

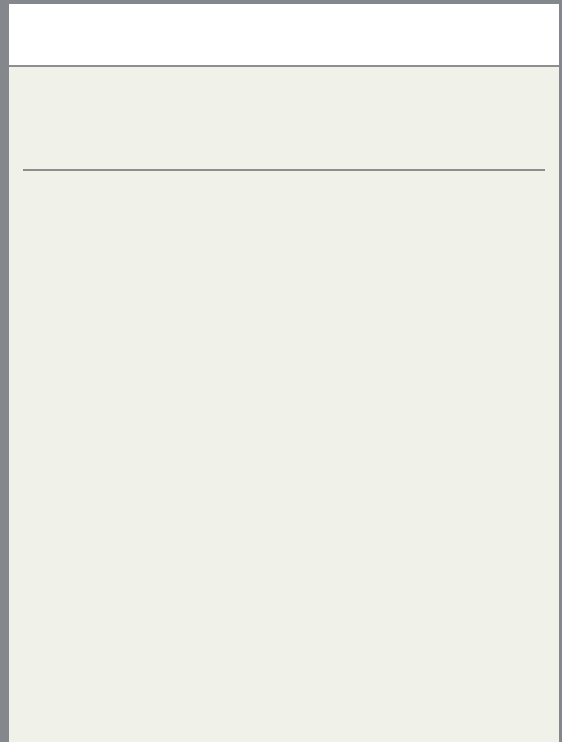
Lighthouse Trails E-Newsletter - June 12, 2024

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LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH PROJECT June 12, 2024 **LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS**
RESOURCES

In This Issue



This content will be included.

[“Here, here, they’re here’: Dramatic footage of IDF hostage rescue”](#)

[“NC Judge’s Ruling Allows Another ‘Detransitioner’ Lawsuit to Proceed”](#)

[The Berean Call Video: “At Home in Rome: Do We All Love the Same Jesus?”](#)

[Throwing Out the Ministry of the Apostle Paul?](#)

[John Calvin: Where He Got His Theology and His Manner of Life](#)

[Interview \(Danielsen and the Nathans\): “Drugs, Deception, and the End Time Church”](#)

[Teresa of Avila – An Ancient Mystic Who Helped Shape Today’s Spiritual Formation Movement](#)

[New Booklet: *The Chosen and the Bible: Serious Considerations That Can’t Be Ignored*](#)

[Supporting Lighthouse Trails](#)

[SIGN UP FOR THE LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS RESEARCH PRINT JOURNAL \(not this e-newsletter\)](#)

[INFORMATION ABOUT LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS](#)

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Note: Because we are a research ministry, [we do post news articles from various secular and Christian sources](#) along with our own in-house articles if we believe our readers can benefit from the information. We also post video clips from YouTube at times.

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Want to make a comment? You may do so on any article on [our research blog](#).

***SPECIAL NOTE TO RESEARCH JOURNAL SUBSCRIBERS:** If you are a subscriber to the mailed-out Lighthouse Trails Research Journal (not this free e-newsletter), please note that the Summer issue (which is normally mailed out by May 7th) is being mailed out this Wednesday (the 22nd). The delay occurred because our Production Manager for the Research Journal had pneumonia and was out of the office for two weeks. Our apologies for the delay. This is also the reason this e-newsletter is going out late.

[“Here, here, they’re here’: Dramatic footage of IDF hostage rescue”](#)

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Who We Are



Israeli forces conduct a daring daylight
raid to rescue four hostages from Hamas
captivity in the Gaza Strip, June 8, 2024.
Credit: Israel Police.

LTRP Note: The following is posted for
informational and research purposes.

The Israel Police released video of the
weekend operation to rescue four
captives from Nuseirat in the central
Gaza Strip.

June 11, 2024 / JNS)

The Israel Police on Monday night
released dramatic footage of Saturday's
dramatic Israeli rescue operation in
Nuseirat in central Gaza.

Noa Argamani, 26; Almog Meir Jan, 21;
Andrey Kozlov, 27; and Shlomi Ziv, 40,
were rescued during a daring daytime
mission in the heart of a crowded
residential neighborhood. All four Israelis
were kidnapped by Hamas from the
Supernova music festival near Kibbutz
Re'im on Oct. 7. [Click here](#) to continue
reading.

Related Information:

[Israel—A Burdensome Stone to the
Nations and the Apple of God's
Eye](#) (Booklet by Mike Oppenheimer)

["NC Judge's Ruling Allows Another
'Detransitioner' Lawsuit to Proceed"](#)

Lighthouse Trails is a Christian publishing company and research project ministry. We work with a group of Christian journalists and authors, all who understand the times in which we live from a biblical perspective. While we hope you will buy and [read the books and booklets](#) we have published, watch the DVDs we have produced, and [support our ministry](#), we also provide extensive free research, documentation, and news on our [Research site](#), [blog](#), e-newsletter, and now our subscription-based [print journal](#)! We pray that the products as well as the online research will be a blessing to the body of Christ and a witness to those who have not yet accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, trusting in Him for the salvation of their souls.

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LIGHTHOUSE TRAILS READERS SUPPORTING BRYCE HOME'S INTERNATIONAL IN KENYA SINCE 2011. Visit the [Understand the Times website](#) for the latest updates on the Bryce Homes International missions outreach in Kenya, helping Christian widows and children.

Categories of Our Resources



LTRP Note: The following is posted for informational and research purposes. Lighthouse Trails has been an advocate for protecting children since our inception.

“A lawsuit filed by a transgender “detransitioner” is getting noticed after a judge allowed it to proceed in the courts against the medical professionals she holds responsible for butchering her body.”

**By Bronson Woodruff
American Family News**

Prisha Mosley, 25, is suing therapists, physicians and surgeons, and their respective medical facilities, in a complaint that alleges they assured the troubled teenager her depression and other mental issues could be helped by changing her female body to appear as a male.

Mosley’s lawsuit, filed almost a year ago in a North Carolina court, jumped a major hurdle in recent weeks when a judge ruled against a motion to dismiss the case. The complaint alleged numerous wrongdoings – seven in all – but Judge Robert Ervin allowed only two, fraud and civil conspiracy, to stand, according to a Fox News story. [Click here](#) to continue reading.

Related Reading:

[“Victory: Canadian Father Rob Hoogland Set Free by Appeals Court After Conviction for Breaking ‘Gag Order’ on daughter’s ‘Transgender’ Medical Treatments”](#)

Transgenderism and Our Children (Booklet) by Maria Kneas and Lois Putnam

(image from istockphoto.com; used with permission; design by LT)

The Berean Call Video: "At Home in Rome: Do We All Love the Same Jesus?"



By The Berean Call

Do we all "love the same Jesus"?

Do we need the Catholic Church, the Abrahamic Family House, Rick Warren, the Finishing the Task Coalition, and *The Chosen* to fulfill the Great Commission?

Can we as believers have "unity through community"?

"Satan is not an atheist; he believes in God.... He is the god of this world. He's the author of false religions. Satan's big program is not to make atheists out of everybody, but just to pervert, just to corrupt the truth enough so that they think they are right with God. They think they are Christians when they are really not. He is the author of false religions." —**Dave Hunt**

"We all pray to the same god." —**Jonathan Roumie**

Rick Warren left Saddleback to "*work with churches of every denomination.*"

"*You've got Catholics, and Jews, and Mormons, and evangelicals. We're all loving the same show, so maybe, just maybe, we're loving the same Jesus.*" —**Dallas Jenkins**

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. **Galatians 1:6-8**

Watch this Berean Call 30-minute documentary on YouTube.

(Image above: Screenshot from The Berean Call's Documentary "At Home in Rome: Do We All Love the Same Jesus? – view on YouTube)

Related Information:

The Chosen: 10 Critical Concerns (booklet)

Christian Leaders—A New Openness . . . to the Catholic Church

The New Evangelization From Rome

Throwing Out the Ministry of the Apostle Paul?



