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The Red Rope of Rahab

Cover photo by Donald Satterlee.

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A Kindred Spirit and a Prodigal Son

Doug, I have read your book, *The Richest Caveman*, four times, and I attended your *Millennium of Prophecy* series, so I almost feel that I know you personally. I, too, am half Jewish. My older son was raised a Sabbathkeeper, but left the church for many years. I invited him and his wife to your seminar. They attended most of them and were thrilled with your messages. They have been baptized and were married on Valentine's Day. The Lord is so good, and my heart is filled with joy. By the way, I think your wife, Karen, is a lovely young woman and a tremendous help in your ministry. Thanks again for the part you played in the return of my son.

EM
Virginia

One Night of My Life

I went to the "One Night of Your Life" meeting in Minneapolis this past Sabbath. After the meeting I was handed a packet with a Mark Finley book and Doug Batchelor's book, *The Richest Caveman*. I am really bad at reading and really great at collecting good Christian books to ease the conscience. I started reading Mark Finley's book and did not get up until I was done. Today I opened Doug's book and finished it this evening. Wanting more, I went to the Amazing Facts website and ended up reading a whole booklet on cosmetics and jewelry. Now it is midnight my time, and I am up to my neck in convictions because I love the Lord so much, and I still want to read more. You have a wonderful website. I just wanted you all to know how much I appreciate the openness of your convictions and the lack of fear of offending someone, but wanting to stand for God in everything.

PC
Minnesota, via e-mail

Baptized Christmas Day

Thank you, Doug Batchelor. My husband and I were baptized Christmas day, 1999, as a result of the NET '99 series. We think you're brilliant and believe the Holy Spirit was indeed with you while you taught the gospel. It's the best thing that's happened to us. We were also inspired by Pastor John Lomacang's singing and hope to meet both Pastors Batchelor and Lomacang someday.

J&WF
Guam, via e-mail

Power in Purity

Your article in the March 2000 *Inside Report*, "Power in Purity," is very timely! The helpful Scripture references and insightful examples made this a valuable message to share with others, as well as apply it to my own life. Thank you.

BL
California, via e-mail



Glued to the Computer Screen

A friend of mine told me about your website, and I was taken aback at all the fascinating answers with biblical reference to the various questions in the Bible Answers Live archive. I want to thank you for putting together such a wonderful site. I often find myself "glued" to the computer screen. God bless and have a productive year.

RN
Ohio, via e-mail

To Bermuda and Beyond

I had to write to tell you the wonderful things the *Millennium of Prophecy* video series is doing for me and my family. I have been praying for my mom to come to a knowledge of the Bible truths, and I prayed specifically for the Lord to use the NET '99 programs to do it when she came to visit during the holiday season. She only had time to watch portions of them, but she found them to be very interesting and wanted to take a set home to share with a couple of family members. She has asked her minister to show the videos in their Sunday church, and he is considering it. Some would like to watch them even if the minister chooses not to show them. I have been praying for eight years that someone in my family would know and accept the truth. To God be the glory!

TS
Virginia

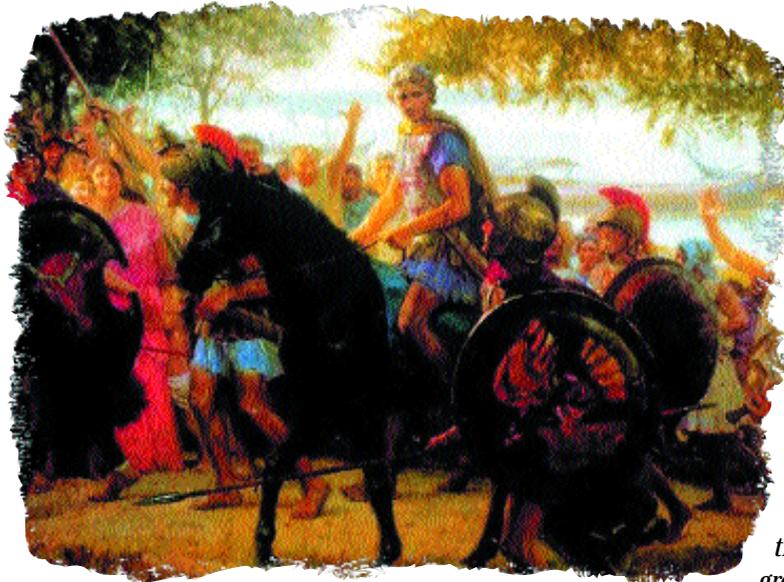
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BY DOUG
BACHELOR

The Red Rope of Rahab



An Amazing Fact

Gordius was a Greek peasant who became king of Phrygia simply because he was the first man to drive into town after an oracle had commanded his countrymen to “select as ruler the first person who would drive into the public square in a wagon.” In gratitude, Gordius dedicated his wagon to the god Zeus and securely tied the tongue of the wagon in the temple grove with a thick strong rope.

The knot was so intricately entwined that no one could undo it. Many tried, but all failed. A prophet said that whoever succeeded in untying the difficult knot would become the ruler of all Asia. Hearing this, young Alexander the Great attempted to untie the complex Gordian knot but was also unsuccessful, so he drew his sword and cut it through with a single stroke. Alexander of course went on to become the ruler of Asia and beyond. The expression “to cut the Gordian knot” is now used for resolving a difficult problem by a quick and decisive action.

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? ... Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also” (James 2:20, 21, 25, 26).

James only mentions two people when he addresses the relationship between faith and works. We’re not surprised to hear him refer to Abraham, the father of the faithful, but Rahab the harlot?

In Hebrews chapter 11, where Paul chronicles the heroes of faith, he writes: “By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace” (verses 31 and 32).

