



Pg 1 What is a Christian?

Pg 2 When Stars were a thought and dust was naught.

Pg 3 Questioning Hell.



Pg 3 Get plugged in.

Pg 4 Festival Con Dios. Opportunity to serve.

Pg 5 Music Review Caedmon's Call. Steven Curtis Chapman.



Pg 6 Is Mount SINAI in SINAI?

Pg 7 "It is Finished."

Pg 8 Visual Bible

Sept/Oct2002 issue1

BeaconOU

What makes a Christian.



Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden."

By Rick Thomas

This may be the first time that you have picked up this newspaper. It is the first issue printed this semester. With the influx of cult activity on campus masquerading as genuine Orthodox Christian denominations, it is necessary for True Christians to break away from the meaningless distractions that occupy our time and be the light to this campus that God has called us to be. You have heard it said, "evil prevails when good men say/do nothing". It is time to walk the talk. It is time for a heart check, long past it. The Holy Spirit put it on my heart this summer to start the BeaconOU. Two years ago it was called the Beacon and managed by Michael Bratcher. It should not have

And Matthew 12:34, "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks." If you hang around a person long enough, you will see their heart in their actions. Where do they spend their time and money? What do they say? Do they do what they say? I have been a Christian for almost ten years now. God has been faithful. I have met a lot of people who truly love Jesus and share that love, Christians that care for others more than themselves, who seek after neither riches nor fame, but after God, loving people where they are. On the other hand, I have met a lot of "so called" Christians who were rude and crude and cared nothing for the common man. That doesn't reflect the life of Jesus at all. We become more like Jesus the longer we are around Him. Somehow if we allow distractions to take us away from the presence of God, then we are defeated. Christians will never love people without loving God. In Mark 12:29, Jesus has been asked out of all of the commandments, which is the most important one? His reply was, Verse 30, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all of your strength". Verse 31, "The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'". Our words are powerful and I believe in praying to God to ask for forgiveness of denying Him and to confess Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Christianity is more than just say a prayer. It is action. Faith without action is dead. What if I go to church

on Sunday, or Saturday, or everyday? What if I never get angry? What if I pray before bedtime? What if I don't curse or get drunk? The majority of the population that claim to be Christian really are not. Most people are religious. They follow some set of rules for their behavior. Being a Christian is to be Christ like. That is impossible to do without being in a relationship with God through Jesus. In Luke 11:1 Jesus' disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray. They were raised Jewish, surely they knew how to pray. After being around Jesus, they realized that He had something that they didn't have. He explains to them to pray to God as Father and relates to them different situations that renew the way they see God, as a loving Father. What really holds people back from going further with God is the way they view God. I encourage you to seek an intimate relationship with Him, because that is what you were created for. You can start by asking Jesus to be your savior, reading in the Bible the Gospel of John, and please contact us. rick777ok@ou.edu It is important to be around other believers. On page 6, the continuation of this article includes statistic information of the different percentages of each religion in the United States.

■ Please see... STORY p6



WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

ever left. So, here we are. Some recent events in my life have caused me to reevaluate everything. People say that no one can know a man's heart. That is not what Jesus said, Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Spotted Dog Coffee House opening Monday Oct. 14th.

inside the Firehouse Art Center located across from Coach's on Main & Flood.

Hours of operation:
Mon-Thur 7AM-11PM
Fri & Sat 7AM-12 AM
Sun 5PM-12 AM

This looks like a pretty cool new hangout.

EVEN



ODD

When stars were a thought and dust was naught ...

Once, long ago, when the stars were a thought,
When all was dust and dust was naught,
The Most High God had you in mind,
When all of creation was designed. . . .

In the beginning God couldn't make up his mind. He wasn't sure if mankind was worth the effort of creation so he decided to just let us evolve from the amebas. Life could just spawn and develop however it might. **Wrong!** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). He created the sun, moon and stars, the land and sea, and all types of plants and animals to cover the earth (Genesis 1:3-25). Looking at His creation, "God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:25b). THEN he created man (Genesis 1:27; 2:7) and "behold it was *very* good" [emphasis mine] (Genesis 1:31). Elohim (a Hebrew name, given to God, meaning "Creator") didn't leave the development of our species to chance or to the varying winds of evolution.

Perhaps you are reading this and thinking, "Well, yeah that's the Genesis account, but people say that's just poetry anyway so why should I believe that? The rest of scripture doesn't seem to address the issue." Actually it does.

Speaking about God, Romans 1:20 says "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they [mankind] are without excuse." Creation, it seems, is treated as fact in this passage and not as a suggested belief or a nice idea for the feeble-minded. In fact, creation is mentioned as a foundation from which to know more about God. Personally, this is all the proof I need.