In a time when the church is being overrun with unbiblical teachings and off-the-wall opinions and recommendations by so many of today's pastors and leaders, we have been puzzled at Lighthouse Trails why even the "good" pastors and teachers rarely talk about what's going on *in* the church with regard to these teachings; and it's even more rare to hear a pastor actually identify those (naming the names) who are bringing in false teachings and opinions.

While the pastors and teachers who are preaching the Gospel and teaching the Word will often (and rightly) identify the cultural issues that are affecting both the world and the church today (e.g., wokeism, transgenderism, the LGBTQ movement, and abortion), many of these same pastors and teachers won't talk about serious and dangerous practices going on *in* the church. Harry Ironside made a profound statement about this in *his* day, and we fear today it is even more so:

Objection is often raised—even by some sound in the faith—regarding the exposure of error as being entirely negative and of no real edification. Of late, the hue and cry has been against any and all negative teaching. But the brethren who assume this attitude forget that a large part of the New Testament, both of the teaching of our blessed Lord Himself and the writings of the apostles, is made up of this very character of ministry—namely, showing the Satanic origin and, therefore, the unsettling results of the propagation of erroneous systems which Peter, in his second epistle, so definitely refers to as “damnable heresies.”

If we look to the ministry of the apostle Paul as an example of how a Christian pastor or leader should be, Paul rarely talked about the oppressive Roman government (particularly oppressive to the Jewish people of that day) and its cultural deficits except to say things such as we should pray and intercede for them (and even “give thanks” for them) (1 Timothy 2:1-3).

What we are trying to say here is this: While there is a place for a pastor or leader to warn his flock about the extremely harmful practices and beliefs that today's culture is glorifying and even influencing Christians, why won't they talk about harmful and dangerous practices and beliefs that are birthed and embraced right in the church when frankly, that is the bulk of what the apostle Paul's ministry entailed. His mission was to edify, exhort (e.g., warn), and encourage the body of Christ so that her members (believers) could be disciplined into strong, discerning, loving missionaries to a lost and dying world. Consider, for example, Paul's candid statement to young pastor Timothy to “be instant in season, out of

season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2) It can’t really get more clear than that. Here Paul is speaking of what is happening *within* the church (see verses 3 and 4).

Here are just a few, but important, examples of issues within the church that most pastors and Christian leaders are ignoring. These examples have direct connections to either the occult or false christs (or both). In other words, these are not frivolous issues but are ones with serious implications:

1. **Jesus Calling.** Lighthouse Trails and other ministries have provided ample documentation and biblical backup to show that the Jesus of Sarah Young’s *Jesus Calling* is a false christ that presents unbiblical views. And yet, countless Christian women read *Jesus Calling* on a regular basis, often as a substitute for Bible reading and study; and their pastors say nothing about it. It’s almost as if these pastors don’t believe in such a thing as a “false christ.”
2. **The Chosen.** Lighthouse Trails and other ministries have also provided ample documentation and biblical backup to show that the Jesus of *The Chosen* TV series is also a false christ (certainly not the “authentic Jesus” that is boasted about by Dallas Jenkins). And yet, millions of Christians watch *The Chosen*, and not only do few pastors warn about this *deconstruction* of the true Jesus Christ, many of them (even some of the “good” ones) promote it and praise it.
3. **Yoga.** This is a practice that has become all too commonplace within churches. Unlike the first two examples, it did not originate within the church, but much of the church has now embraced it. We’ll never forget a phone call we received a number of years ago from a pastor. He told us that his wife had brought in Yoga classes for the women of his church. He said he knew it was wrong to practice Yoga. We asked him why he allowed it, and he said he didn’t want to rock the boat at home. Is this why pastors don’t say anything about deception within the church? They don’t want to rock the boat (upset and anger) in their congregations.
4. **Spiritual Formation.** Lighthouse Trails has spent over 22 years now trying to warn the church and its pastors and leaders of the dangers and unbiblicalness of contemplative spirituality and the Spiritual Formation movement. We have well documented and proven that the roots of this mystical spirituality is both panentheistic (*God is in all*) and interspiritual (*all paths lead to God*). And yet, to this day, you will rarely hear a pastor or leader talk about it (except to promote it) even though the basis of it is about as antichrist as you can get—for if God is in all people and if all paths lead to God, then Jesus Christ’s death on the Cross to save sinners would have been in vain and unneeded.

Now let us briefly look at the ministry of the apostle Paul, and let us see where today’s pastors line up when it comes to warning the church, not about cultural issues (which does have its place) but about deception right in the church and brought about by those who profess to be members of the church:

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. (Acts 20:28-31)

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. (Romans 13:12)

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (Romans 16:17)
[Note that Paul is saying here it is false doctrine, not the exposure of it, that causes divisions.]

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:3-4)

For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. (2 Corinthians 11: 13-14)

. . . that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ. (Ephesians 4:14-15)

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. (Ephesians 5:8-11)

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:6-10)

In addition to the admonishments of the apostle Paul, the Bible is filled from beginning to end with warnings about being spiritually deceived. In fact, we would say that one of the main themes in the Bible is that of spiritual deception, from Eve who was deceived in the Garden of Eden to the Book of Revelation where it says the day will come when Satan will deceive the whole world (Revelation 12:9). And the prophets of the Old Testament and all the apostles (and Jesus Himself) of the New Testament warned of spiritual deception.

With these things in mind, surely pastors who love God's Word and who preach the Gospel of salvation, can see the immense importance of warning the church of the spiritual deception that is right in their midst. May pride or fear not stand in the way of speaking the truth no matter the cost. And may pastors not be the reason that Christians are seduced by today's false christs and false teachings. In warning the flock, they will be *embracing* the ministry of the apostle Paul and not throwing it out.

And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.—Jesus (Mark 13:21-23)

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3:13)

These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. (1 John 2:26)

We close this article of exhortation with lines from a hymn written in 1831:

*Oh, for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe,
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe!*

(photo from istockphoto.com; used with permission)

John Calvin: Where He Got His Theology and His Manner of Life



The following is an extract from Bob Kirkland's book, *Calvinism: None Dare Call It Heresy* (published in 2018 by LT; chapters 1 and 2).

By Bob Kirkland

When one preacher first meets another preacher, it usually isn't long until the question will come up concerning where they each received their Bible training. The answer will reveal a lot of information concerning the theology and the philosophy of ministry of the new acquaintance.

Concerning John Calvin's spiritual education, Calvin said:

Augustine is so much at one with me that, if I wished to write a confession of my faith, it would abundantly satisfy me to quote wholesale from his writings.¹

WHO WAS AUGUSTINE, AND WHAT DID HE BELIEVE?

Augustine (354-430) has sometimes been referred to as, “the father of the Inquisition” because he set the precedent that force and suppression must be used to stop and control those who were deemed heretics:

The emperor, he [Augustine] argued, had the duty of suppressing schism and heresy, and indeed of putting pressure on heretics to oblige them to convert. “Compel them to come in” (Luke 14: 23) was given a new and unsuspected meaning. Augustine had become the father of the Inquisition.²

In referring to those he considered heretics, Augustine said:

Why . . . should not the Church use force in compelling her lost sons to return, if the lost sons compelled others to their destruction?”³

Augustine also held to many beliefs that line up more with Catholicism than with biblical Christianity.

With regard to infant baptism, Augustine stated:

So that infants, unless they pass into the number of believers through the sacrament [baptism] which was divinely instituted for this purpose, will undoubtedly remain in this darkness.⁴

Let there be then no eternal salvation promised to infants out of our own opinion, without Christ’s baptism.⁵

. . . unless this benefit [baptism] has been bestowed upon them [infants], they are manifestly in danger of damnation.⁶

[U]nbaptized infants not only cannot enter into the kingdom of God, but cannot have everlasting life.⁷

Augustine also said things to suggest he believed Mary was sinless as can be seen in his book *On Nature and Grace* in chapter 42 titled “The Blessed Virgin Mary May Have Lived Without Sin.”⁸ In addition, he believed in purgatory.⁹

Regarding salvation, Augustine said:

I should not believe the gospel except as moved by the authority of the Catholic Church.¹⁰

He made this statement because he believed the only true church was the Roman Catholic Church. He stated:

The Catholic Church alone is the body of Christ. . . . Outside this body, the Holy Spirit giveth life to no one.¹¹

This is the man of whom John Calvin based his understanding of the Bible. According to Augustine, anyone outside the Catholic church is going to Hell. Did Calvin not realize that would have to include him?

