Iniquity

It soon became clear that both X and his wife had inherited the curses God had pronounced in the Bible as a result of the iniquity practised by their forebears on both sides of each family.

X's Family Tree

X's father was from a long line of Levitical priests, which had deviated from the Law of the LORD (*Torah*) and followed the mystical traditions of the *Kabbalah*, which we have seen (see page 43) is steeped in occultism. They had also practised Freemasonry – the occult religion that claims to have its origins in Solomon's temple.

His mother's side of the family involved mediumship and witchcraft, while his mother had committed fornication with several men, including a Satanist, and had had several self-induced abortions, including that of X's twin brother, while X was still in the womb.

X's Wife's Family Tree

His wife, whom he had married against advice from family and friends, also came from a long line of occultists. Her paternal grandfather had practised Freemasonry and witchcraft at the ancestral hall he built. Her mother's side of the family included psychics, while her mother practised witchcraft and exercised a Jezebelic control over her and her granddaughter, whom she had molested, when she was young, and initiated into witchcraft.

In the light of all this, it was hardly surprising X was being hammered each time he stepped out in obedience to exercise the ministry to which he had been called. It was also confirmation of the 'word' the LORD had given Simon about '*A Forensic Examination*'.

The next stage was to seek the LORD's guidance as to how to proceed.

The Case against Mr X and Mrs X

A detailed examination was undertaken by email correspondence with Mr and Mrs X over several months to list the various sins of each of their forebears on both sides of each family with a view to identifying the Biblical curses they had brought upon the families. The results were startling as shown below.

THE CHARGES vs Mr X

- 1 That X's father broke the Levitical code
- 2 That X's mother broke God's law re sexual relations
- 3 That X's mother broke God's law regarding incest
- 4 That X's grandmother murdered several unborn children by self-administered abortions, and his mother's abortion of X's twin brother
- 5 That X's mother *either* dedicated *or* allowed X to be dedicated to Satan at birth and/or afterwards
- 6 That X's mother initiated her grand-daughter into witchcraft at birth & later
- 7 That X's Uncle *either* circumcised *or* allowed X to be circumcised by someone other than a *mohel*
- 8 That X's grandfather and his father broke God's law by practising Freemasonry and hating God
- 9 That he pronounced a curse on his son who was born out of wedlock
- 10 That X's maternal grandmother and great grandmother practised witchcraft and spiritism (and dedicated their children to Satan?)
- 11 All other sins of the forebears right back to Adam
- 12 That X had sexual relations with Mrs X before they were married

1. LEVITICUS 17-21 The Holiness Code

2. ACTS 15:20 Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood.

3. DEUTERONOMY 27:20 Cursed is anyone who sleeps with his father's wife, for he dishonours his father's bed

4. EXODUS 20:13 You shall not murder

5. EXODUS 20:2-6 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

6 DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13

7 LEVITICUS 17-21 The Holiness Code

8 EXODUS 20:2-6 see above

9 DEUTERONOMY 23:2-3

A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD.

DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13 When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God.

THE CHARGES vs Mrs X

1. That Mrs X's great grandfather practised witchcraft at his ancestral home
 2. That Mrs X's grandfather was cursed by a person in line with **JOB 17:5**
 3. That Mrs X's paternal grandmother was a psychic with psychic links to her mother and grandmother
 4. That Mrs X's mother was a Jezebel who exercised witchcraft over her daughter
 5. That Mrs X's mother-in-law sexually molested Mrs X daughter from a young age and allowed satanic abuse to be perpetrated on her over many years
 6. That Mrs X herself is a self-confessed 'witch' and acts as an occult booster transmitter for demonic attacks
 7. That Mrs X exercises Jezebelic control over her husband X
 8. All other sins of the forebears stretching right back to our ancestor Adam
 9. That Mrs X had sexual relations with X before they were married
1. **DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13** When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practises divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD; because of these same detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God
 2. **JOB 17:5** If anyone denounces their friends for reward, the eyes of their children will fail. cf **LEVITICUS 26:16** God's punishment for rebellion
 3. **DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13** see above
 4. **DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13** see above
 5. **DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13** see above
 6. **DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13** see above
 7. **DEUTERONOMY 18:9-13** see above
 9. **ACTS 15:20** Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood

These show the legal authority given to Satan to harass X and his family over the years and formed the basis of God's case against them in the Court of the Judge of the Universe. All these were checked with X before ministry began.

In the Courtroom of the Judge of the Universe

In Zechariah Chapter 3 we are invited into the Courtroom of the Judge of the Universe and shown an extraordinary sight. For we see Satan standing at the right hand side of Joshua the High Priest, accusing him before the Angel of the LORD – who is traditionally interpreted as the pre-incarnate Christ - and saying Joshua is unfit to be in God's presence!

Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. The LORD said to Satan,

'The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?'

Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

The Angel said to those who were standing before him,

'Take off his filthy clothes.'

Then he said to Joshua,

'See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.'

Then I (Zechariah) said, *"Put a clean turban on his head."*

So, they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the Angel of the LORD stood by. The Angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua:

*'This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'If you will walk in obedience to me and keep my commands, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.'*¹

When Satan lays his accusations of sin against God's servant, we see Jesus arguing his case before God as *'a brand plucked from the fires (of Hell).'* Simon and friend prayed about the way forward, and sensed the LORD saying to present the case against X and his wife before the Throne of God, and for X to seek God's forgiveness through confession, repentance and renunciation of everything that had given the enemy a legal right to harass him. Then they were to plead the blood of Jesus for God's forgiveness, break all curses and anoint X with consecrated oil.

¹ Zechariah 3 1-7

Ministry to X in the light of the Forensic Examination

The evening before ministry the three men met to discuss the format of the proceedings and to pray for the LORD's protection and guidance throughout that Jesus Christ might be glorified in everything.

The next morning as they met in the conference room of a hotel, there was a real sense of being in the Presence of God, with his angels arranged at one end of the conference table and the three men seated at the other.

Before the proceedings began, they celebrated the LORD's Supper to declare the victory Christ won at Calvary. There followed a time of ministry involving presentation of the case for the prosecution, listing the charges against the defendant and the curses listed in the Bible for generational iniquity and personal sin. This was followed by presentation of the case for the defence, involving the defendant's confession of the Lordship of Christ and repentance for the sins of his forebears as well as his own sins, pleading the Blood of Jesus as the basis on which God has promised forgiveness, and renunciation of the curses placed on him by his mother's dedication of him at birth and removal of the seals placed on the curses by the enemy. Ministry involved breaking the seals and the curses and cutting all ungodly soul ties with his forebears.

The final part of the ministry time was the declaration of God's promises of forgiveness and cleansing of all sin confessed and the verdict 'Not Guilty', because of the victory Christ won at Calvary on our behalf. They then anointed X with consecrated oil as a sign of the Holy Spirit sealing what the blood had cleansed. It was followed by a time of praise and worship singing: *'I'm accepted, I'm forgiven, I am loved by the True and Living God'*; *'Amazing grace'*; and *'I stand amazed in the presence of Jesus the Nazarene.'*

There was a beautiful sense of release and the LORD's *shalom* as the proceedings drew to a close.

Postscript:

While it was clear progress had been made, it became clear that further ministry would be needed.

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