Some readers, however, may not believe the scriptures are entirely or even partially true, so I will continue my case on other ground. Evolution, according to Encarta, is "a gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex form" (emphasis mine because I am not trying to debate inner-species change). On the surface this definition seems to make sense. Show me a less complex form and I'll consider it. You don't have any? Oh, you had a skull at one point but then they found the pig's body that went with it? Hmmm, got any other proof?

Scientifically speaking, there is no way to prove or disprove evolution. A

theory, as it was drilled into my head by a past biology teacher (who very firmly believed in evolution), is a testable statement. In psychology I went on to learn that a theory, if it is a strong one, is tested in such a way that it could be disproved if it were false. The evolutionary *theory*, however, cannot be tested. Its effects cannot

be tested. Its effects cannot be measured and trans-species haven't been found. This process, if it did take place, would have taken thousands upon thousands of years to occur and it would take another equally long period to observe and record data. An experiment of that magnitude is not likely to take place (imagine the funding!) and so evolutionists are left without proof and evolution is left untested. It cannot, therefore, be rightly classified as a "theory." It is an idea, a suggestion, a whatchamacallit, but, by definition, it is NOT a theory and does not deserve the status of one.

Now perhaps those of you who trust in the evolutionary idea are thinking "But we're only a fraction of a DNA strand away from being monkeys!" This is true, but apparently that fraction is an important one because I sure consider myself smarter than a monkey, and I'm usually the first to berate my own intelligence. Let's face it, after however many centuries of existence, the jungle

world still hasn't discovered fire. Sitting behind this computer, branches made into knocking tools just don't seem very impressive. *We were*, as Genesis explains, made *above* the animals (Genesis 1:27-28).

It is very interesting to note that the Second Law of Thermodynamics states that in a closed system (such as, all of creation), everything moves from order to chaos. It mentions no exceptions and there are none to be found. In other words, if we did evolve, then we must have come from a species more specialized and advanced than our own. In this case, we truly are making monkeys of ourselves. There is no way, according to this law, and keep in mind that it IS scientifically TESTED and PROVEN, that we could have developed from a less sophisticated species. Now perhaps a skeptic would point out the development of a tadpole. It goes from being just a wiggly little being into a big frog. It does not, however, develop into something that was not in its genetic make-up in the first place. Amebas hardly have DNA predispositions to becoming men, or anything else for that matter.

By the way, does any one know what those amebas supposedly ate in order to survive since there weren't any additional life forms (plant, animal, or otherwise) available? If they were cannibals, what did the first one consume and how did the second one survive to adulthood?

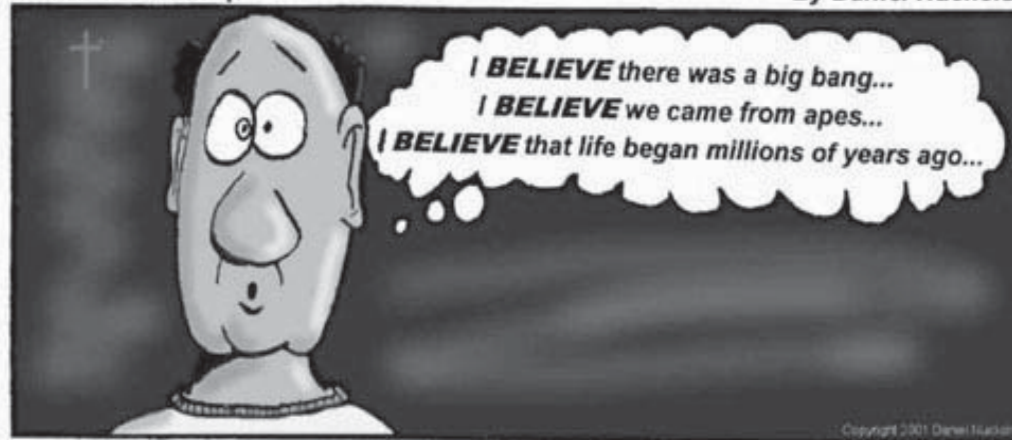
Hopefully this article gives you something to think about and contemplate. So much more could be said (about Darwin's disclaimer, irreducible complexity, the impossibility of helpful and transferable mutations or statistical probabilities), but if you believe in evolution then you have every right to do so, on this earth. When you die, however, your Maker may disagree. Nevertheless, please evaluate this idea and examine the foundation it stands upon. It is interesting to note that, historically, classroom behavior and general reported

levels of self-esteem declined when children began to be told that they were, or came from, animals. Appropriately, in Romans 1:28, scripture warns about such things happening when God's work is not acknowledged. Obviously, belief in evolution comes with intellectual and spiritual baggage, and it is up to the bearer to decide his view. Until evolution is proven, however, it should not be regarded as fact because things already proven cast serious doubt on its credibility. **By Grace Creswick.**



Primordial Soup

By Daniel Nuckols



Who said evolution is not a religion?