A YOUNG CONVERT FRESH OUT OF CATHOLICISM

Within only two years after Calvin declared himself a Protestant, he published his famous *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. In all of Calvin’s writing, one will not find a clear testimony of his salvation experience. A statement of his “conversion” can only be found in his book *Commentary on the Psalms* where he writes:

God by a sudden conversion [referring to his sudden move away from the Catholic Church at the age of 23] subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame, which was more hardened in such matters than might have been expected from one at my early period of life. Having thus received some taste and knowledge of true godliness I was immediately inflamed with so intense a desire to make progress therein, that although I did not altogether leave off other studies, I yet pursued them with less ardor.¹²

If we assume his vague intellectual testimony of salvation was a genuine salvation experience, he had been a Christian for just about two years when he wrote his *Institutes*, which is a foundational resource for today's Calvinism.

It is interesting to note that during that same two-year period, this man that is held in such high esteem by so many Christians today kept himself on the payroll of the Catholic Church for at least a year.¹³

JOHN CALVIN'S MANNER OF LIFE

Bernard Cottret, a university professor in France, wrote a book titled, *Calvin: A Biography* in which he clearly shows his admiration for Calvin on several levels. Thus, given that Cottret is not what you would call a critic of Calvin, it lends credibility to the *more than 36** executions with which Calvin was directly or indirectly involved that are recorded in the book. Cottret documents the dates of executions and the methods of persecution, torture, and execution. He describes the period of time when Calvin had much authority in Geneva; and when Calvin denounced someone as a heretic (often the denouncement came for criticizing or even just questioning Calvin's teachings) that person was hunted down. Cottret describes the atmosphere during this time:

Fear of sorcery and of heretics entailed their retinue of hasty, indeed barbarous remedies: imprisonment, torture, the stake.¹⁴

Men and women alike endured the torturous imprisonments and deaths.

**Some resources regarding the Calvin-related executions have given numbers as high as 58.*

THREE EXAMPLES OF CALVIN'S PERSECUTIONS

Jacques Gruet, a known opponent of Calvin, was arrested and tortured twice a day for a month in an effort to get him to confess to the accusations against him. Then, on July 26, 1547, he was tied to a stake, his feet were nailed to it, and he was beheaded.¹⁵

Gruet's book was later found and burned along with his house while his wife was thrown out into the street to watch. This was not unusual behavior to those who dared to challenge or disagree with Calvin:

Gruet was put to the torture many times (444) during many days . . . In reality such unmeasured use of torture was in Geneva a Calvinistic innovation. Gruet, refusing under the worst stress of torture to incriminate anyone else, at length, in order to end it, pleaded guilty to the charges against him, praying in his last extremity for a speedy death. On July 26, 1547, his half-dead body was beheaded on the scaffold, the torso being tied and the feet nailed thereto. Such were the judicial methods and mercies of a reformed Christianity, guided by a chief reformer.¹⁶

Michael Servetus, a scientist, a physician, and theologian was born in Villanova in 1511. He angered Calvin by returning a copy of Calvin's writings with critical comments in the margins. Calvin drew up a doctrine of over thirty official charges against Servetus, one of which was the rejection of John Calvin's teaching concerning infant baptism leading to

salvation. Five days into the trial, Calvin wrote, "I hope the death sentence will at least be passed upon him."¹⁷ He also stated regarding Servetus, "If he come, and my influence can avail, I shall not suffer him to depart alive."¹⁸

Calvin got his wish on October 27, 1553. Servetus was burned at the stake. He was screaming as he was literally baked alive from the feet upward and suffered the heat of the flames for thirty minutes before finally succumbing to one of the most painful and brutal methods of death possible.

Servetus had written a theology book, a copy of which was strapped to the chest of Servetus. The flames from the burning book rose against his face as he screamed in agony.¹⁹

While Michael Servetus definitely had some unbiblical teachings, such as his rejection of the Trinity, he was, as the late apologist Dave Hunt puts it, "right about some things: that God does not predestine souls to hell and that God is love."²⁰

Some have tried to say that Calvin was not responsible for the cruel manner in which Servetus was executed and that all he wanted was for Servetus to be beheaded (obviously, a less painful way to be executed). Brenda Nickel, a former Calvinist who was featured in a documentary film about Reformed Theology, provides some insight:

Calvin had a long-standing vendetta against Servetus. Servetus foolishly taunted Calvin through letters; thus, Calvin insisted on having him arrested and charged when he entered Geneva. Calvin wanted the death penalty for him. Servetus pleaded with Calvin to be beheaded instead of being burned at the stake, and Calvin was willing to go along with the idea. If Servetus was beheaded instead of burned, then Calvin couldn't be blamed. Beheading, in this case, was attractive to both Servetus and Calvin. Beheading would be seen as a civil crime and free Calvin from having blood on his hands. French reformer William Farel rebuked Calvin for the thought. Since the charge was religious and not civil in nature, Servetus was burned at the stake.

Melanchthon (Luther's friend and successor) praised Calvin for Servetus' death. This execution basically skyrocketed Calvin to fame throughout Europe. It put him on the map, so to speak, as a noteworthy and respected reformer.²¹

Apparently, Calvin must have felt a need to appease himself of guilt in the murders he had helped to institutionalize.

Bernard Cottret also wrote of the persecution of the Anabaptist Belot:

While he shared the prejudices of his contemporaries against sorcerers, Calvin the churchman remained devoted to one of the church's principal missions, the denunciation of heresy and the condemnation of heretics. For Calvin the greatest heretics were the Anabaptists. They were the internal enemy, as against the papists, who threatened the development of the "true faith" from outside. Papists, moreover, were not heretics in the strict sense; their errors were predictable, almost programmed, and less dangerous on the whole than those original thoughts that risked affecting the Reformed world itself. In 1545 the Anabaptist Belot held that the Old Testament was abolished by the New. This point of view might be debatable theologically, but did it justify the torture inflicted on poor Belot after he was chained and his invectives against Calvin were laughed at?²²

Gruet, Servetus, and Belot were not the only ones to be persecuted for speaking against John Calvin and his institutes:

With dictatorial control over the populace (“he ruled as few sovereigns have done”), Calvin imposed his brand of Christianity upon the citizenry with floggings, imprisonments, banishments, and burnings at the stake. Calvin has been called “the Protestant Pope” and “the Genevese dictator” who “would tolerate in Geneva the opinions of only one person, his own.”²³

It puzzles me immensely why anyone would think that God would use such a man as Calvin to be a great leader of Christianity?

In 1 Corinthians 11:1, Paul said, “Be ye followers (imitators) of me, even as I also am of Christ.” Was John Calvin an imitator of Christ in his actions? I see no answer to that question but a resounding, “Not at all!”

CHRIST OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus said in Matthew 5:44, “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

Jesus was persecuted for over thirty years and finally crucified. In Luke 23:34, we read how Jesus responded to His enemies. He said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And in John 13:15, Jesus said, “I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.”

Dave Hunt, who wrote the Calvinist expose, *What Love is This?*, said:

Perhaps Calvin thought he was God’s instrument to force Irresistible Grace (a key doctrine in Calvinism) upon the citizens of Geneva, Switzerland—even upon those who proved their unworthiness by resisting to the death. He unquestionably did his best to be irresistible in imposing “righteousness,” but what he imposed and the manner in which he imposed it was far from grace and the teachings and example of Christ.²⁴

EXAMPLES OF THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST

Stephen’s persecutors did not write a note on the margin of his sermon outline; they were smashing his head in with rocks. He cried loudly, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge” (Acts 7:60). When Peter, James, John, and Paul were persecuted, they had no desire to strike back at their persecutors. They responded the way they did because they were all under the control of the Holy Spirit. “[T]he fruit of the Spirit is love” (Galatians 5:22). But Calvin had no real persecutors and responded to those who opposed him by having them imprisoned, brutally tortured, and murdered.