Only two women are specifically mentioned in

chapter Hebrews 11—Sarah and the harlot Rahab. Did you know that Rahab was also one of the ancestors of Jesus mentioned in the first chapter of the New Testament (Matthew 1:5)? In fact, she was the great-grandmother of King David. Obviously, the story of Rahab deserves our serious consideration!

Joshua and Jesus

The book of Joshua tells about the children of Israel finally taking possession of the Promised Land. It’s important to remember that “Joshua” is the same as the name “Jesus.” Joshua is the Hebrew form, and Jesus is the Greek form. The name Joshua means “Yahweh saves or delivers.” In the Old Testament there are two prominent characters named Joshua. Joshua the son of Nun was the captain and leader who led the children of Israel from the wilderness into the Promised Land after Moses died (Deuteronomy 34:9). This Joshua is a symbol for Jesus, the captain of our salvation who leads us, spiritual Israel, into our



promised land—heaven (Hebrews 2:10).

The other Joshua was the high priest who accompanied the Jews from Babylon to the Promised Land. He also represents Jesus, our heavenly High Priest who leads His people out of spiritual Babylon (Hebrews 8:1). These two Old Testament Joshuas were symbols of Christ in the New Testament.

“And Joshua the son of Nun sent out . . . two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho” (Joshua 2:1).

Joshua was among the 12 spies that went on the first espionage mission into the Promised Land about 38 years earlier. He didn’t go the second time—he sent representatives. Joshua is a symbol of Jesus in this story. Jesus came in person 2,000 years ago, and now He sends us as His messengers to bring back a report of the promised land.

No Surprise Ambush

Jericho was a crucial city in the conquest of Canaan because it was the beachhead battle to enter the Promised Land. When Joshua surveyed Jericho with the 12 spies 38 years earlier, they noticed the massive, menacing walls looming up to heaven, but Joshua was not intimidated.

Jericho was situated near the Jordan and the Canaanites could plainly see about three million Israelites camped on the plain just across the river. The people in the city understood that their new neighbors intended to dispossess them. They had heard how God miraculously delivered them from slavery in Egypt and parted the sea for their escape. They had heard the stories of how the Israelites conquered other pagan nations. At night they could see the glowing pillar of fire rising from the camp of Israel. By day they watched the pillar of cloud hover above the tabernacle, shading the camp from the desert sun while the people gathered the manna that had fallen from heaven the night before. You can see why the people of Jericho were apprehensive about Israel’s presence!

Unwelcome Visitors

Joshua had told the two spies to go view the land, especially Jericho, so “they went, and came into an harlot’s house, named Rahab, and lodged there” (Joshua 2:1).

Please don’t think these spies went to the red-light district of Jericho to fool around on a business trip. In Bible times, especially in the pagan cultures, people who had big houses by the city gates would often serve as the city inn. Rahab and her family operated one of these inns right on the wall where wayfaring travelers would pass. Often these bed and breakfast establishments had a little extra emphasis on the “bed” available for the right price. That’s how Rahab got her title.

So the spies came to Rahab’s inn and lodged there.

They seemed to dress a little different and talked to each other in low tones with a foreign accent. Evidently, some other customers recognized them as Israelites and made a beeline to warn the king. “And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country” (Joshua 2:2). If Joshua represents Jesus, then of course the king of Jericho represents the devil. Notice, the devil knows when God’s messengers are invading his domain.

“And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them” (Joshua 2:3, 4).

Rahab’s Risk

This is one of the acts for which Rahab is immortalized. Rahab lived in Jericho, and by her allying herself with God’s people she was laying her life on the line. What made her do that?

When you operated an inn by the city gate and entertained caravans and travelers from around the world, it was like living next to the CNN headquarters! Rahab knew what was going on. She was listening and looking for truth and the meaning of life. She knew about the many different empty religions of the world with their cruel rituals.

In her heart Rahab believed that the religion of Jericho was just as foolish and futile as the others of which she’d heard. All of her life she’d been hearing reports about how this nation of slaves had been saved from Egypt and the hundreds of miracles they’d experienced. Any God who could do such powerful things—who loves His people that much—was the God Rahab wanted to serve!

I believe Rahab began praying to the God of Israel to spare her and her family from the certain impending judgment on Jericho. When the two spies came through, she believed it was a divine opportunity, and she began to demonstrate her faith by action. She was ready to lay her life on the line.

If you were caught for treason in Bible times, they’d pluck out your eyes, cut off your tongue and hands, and drag you half-alive through the streets of the city before they stoned you as a traitor.

When she received the messengers from Joshua into her house, she was taking a tremendous risk. Likewise, when you decide to be a Christian, you are receiving the messengers from Jesus into your life. You also must be willing to resist the king of sin that you’ve been serving.

The Red Rope

When Rahab realized that her king intended to harm the spies, she found a perfect hiding place for them. “She had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof” (Joshua 2:6).

Flax was a plant. The finer parts of the plant were used for making linen, a soft cloth. The coarser parts of the plant were woven together into twine and the twine was eventually braided together into rope.

Like many in her day, Rahab probably had a little family business on the roof of dying cloth and cord. She specialized in red just as Lydia was a seller of purple (Acts 16:14).

As the soldiers went out to search for the spies the city gates were locked (Joshua 2:7). It didn't look like there was any escape for Joshua's spies as the Canaanites were swarming the city and countryside looking for them.

These two Israelites had to trust their deliverance to a pagan prostitute who believed in their God. The Lord often uses humble instruments to do great things.

Was Rahab Dishonest?

I know we all wonder how God could bless Rahab—after all, she lied, and lying is always a sin. However, the Bible record is faithful and even records the failings of God's people. Do you remember when David pretended to be crazy to escape Achish the king of Gath (1 Samuel 21:12-15)? How about when David's wife Michal told her father, Saul, that David was sick in bed and then let David out the window to save his life (1 Samuel 19:12-17)?

