

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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The Preponderance of the Evidence

I Can't Help But Believe

I was in a discussion with some acquaintances, recently. One mentioned that their lemon tree had pollinated their neighbor's orange trees. As a result the neighbor's oranges were growing bitter. Being the city girl, that I am, I had no frame of reference for this; although I understood the concept of cross pollination. I am aware that corn does the same thing. From that discussion, I then began to muse about the fact that agricultural products (and animals) have in themselves, the ability to reproduce after their own kind. (As supported by Gen 1:12-13 KJV) Sidebar: This put to rest, for me, the theory of evolution.

Further I began to contemplate other principles that God spoke into being; and that are sustained today. For example, God created the sun and moon (supported by Gen 1: 15-16) and placed them in their respective orbits. They continue to exist and operate according to their governing principles since they were created. The laws of the orbits of the planets, in general, are sustained in their course just as they were designed. This intrigues me.

I went on to muse about the fact that the laws established (both natural and spiritual) have continued as a testimony to the Creator's existence; the Creator's majesty; and the

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The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

Encouragement

As we prepare ourselves to walk into what God has prepared for us in 2008, I want to encourage you. Last year I shared various leadership stories and principles. I hope that some of the information was helpful. In this article, I just want to assure you that God has prepared some major opportunities for you. In 2008, those of us in the body of Christ, that have committed ourselves to stand up as godly leaders will experience awesome things.

The scriptures teach us that God's word cannot "return to Him void." (Isa. 55:11 KJV) It must produce results. This means that God's word is guaranteed to work in the lives of those who believe it. When we mix action with our faith it causes the word of God to manifest itself in our lives.

As leaders in the environments where God has placed us; we are to exhibit the word of God. My encouragement to you is that you write down the goals (desires) that God has placed in your heart for 2008. And then commit to pursue them.

It's crucial that leaders understand that God sends His word to perform what He has for us. He also places in our hearts the things that He wants us to pursue.

It is the believer's responsibility to write what God has placed in our heart. These become our goals. Therefore, when we commit to our goals we are committing to what God has invested in us. And God has already told us in the scriptures that His word must produce results. We must however, understand that God's word can only produce results in our lives to the degree that we commit to the goals that we pursue. It is not enough to have goals; or to talk about our goals; or to simply write them down. We must put forth the effort to accomplish them. This is what is meant by commitment.

As you step into 2008, what desires has God placed in your heart? Write down at least two goals you'd like to accomplish this year. Pray over these goals (submit them for God's approval); commit to govern your life (your time, money and other resources) so that you can effectively and consistently pursue these goals and watch God's word produce amazing results in your life. <>LLI<>

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Creator's authority. Naturally, the next question then would be "Who" is the Creator?

Well, in my studies I am not aware of any other god or deity who has claimed (with such detail) the authorship of the universe and all it entails, as the God of the Bible.

It is my estimation that if these laws and principles support the existence of God, then He ought to be believed. And if these support the veracity of His integrity and majesty then He ought to be honored. If these support the truth of His authority, then He ought to be obeyed.

I stand in awe of the fact that no other God or deity makes the types of claims as the God of the Bible. Not only has He made these claims, but the universe and the whole of creation affirm them.

God said that the greater light would rule the day, and the lesser light would rule the night (Gen 1:15 KJV paraphrased). I don't believe that there is a person alive that could (with sufficient rational intent) dispute the reality of this fact.

God also said that we'd reap what we sowed. (Gal. 6:7 KJV by reference) I'd venture to say that if we are honest with ourselves, our hearts would attest to the truth of this law. These and a myriad of other laws, truths and principles can be found to be true on so many different levels in our natural world. Again, I am not aware of any other god or deity who has made the same claims as God has; claims about Himself, His Son, mankind, creation and the universe at large.

In Job 41: 11 (KJV) God says "...whatsoever is under heaven is Mine."

In Gen. 9:13-16 (KJV) God said that He would never again destroy the earth by flood. As a token of His promise He gave us the rainbow; which continues to serve as a reminder.

The week is comprised of seven days. Who did this? Fish and other creatures reside in the sea; animals walk the earth; no other god/deity claims to have done this, but the God of the Bible. No other deity claims this authorship.