Bible Christians who are born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit never hope the death sentence is passed upon their persecutors as did Calvin when people disagreed with him.

WHAT SPIRIT CONTROLLED JOHN CALVIN?

The primary teaching in Calvinism is the teaching on “election” in that the majority of people God created, He did not elect to save nor did He love them. In fact, He hated them from before they were even born. Under the Calvinist view of election, wherein God does not love every human being or desires that each one come to faith and be saved, it makes sense that John Calvin did not have God’s love toward those he saw as his unsaved fellow man. After all, if *God* does not even love them, why should he? It is this reasoning that would have made it easy for Calvin to justify the torture and murder of people whom he believed, in his own estimation, to be heretics.

But the Bible says that God is love. And He is righteous, true, faithful, and just. Such are fruits of the Spirit as described in Galatians 5:22, and love is the first one mentioned.

It is hard not to believe that John Calvin was under the influence of some other spirit than the Holy Spirit. You will have to look long and hard to find anything in Calvin's writings about love. It is certainly not obvious in his manner of life.

(image: John Calvin (1509-64) Bibliotheque Publique et Universitaire, Geneva, Switzerland painting now out of copyright; (in public domain))

Endnotes:

1. John Calvin, *Concerning the Eternal Predestination of God* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press edition, 1997), p. 63.
2. Stewart Sutherland, Leslie Houlden, Peter Clarke, and Friedhelm Hardy, *The World's Religions* (England, Routledge Companion Encyclopedias, 1988), p. 162.
3. Augustine, *The Writings Against the Manichaeans and Against the Donatists, Part II —The Donatists* (Devoted Publishing edition, 2017), p. 333; also available at Christian Classics Ethereal Library (<https://www.ccel.org/ccel/schaff/npnf104.v.vi.viii.html>).
4. Augustine, Edited by Philip Schaff, *A Treatise on the Merits and Forgiveness of Sins, and on the Baptism of Infants* (Aeterna Press, 2014 edition), p. 30.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 29.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 112.
7. Augustine, Edited by Philip Schaff, *A Treatise on the Merits and Forgiveness of Sins, and on the Baptism of Infants* (Kindle edition, published by Amazon Digital Services), Chapter 8, Kindle location 3350.
8. Augustine, *On Nature and Grace* (Pickerington, OH: Beloved Publishing, 2014), pp. 35-36.
9. For example, in *City of God* (Start Publishing e-edition 2012, Kindle edition), Augustine states on p. 533: ". . . it more evidently appears that some shall in the last judgment suffer some kind of purgatorial punishments."
10. Augustine, *Against the Fundamental Epistle of Manichaeus* (JehuBooks. A.D. 397, Kindle edition), Kindle location 89, Chapter 5. Also in the print edition of *Against the Epistle of Manichaeus Called Fundamental* by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, June 7, 2015, p. 13.
11. Augustine and Chrysostom, Edited by Philip Schaff, *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Volume 1-14* (Ephesians Four Group, 2015 edition, Kindle edition), Kindle location, 106761.
12. John Calvin, *Commentary on the Book of Psalms* (Amazon Digital Services LLC, 2011 edition, Kindle Edition), Kindle locations 939-943.
13. Dave Hunt, *What Love Is This?* (Bend, OR: The Berean Call, 2013, 4th edition), p. 42. Hunt writes: "Most of those today, including evangelical leaders who hold Calvin in great esteem, are not aware that they have been captivated by the writings of a devout Roman Catholic, newly converted to Luther's Protestantism, who had broken with Rome only a year before. Oddly, Calvin kept himself on the payroll of the Roman Catholic Church for nearly a year after he claimed to have been miraculously delivered from the "deep slough" of "obstinate addiction to the superstitions of the papacy."
14. Bernard Cottret, *Calvin: A Biography* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Pub. Company, English translation, 2000), p. 181.
15. To read more about Gruet's execution and other Calvin-era executions, read Preserved Smith's (1880-1941) *The Age of the Reformation* (New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1920); see page 120 for information about Gruet.
16. J. M. Robertson, *A Short History of Freethought, Ancient and Modern*, Vol. I (London: Owlfoot Press, 1914), p. 352; citing partly from: "Stähelin, i, 400. Henry avows that Gruet was 'subjected to the torture morning and evening during a whole month' (Eng. tr. ii. 66). Other biographers dishonestly exclude the fact from their narratives."
17. "The Murder of Michael Servetus" (<http://www.bcbsr.com/topics/servetus.html>). Also see *The Ridpath Library of Universal Literature*, Vol. 5, p. 89 by John Clark Ridpath documenting actual letters from Calvin discussing the fate of Servetus.

18. J. M. Robertson, *A Short History of Freethought, Ancient and Modern*, Vol. I, op. cit., p. 354.
19. Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization: The Reformation*, Vol. VI (New York, NY: Simon & Schuster, 1957), pp. 482-484.
20. Dave Hunt, *What Love Is This?*, op. cit., p. 79.
21. Brenda Nickel, featured in the documentary film, *Wide is the Gate*, Vol. 2 (Produced by Caryl Productions; available through Lighthouse Trails or The Berean Call; trailer for the film: <http://www.lighthouse-trails.com/home/29-wide-is-the-gate-dvd-volume-2-the-emerging-new-christianity.html>). Her online book on Calvinism, which includes biography on her years as a Calvinist, can be accessed at <http://www.CalvinismNoMore.com>.
22. Bernard Cottret, *Calvin: A Biography*, op. cit., p. 208.
23. Dave Hunt, *What Love Is This?*, op. cit., p. 74; partly citing Williston Walker from *John Calvin: The Organizer of Reformed Protestantism* (New York, NY: Schocken Books, 1969), pp. 259 and 107.
24. *Ibid.*, p. 72.

Note: In some endnotes, the source material is taken from Kindle (e-book) editions. When page numbers are given along with Kindle location numbers, these are the page numbers provided by the Kindle edition.

Interview (Danielsen and the Nathans): "Drugs, Deception, and the End Time Church"



On Tuesday June 4th, Stand Up for the Truth host Mary Danielsen interviewed Richard and Linda Nathan. The title of the interview is "Drugs, Deception, & the End Times Church." Danielsen is a strong discerning voice and the author of several Lighthouse Trails booklets. She also is one of the contributing authors to two LT books (*A Christian Perspective on the Social Justice Movement* and *A New Narrative for a "New" World*). The Nathans are the authors of The Omega Point Series, a trilogy of novels on the New Age (something they were once heavily involved in). They are also the authors of three LT booklets warning about the use of marijuana and psychedelic drugs that have become popular, even in some churches.



Mary Danielsen

To listen to this one-hour interview, go

to <https://www.standupforthetruth.com/category/drug-culture/>.

