

EDITOR: DENNIS O'CONNOR

GOD IN A BOX

I find it most amazing that religion has packaged God neatly in Christmas wrap, stuck under an ornamented tree only to be opened at a certain time and to appear just as expected when opened...God in a box.

"As I think, so is HE", we believe. "God is on my side"...in the box.

God came out of the box as a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lay in a manger. This God, Creator of the universe and beyond, came to earth while it slept. The world was unconscious as HE grew into a man. It was only when one uncouth spectacle of a man in skins, looking as if the wild man from Borneo and who would not be accepted in any church today, announced him. Even though this wild baptizing man would not be accepted today, we argue over whether to sprinkle or immerse and whether a baby or adult in this baptism of his. We box Baptist and baptism.

If you watch a small child after the gift is opened and admired, they always prefer the box. We want in the box. We feel secure in the box and take God to be there with us. Like children, this amazing God gifts His children and, true to form, we adults open the box look at the gift and prefer the box as most children do.

Does the church not wonder what is just outside the box? Could it be the "black hole" or a gigantic dragon to swallow us? What if we step outside the box and fall off the edge of the earth? Everything inside the box is status quo and everything outside it is scary.

You just never know how high or far you can go in God's Spirit and still never fall off one page of His Word for taking the first step out.

How weird is it for a captain to eliminate troops before a great battle? What about winning a war by dropping ceramic pitchers? That is totally weird, but it won the war outside of the box. Marching around the enemy's walled fort for days on end and finally shouting to collapse the walls is weird, but it was a victory. What about some old codger

building a boat in the middle of nowhere, too heavy to move to water, yet then stocking it with animals and supplies...weird.

I will tell you what is weird. What if all you had was one more meal in a famine and some guy comes along and asks for your last meal? In the box the answer is easy...FORGET IT, BUSTER. While outside the box she gave it and never saw a hungry day afterward.

My eldest says, "God's weird, Mom." No, she is not being blasphemous. She means that God's weirdness is greater than man's intellect. It is actually Scriptural just worded differently: 1 Cor 1:25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

He chooses the people weird enough to step out of the box too: 1 Cor 1:27-28 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are

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despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

The funny thing is that God is not in the box with you, but just outside of it calling you to take a step forward into the weird world of the miraculous revealing secrets and mysteries.



SEAT OF SATAN

Rev 2:13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

Now, before you get all excited that we finally know where Satan is located, let me explain.

Hopou ho thronos tou Satana states: Where Satan has his throne-where he reigns as king, and is universally obeyed. This was a maxim among the Jews,

that where the law of God was not studied, there Satan dwelt; but he was obliged to leave the place where a synagogue or academy was established in the *studied Word of God*.

In keeping with this maxim, what does this tell us about the nations, the churches and the personal lives of each individual? It tells us just how important the study of God's Word is, and how easily we are fooled where it is not.

The seat of Satan is anywhere the Word is not studied. Now look at this interesting goal of Satan: *Isa 14:13 I will sit also upon the mount of the con-*

gregation, in the sides of the north:

Congregation is mô êd mô âdâh, which is a solemn assembly, meeting place, synagogue. Where the Word has been watered down, compromised or become politically correct is ALSO the seat of Satan. Progressive churches that have eliminated the uncompromised Word of God for a more palatable message that ruffles no feathers, because "I'm okay; you're okay," has reserved a pew for Satan front row center.

Churches accepting gay and

lesbian ministers and in marriages as well as thinking women have the right to pronounce death for babies defined as an inconvenient mass threatening their life-style is the seat of Satan.

This also tells us how important is our witness and testimony in our unstudied communities. We are to wet the appetite of those who did not know they were hungry.

This knowledge makes us want to evict Satan of the seat next to us or make sure we are not sitting on his lap...think about it.

BEGGAR'S BEND

We remember the story of Joseph who revealed a prophetic dream of his brothers bowing. Of course, the brothers disagreed with this prophecy and refused the idea that they would bow, yet bow they did...eventually, but not without consequences.