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EVEN



ODD

Questioning Hell.

Ephesians 2:3 "Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

Hebrews 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment."

Why do non-Christians go to hell?

We, as human beings have been granted a tremendous choice and responsibility. Although the Holy Spirit's influence should not be understated, we are allowed to ultimately decide the fate of our own souls and whether or not the atoning work performed on the cross by the Son of God actually pertains to us. We make this choice through accepting or rejecting the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our personal lives. Through this process, we also accept or reject Him as Savior because the exchange (generally termed as "salvation") comprises all of us-including sin-for all of Him and His spotless purity. Then, for those who accept this glorious bargain, unrighteousness is "washed away" and paid for by the blood and sacrifice of Christ. On the other hand, rebellious decisions to reject Christ are also honored and God still sees the sins of those individuals. Furthermore, He is bound by his own righteousness to not ignore their sin.

God is infinitely holy, just and good (the opposite of us in our natural state, refer to Ephesians 2:3) and will possess these qualities throughout eternity. If His character

ever changed He would compromise His integrity and cease, by definition, to be a good God, worthy of worship. Interestingly, every religion requires a "good" god-even the satanists believe that satan is actually "good" and just got pegged as the bad guy.

Anyway, because God is SOOOO upright, just and holy, He cannot tolerate sin or let it go unrewarded (unpunished). It is against His nature and, therefore, to allow its presence in His holy place (heaven) would go against His righteous deity. It would be a most intolerable compromise. In fact, if that happened, heaven would become a reflection of earth-full of sinful people who don't choose to live in submission to God's righteous code and go unpunished for their sins. In that case, what is "God" god of? Very little (so He wouldn't be God)!

They say that you cannot take anything with you when you die but actually that's not true. You take your sins or you take the righteousness of Christ. If you take your sins then you enter hell and remain there forever because, due to your own willful choice, God can never look at you or have you in His presence. Those who don't accept Christ as Lord in this life will never know Him as Savior in the next.



Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Why is hell eternal and why can't people change their minds once they get there?

The short answer is very simple: Because God will always be Holy and those who die without Christ will always be grossly sinful. The two natures cannot mix. Personally, I needed a better explanation than that, and so, for everyone else in the same boat, I've provided a deeper response to the same question. Hold on to your tempers though because the truth isn't always as pleasant as we'd like it to be. To be quite honest and blunt, I believe hell is eternal because God is more interested in glorifying Himself than in meeting our personal comfort quotas. Granted, He let us know what will befall those who reject Him, but He does not twist anyone's arm into Heaven.

Furthermore, I believe that those trees were placed in the Garden of Eden on purpose. Mankind had the choice of honoring God's wishes by simply avoiding that fruit. Adam and Eve, however, used the gift of "free will" to exalt themselves (believing they would become more like God) and they reaped the consequences. There was no going back. In our lives, we have a choice as well and, once our final moments pass, there will be no second chances. We have either given all to glorify God or we have sought to live life without Him and will spend eternity in the same condition (except that it will be more pronounced). God would not be glorified if He allowed us additional chances after death. No one would experience more than a second of hell . . . except God. Instead of reigning supreme, He would eter-

nally be tossed about by the tempest of our whims and desires-whatever makes us happy or most comfortable (whatever self-serving decision we make at the moment).

Consider the pattern that would emerge. In life we self-servingly choose to disobey God and in death we choose to avoid hell. There is no glory for God in that. Instead we place ourselves on His throne and govern Him, putting our will above His. He would be serving us-as though, apart from His glory, we actually matter. Those who exist in hell will glorify God. Their mere presence in that place will be an eternal and resounding testimony of His justice, holiness and supremacy. No, they won't like it but that doesn't matter because it's not about them-it's about God. After all, if He truly reigns supreme over everything, and if He is the creator of all things, then it is ALL about Him. Perhaps mankind's greatest fault is how easily we forget this simple fact.

Bottom line: We were made to glorify God and if we chose not to do so in this life, we will do so in the next.

By Grace Creswick.

C.S. Lewis from *Mere Christianity* (page 65): "Another possible objection is this. Why is God landing in this enemy occupied world in disguise and starting a sort of secret society to undermine the devil? Why is He not landing in force, invading it? Is it that He is not strong enough? Well Christians think He is going to land in force; we do not know when. But we can guess why He is delaying.