PODCAST INTERVIEW TUESDAY, JUNE 4

DRUGS, DECEPTION, & THE END TIMES CHURCH

STANDUPFORTHETRUTH.COM

HOST MARY DANIELSEN

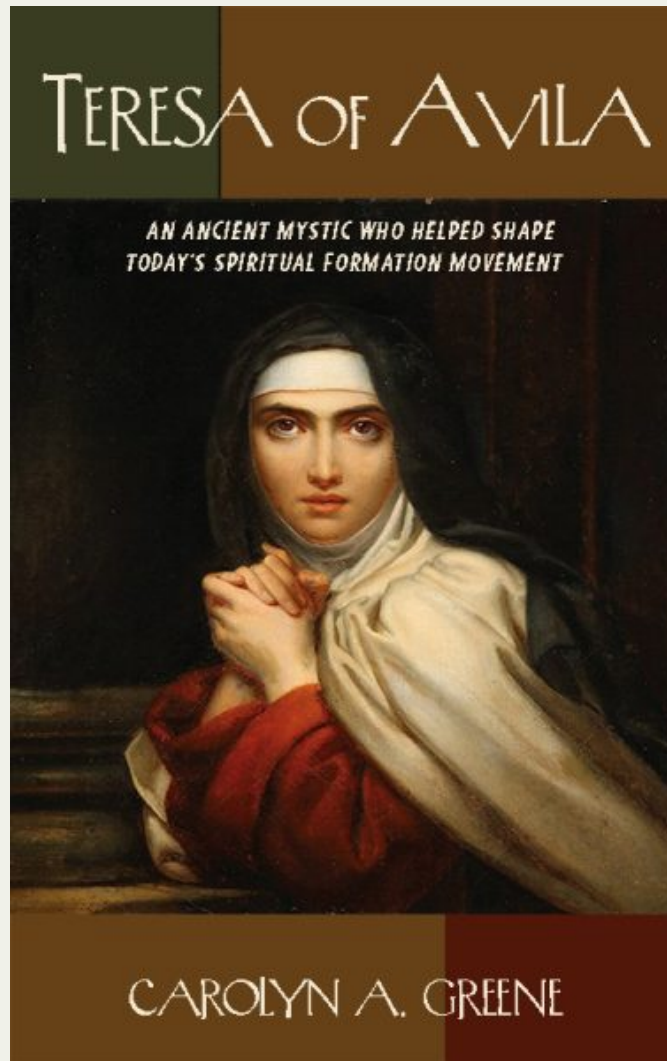
WITH

RICHARD AND LINDA NATHAN



ADDRESSING ISSUES & TOPICS AFFECTING
CHRISTIANS ACROSS THE NATION

Teresa of Avila – An Ancient Mystic Who Helped Shape Today's Spiritual Formation Movement



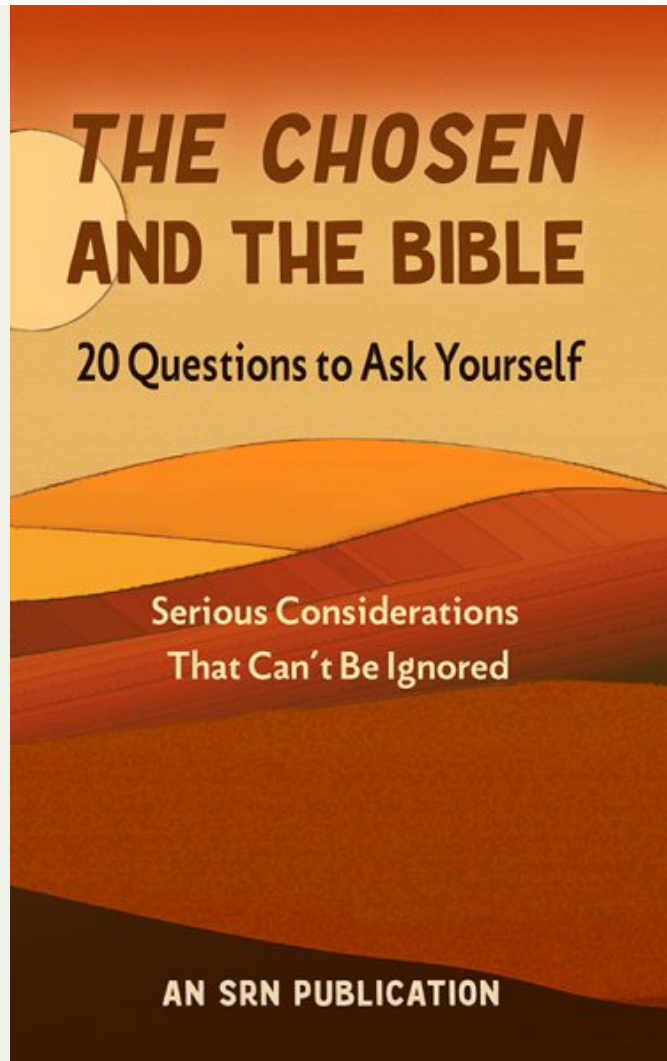
By Carolyn A. Greene (the author of *Castles in the Sand*—the powerful novel that challenges the Spiritual Formation movement)

Editor's Note: Today, it is not uncommon for Christian leaders and teachers to recommend the writings of Teresa of Avila. For instance, the late theologian Dallas Willard encouraged his followers to read Teresa's *Interior Castle* saying Teresa is "an example to follow."¹ Christian publishers like Bethany House, Thomas Nelson, and Multnomah Press have published books by Teresa of Avila. Rick Warren, author of the highly popular *Purpose Driven Life*, says her writings are among "great, classic devotional works."² Pete Scazzero, author of the popular book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality*, lists Teresa of Avila's book, *Interior Castle* as one of his "top ten books."³ Gary Thomas, author of *Sacred Pathways* and *Sacred Marriage*, favorably references Teresa of Avila numerous times in his book, *Thirsting for God*. And *not* surprisingly, contemplative authors such as Richard Foster and Henry Nouwen see her as a fellow mystic.

In 2009, Lighthouse Trails published *Castles in the Sand*, a story involving a young troubled girl who begins attending a Christian college where she is introduced in her Spiritual Formation class to the writings of an ancient mystic, Teresa of Avila. The following article is taken from *Castles in the Sand* narrating Teresa's life. While *Castles in the Sand* is a work of fiction, Teresa of Avila is a real, historical figure (1515-1582). The depiction of her life in this article (also a LT booklet) is based on historical records (see bibliography at end of article). Quotes and paraphrases of her writings are taken from her actual written works. The lives of other characters portrayed are created from composites of true stories.

While some readers may find some of Teresa's mystical experiences (that at times included involuntary levitating) troubling to read, it is important to understand that the "spiritual ecstasies" Teresa of Avila encountered were the result of her practicing a meditative prayer, much like one that is being practiced by countless Christians today through the Spiritual Formation (i.e., contemplative prayer) movement. We pray this article will illustrate how mystical prayer methods are dangerous and introduce the practitioner to occultism and its tormenting "fruit," something you will not be warned about by those who recommend you study the ancient mystics. And now, the story of Teresa of Avila. [Click here](#) to continue reading.

New Booklet: [The Chosen and the Bible: Serious Considerations That Can't Be Ignored](#)



Lighthouse Trails is pleased to announce the release of a new booklet, *The Chosen and the Bible: Serious Considerations That Can't Be Ignored*. This is a [Spiritual Research Network](#) publication and has been a collaborative effort by SRN, LT, and other concerned ministries and individuals. The booklet is 18 pages long and sells for \$1.95 for single copies. Quantity discounts are available. These booklets are designed to give away to others or for your own personal use. Below is the content of this new booklet. **If you would like to order this booklet, [click here](#).**

The Chosen and the Bible: Serious Considerations That Can't Be Ignored

Introduction

| Come now, and let us reason together, sayeth the Lord. (Isaiah 1:18)

The Chosen is the hugely popular TV series that purports to present “plausible” backstories about what creator, director, and co-writer Dallas Jenkins calls the “authentic Jesus.”¹ *The Chosen* was born in 2017 when three Mormon businessmen approached Jenkins with the idea for the series and a crowdfunding deal.² Jenkins said that the project was reaffirmed and endorsed by God in 2018 when he was visiting Israel. He felt God was telling him that *The Chosen* would become known “around the world” as “the definitive portrayal” of God’s people. Jenkins recounts in an interview:

| I felt like God was saying like [*The Chosen*] is going to be the definitive portrayal of my people, and this is what people are going to think of around the world when they think of my people, and I’m [God] not going to let you screw it up.³

In another interview, Jenkins describes his “growing brother and sisterhood with people of the LDS [Mormon] community” and how “we love the same Jesus”⁴—in spite of the fact that Mormonism is, by the Bible’s definition, a pseudo-Christian cult. In regard to *The Chosen*, Jenkins admits that “95% of the content isn’t from the Bible.”⁵ And in a 2024 YouTube posting, he actually states, “I believe it is important to watch *The Chosen* as though the Bible didn’t exist.”⁶

***The Shack’s* Important Lesson: “But *The Shack* Is Just a Novel!”**

Author William Paul Young’s 2007 novel *The Shack* was a number one *New York Times* best-seller, selling over twenty million copies worldwide. The book has been read and loved by both Christians and the world as well. It eventually became a Hollywood movie and a twenty-week series on Christian television.⁷

For years, any criticism of *The Shack* was usually countered by *Shack* fans with—“Hey, it’s just a novel!” Yet in 2017, ten years after its original publication, and in the midst of his TV series, author William Paul Young openly declared what many had long-suspected—that he was a universalist.⁸ He had also gone on record stating that *The Shack* was *more* than “just a novel.” He said, “*The Shack* is theology. But it is theology wrapped in story.”⁹

“But *The Chosen* Is Just a TV Show!”