Yes, Rahab was dishonest. She may not have known better at such an early stage in her experience with God. Yet her action came from faith in Him, and the Lord looked on her sincere heart. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at” (Acts 17:30).

Rahab, God's Church

In the Bible a woman represents a church, and Rahab is a symbol of God's church. Have there been times in the history of God's church where she has been unfaithful? “And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from LORD” (Hosea 1:2).

Unfortunately, God's church has a record in the Bible—and in the present—of sometimes playing the harlot. As a baptized Christian, you are symbolically married to Jesus. You make vows when you commit your life to Him. If you turn from Him and deliberately follow the temptations of the devil, you are committing a form of spiritual adultery.

The good news in this story is that God can forgive and change someone like Rahab. She ended up being a mother in Israel and ancestor of Jesus. And if God

can change the hearts of people like Rahab and Mary Magdalene, He can change yours and mine as well.

Making a Covenant

After Rahab diverted the soldiers she returned to the roof to commune with her refugees. “I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. . . . For the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath” (Joshua 2:9, 11). Obviously, Rahab had faith in their God as the ultimate Creator.

She goes on to say, “Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token: And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death” (verses 12 and 13).

Rahab wasn't just concerned with her own salvation, but especially with that of her family. This should be a characteristic of God's church. As soon as we say, “Lord save me,” our next prayer should be, “Lord save my loved ones.” In the Lord's Prayer, we don't say, “Give me this day my daily bread,” but we say, “Our father, our bread,” “forgive us,” and “deliver us” (Matthew 6:9-13).

Rahab also asked for a sign of their agreement. “Our life for yours,” replied the spies (verse 14). This is the essence of the gospel. By dying on the cross, Jesus in effect said to you and me, “My life for yours.” The men



agreed to intercede with Joshua on behalf of Rahab and her family. The men knew that Joshua was a just and merciful leader.

“And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall. And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned” (Joshua 2:14-16). How long was Jesus in the tomb? Three days.

A Visible Sign

“And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear. Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by” (verses 17 and 18). What line were they talking about? She had just lowered a red rope out the window—a scarlet cord—down which the men would safely descend from the high roof to the ground outside the city. And unless the red rope was hanging from her window when the Israelites came to conquer the city, no one in her house would be saved. The rope by which she delivered the messengers would be the same rope that delivered Rahab and her loved ones.

In the Bible, windows represent our witness. Remember when Daniel prayed with his window open? What might the red rope represent? Reread Exodus chapter 12, the story of the Passover. The angel of judgment killed all the firstborn of Egypt, save only those who had spread the blood of a spotless lamb on their door posts. These messengers in Jericho

used the very same symbol. Let’s look at what happens.

“Thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father’s household, home unto thee. And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him” (Joshua 2:18, 19).

Like the blood on the Israelites’ doorposts indicated their trust in God’s mercy, the red rope symbolized Rahab’s covenant with Joshua via his messengers. This is the story of salvation, friends!

Safety in the House

You know the rest of the story. Joshua and his troops marched around Jericho thirteen times. One time for six days; then after resting the Sabbath, on the seventh day of marching they encircled the city seven times. Then they blew the trumpets, shouted, and the walls fell down flat (Joshua chapter 6).

There were probably many people hiding in their houses when those mighty walls fell. Was that enough to save them—to be in some house, somewhere? No; just as it was vital for the Israelites to have the lamb’s blood on their doorposts when the angel of judgment passed through Egypt, it was crucial to be in Rahab’s house with the red rope in the window when the walls came down.

The spiritual significance of this story is multifaceted. Not only does it tell the story of salvation, but it also has practical application for Christians today. Does it matter if we gather in God’s house? Yes! It’s very important as we approach the end of time that we do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together and that we attend church. If we do not have enough faith to get us to church once a week, how can we expect to have enough faith to get to heaven?

When the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts chapter 2), don’t you think the apostles were glad they were all in the right house? The Spirit didn’t fall on every house in Jerusalem. It was a certain upper room of a specific house; and they were gathered together praying when it happened. Likewise, in the last days there will be many churches, but we must be in God’s true church.

Victory in Jesus

Notice that as soon as Rahab sent off the spies she didn’t delay a moment and bound the scarlet line in the window (Joshua 2:21). She made certain that her salvation was secure before she spread the news to her family.

After three days hiding in the mountains, the spies returned to their camp and reported to Joshua; “Truly the LORD hath delivered into our hands all the land; for even all the inhabitants of the country do faint



because of us” (Joshua 2:24).

The spies knew they were going to win the battle because the people in Jericho had lost heart. They did not come back and report on Jericho’s fortifications, armaments, or soldiers. Instead, they said, “The Lord’s going to give Jericho to us because we have faith and they don’t.”

Remember, we are saved by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8). However, if that faith is real, it will be demonstrated by action. For instance, when David went to fight Goliath, he said to the giant, “Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts,” (1 Samuel 17:45). Did David use a weapon? Yes, he had a sling. Those stones represent the works that sprang from his sling of faith.

Faith for Today and Tomorrow

Do you sometimes get discouraged and fainthearted? When we lose heart, we lose the battle. But as Christians, our faith not only gets us to heaven, but also helps us get through each day on this earth. We must not give up on God, no matter how bleak the circumstances may look. “Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

Let’s look ahead a bit further. The Israelites are getting ready to blow the trumpet, the wall is about to fall, and everyone in Jericho is going to be destroyed. Joshua, who represents Christ, has some final words of counsel for them.

“And the city shall be cursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD [symbolically, this is talking about Jesus’ second coming]: only Rahab the harlot [God’s church] shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent” (Joshua 6:17).