He wants to give us the chance of joining His side freely. I do not suppose you and I would have thought much of a Frenchman who waited till the Allies were marching into Germany and then announced he was on our side. God will invade. But I wonder whether people who ask God to interfere openly and directly in our world quite realize what it will be like when He does. When that happens, it is the end of the world. When the author walks on the stage the play is over. God is going to invade, all right: but what is the good of saying you are on His side then, when you see the whole natural universe melting away like a dream and something else-something it never entered your head to conceive-crashing in; something so beautiful to some of us and so ter-



rible to others that none of us will have any choice left? For this time it will be God without disguise; something so overwhelming that it will either strike irresistible love or irresistible horror into every creature. It will be too late then to choose your side. There is no use saying you choose to lie down when it has become impossible to stand up. That will not be the time for choosing: it will be the time when we discover which side we really have chosen, whether we realized it before or not. Now, today, this moment, is our chance to choose the right side. God is holding back to give us that chance. It will not last forever: We must take it or leave it."

EVEN



ODD



Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the "Truth" with the world. Our source of funding is God. His Holy Spirit moves on His people's hearts to give financially in order to support printing. We need funding now!!! If you would like to sponsor an issue of the BeaconOU or part of an issue, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, letters to the editor, or opinions about any of the articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu or rick777ok@ou.edu. We have a web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou which includes past issues online. Praise God. We have the right to print or not to print any article submitted. President: Rick Thomas. Vice-President: Darci Montgomery. Secretary: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown. All articles and content Copyright 2003 held by individual authors or otherwise the BeaconOU.



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Opportunity to serve is at your door.

Well, it is close enough, at Crossroads Mall Parking lot. Festival con Dios is coming to Oklahoma City Friday, October 25th. Greg Tiffany, Campus Pastor at Chi Alpha, is gathering 100 volunteers to fill a variety of positions including set-up, tear-down, and prayer counselors. For more information call Greg at 329-3377. If you are interested in buying tickets for this event, these are the prices if purchased ahead. I know that they will cost a little more at the gate.

TICKET PRICES
Group (15+) : \$ 20.00 (15 or more)
General Admission : \$ 25.00
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Games Pass : \$ 5.00

I will definitely be there to help out.



EVEN



ODD



Music Review

Depth in Worship, Caedmon's Call

A combination of twelve upbeat masterpieces with an underlying theme of praise and pure celebration of the Lord, Caedmon's Call's most recent album, *In The Company of Angels* is one that you could listen to for hours. This album, which is one of many released by Caedmon's, is the first to be exclusively worship. You can expect a very relaxing album with strong melodies and even stronger lyrics. This album combines an excellent balance between the

main vocals, background vocals, and the acoustic sounds of the instruments.

Some might comment that it is lacking in diversity with several songs that have continuous chorus lines and only soul-lifting lyrics. I would agree with this through a few songs until I hear "I Boast No More," a ballad about our sinfulness and how we have no right to boast about anything we have accomplished. This is stressed as a beautiful voice chants, "The best obedience of my hands, dares not appear before Thy throne." I think that few can

compete with these vocals with pure feeling and joy piercing throughout the album.

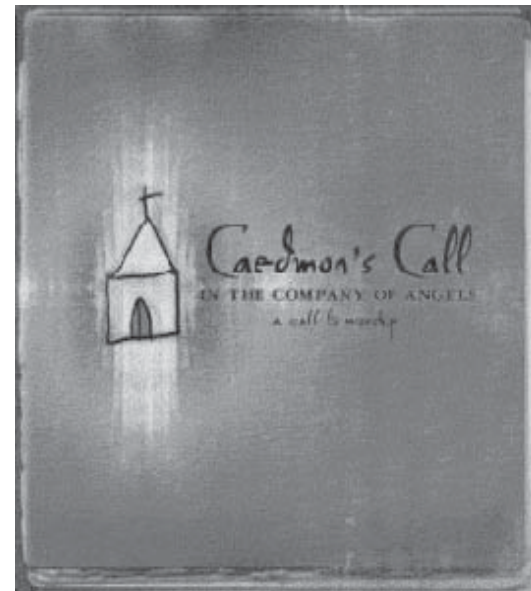
Depth is also an important element of this Caedmon's album. This album contains no simple lyrics that can be grasped in one hearing. The third track "Thy Mercy" explains wonderfully our need for the Lord and the mercy He has given to us through the covenant of his Son.

If you like the sound of folk and pop mixed together with a taste of acoustic instruments you will really enjoy this album. It combines a great balance of depth and tal-

ent to create one of the best albums released in 2001. Also, look for Caedmon's new album to be released in February of 2003.