The reward of the prophet went to the one receiving Joseph...Egypt. By the story's

progression, we find the brothers full of remorse for the lie they carried of a murderous deed. Years later the brothers did the "beggar's bend", yet their future generations lived the captivity of the beggar's bend and the need of deliverance in following years.

There are things God impresses our heart, yet like Joseph's brothers we reject bowing to the call. Eventually we come to the beggar's bend, but because we did not obey, we have the consequences of our delay.

Being instant in season and out has its bearing here, as well as obedience being better than sacrifice

Delay reduced the brothers Israel to beggars. Children of God have an inheritance and abundance to walk in, however, rejection of the Holy Spirit's leading gets us off the blessing road to a detour of roads we had not planned to travel.

The moral of this article is that it is better to bow to God's call early or we will be subject to the beggar's bend later after a bumpy ride.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We know that according to Scripture a name is like a pedigree. Pedigree shows the purebred ancestry or royalty of blood in the generational line. In Christ we have pedigree as the Word states that we are a chosen generation and royal priesthood. Many times the name of a person was changed because of the call on his life. Example: Abram became Abraham and Sarai became Sarah and Jacob became Israel etc.

Satan has had some name changes. Lucifer—> Satan with other aliases. Name changes will go from non-royalty to royalty or vise versa as in Satan's case.

Hidden within the very Scriptures are mysteries. I like to say that they are hidden in plain sight. You can read the Bible or you can study the Bible.

Our president, as of this writing, has had a name change as well: He was given the name Barak Hussein Obama at birth, but for certain educational grants to heighten his position was nicknamed Barry and took his step father's name Soetoro as an Indonesian in an exchange student program. When he took office in the political arena he once again became Barak Obama. But what's in a name...right?

Within two Scriptures in reference to Satan are two words hidden in plain sight.

Isa 14:14 I will ascend above the heights/bamah of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

The heights (Strong's Exhaustive# 1116 OT) or high places were holy places that pagan worship took over and in Hebrew is

bamah pronounced bam-maw.

Luke 10:18 I beheld Satan as lightning/bârâq fall from heaven.

This was translated in Greek for NT, but Jesus spoke in Aramaic an ancient form of Hebrew (Strong's Exhaustive #1300 OT). Going back to how Jesus spoke it would be the Hebrew not a Greek word for lightning which is *baraq* pronounced baw-rawk.

The "O" to complete the perfect translation is vav (pronounced as an o or u sound) used in Hebrew poetry as a conjunction to join concepts together such as saying *lightening from the heights* would present the joiner or conjunction making it baraq "o" bamah or baraq "u" bamah.

Since Barak Obama has been in office the Ten Commandments

have been and are still being removed from state and federal buildings, laws have changed, abortion's door opened wider, military chaplains are pressured to censorship in using the name of Jesus, Israel has systematically been removed as an ally as Iran's funding continues. I could go on and on at length to some surprising details but it is enough to say that truly for this nation *lightning has fallen from the heights.*

Speaking of lightening from the heights or heaven, look at Jesus' reaction when His disciples asked Him to call lightening from heaven: Luke 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

A spirit by any other name is still Barak Obama.

CONSPIRACY THEORIES

A conspiracy theory is a belief that some covert but influential organization is responsible for a circumstance or event.

In last months issue I wrote about the "City in the Ski" as seen by citizens in Jiangxi and Foshan China.

One response I got was that this was probably just another hoax. While I admit that there are plenty of them out there circulating, yet when news commentators try to explain something paranormal scientifically, there is a likelier chance for it to have been seen and filmed. It is not a conspiracy theory that holograms *do* exist and play tricks on the mind. They use holograms in movies as well as theme parks in spectacular

shows that seem so real. It is not that far fetched that they would be used by the enemy for controlling measures especially when we read Scriptures of lying wonders in the sky. Right after my Nov issue was sent out, I got a confirmation when FOX News reported the bright light over L A, in which many called in wondering about, that was actually a hologram.