When Christ was nailed to the cross, there were ribbons of blood that flowed from His body, just like a rope. It’s only those who are in the body of Christ when Jesus comes back that will be spared that final destruction.

Truly, we are saved by faith. We are also saved by one work. “Then said they unto Him [the Jews talking to Jesus], What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent” (John 6:28, 29). That is the single most important work everybody must do to be saved—we must choose to believe in the One He sent.

Hang On, Have Faith, Enjoy the View

Back in 1937 the Germans made an enormous airship called the Hindenburg—it was 804 feet long! One time they were getting ready to launch it, and they had about 100 men on the ground hanging onto the zeppelin’s ropes, trying to maneuver it into its hanger. They don’t know exactly what happened, but

suddenly this enormous airship rose up with tremendous force.

As soon as it started shooting up, some of the men let go of the ropes, dropped to the ground, and didn’t get hurt. Others waited until they were 50 or more feet off the ground before they let go, and when they fell they broke their ankles and legs. A few others panicked and instinctively tightened their grip. They kept going up with the balloon until soon they couldn’t hang on any more, let go, and fell to their deaths.

Soon the Hindenburg began to hover and drift with the breeze several hundred feet up. One man remained. The people on the ground wondered how long he could last. They chased the airship for about three hours, and it eventually lost altitude until the man was able to let go and walk away.

The stunned onlookers asked, “How did you hang on for so long?” He said; “Once the blimp took off, I tightened my grip. Eventually I realized that I couldn’t hold on forever. So I held on with one arm while I took my free arm and wrapped the remaining rope around my waste and tied a basic knot. For the last three hours I was just hanging up there, trusting the rope, and enjoying the view!”

Rahab’s red rope is ultimately a symbol of faith. We must tie a knot in the promises of God and hang on. It is also a symbol of the blood of Christ.

You and I can’t get to heaven trusting in what we’ve done. We’ve must have faith in the rope—the blood of Christ that saves us and carries us to safety. This one thing will make the difference for everyone. Like Rahab, we must receive the messengers that come from Joshua. Those two messengers represent the Word of God, the New and Old Testaments, the two witnesses, the sword with two edges. As we hide God’s Word in our hearts, the Bible promises it will keep us from sin (Psalm 119:11). We have to tie the rope in our window, then tell our friends and family to get into the house, because Joshua is coming back soon with an army of angels to deliver the ones who have the red rope in their windows. 



From the Inside

New Amazing Facts College of Evangelism Slated to Begin Aug. 6

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Among the very exciting new projects planned for this year is the new Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE)!

The first session of courses begins Aug. 6 and goes through Dec. 3, 2000. Classes will include how to find and give Bible studies, how to coordinate and do pre-work for evangelistic meetings, how to conduct an engaging series, how to maximize media evangelism, and much more. Students will also learn the principles of successful church growth, pastoral evangelism, and church planting.

Hosting the school in Sacramento will give students a distinct advantage in that they will experience a dynamic evangelistic environment. They will see that real church growth can happen without bringing in worldly methods and entertainment. They will benefit from association with the production of Amazing Facts' national radio and television programs, a thriving church, and our Amazing Facts staff.

"A cosmic battle is raging, and Amazing Facts has declared war on Satan's strongholds. It vital to have an army of Christian gospel soldiers who can help us rescue lost souls and hasten the Lord's return," said Pastor Doug Batchelor.

"I'm concerned we are falling far behind in fulfilling the great commission and leading people to Jesus. Please don't misunderstand, I am extremely grateful for what the Lord is doing. Our superb teams of evangelists are making a major dent in the enemy forces. Our television and radio programs, along with the Bible School, continue to reach into people's homes, freeing thousands from sin's bondage. But the fact remains that for every soul we lead to Jesus, there are probably 10 more pagans born. There is a real need for this kind of school, and we desperately need to mass multiply more workers if we ever hope to see God's work completed in our lifetime," he added.

Amazing Facts receives requests every week from large and small churches pleading for evangelists, Bible workers, and even lay pastors. In addition, we are constantly hearing from people who want us to restart our College of Evangelism. They appreciate the way Amazing Facts presents the gospel in a direct, loving, respectful, and uncompromising manner, and they want to learn from a ministry that is on the leading edge in using every ethical means to preach the truth.

"Businesses duplicate their success in order to gain

a larger share of the market. Jesus invested three and a half years in training 12 evangelists who then went out to do the same. He caught, taught, and trained willing individuals to go out and do as He had done. I'm not saying we'll produce a line of Doug Batchelor clones (the world may not be ready for that ... I know Mrs. Batchelor isn't!); but I do think we now have the best resources to thoroughly train and disciple even more soul-winners than ever before," said Batchelor.

"I'm convinced that Amazing Facts is uniquely situated to help churches become dynamic soul-winning centers and train the young people who will help them do it. This is what we feel God is calling us to do with the AFCOE. There is a tremendous need for training centers that will get people ready for immediate soul-winning service in the trenches of life," said Gary Gibbs, assistant director and evangelism coordinator for Amazing Facts.

Gibbs explained that during the first four-month course, students will join Pastor Doug in the Sacramento area for a full-scale metropolitan series this fall. Then, some of the graduates will be sent for further hands-on training, serving as interns with our Amazing Facts evangelists. Others will develop pre-work teams to help congregations prepare for evangelistic meetings.

"Supporters of Amazing Facts know what we stand for, and that is one of the reasons they continue to support us. They see Amazing Facts as a worthy investment of their offerings. AFCOE will generate an excellent return on that investment. With our supporters' financial and prayerful involvement, it will become a solid institution. In 1999 alone, our teams of evangelists were blessed in baptizing thousands. Imagine how much more can be done if we could train even more top-quality gospel workers for God's cause," said Gibbs.