By Kim Perkins
Daniel Mitchell

Scale 1 to 5
Lyrics - 5
Vocals - 4
Instruments - 3
Overall album - 4



Steven Curtis Chapman

with special guests Nichole Nordeman, Steve Saint, and Mincaye

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Beyond the Gates

A feature length documentary film

On January 8, 1956 five North American men were speared to death by Waodani in the Amazon basin of Ecuador. The story was made famous by LIFE magazine.

The Waodani, labeled by a neighboring tribe as Aucas, were the most violent society ever documented by anthropologists. Six out of every ten adult Waodani died through homicide. In an environment of killing unimaginable to the outside world, Waodani children grew up understanding that they would spear and live - or be speared and die.

The wife of one of the slain North American men, and sister of another, went to live with the very tribe who killed their loved ones. The information the women shared with the tribe caused the violence to virtually end for within two years the Waodani homicide rate dropped over ninety percent.

40 years later the son of one of the slain men moved his family from Florida to live in the Amazon jungle with his father's killers. His children refer to one of the Waodani as Grandfather. Yet, this same man was part of the spearing party that had killed their Grandfather.

Come, join us for an evening of music and ministry.
"Beyond the Gates" ...
Sometimes the truth goes beyond imagination.

All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Waodani church to help cover technology, transportation, and medical costs.



www.beyondthegatesthemovie.com
www.stevencurtischapman.com

EVEN



ODD

Is Mount SINAI in the SINAI?

For centuries Bible scholars and religious pilgrims have been seeking the location of the real Mt. Sinai. Today, most people are unaware that not one piece of hard evidence has been produced to verify that what is traditionally designated as "Mount Sinai" in the south central Sinai Peninsula is indeed the famed mountain of Moses and the Exodus. In fact, the only verifiable reason that the traditional site is designated "Mount Sinai" at all is because a Roman mystic designated it and Helena, mother of Constantine I, anointed it as the true Mount Sinai early in the 4th century AD. (Helena also claimed she discovered the true "holy sepulchre" in Jerusalem and the true cross of Christ.) Several other proposed sites for the true



have produced no archaeological evidence to support them. If we ever to discern a correct location for the historical events recorded in the biblical Book of Exodus, it's important to use the Scriptures as a guide, just as we would use any ancient documents that have proven reliable in the past.

In the New Testament, Paul wrote in Galatians 4:25, "Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia...". Although some argue that here the Roman designation of Arabia includes the Sinai Peninsula, Arabia in Paul's day encompassed a

larger region that primarily encompassed ancient Midian, or modern-day Saudi Arabia. As a "Hebrew of Hebrews," Paul's understanding of Arabia would have been one that was consistent with Old Testament passages like 1Kings 10:15, 2 Chronicles 9:14, Isaiah 21:13, Jeremiah 25:24, and Ezekiel 27:21, in which Arabia is clearly identified with the region east of the Gulf of Aqaba, where "kings" ruled and the "Dedanites" co-dwelt with other nomadic peoples.

Even more telling, Exodus 3:1 plainly identifies Mount Horeb (Sinai) as being in Midian: "Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God." Here, there are two important issues. First, the region of "Midian" referred to here is undeniably the same as present-day Saudi Arabia. Second, at the traditional site of Mt. Sinai on the Sinai Peninsula, there is nothing that would cause it to be

geographically identified with the "back" of a desert, in distinction from its surroundings. By contrast, the site proposed by BASE Institute is, indeed, on the far side or margin of a vast desert in ancient Midian.

However, can ancient Midian be identified with the Sinai Peninsula, which in the time of Moses, was considered a part of Egypt (although designated as the "wilderness" of Egypt)? It is apparent from Exodus 2:15 that the two were separate entities. After killing an Egyptian, Moses fled Egypt for safer ground: "When Pharaoh heard of this, he tried to kill Moses, but Moses fled from Pharaoh and went to live in Midian." Egypt and its holdings would not have been safe for Moses under any circumstances. He would not have fled to the Sinai Peninsula, where archaeology shows that Pharaoh had multiple mining interests and military outposts. The Bible is clear that Moses went out of Egypt, to the land of Midian east of the gulf of Aqaba.

The Bible makes several references to Moses returning to Egypt from Midian, including Exodus 4:19 where we read, "Now the Lord had said to Moses in Midian, 'Go back to Egypt, for all the men who wanted to kill you are dead.'" All passages associated with Moses' stay in Midian point toward present-day Saudi Arabia as the area to which Moses fled, subsequently met God at the burning bush, and then returned with the children of Israel.