The same week that I saw this in the news, someone sent me a YouTube of what appeared to be a representative speaking on Homeland Security bill HR8791 by Republican Rep. John Haller of the 12 district of Pennsylvania. It was quite scary, but I did the research on it by looking up Rep. John Hal-

ler of the 12th district Pennsylvania to find that there was no such representative by that name now or in the past. The media news never took it up to report, because it was totally a hoax.

It is just like the enemy to inundate us with conspiracy hoaxes to dull our senses into poopooing everything.

Jesus' Words are not a conspiracy theory, which warn that these lying signs and wonders will occur. The spirit of antichrist has human supporters behind the scenes of influential people...organized to control masses. Hitler is not a conspiracy theory he is history. It is also a fact that there are organizations that want to control

people for power and wealth.

We need to be aware of technologies in place. Ignorance is not bliss...it is just plain a lack of knowledge. Hos 4:6 says that God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.

We are not to become a people fearful of everything but aware of everything. A person aware is not caught by a trick.

We should test the spirit of everything coming down the pike.

One thing in David's favor was that he had proven God in the bear and the lion, so the uncircumcised Philistine was but nothing to conquer...and that with a plain old rock!

PRODIGAL CHURCH

Prodigal is an interesting word meaning wasteful and reckless. Think about all the ways we as the church can be wasteful and reckless. We waste the time we have in opportunities to progress the Kingdom as well as the gifts we have been given. Yet in reckless abandon we throw ourselves into the ruts of the world with blinded eyes ignorant of the its dangers until it is all too late. In the lateness of our grief

we cry to God, He hears and helps us back on track...so we exploit His goodness to us by jumping right smack dab into the ruts of the world again. This is repeated over and over until we either wake up or die in defeat.

This is not the hour to waste or become reckless. We have a real enemy who knows there is only but a short time to work. The fact that the enemy is on the increase is Scripturally sound Rev 12:12. If we know this then we know also with the increase of evil there needs to be an increase in the power of the Holy Spirit through God's children. Yet we know that this will not happen in all churches or for all Christians since the Scripture prophecies a great falling away first known as an apostasy. As well as an apostasy there will be a rem-

nant that will continue through with great power and authority.

You will never wake up in one morning's moment to become part of this weathered and practiced remnant. It will be like the story of David and Goliath. There will be a whole army at bay until one of faith steps forward. Which would be easier for you, staying with the rest or stepping forward?

STATUS QUO

One of the most dangerous things for a church to embrace is status quo. Unbending or unchanging of anything unfamiliar means no growth or revelation to be had. Everything is packaged neatly on the shelf collecting dust.

If a church states that the gifts of the Spirit died with the apostles, then status quo will not abide the miraculous. If a church states that we must be paupers to be righteous, then status quo rejects abundant life and prosperity. A church that does not believe in healing, then status quo means the welcome mat is out for sickness and death to wipe its feet all over the congregation.

Truth does not need the status quo. It speaks for Itself.

Fear keeps us bound to status quo. Fear of being criticized, fear of being in err, fear of rejection and failure all keep us from the mysteries in the adventure of discovery in the Lord. Anyone with a sincere heart and love for God will not stray long from His Truth if ever, and God is not worried that you will fall from the Script.

I suppose that is why Jesus said lest we become as children (Matt 18:3) we will not or cannot enter into the realm of His Kingdom. That in no way means it will keep us out of eternal life, but that we will miss all the abundance of His Kingdom now, on earth, today!

Status quo is actually the clone of everyone else marching to the tune of safety for fear of coloring outside the lines of what is excepted. Jesus colored way out of the boundaries in a beautiful display of the lame walking, the blind seeing and deaf hearing and death losing the war. He left the palette of colors behind for us to paint the same beauty of liberty to those in bondage. It just takes one who is willing to pick up the brush.

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BEING INVESTED

I encounter many people waiting for God. This is not to be confused with waiting *on* God, because then we are serving Him. Waiting for God means that we are hold up and unable to move for fear of heading in the wrong direction.