Today, *The Chosen* TV series has been viewed by millions of people around the world. Its devoted fans have also donated millions of dollars to the series’ record-breaking crowdfunding campaign. Any biblical criticism of *The Chosen* is usually countered by Dallas Jenkins and *Chosen* fans with—“Hey, it’s just a TV show!” However, Jenkins seems to already be following William Paul Young’s *Shack* universalism path as he uses his highly visible *Chosen* platform to introduce mystical New Age Catholic universalists like Richard Rohr¹⁰ and Brother Lawrence¹¹ to his ever-growing fan base. Obviously, the lesson Christians should have learned from *The Shack* has been lost amidst all *The Chosen* fanfare. And the lesson is that fictional false Christs can be used by our Spiritual Adversary to cleverly condition and deceive people. In short, what seems to be “just a novel” or “just a TV show” can turn out to be something else entirely.

┆ Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Corinthians 2:11)

20 Questions to Ask Yourself

1) Not What It Seems?

*What if *The Chosen* is not what it seems?*

Countless Christians have been subtly drawn in by *The Shack’s* cleverly presented errant theology. But for those paying close biblical attention, *The Shack* was seen for *what it was*, not for what it *seemed* to be. The novel was a clever device to introduce unsuspecting readers to a different Jesus and a different theology. And for those taking a deeper look, what becomes very apparent is that *The Chosen*—like *The Shack*—is *not what it seems*.

┆ There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Proverbs 14:12)

2) Prayed About *The Chosen*?

*Have you ever stopped to pray about *The Chosen*?*

You may like *The Chosen*, but have you actually *prayed* about the series? By not consulting God, Joshua and the Israelites learned a hard lesson. Trusting themselves—rather than the Lord—they were completely fooled by the Gibeonite people. With their clever words and convincing props, the Gibeonite *actors* and their *carefully staged performance* completely deceived the trusting Israelites. Joshua records that they were deceived by the polished production because they “asked not counsel at the mouth of the Lord” (Joshua 9:14). Had the Israelites stopped to consult the Lord, they would have been alerted to the deception that was being so skillfully enacted in front of them.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 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. (James 1:5-6)

3) Slips, Snares, Tares, and Leaven?

Have you noticed that what the Bible describes as strange slips, snares, tares, and leaven have been subtly, and not so subtly, inserted into The Chosen's multi-season episodes?

For example:

In the Bible, Jesus says of John the Baptist that no one born of women is greater than him, yet at times *The Chosen* refers to him as “creepy John?”¹²

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist. (Matthew 11:11)

In the Bible, Jesus *never* seeks the counsel of men because He speaks *only* what He is given by “the Father.” Yet *The Chosen's* “Jesus” seeks Matthew’s counsel on how to begin His Sermon on the Mount?¹³

For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? (Romans 11:34)

For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. (John 12:49)

The Bible is clear that Jesus was only arrested *once* and that was in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was *not* arrested prior to Gethsemane because his time had “not yet come.” Yet *The Chosen's* “Jesus” is prematurely arrested before Gethsemane.¹⁴

Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. (John 7:30)

The Chosen's fictional “backstories” are filled with many other strange slips, snares, tares, and leaven. Taken in their totality, they serve to undermine and cast doubt on the very Bible that warns about them.

Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips. (Isaiah 17:10)

They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? (Psalm 64:5)

But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. (Matthew 13:25)

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. (Galatians 5:7-9)

4) No Love of the Truth?

Why would The Chosen directly contradict what the Bible so clearly shows to be true?

One seemingly small but very symbolic example of *The Chosen's* disregard for the Bible and its truth is seen in the first season. In the Bible when Jesus calls Matthew to be His disciple, Matthew is clearly and definitely *sitting* at his tax stand. It is only after his being called that Matthew rose to his feet.

And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him. (Matthew 9:9)

However, *The Chosen's* "Jesus" calls Matthew as he is *standing* at his tax stand.¹⁵ And while this may seem like a small matter to some, it definitely is not. It shows the distinct disregard *The Chosen* writers have for the truth of God's Word. For thousands of years, faithful scribes meticulously transcribed God's Word because they knew and trembled at the fact that it *was* God's Word. But not so with *The Chosen's* "creative" writers who choose to use *their* words and *their* ideas to entertain rather than edify.

For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth. (Psalm 33:4)

And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the Lord. (Jeremiah 9:3)

For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

5) Get Used to Different?

Are we really supposed to "get used to different?"

"Get used to different" is the sharp statement spoken by *The Chosen's* "Jesus" to Peter just after he called Matthew to be his disciple.¹⁶ This line has become a purposeful *Chosen* motto/meme that is now printed on *Chosen* T-shirts, hoodies, tumblers, books, and even baby clothes. More significantly, it has become imprinted in the minds of *Chosen* viewers around the world. But why the big emphasis on this statement about making things "different"?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "different" as a direct expression of the word "change." It states that the act of change is to make different, alter, transform, give a different position, course, or direction to. In short, "get used to different" means "get used to change." But the Bible warns of ungodly change and how it can be brought forth to introduce another *different* Jesus, another *different* spirit, and another *different* gospel—and how people may go along with this different Jesus and actually "bear with him" and "get used to" these differences.

For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him. (2 Corinthians 11:4)

My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change. (Proverbs 24:21)

6) What Does Your Heart Tell You?

Why does the "Jesus" of The Chosen teach viewers to listen to their heart when the Bible tells us just the opposite?

In the seventh episode of the first season, Nicodemus asks "Jesus" a question. Sounding more like the false Christ of the New Age who says to follow your heart, and sounding more like the Mormon false teaching to follow a feeling—a "burning in the bosom,"¹⁷ *The Chosen's* "Jesus" answers the Jewish leader by asking him—"What does your heart tell you?"¹⁸ Yet the Bible warns:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)

He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered. (Proverbs 28:26)

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. (Matthew 15:19)

7) “Authentic Jesus?”

Is The Chosen’s “Jesus” really the “authentic Jesus” that Dallas Jenkins says he is?

Dallas Jenkins continually states that *The Chosen’s* “Jesus” is the “authentic Jesus.” But would the authentic Jesus Christ of the Bible ask his disciples for guidance, direct Nicodemus to follow his heart, or get arrested before Gethsemane?

The authentic Jesus—in actuality—is the true, genuine, historical figure in the Bible who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6). He is not the fictitious, shape-shifting, unbiblical, “get used to different” figure presented in *The Chosen*. For Dallas Jenkins and his *Chosen* spokespeople to attach the word authentic to their “Jesus” and then repeatedly put this label into people’s minds as fact is about as disingenuous and inauthentic as anyone can get—and especially given the fact that *The Chosen* is almost entirely devoid of scriptural content.

Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness. (Isaiah 48:1)

8) Changing God’s Word?

Does God give permission to anyone for any reason—much less for the purpose of entertainment—to add, subtract, change, contradict, and corrupt His Word?

Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. (Proverbs 30:6)

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (Revelation 22:19)

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:17)

Do you love *God’s Word* or *Dallas Jenkins’ word*? Almost everything you see, hear, and experience in *The Chosen* comes from the human imagination of Dallas Jenkins and his co-writers—not the Bible.

9) No Bible?

Did you know that Dallas Jenkins says to watch The Chosen as though the Bible didn’t exist?

Elevating *his word* and *his “artistic” film making* above God’s Word, Jenkins states:

I believe it is important to watch *The Chosen* as though the Bible didn’t exist. Again, I know that sounds bizarre and even scary, but I’m just referring to strictly the artistic analysis and the viewing experience like any other TV show.¹⁹

God, on the other hand, thinks so highly of His Word that He magnifies it even above His own name. Thus, it is crucial that we read, study, and adhere to God’s Word to show ourselves approved, rightly dividing His Word of truth, especially when it is being changed and misrepresented in things like *The Chosen*.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. (Psalm 138:2)

10) Creative License or Evil Imagination?