Because so many Bible references as well as archaeological evidence (or the lack of it) pointed away from

traditional Mount Sinai and toward Saudi Arabia as the location of the historical mountain of Moses, a site inspection was necessary to determine if other evidence could be found to support this theory. Saudi Arabia's closed borders made it impossible for a team of scholars and archaeologists to enter the country. As a result, Larry Williams and I surreptitiously slipped into the country, traced what appears to be the Exodus route, and climbed the mountain which many scholars now consider to be the true Mount Sinai.

What follows on this link http://www.baseinstitute.org/Sinai_2.html, is a condensed account of our adventures, our findings, and how these relate directly to the Bible. Reprinted by permission of www.baseinstitute.org. The completion of this adventurous discovery is on their web-site and is



Mount Sinai have been suggested by biblical scholars, but thus far they



definitely worth checking out. Check out their links page for many other awesome sites.

■ Cont. What makes a Christian from pg.1

1: Religions: Protestant 56%, Roman Catholic 28%, Jewish 2%, other 4%, none 10% (1989)
U.S. Population: 278,058,881 (July 2001 est.) <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>

2: Religion:	1990 Est. U.S. Adult Pop.	2001 Est. U.S. Adult Pop.	% of U.S. Pop., Yr.2000	% Change . Yr.1990 - 2000
Christianity	151,225,000	159,030,000	76.5%	+5%

http://www.adherents.com/rel_USA.html#religions

The people who made these charts included Mormons, Jehovah's witnesses, and other cults that preach another Jesus as Protestants. If these statistics were true, do you think that television shows would have so much garbage in them? If they were correct, do you realize each Christian could share Jesus with one person and all of the United States would have a personal opportunity to accept Christ as their Savior?



EVEN



ODD



“IT IS FINISHED.”

Tombstone, Arizona, a tough place to live. A turn of the century boomtown filled with treasure seekers with adventure in their hearts, and a hope that there is gold and silver in the hills. What a place to live and call home. It is onto the stage of this Wild West reality that Doc Holiday, Wyatt Earp, and Johnny Ringo came into the spotlight — three of the most famous and infamous characters in the history of the American West. From the Shootout at the OK Corral to the epic battle between the “Cowboys” gang and the Earp brothers, some of the most colorful characters and most memorable scenes unfolded on the streets of this little hamlet.

And so, the story of this town and its famous residents has been told and retold over the past century in books and articles and on the silver screen. One of the movies that was made about this time and place was the early 1990’s shoot ‘em up flick, “Tombstone” starring Kurt Russell and Val Kilmer. There are many memorable lines and scenes from this movie. One of my favorite scenes is towards the end of the movie. Wyatt Earp (played by Kurt Russell) and his friend Doc Holiday (played by Val Kilmer) are on the run from the “Cowboys” gang when the feared Johnny Ringo — the fastest gun in the Southwest, tracks them down in an old abandoned farmhouse. With Doc sick and in bed, dying of tuberculosis, only Wyatt was left to go and face Ringo alone. As Wyatt and Doc sat and discussed their options, Doc

alone, even though it seems everyone understands that Wyatt does not stand a chance against Ringo. So the tension mounts. At sundown, Wyatt was to meet Ringo at the old oak tree on the edge of the land. So Ringo arrived early and waited for Wyatt to show. A few minutes before sundown, the silhouette of a man about Wyatt’s size appears on the horizon, hat pulled down low and striding forward to his fate — a sure death at the hands of the masterful Johnny Ringo. But as the shadow draws closer, Ringo says calmly, “Wyatt, I didn’t think you would show.” To this sentence, the shadowed man raises the brim of his hat and whispers, “I’m your huckleberry.” It was Doc Holiday! He had come in Wyatt’s place. And within a matter of moments, Doc had taken care of Ringo and as Wyatt

famous and significant events in the history of the world.

Now, it may seem rather strange to think of Jesus as “stepping onto a stage” or as being a part of larger drama, but that is exactly what happened. God the Father did not simply zap Jesus into the world at the moment of His crucifixion on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. No. He had another plan. Jesus was to live 33 years of life first. He was to laugh, cry, make friends, and eat. He was to sleep, talk, sing and dance. He

was even to be tempted, yet He never sinned (Hebrews 4:15)! God’s plan all along was for Jesus to live a perfect human life (fully God, yet fully man) first, before He was to die at the cross. Why is that? One definite reason is to show us what God is like. John 1:18 tells us that “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” In other words, Jesus came, the only begotten in the bosom of the Father, to explain to us through

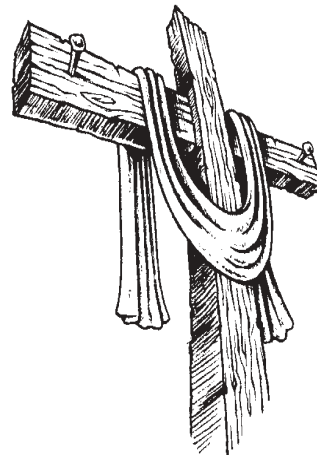
showed up, he found his friend, Doc Holiday standing victorious at the old oak tree. The work that Wyatt could not do on his own, Doc did on his behalf, and won the battle — saving Wyatt’s life in the process.