Pastor Doug related a story of his early career as an evangelist.

"The tent was full opening night during my first-ever evangelistic meeting in Texas. I scared off most of the people the first week by saying too much too soon. I urgently needed some basic training and discipline, people skills, and guidance in public speaking. There are many others who share the same passion for spreading the gospel, and they need an affordable place they can go to be carefully trained by seasoned experts with real-life experience and hearts committed to God."

Gibbs said that new converts very often come into this message on fire to share Christ with others. Then they go out and try their best to tell others about God's truth. Often the results aren't what they had desired

because they lacked basic training. Tragically, many of these people become discouraged and conclude that witnessing just isn't their calling.

"If they could attend a training school where they can learn how to channel their enthusiasm and talents into effective service, then God could use such a college to raise up an army of workers to help give the loud cry. We cannot, dare not, wait to get these eager soul-winners out into the communities that are begging for straight Bible teachings," said Gibbs.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending AFCOE, please call (916) 434-3880 during business hours. And watch our website and the *Inside Report* for more details. We have stepped out in faith and hired a full-time staff of qualified teachers—people who know what it means to win souls. Your prayers and financial involvement will help us to establish a premier College of Evangelism.

Did You Know?

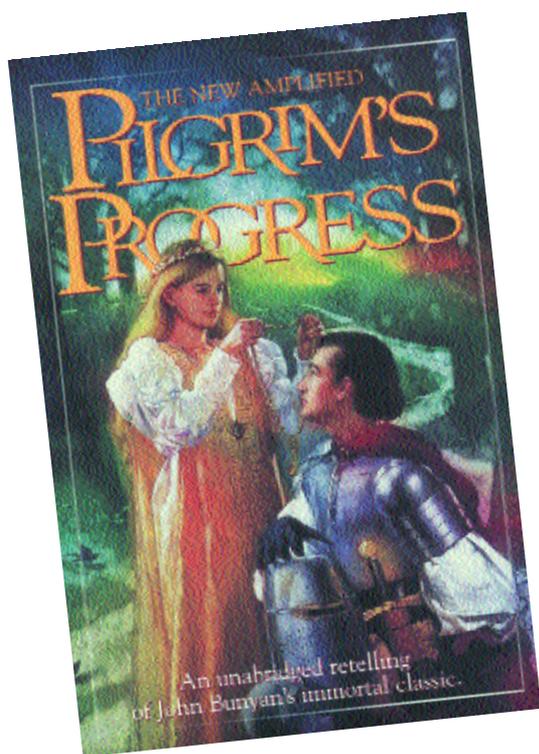
Have you ever wonder why, in your Bible and when we quote the Bible in our articles, that sometimes we use "Lord," and other times we use "LORD"?

The Bible contains many references to God, and some of their meanings vary. When referring to the divine name YHWH, known as the Tetragrammaton, Bible translators adopted the use of the small capped "LORD" to distinguish it from Adonai, another Hebrew word that translates "Lord."

Then, whenever the two names are used together as a compound name in the Old Testament, they are translated "Sovereign LORD."

You'll probably find a lot of very interesting information in the preface and introductory pages of your Bible that you may never have considered before.

Now you know!



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A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

BY KAREN BATCHELOR

February 19, 2000, was a very special day. The Minnesota Conference and Mike Ryan from Global Missions had been planning “One Night of Your Life” for more than a year. The goal of the evening was to host an exciting program including powerful testimonies and music to uplift the soul, followed by an invitation to accept Jesus.

Members of area churches were encouraged to invite their non-Christian friends to the program. 3ABN up-linked the program from their portable production truck, which made it possible for others from around the United States to participate, too.

The morning program was an opportunity for the area churches in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area regions to come together and fellowship for Sabbath School and church. Denzil and Garwin McNeilus, It Is Written’s Mark Finley, and several others shared thrilling evangelism reports from around the world. Pastor Doug Batchelor and I gave a report on the meetings in India and the recent *Millennium of Prophecy* series in New York City.

3ABN founders Danny and Linda Shelton and



Thousands of church members and visitors attended “One Night of Your Life.”

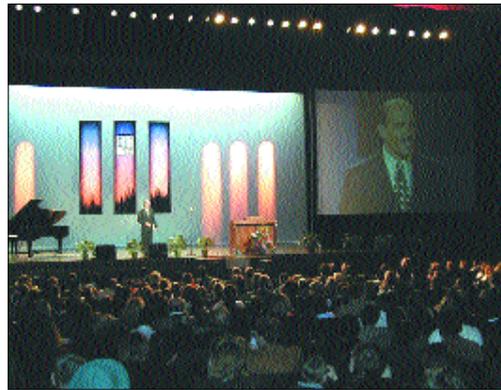
Morning Song performer Walter E. Arties provided inspiration through music between the amazing evangelism reports. The church speaker was our own Pastor Doug Batchelor who taught nearly 2,000 people about the demoniac who became an evangelist.

That evening, Pastor Doug shared his testimony. It only took 31 minutes—a record time! Then more

than 3,000 visitors took home a gift packet that included a copy of *The Richest Caveman*.

The evening continued with more music and a touching invitation to see the “Hands of Jesus” portrayed by Pastor Mark Finley. Doug and I really enjoyed meeting with the people after the services. We were also able to visit with Amazing Facts Evangelist Ray House and his wife, Becky, and son, Joshua. They had just finished a series of meetings in the region and were preparing to begin another series in that area the following week.

Another exciting aspect about this program is the plan to do follow-up work with cooking schools, music concerts, and special evangelism in the area churches with the intent to welcome new members into the God’s truth. 