We should certainly count the cost of our moves and consider carefully our direction rather than haphazardly jumping into whims of the soul. There is a difference between consideration and stagnation.

Some people are afraid to move without a Word of The Lord. These are the people dependant upon others to get a Word for them. I was on the other spectrum of this in that people always seemed to have a Word of the Lord for me, though I had

not sought them for one. If God had already spoken a thing to me and another came confirming it, that was fine, yet other "Words" I put on the back burner to see if God lit the flame under it.

God wants you and I to be involved in our destiny. It is easy to see in toddlers. They are called toddlers because they are still finding their balance through practice. They pull themselves up holding on to something sturdier than themselves, then take a few steps...teeter...fall, and pull themselves back up on what is studier again and again. They are involved in this balancing act.

We toddle in faith by pulling

ourselves up to what is studier...The Word Of God, then take a few steps...teeter...fall and pull ourselves up by the Word of God again and again. In the process, if we are smart, we find out all the things that did not work to avoid retracing those steps.

I have invested in many people through praying, counseling and encouraging but in a supporting role. Generally these are the same people who invest in their own destiny as well. Still there are a few who want to depend upon your investment in them rather than them being involved and responsible to find their own balance. I do not want to become anyone's spiritual wheelchair. People have to depend upon God through His

Word.

At first it is like the blind person feeling after God because we do not see Him fully, Acts 17:24. We all start out feeling our way around in faith. There is no shame in bumping into things awkwardly at first, and often just when we think we have found our way, God moves things around and we bump into its revelation only to grow more

God wants us to invest and be involved in our lives. It is a balancing act with some bruises along the way, but He is the safety net should we fall. The more we pull ourselves up by the Word of God the surer our steps and course will be.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. John 14:12 He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also...

Mark 16:17-18 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

After reading these very familiar Scriptures, who is responsible for healing, deliverance, provision etc.?

If you are a blood bought, sanctified, Christian believer in the True Word of God, the answer is WE ARE.

When Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished!" we know now that His part was completed. Now He watches over His Word to perform it

Back in the 80's someone came up with the phrase that God always answers but sometimes the answer is NO. This is in conflict with this Scripture: *2 Cor 1:20 For all the*

promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God <u>by us</u>.

Again we see in Him, but by us. Neither *yea* nor *amen* is saying no. We have to interpret "no" into the Scriptures like many have done in Paul's case. Paul was given a thorn by messenger of Satan, 2 Co 12:7. We know by the symbol of thorns that this is due to cares as Jesus said in Matt 13:22. Also, Iesus was crucified with a crown of thorns because: Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

The chasetisement of our peace...peace of mind was in the crown of thorns digging into Jesus' skull/brain. Paul was given a thorn/skolops, which is an annoyance robbing him of peace. This is a battle of the mind. He sought God three times to take it away. Paul is making God responsible to take care of his being mentally annoyed. How many times has Satan sent a messenger to you and a battle of the mind began? We are responsible to take care of these things.

Phil 4:6-8 Be careful (anxious) for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

God did not tell Paul the answer was NO, He said the ball was in his court and to rule over it. He told the same thing to Cain in the garden: Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

God expounded upon His answer to Paul by saying: 2 Cor 12:9 My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength/dunamis is made perfect in weakness.

Dunamis is miraculous and mighty power. In other words, God is saying that the grace He has already given to Paul with His authority to use it, will counter any weakness or attack of Satan. Paul's reaction to this is: 2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Paul is declaring that when he is weakened by infirmities, reproaches, necessities, persecution or distresses of any kind, he also has the remedy. He does not say that when he is weak he thanks God to remain weak but that he will conquer weakness and become strong.

We need to stop begging God for something He has already given us and use the authority we have, because here is where there is a NO to our answer: James 1:6-8 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

All that said, we still find it easier to blame God rather than take a closer look at ourselves.