Now, let’s go visit another town . . . Jerusalem, Israel. A turn of the century boomtown filled with pilgrims with eternity in their hearts and the hope of revolution and political freedom coming from the hills. What a place to live. It is onto this stage that a man, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came into the spotlight. From his showdowns with the Pharisees to his dealings with His disciples and with the sick and sinners, Jesus lived out in the Israeli countryside, some of the most

His living example what God is like. Most all of us would agree that this is the reason for Christ’s coming. But I believe that there is another reason for the 33 year long life on earth of Christ. I believe that God had Jesus live 33 years of the only righteous life that has ever been lived so that His (Jesus Christ’s) righteous life could be credited to our account. In other words, I believe that when God brings judgment on humanity, it is always on the basis of works done. The question for men and women, then is, “In light of future judgment of God being on works . . . whose works will you trust in? Your own? Or Jesus Christ’s?” The foundation for this belief comes from Romans 3:22. This verse in the New American

Standard Bible translation states,

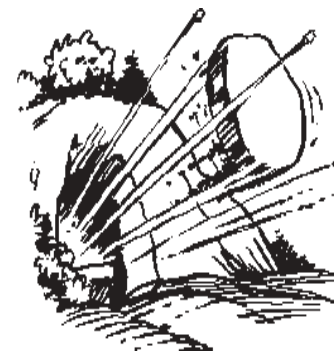
“Even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction.” I believe that the NASB translators got this verse slightly wrong. In



the original Greek text of the book of Romans, this verse literally says, “Even the righteousness of God (has been given to mankind) on the basis of the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all those who believe, for there is no distinction.” Do you see the difference? In the NASB translation, it appears that our salvation is dependent on our faithfulness, but in the original Greek, it fully places the merit of our salvation, not on our faith, but on the faithfulness of Christ. It is His righteousness that is credited to the account of those who believe in Him. It is His faithfulness to live the perfect life that makes our salvation possible. It is His faithfulness to go to the cross to die that makes our salvation a reality. It is His faithfulness, His works, that we need to rely on when judgment comes.

Now, back to our drama. . . Imagine this scene. We are faced with coming judgment, and it awaits us at the tree on the edge of the land. Someone must go to face this penalty. Will it be you? Like our friend Wyatt Earp, we may have the courage to go alone, but in reality, facing Judgment based on our own talents and abilities will not suffice. We do not stand a chance before a holy God on judgment day on our own. As Romans 3:10 tells us, “There is none righteous, not even one.” Left on our own, our appointment at the tree of judgment would be certain death. However . . . there is one who can go in our place. There is one who is Righteous. There is one who did live the perfect life. There is one who is Faithful. And if

we believe in Him and His death on the cross/resurrection from the dead that secures our forgiveness and salvation, then He will go to that place of judgment for us. In fact, He did go there. He went to the Tree for you and me. And now He stands victorious. The work that we could not do on our own, Jesus did on our



behalf, and won the battle— saving our life in the process. **By Mark Robinson.**

The Bible says in Romans chapter 10, verse 9, “That if **you** confess with your mouth, ‘**Jesus is Lord**’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Verse 13 “for, **Everyone** who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” You can pray to God right now and He will hear you. Send us an e-mail to let us know what God is doing in your life. Rick Thomas, Editor. rick777ok@ou.edu

If the
SON
sets you free
you are
really free



suggested that he go out against Ringo, since he was the faster of the two on the draw. But given his apparently weakened state, Wyatt told Doc to stay there and rest, and that Wyatt would go and face Ringo