ABOVE LEFT: Amazing Facts Evangelist team Ray and Becky House with Karen and Doug Batchelor. ABOVE RIGHT: Pastor Doug shares his personal testimony. LEFT: The meeting included stirring and uplifting musical performances. “One Night of Your Life” will be followed up with cooking schools, concerts, and more.

Bible Answers

With Pastor Doug Batchelor



Explain how Samuel's spirit appeared to Saul in 1 Samuel 28.

"Then Saul said unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at En-dor" (1 Samuel 28:7).

King Saul went to a witch for advice! He didn't actually see Samuel, but rather a demon impersonating Samuel. There are several reasons we know that this was an evil deception. God said to never go to a witch. They were supposed to be executed. This "spirit" that came up and claimed to be Samuel said that the witch had the power to raise him. The Bible tells us that only God has the power to restore life and raise people from the dead. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. The devil can't give life to people.

The message that this spirit who claimed to be Samuel gave was an utterly hopeless, discouraging message. When Jesus gave people messages, He always mingled them with hope. If you read the seven messages to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, He rebuked them, but He always said, "to him that overcomes." He mingled even the harshest messages with hope and mercy.

Part of the message this demon gave was, "To morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me" (verse 19). The Bible tells us that Saul seems to have grieved away the Spirit, and an evil spirit took possession of him. He took his own life, and during the closing chapters of his life, God would not speak with him. That's why he went to the witch in the first place. So Saul died lost. Samuel died saved—a holy man, spirit-filled, prophet, and high priest. How could they possibly end up in the same place? It sounded like they were going to be sharing the same reward. So you see, there are so many suspicious things about the incident.

Saul ventured on the enchanted ground of that witch, and he was exposed to a demon who impersonated Samuel. Satan himself can be transformed into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14). The devil has the power to create masterful illusions. This "appearance" of Samuel's spirit was one of those illusions.

Explain Matthew 16:28 about some not dying until they see the kingdom.

If you go to Mark chapter 9, it's the same story. I like Mark's version a little better, because it gets right to

the point. In Mark 9:1, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."

The way that verse is translated from the Greek means, "You are going to see a presentation of the kingdom coming." After that statement is the fulfillment of what He's talking about.

"And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them" (Mark 9:2, 3).

Jesus was glorified. Moses, who represents those who died and are resurrected, was there. Elijah was there, representing those who are translated without seeing death. God the Father comes in a cloud and says, "This is my beloved Son" (verse 7).

What they saw was a miniature picture of the second coming. In Matthew 16:28 and Mark 9:1, Jesus was saying, "Before some of you die, you'll see what it will be like when I come to earth the second time."

Explain the reference in Genesis 3:15 about the woman's seed bruising the serpent's head.

The Lord gives a prophecy to Eve, who is a symbol of the church, saying that "her seed," (her descendant, Jesus, and His followers), would bruise the head of the serpent, but the serpent would bruise His heel.

The only way to kill a serpent is to smash its head. And the word "bruise" there means to "smash" the head of the serpent. When a person is bruised on the heel, their progress is impeded. The devil has successfully hindered the progress of the Christian church, but it has not been a mortal wound. It has not stopped the church's motion.

So, this prophetic verse is telling about the war, the enmity, between the children of the devil and the children of the woman, or the church—of Christ. It's an allegory of the battle between good and evil. If you read about the dragon pursuing the woman in Revelation chapter 12, you'll see a bigger picture of that prophecy. 

King Saul went to a witch for advice! He didn't actually see Samuel, but rather a demon impersonating Samuel.

Be sure to listen for *Bible Answers Live* on Sunday evenings. Send for a program guide or visit the website to get more information.

INDIA UPDATE

30 New Pastors Teach Their Congregations



James Manavalan

In his younger years, James worked for the railroad. He had a love for the Lord, and in his free time he started preaching. He started a congregation in his village and built a nice church. He felt a burden to reach out to surrounding areas, so he turned that church over to an elder. He started up several other village churches. He heard about the Amazing Facts *Apostles of Prophecy* seminar and started going there regularly.

James took detailed notes and often gave a copy to Pastor Shadrach to see if he understood correctly. "All my life I have been searching to understand some of these things, and now I have found the truth" he said. He was so interested that he sought out the nearest Sabbathkeeping pastor and began to study with him. He began to share the truths with the church members. About one-third began to keep the Sabbath. Some new interests have joined the group, so about 20 are gathered each week.

After some time Shadrach shared with Amazing Facts India Evangelist Richard Calderon the interest James had. Together they planned groundwork to help teach the church members and interested villagers more Bible truths. The local pastor began to have Bible studies with the interests every week. Recently Mark Finely held an Acts 2000 crusade in Madras. James faithfully attended every meeting. He and nine of his church members were baptized on January 15.

Richard, James, and the local pastor held a 15-day crusade in the area of James's church in March. "James is very enthusiastic about letting all of the surrounding villages hear the truth that he has accepted and be ready when Jesus comes," said Calderon.

Papa Rao (BELOW: Top row, furthest to the right)

Pastor Paulson, president of the Northeast Andhra Region, recommended that Pastor Papa Rao attend the independent pastor training program sponsored by Amazing Facts last October. Papa Rao's church was already observing the Sabbath and many other Old Testament ceremonies. During the training session Papa Rao realized that the messages were truth for this time and went back to his congregation and taught these truths. A retired minister later visited his congregation and shared how many of the Old Testament ceremonies pointed to Christ but met their completion at the cross. This retired minister feels that many in this group are ready for baptism. He held a reaping crusade in February.



Samchalam (ABOVE: Front row, second from the right)

Pastor Paulson also invited Pastor Samchalam to attend the pastor's training session. When Richard Calderon interviewed him to see how he was progressing with teaching his congregation the truths he had learned, he enthusiastically said, "I learned the truth, I practice the truth, and I teach the truth." He is one of the few that, after accepting the Sabbath, when right back to his church, taught it, and immediately began keeping it. Praise God for this young pastor's enthusiasm.