The stars, sun and moon are claimed to have been created by the God of the Bible. With the exception of the theory of evolution; I am not aware that any other deity claims this. Not only do they remain today, but in researching them there is much wisdom and intelligence to be gleaned. No other deity claims this.

The seventh day (Sabbath or rest); this began with God.

(Gen. 2:3 and Deut. 5:14) The commandment to refrain from "killing;" when God gave this directive, who was He quoting? Who said this before Him? Does not every sane; rational man, woman, child or government recognize this principle to be intuitively valuable and substantiated by his/her own conscience?

These lists could go on ad infinitum.

These are just some of the things that come to mind when I consider how REAL God is, and how pervasive are His truths. Then we see the man Jesus Christ, believed by some (myself included) to be the Son of God. Regarding whom there were hundreds of prophecies foretold (about His coming, His life, His ministry and His death), all of which He fulfilled. Even if all the prophecies had been written in a book & given to Him on this 12th birthday. He could not have, of His own volition, fulfilled 100% of them. Many (most) of them were beyond the scope of His control. Yet all of them were fulfilled; including His death by crucifixion and His resurrection at the hour appointed.

Only an Almighty God could foresee and so govern events as to both prophecy and direct affairs to the fulfilling of all of these prophecies.

In our judicial system a judge is able to pass sentence on a case; based on the preponderance of the evidence. In our scientific laboratories, experimental hypotheses are considered valid "scientifically" when a substantial amount of data supports the hypotheses. In mathematics when the "numbers add up" we are inclined to believe them on their merit.

Among men, we ascribe integrity to persons whose words are true; whose promises are fulfilled. Why, then, do we not ascribe the same integrity to God? From where I sit, everything He's ever said has come true or remains in tact. When I lay the God of creation, the author of the scriptures, along side any other god or deity; they all pale by comparison.

In closing, as we embark upon a new year, this is a good time to re-evaluate our relationships (with our finances, friends, family careers/professions, education, and our beliefs) and purge the unprofitable ones and recommit to the valuable ones. During this process it would also be a good time to assess where you stand with God.

What do you believe about God? As it regards Jesus Christ, what do you believe about Him?

I submit to you that the levels of success you experience this year (both naturally and spiritually) will increase in direct proportion to the integrity of your relationship with God.

JoAnn C. White, SMHG

Journey to Intimacy

Recommitting to the Journey

Mid-last year, I personally embarked on a “Journey to Intimacy” with God.

This came as a result of an intense desire to be intimate with God. I wanted to really know Him; as he is expressed through Jesus Christ.

The scriptures (1 Cor. 1:30 KJV by reference) teach us that Jesus has become our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification and our redemption.

But one has to ask, “What exactly does that mean?”

What would the expression of this truth look like in my life? How then am I to be made different by this truth? Not “different,” necessarily, from others; but “different” from myself absent the application of this truth.

If these things are true about Christ (and I most certainly believe them to be true) how then does this truth affect how I relate to friends, to family, to God? How does it affect:

How I manage the affairs of my life, career and finances;

How I transact business;
How I maintain my integrity and chastity;
How I manage my health and nutrition;
Etc.

As I gain a clearer understanding of the truths of the Bible, I have to wonder what each of these truths mean to me; what they say about my life.

For example, in Hebrews 12:1 (KJV paraphrased), it says that I am obliged to present my body a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, and that this as my duty. It goes on to say that I am not to be a replica of the principles of the world we live in; but I am to be enlightened by the applications of truth. And as a result of this change in me, I am (and my life is) to be representative of what is acceptable and pleasing to God.

In order to do (or to be) this, I must gain and maintain a level of intimacy with God (through Jesus Christ); with His truths and with the principles of the laws of the Kingdom of God.

And so marks the next leg of this “Journey to Intimacy.”

I’d love to have you go with me. <>KN<>

JoAnn C. White, sMHG

SUMMARY

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Who is like our God? He said it and He did it.

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Identify your 2008 goals, write them down, pray over them, and accomplish them.

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Our journey to intimacy continues with renewed commitment.

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