EVEN

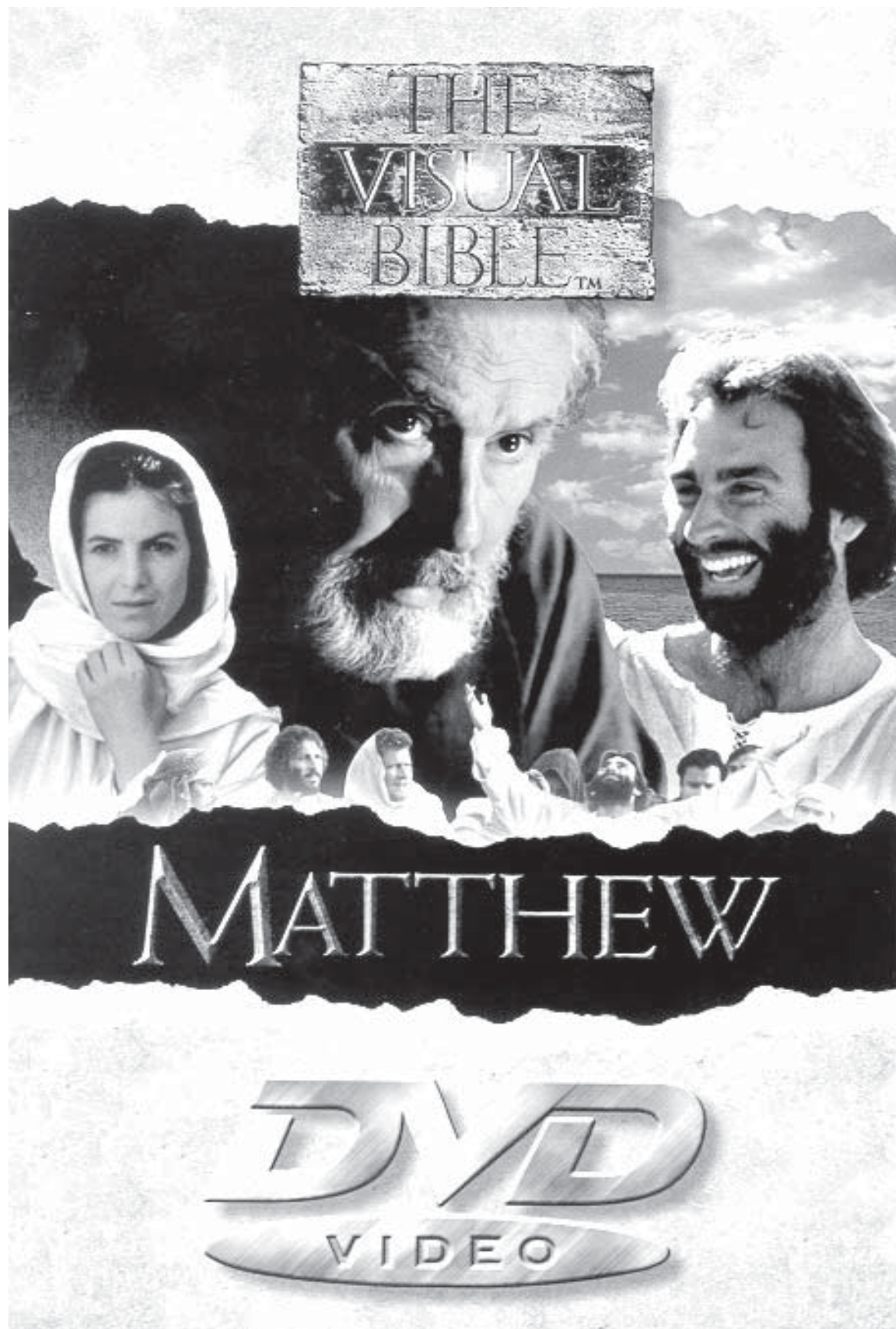


ODD

Review: The Visual Bible

The *Visual Bible's Matthew and Acts* are excellent. These films really bring the Scripture to life. The films are taken word for word from the text of the New International Version translation of the Bible. I have to admit that when I first heard of these projects, I thought that they were going to be cheesy. I guess that I have seen too many Christian films from the Eighties. They really impressed me big time with the production of Matthew and Acts. They are both multimillion-dollar productions filmed on location in Tunisia, Morocco, and South Africa, with a cast of thousands. I purchased Acts Brand New on **4 VHS** from ebay for **\$20** plus \$6 shipping. I purchased Matthew on **2 DVD** because I have the option to watch it in Spanish. Matthew is also available on VHS. I saw it at Mardel's the other day. The cool thing that I really liked about Matthew was the actor, (Bruce Marchiano) who plays Jesus. Usually, the actor who plays Jesus in most movies is some somber, no smiling looking dude. This Jesus actor smiles and laughs a lot. I know that Jesus is definitely like that, because I am like that. When you have the joy of God, it is just going to show. The Joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10) and in His presence is fullness of Joy (Ps. 16:11). Satan will always try to distract us in order to get us out of the presence of God, at that time we will be weak, lose our Joy, and he will attack. Stay in God's presence. Through His Word, prayer, and praise, we have the Victory of Life. I hope that this information will be a blessing to you. Rick Thomas

Proverbs 1:7 "The Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."



EVEN



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