Emmanuel Masa (Top row on the left)

Emmanuel and his father continue to be very faithful to their baptismal commitment. They provide a strong leadership for the 28 other pastors that were baptized last October. Both of these men go from church to church where the congregations are having difficulty accepting

the Sabbath and help the local pastor by studying the Sabbath with them. Pastor George Ananda Rao, front row, is another recently-baptized pastor.



Michelle Calderon Gives a Health Talk at James Manavalan's Church

Richard and Michelle Calderon helped Roger and Barbara Stone move to their new location in Andhra Pradesh.

"We left Madras for Prathipadu, Andhra Pradesh. We drove for 17 hours on National Highway 5, a two-lane road most of the way," says Richard Calderon. "Actually, it is better to say a wide one lane road that vehicles must share along with the ox carts and semi trucks. At times it even became a gravel road and wound through villages and towns!"

There, Michelle Calderon presented health talks, Roger and Richard preached, and Barbara gave the children's stories. "I stood on the porch of a small house where 60-plus people gathered around," said Richard. "It was awesome. God really gave me freedom to speak and identify with the people."

Members Prepare To Advertise the March Crusade with a Banner

In order to attract people to the March 10-25 crusade in Pastor James Manavalan's church, members created a huge outdoor sign (right).

"We had planned to do a 21-day crusade, but we would have had to get special police permission since it was an open-air meeting," said Richard Calderon. "I think it was prudent to be satisfied with the 15 days and not get involved with the red tape, paper work, and unwanted attention we might get. I looked at it as a crusade to create interest so that James can build up his congregation. He is very enthusiastic about letting all of the surrounding villages hear the truth that he has accepted. I certainly wouldn't presume to limit what God can do, so please pray for us that we'll continue to preach as if there were a crowd of 10,000!"



Roger Stone Preaches at the Church of One of the 30 New Pastors

Roger and Barbara Stone will spend the next six months helping nurture the 30 new pastors in Andhra Pradesh. "Along with preaching and doing follow-up training for these pastors, Roger's goal is to conduct 21-day crusades each month for six of their congregations," says Richard Calderon. "Barbara will help with their health work, as well as ministry for the children."

Goals for the 30 pastors include helping them prepare their congregations for baptism, holding public evangelistic crusades, and generally growing the church in India in this exponential fashion. "We have planned 15 crusades in April, 11 in May, and four in June," says Calderon.

Seminar Schedule

Subject to change without notice. Please call Amazing Facts for further information and to confirm appointments.



Batchelor



Bradshaw



DeLong



Gibbs



Hargreaves



House



Kjaer



McMahon



Pefley



Priebe



Silvestri



Snow

John Bradshaw

April 15 - May 20
Cavanaugh's River Inn
700 N. Division Street
Spokane, Washington

Steve DeLong

April 8 - May 13
Mobile, Alabama

Lowell Hargreaves

March 24 - April 22
Beach Road Recreation Hall
578 Chesapeake Drive
White Stone, Virginia

Ray House

April 15 - May 20
Sutherlin, Oregon

Kim Kjaer

April 21 - May 27
Rochester, Minnesota

Brian McMahon

April 21 - May 27
Maranatha Corrections Institute
Adelanto, California

Jack Pefley

April 21 - May 20
Chestertown, Maryland

Dennis Priebe

April 8
Santa Clarita Church
Santa Clarita, California

April 29
Mojane Church
Mojane, California

Verne Snow

April 21 - May 27
Benson Convention & Exposition Center
1008 E. Sedalia Street
Clinton, Missouri

John Quade

April 1 - April 29
Independence, Missouri

SAMPLE

SAMPLE MEMORIAL NOTE:

Please accept our gift
in **memory** of my parents:

John & Jane Smith
by Jack & Jill Jones,
their son-in-law & daughter

OR:

Please accept our gift in **honor** of
my parents 50th anniversary:

John & Jane Smith
by Jack & Jill Jones,
their son-in-law & daughter

IN LOVING MEMORY ...