Does creative license ever take precedence over God's Word?

No. In fact, the Bible warns about evil imaginations which are created by people who put their own thoughts and purposes above the Bible and the knowledge of God:

Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart. (Jeremiah 11:8)

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5)

11) Famine for Hearing the Word of God?

Is The Chosen's lack of Bible content reflective of the Bible's warning of the time when there will be a "famine" for hearing the Word of God and that people will not endure sound doctrine as they follow false teachers?

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. (Amos 8:11)

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. (2 Timothy 4:3)

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17)

12) Cunningly Devised Fables?

Are you aware the Bible warns us not to follow cunningly devised fables, (e.g., fictional backstories), that raise questions rather than produce godly edifying?

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. (2 Peter 1:16)

Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. (1 Timothy 1:4)

13) Edification or Entertainment?

When it comes to anything related to the Bible, are you more interested in being entertained or edified?

The Chosen's fictional fables (which by Dallas Jenkins' own admission are 95% devoid of Bible content²⁰) are created to captivate, amuse, and entertain. The Bible's stories are *true* stories because they are God's own Holy Word. They are not presented for our entertainment but to show us the way to true biblical faith and to instruct, warn, uplift, and edify.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. (1 Corinthians 10:11-12)

Let all things be done unto edifying. (1 Corinthians 14:26)

14) Plausible or Evil Surmisings?

Are you aware that many of the events and conversations The Chosen presents as being “plausible” (a term Dallas Jenkins frequently uses when describing the made-up stories in The Chosen.) are not only implausible but what the Bible describes as “evil surmisings?”

For example, one backstory has Mary Magdalene temporarily backsliding after being saved by *The Chosen’s* “Jesus.” Dallas Jenkins defends this scene as plausible and argues that it is an “affront” to claim that Christians cannot fall back into sin after they have been saved.²¹ But Jenkins evades the real issue and completely misses the point. The real affront is his defamation of Mary Magdalene’s name and reputation for the purpose of “Christian” entertainment. To portray her as a backslider is not a reasonable conjecture—it is what the Bible calls an “evil surmising.” Ironically, the first definition of the word “plausible” in *Merriam-Webster’s* dictionary denotes a possible element of deception and rightly anticipates the Bible’s warning about evil surmisings.

Plausible: superficially fair, reasonable, or valuable but often deceptively so.

Surmise: supposing something is true without having the evidence to confirm it.

“Evil surmisings” then, are statements that may appear to be superficially plausible but in the end are deceptive and contribute to evil purposes. That is why truth—not plausibility, speculation, conjecture, or surmising—is what the Bible and the true Jesus Christ are all about.

If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, (1 Timothy 6:3-4)

15) Pleasing God or Pleasing Men?

Do you realize that successful crowdfunding is totally dependent on successful crowd pleasing—pleasing men rather than God?

Dallas Jenkins is quick to point out that *The Chosen* is *the* most successful crowdfunding media project *ever* as it propels its way to its much-publicized goal of getting one billion views. But is pleasing men something you really want to brag about? While Dallas Jenkins and his Jonathan Roumie “Jesus” are delivered unto red carpets, standing ovations, worldly awards, and are *loved by all nations*, the real Jesus warned that in the last days His followers would be afflicted and killed and *hated by all nations* (Matthew 24:9). For those who follow the true Jesus of the Bible and not the false “Jesus” of *The Chosen*, there will be few standing ovations and worldly awards—just the satisfaction of pleasing God rather than men.

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. (Galatians 1:10)

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24)

Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets. (Luke 6:26)

16) Fear of God?

Do you think that putting one's own thoughts and words in the mouth of Jesus and the disciples reflects anything resembling the fear of God?

As stated, Dallas Jenkins is always reminding everyone how successful *The Chosen* is as they march toward their one billion views and how it is being translated into 600 languages. And while he continually boasts of the show's popularity, he insists that he is "humble" and "not arrogant"—even as he dares to put his own imagined words in the mouth of Jesus and the disciples.

There is no fear of God before their eyes. (Romans 3:18)

For such (are) false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

(2 Corinthians 11:13-14)

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. (2 Corinthians 10:12)

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. (Proverbs 29:23)

17) Ever Viewing But Never Learning?

*Are you ever viewing *The Chosen* but never coming to a knowledge of the truth?*

Given that Dallas Jenkins admits that 95% of *The Chosen's* content is not from the Bible, and you are told to watch the series as if the Bible didn't exist—how much truth will you ever learn from this multi-season series? As one watches episode after episode, season after season, you are learning more about fictional backstories than anything that is actually true. You will be ever viewing, but never coming to a knowledge of the truth. The Bible warns about things that have "a form of godliness" but lack the true power of God and His Word. It says, "from such, turn away."

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:7)

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (2 Timothy 3:5)

18) Narrow or Broad Way?

*Does *The Chosen's* worldwide popularity and acclaim, its ever-increasing record-breaking views, and its almost complete absence of Scripture, sound like it's heading along the narrow way of truth or down the broad way of deception and destruction?*

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. (Matthew 7:13-14)

19) Heard From "Who"?

Should everyone just take Dallas Jenkins' word that God spoke to him about *The Chosen* and told him how successful the series would be?

Everything needs to be measured by the Word of God—not by what someone tells us they allegedly heard from God. The Bible says to pray and test the spirits because "many false prophets are gone out into the world."

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. (1 John 4:1)

Dallas Jenkins says he was presented with the idea for *The Chosen* series by several Mormon businessmen in 2017. This was soon after his most recent movie was, in his own words, “a complete bomb.”²² He said:

I was coming off a huge career failure. The beginning of 2017 was the lower point of my career and one of the lowest moments of my life.²³

Just months later in 2018, in Magdala, Israel, Jenkins said he was told by “God” what any struggling filmmaker longs to hear—that his series was destined for worldwide fame and glory and that “God” would be with him all the way.²⁴ Interestingly, when Jenkins heard all this, he was not that far from where Jesus was tempted by the Devil.

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. (Matthew 4:8)

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. (1 Timothy 4:1)

20) Godly Global Phenomenon or Ungodly Global Deception?

Is The Chosen series a godly global phenomenon, or could it be part of the end time global deception prophesied in the Bible?

The Chosen is being described as a great global phenomenon because the series is allegedly uniting different faith groups with its fictional “get used to different” false Christ “Jesus” who is *not* depicted properly and is *not* the Bible’s true Jesus Christ at all. In fact, the Bible warns that in the last days, there will be many false Christs that will deceive many people. Could it be that *The Chosen* is well on its way to playing its part in paving the way for Antichrist and the ultimate global deception prophesied in the Bible?

. . . Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Matthew 24:3-5)

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (Revelation 1:3)

And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. (Revelation 18:23)

Conclusion

Many films take unwarranted creative license in presenting what *seems* to be a generally true story. However, the viewer may later find out that the seemingly true story was actually untrue in a number of subtle and not so subtle ways. A good example of this was the 1988 film *The Last Temptation of Christ*. It caused a great uproar in the church as Christians around the country publicly opposed the gross liberties the film took in portraying a much different “Jesus” than the Jesus Christ found in the Bible. Countless committed believers openly protested outside theaters that were featuring the film. Yet today the children and grandchildren of those protesters are now inside those same theaters—and even their own homes and churches—watching *The Chosen* and applauding the unbiblical liberties their elders had once so vigorously opposed.

The Chosen Is Wonderful?

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:22-23)

What do people say about *The Chosen*?—"It's wonderful!" But God, speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, warned how something seemingly "wonderful" can actually be "horrible" and yet His people will still "love to have it so." And God, speaking through the prophet Daniel, warned that the whole world would be deceived one day by a false Christ—Antichrist—who will "destroy wonderfully."