PROPHECY IN CURRENT EVENTS

The battle of Gog and Magog is a pivotal event in scripture. It is the transition to the time, known as the *Day of the Lord*, the *Time of Jacob's Trouble*, as well as the *Tribulation Period*. Scripture reveals the details to those who take the Bible literally. The players are: Gog and Magog (Russia), Persia (Iran), Ethiopia (Islamic nations). What happened to the mighty U. S. as a player you may wonder, yet we shall see.

In short, the battle Gog and Magog is war in the latter days (Last days) when a confederacy of nations attack Israel, which has been restored also in the last days: Israel in 1948, adding to it Jerusalem in 1967. Both events occurred during times of tetrads upon Jewish feasts. These nations, which attack Israel in Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39, include nations, which are Muslim and have a clear animosity to Israel. Along with these Muslims nations, a northern kingdom, called Gog and Magog, known as the land Russia, will ally itself with Muslim nations, to oppose Israel in the last days. This has already been forming its coalition under Russian Vladimir Putin's efforts during the 2014-2015 tetrad upon Jewish feasts. (Just prior in 2013, Obama joined with Putin to extend nuclear credit to Iran. Putin said America is not exceptional in the world, and then claimed America's belief in their own exceptionalism is the cause of world conflicts; he was echoing the essence of Obama's Appeasement doctrine. It was only natural that they would form this new coalition.) Gog represents antichrist the beast and Magog the ten kingdoms leagued under him (Rev 16-17).

Meanwhile major religions of the world are currently anticipating the appearance of their "savior," variously called, "Messiah," "Jesus the Christ," "the Twelfth Mahdi," "the Fifth Buddha," or "the Tenth Avatar." Within ecumenical circles, there is a growing awareness that one single man might actually fulfill all these religions' expectations. A one-size-fits-all messiah would bring all the world's religions together.

To answer an earlier question of where the U. S. disappeared from prominence at this time: The U. S. has always been a strong ally to Israel and helped keep Israel's ene-

mies at bay, however, 2 Thess 2:7 states: For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth (katecho holds down or holds at bay) will let (hold at bay), until he be taken out of the way (Fails from strength). The U. S. as a stronghold has been reduced to a passive voice with blinded eyes and cooled heart toward Israel. We are no longer a determining resistance to the plots against her. What we are seeing in the U.S. arena is her occupying time with political liberals who claim to be experts on foreign policy sitting around a table analyzing the meaning of the obvious, while unfortunately it seems that the Republicans cannot chew gum and walk at the same time. These two elements along with Obama's Appeasement theme take any relevant wind out of U.S. sails as we drift along never reaching any port of vital strength. Now there is a dark poetry in words!

The stage is set and the players have their scripts in hand. But wait a minute...there seems to be a missing ingredient. A falling away of faith should be coming...or was it so subtle that we had not noticed it? 2 Thess 2:7 speaks of a strength that kept underlining evil at bay, and if we look at what has happened to allow all of the above to manifest, it has been the reduction in the fidelity of faith. The faithful church of strength would never have employed the government now in place or allow the slaughter of its own children let alone call bad good and good bad. The church once walking in the fullness of God's Spirit was reduced to a people taking the Lord's name in vain, meaning to no effect. Christianity lies on the edge of effectiveness because we are over compensating the little foxes in our personal lives so that the wolf entering the sheepfold went undetected. We dealt with a minute fraction at hand rather than uniting our strength for the *whole* good.

One thing we know that will come as all prophecies do: *Ezek 38:18-23*

18 And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, that my fury shall come up in my face.

19 For in my jealousy and in the fire of

my wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel;

20 So that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at my presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground.

21 And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother.

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Luke 21:25-27

25 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; 26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

27 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

I am not making up the news of current events nor did I write the prophecies in the Word of God. I am simply a watcher on watch. I do not hold the date of Christ's return, but I am watching for it. This is how we end the year 2015 only to pick up and continue to be ignorant to the signs coming forth in 2016. Or will this nation, though fallen as a world power, find herself and rise from the dead as a mighty witness? That is my fervent prayer, however, that will depend upon every last one of us.

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