Frances Antonovich by Ann Simpson Kerr
Theron Avery by Stanley Reesman
Eleanor Baer by Wm. & Agnes Garrison
Edith M. Baerg by Pretha, Eunice, & Oswald Boyce
Irvin Bainum by J. D. Davis
Marlin Bakke by Martena Bakke
Horace Bennett by Stanley Reesman
Albert Binder by Olga Binder, his wife
Clarence Blake by John & Idy Freeman
Joseph Blanck by Lorraine Peterson, his sister-in-law
Henry & Clara Bouma by Frances Ras, their daughter
Carl & Anna Brockmann by Ethel Simeone, their daughter
Arthur Brown by Gertrude Shultz
James E. Bruder by Eva Bruder, his wife
Lillian Buckmann by Lorraine Teti
Bruce Bush by Lucille Bush, his wife; Wm. & Agnes Garrison
Elder & Mrs. Dan C. Butherus by Sherrie & Joyce Doles, their daughters
Robert & Grace Case by Gracelyn Donesky, their granddaughter
Kenneth & Brenda Clark by Robert & Alice Hardin
Herschel Conant by Margaret Conant, his wife
Edith Copin by John S. Jr. & Ruth Ann Copin, her son & daughter-in-law
Donnell & Dee Corvin by Wm. & Agnes Garrison
Joe Crews by Lu Ann Crews, his wife; Pastor Paul Yeoman; Robert Burgess; Matthew Kabson
Robert Daley by Dorothy Daley, his wife
Thurman M. Dixon by
C. O. Dockery by Mildred Dockery, his wife
Kathryn Donesky by Gracelyn Donesky, her daughter
Claude Dortch Jr. by Viola Skala
Gerald O. Dunham by Pretha, Eunice, & Oswald Boyce
Dr. Frank Earl by Evelyn Earl, his wife
E. L. Edwards by Lucille Bush
Herbert Faimann by James & Dorothy Aikman
Cecil Flesher by Wm. & Agnes Garrison
Stanley L. Folkenberg by Ruth & Frank Waxter
Rodolph A. Fournier by Luella Benson, his daughter
Lester Fullbright by Maryetta J. Fullbright, his sister-in-law
Olga Gaede by Olga Binder, her daughter
Dr. Alan R. Gair by Jackie Gair, his wife of 49 years
Bonnie Garren by Lucille Bush
Helen Gerst by Cal & Ellen Ferguson
Harold Gray by Dorothy M. Gray, his wife
Otto Gussner by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Galbraith
Dr. Ralph Gustan by Lucille Bush
Warren Halversen by Evelyn Halversen, his wife
Ray Hanna by Gertrude Shultz
Clayton Hartwig by John & Ruth Jacobson
Della Heitzmann by Leo Heitzmann, her husband
Edith Henning by James & Dorothy Aikman
Pastor William M. Henry by Pat Henry, his wife; Fred & Hazel Anderson; many friends
Joseph Herzberg by Thelma Herzberg, his wife
Bertha Kickok by Iris Fincher, his daughter
Joe Hillebert by Gertrude Shultz
Naomi Hodde by Ruth Braunagel; Elder & Mrs. Leon Robbins
Wilmer Hopwood by Mr. & Mrs. Russell Schaeffer
Betty Houghtaling by Stanley Reesman
Albert & Sarah Huether by Joe & Della Trenchuk
Mrs. Juaane Huisman by Joe & Della Trenchuk
Mary L. Jarman by Marceline Cox, her daughter
Luben H. Johnston by Maryetta J. Fullbright, his sister
Debbie Jones by Ann Simpson Kerr
Forrest Josselyn by Lillian & Wilmer Sederstrom
Elizabeth Kabson by Matthew Kabson, her husband
Clarence Kuhnke by Mr. & Mrs. Russell Schaeffer, his son-in-law

& daughter; Willis & Maxine Hargreaves; Don & Ardyce Weatherall; Ralph & Patricia Watts
Alberta Lammerding by Bonnie & Ed Ensminger, her daughter & son-in-law
Melvin Lindsay by Ida M. Lindsay, his wife; Sandy Patzer
Elsa & Lonnie Lonergan by Ann Simpson Kerr
Alan Dean Long by Pauline B. Long, his mother
Elder J. Murray Long by Pauline B. Long, his wife
Kenneth Marrow by Rachel Marrow, his wife
Bill May by Matthew Kabson
Robert McArthur by Ann Simpson Kerr
John G. McConnell by Charles McConnell
Viola McGuinness by Celian & Betty Adams; Jim & Inez Burdick
Louis Menyhart by Anne Menyhart, his wife
JoAnn Miller by David Miller, her father
Walter Miller by David Miller, his brother
Elder & Mrs. Gerald Nash by Catherine Krauss, Mrs. Nash's sister
Alfred & Maryellen Newman by Lynette Bardsley, their daughter
Ronald Nichol by Bailey Sabbath School Class, Lakewood, Ohio; John & Ruth Jacobson
Pastor Earnest W. Oliver by Dorothy J. Oliver, his wife
Mrs. Virgil Olson by Mr. & Mrs. William Dietrick
Alvin & Meta Orther by Don & Marilyn Sisson
Lura Pearson by Lillian & Wilmer Sederstrom
Delores Pence by Cal & Ellen Ferguson
Norman G. Peterson by Lorraine Peterson, his wife
Pauline H. Pollack by Mary T. Pollack, her sister
Jessie S. Potter by Lucille Bush, her daughter
Bernice Radcliff by Willis & Maxine Hargreaves
John & Ethel Reaves by Laverne Carter, their daughter
Fern Reesman by Stanley Reesman, her husband
Pastor Donald Reiber by Joan Reiber, his wife
Grace Reuss by Barbara Qualley, her daughter
Elder Nelson Rima by Wm. & Agnes Garrison
Ted Roberts by Dr. & Mrs. Eldon E. Stratton
Al Sanders by Lillian & Wilmer Sederstrom
Clara Sanders by Lillian & Wilmer Sederstrom
Margie Schneider by Olga Binder
Martin Smith Sr. by Stanley Reesman
Dr. Vernon Sparks by Matthew Kabson
Vern Stanley by Cal & Ellen Ferguson
Dr. C. Don Stevens by Olga Binder, his mother
Bob Stewart by Barbara L. Stewart, his wife
Dr. Frederic Strahle by Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Shockey
Marion Strickler by Pauline Goddard
Mary E. Betty Swartz by Ann Simpson Kerr
Roy Tattrie by Jennie Tattrie, his wife
Bertha Binder Travis by Esther Dunton, her daughter
William & Caroline Trenchuk by Joe & Della Trenchuk
Howard Van Houten by John S. Jr. & Ruth Ann Copin, his daughter & son-in-law
Eldon L. Vories by Barbara Vories, his wife
Elder Walter by Helen D. Smith, his wife
Guy Welsh by Grace Welsh; Dr. Paul & Pearl Genstler
Don Williams by Bruce & Alyse Rice
Mary Wilson by James & Dorothy Aikman
Opha B. Wood by W. Rex Wood, her husband
Joyce Wuttke by Pam Anders & family
Sara Wuttke by Herman & Ruthann Demsky

Anniversaries

Bill & Elvina Black (50th) by Joe & Della Trenchuk

Corrections

Elizabeth V. Martin by Helen F. Griffiths, her daughter

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