A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof? (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

And in the latter time of their kingdom, when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance, and understanding dark sentences, shall stand up. And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practice, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people. (Daniel 8:23-24)

Few Are Chosen

Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me. (Isaiah 54:15)

As Dallas Jenkins talks of attaining a billion views and boasts about *The Chosen* being a global phenomenon, we would do well to remember Jesus' warning in Matthew 22:14:

For many are called but few are chosen.

This booklet can be purchased through [Lighthouse Trails](#).

Also check out [7 Biblical Reasons to avoid *The Chosen*](#), a YouTube video (posted 6/12/24) interview with former New Age follower Doreen Virtue, Pastor Chris Quintana, and researcher Shane Cox.

Endnotes

1. *A Candid Conversation with Dallas Jenkins*, Director of *The Chosen*, (Melissa Dougherty, 4/27/21, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__-Yyq1FPQI), mm: 67:45-67:55, i.e., 1:06:45-1:07:00).
2. Read "Derral Eves, Expert Marketer, CEO of *The Chosen*" by Chemain Evans, 6/30/21 (<https://blog.lemonadestand.org/derral-eves-expert-marketer-ceo-of-the-chosen>). In this article see the "Derral Eves Podcast Transcription" and the section titled, "Derral Eves Talks About *The Chosen*"; see also Derral Eves | The man behind *The Chosen*, Mr. Beast, The Piano Guys, and More, 9/13/21 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9WI4_fukXw). In this video Charan Prabhakar interviews Derral Eves from mm: 1:27-52:45. Begin at minute mark 30:50 for the section titled, "Derral Eves Talks About *The Chosen*."
3. *A Candid Conversation*, op. cit., mm: 13:45-14:05 (approx.).
4. Interview With a Mormon and an Evangelical! (David Snell of Saints Unscripted interviews Dallas Jenkins, 5/29/20, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXliv3Nhlhc&t=796s>, mm: 9:24-11:00).
5. *A Candid Conversation*, op. cit., mm: 24:30-24:38.

6. Dallas Jenkins official “Highlighted reply” post in “comments” for YouTube: “Now Let’s Be Honest,” 2/02/24, *The Chosen*, Season 4: Episodes 1-3 Discussion (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lr9g4PqBBU0>). Below video description in the comments/replies dialogue section, “@DallasJenkinsOfficial” (Dallas Jenkins) posted a “Highlighted reply” (“3 months ago”) to “@NowLetsBeHonest” (David Tate). The first paragraph of Jenkins’ reply reads: “agreed! And just to clarify even further . . . I believe it is important to watch *The Chosen* as though the Bible didn’t exist. Again, I know that sounds bizarre and even scary, but I’m just referring to strictly the artistic analysis and the viewing experience like any other TV show.” Citation accessed 5/31/24 (screenshot on file).
7. *Restoring the Shack* television series, Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), 20 episodes that were originally broadcast in 2017. (*Restoring the Shack* online at: <https://www.tbn.org/programs/restoring-shack>).
8. William Paul Young, *Lies We Believe About God* (New York, NY: Atria Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, 2017), p. 118.
9. C. Baxter Kruger, *The Shack Revisited: There is More Going on Here Than You Ever Dared to Dream* (New York, NY: Faith Works, Hatchette Book Group, 2012), p. xi.
10. Richard Rohr, *What Do We Do With the Bible?* (Great Britain, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 2019 Edition), pp. 69-70; Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe* (New York: NY; Convergent Books, 2019), p. 18; *The Chosen Series: 10 Critical Concerns* (Roseburg, OR: Lighthouse Trails Publishing, 2022), pp. 11-12.
11. Brother Lawrence dangerous contemplative mysticism warnings / *The Chosen* / Joni Eareckson Tada (Doreen Virtue, 3/29/24, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O8NqHfH5kWI>); Have you checked this out? This new book from @joniandfriends is changing me and will change you. Here’s how. (Dallas Jenkins, Facebook post 11/27/23, <https://www.facebook.com/DallasJenkinsOfficial/videos/892944959082152>), mm: 0:01-3:09; Warren B. Smith, *Another Jesus Calling: How Sarah Young’s False Christ Is Deceiving the Church*, expanded 2nd edition (Mountain Stream Press, 2013), pp. 86-88.
12. *The Chosen*: Season 1, Episode 4, mm: 20:41, Season 2, Episode 1, mm: 1:58.
13. *Ibid.*, Season 2, Episode 8, mm: 20:21.
14. *Ibid.*, Season 2, Episode 7, mm: 17:48.
15. *Ibid.*, Season 1, Episode 7, mm: 33:1.
16. *Ibid.*
17. *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual* (2002), Section 9, “Your Bosom Shall Burn within You,” pp. 20-21.
18. *The Chosen*, Season 1, Episode 7, mm: 30:14.
19. Dallas Jenkins official “Highlighted reply” post in “comments” for YouTube: “Now Let’s Be Honest,” op. cit.
20. See endnote #5.
21. Read “Harsh Criticism of *The Chosen* Draws Emotional Response From Dallas Jenkins” by Thomas Bonifield, 5/29/21 (Updated 7/08/22) (<https://www.christianfilmblog.com/post/harsh-criticism-of-the-chosen-draws-emotional-response-from-dallas-jenkins>).
22. Read “Dallas Jenkins, The Director of *The Chosen*” by Greg Trimble, June 23, 2020 (<https://blog.lemonadestand.org/dallas-jenkins-creator-director-and-co-writer-of-the-chosen>).
23. Read “*The Chosen* Creator in Utah: What the Latter-Day Saints Asked Dallas Jenkins About His Popular Show” by *Deseret News*, 3/03/22. (<https://www.deseret.com/faith/2022/3/3/22957372/the-chosen-creator-dallas-jenkins-utah-state-university-dialogue-jesus-christ-faith-religion>).
24. *A Candid Conversation*, op. cit.

Note: The minute marks listed in this endnote section were accurate at the time this booklet went to press.

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Acknowledgments from SRN

Spiritual Research Network (SRN) is pleased to publish this booklet that challenges *Chosen* viewers to ask some very serious questions about the nature of *The Chosen* series and where it is going.

The Chosen and the Bible is a unique collaborative effort undertaken and put together by a group of concerned individuals and ministries. We all have deep concerns about Dallas Jenkins, *The Chosen*, and how they misrepresent the Bible and the biblical representation of the person of Jesus Christ and His disciples.

Chris Lawson, Director

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OUR PRESENT SITUATION—EMERGENCY MODE!

BY DAVID DOMBROWSKI

AN ANALOGY OF FINDING OUR WAY

As we now move away from the year 2020 and reflect on where that year has taken us, I am reminded of an interesting experience I had years ago. It was 1972, and having been drafted into the military, on one particular day one of our training sessions was on navigation. It seemed a bit peculiar to me that this session was running so late in the day until I later realized we would be doing our navigation exercise at night.

Back then, soldiers at military bases did not have GPS. Instead, we were each issued a compass for the exercise and given instructions on how to use it. Ironically, only months before this, I was taking a university geography class where we spent some time learning about reading topographical maps, using a compass, and correcting magnetic north for true north. But on this particular day in the army, I was learning more of the practical side of using a compass.

Once it became dark, the first thing we did was to “charge” our compasses by holding the phosphorescent dial and needle up to a bright light bulb for about two minutes. We were each then dispersed with compass in hand, having adjusted our own compass for a specific bearing on the dial. Because this was a military training exercise, none of us bore flashlights as we needed to avoid being seen, but as our eyes adjusted for night vision, we were able to see our way to our destination.

The key step, we were told, in using the compass was to sight an object or feature in the terrain that fell in line with the compass bearing. Once that spot was reached, each of us performed a new sighting to bring us to the next spot leading to our destination. On a smooth piece of landscape, sightings can be fewer and farther apart, but rough terrain necessitates frequent sightings because we cannot see as far.



A YEAR THAT REQUIRED FREQUENT SIGHTINGS

I believe this illustration serves as a good analogy of the need to stop and reflect and get fresh direction from our Lord because 2020 was an especially hilly year requiring frequent “sightings.” Often, during the year, I would

*****22
Continues on page 22

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