



The Bible Banner



May 2022

Discerning Truth Amidst the Lies

A school teacher lost her life savings in a business scheme that had been elaborately explained by a swindler. When her investment disappeared and her dream was shattered, she went to the Better Business Bureau.

"Why didn't you come to us first?" the official asked. "Didn't you know about the Better Business Bureau?"

"Oh, yes," said the lady sadly.

"I've always known about you. But I didn't come because I was afraid you'd tell me not to do it."

The folly of human nature is that even though we know the truth and God's way are to be found in His Word (John 17:17), sometimes we don't turn there for fear of what He will say.

"The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit." Proverbs 14:8

EASY Carob Chip Cookie Dough Bites

A Lightly Sweet Treat

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ½ cup natural peanut butter | 3 Tbsp raw honey, organic if possible |
| ¾ cup almond flour | 2 Tbsp coconut flour |
| 1/3 cup non-dairy carob chips, non-GMO | |

Mix together peanut butter and honey. Add almond and coconut flour to a cookie-dough-like consistency. Add carob chips last. Roll into balls or flatten into bars, as desired. Refrigerate or freeze until use.

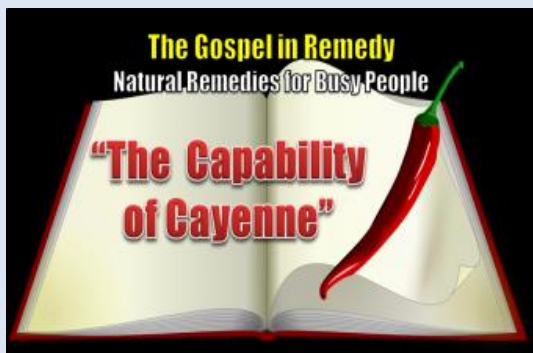


PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

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<https://www.bitchute.com/video/jSWBaLK6QFcN/>



Quotable Quotes

"Error cannot stand alone, and would soon become extinct if it did not fasten itself like a parasite upon the tree of truth."

{RH, October 22, 1895 par. 3}

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Editor's Note — Truth or Trickery?

"I bet you won't give me a piece this big," my older brother said as he measured a small portion with his fingers and motioned toward the sweet roll on my plate.

The struggle was on. I really wanted my sweet roll, but I couldn't let my brother be right that I wouldn't share, so grudgingly, I broke off a small piece and gave it to him. But he wasn't finished yet. "I bet you won't give me a piece this big," he said again, this time measuring an even larger piece with his fingers. Again, I struggled looking at MY sweet roll that was a special treat we didn't always have. But again, I succumbed, and grudgingly broke off a piece at least double the size of the last one. Truthfully, I don't remember how long this went on, and if my brother finally took pity on his poor gullible sister and let me finish my sweet roll. He doesn't remember either, but as we laughed together, I thanked him recently for giving me a lesson early on that helped me recognize similar tactics used to trick people into doing that which they would not normally do, a lesson greatly needed in these today's world. (Consider how the princes tricked Darius into getting rid of Daniel.)



The Bible also gave us lessons to teach us discernment as well as giving a warning of a pandemic of lies in the last days. In fact, in Matthew 24 a warning of deceptive people is the first and oft repeated warning that Jesus gave. Matthew 24:3,4 records, *"And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, 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."*

Frankly, despite this warning from Jesus, I have been dismayed at the abundance of lies that people, and even Christians, are readily accepting as truth these days. It seems everywhere you look there are lies. Not only is the mainstream media full of lies, but the alternative media promotes equally dangerous lies. Like the frogs of Egypt -- that were in the houses, in the bedrooms, in the beds, in the ovens, in the "kneadingtroughs" where they made their bread -- deceit plagues the planet. (Exodus 8:3) Although the lies seem to vary greatly in topic resulting in pseudoscience and lies about food, family, and faith, according to the Revelation of Jesus Christ they all come from the same source—a trinity of evil.



"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."

Revelation 16:13,14 That frogs are connected with a battle in this verse is interesting since a group of frogs is actually called an army.

But why does the Bible say these unclean spirits are *"like frogs"*? This suggests that the unclean spirits are similar either in appearance or character to frogs. Frogs are amphibians, meaning they live both in the water and on land. In other words, these spirits of devils easily adapt themselves to the situation or group they are working with. To the religious they will appear religious, to the educated they will appear educated, to the conspiracy theorists they will appear like conspiracy theorists, etc.

Also note frogs catch things with their tongue. It is said that a frog can shoot out its tongue, capture an insect, and pull it back into its mouth within 0.07 of a second — five times faster than the human eye can blink. This connects frogs to lying and flattery. *"The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment."* Proverbs 12:19 *"Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait."* Jeremiah 9:8

While there is beautiful *"simplicity"* in the truth *"that is in Christ"* 2 Cor. 11:3 and *"the way of the righteous is made plain"* Prov. 15:19 these unclean spirits like frogs may use amphibology. Amphibology refers to words or phrases that are ambiguous, meaning they can be interpreted more than one way. Amphibology is often used for deceit. In fact Proverbs 26:24-26 warns of those *"whose hatred is covered by deceit"* saying *"He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him; when he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart."* Let me illustrate how this is done. It is said that writing letters of recommendation can be hazardous-- you might get sued if the contents are negative, so Robert Thornton, a professor at Lehigh University, has a

collection of "virtually litigation-proof" phrases called the Lexicon of Intentionally Ambiguous Recommendations, or LIAR. Here are some examples:

*To describe an inept person--"*I enthusiastically recommend this candidate with no qualifications whatsoever.*"

*To describe an ex-employee who had problems getting along with fellow workers--"*I am pleased to say that this candidate is a former colleague of mine.*"

*To describe an unproductive candidate--"*I can assure you that no person would be better for the job.*"

*To describe an applicant not worth consideration--"*I would urge you to waste no time in making this candidate an offer of employment.*"

People controlled by spirits of devils aren't always saying what you think they are saying. Sometimes you think they are saying something positive when, like the comments above, their actual meaning is something negative. Remember Babel or Babylon means confusion and indeed the devil loves to cause confusion. In contrast, "*God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..*" 1 Cor. 14:33

One of Satan's methods of causing confusion is using people that you think you can trust to confuse you. Sometimes this may include your priest, your pastor, your doctor, your teacher, your friends, or even your family.

Jeremiah 9:4-6 warns, "*Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders. And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.*"

Hosea 10:13 reveals the cause of being deceived, "*Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men.*" No wonder we are counseled "*Cease ye from man..*" Isaiah 2:22 This directive includes not trusting ourselves, our way, or our even our own timing instead of God's, for Proverbs 14:12 says, "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*"



Thankfully, we don't have to know all the wrong ways in order to recognize the right way, for Jesus said "*I am the way, the truth, and the life...*" John 14:6 Case in point, the US Treasury Department has a special group of men whose job it is to track down counterfeiters. But they are not trained by spending hours examining counterfeit money. Rather, they study the real thing. Likewise, there is only one antidote to protect you from lies and that is Truth, because "*no lie is of the truth*" 1 John 2:21. In addition, 2 Thessalonians 2:11,10 reveals, "*And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie... because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*"

Of course, Jesus is the ultimate Truth (John 14:6) and the Bible, the word of truth and the law of God are our safeguard (John 17:17, Psalm 119:142). But if you were actually put on the stand in a just court of law, what would the verdict be? Would they find that you love truth, or are lies the form of entertainment you love? Do you read fiction, a fancy cover story for books full of lies? Do you regularly watch hypocrites (defined by Strong's Concordance as "*an actor under an assumed character, stage player*" and by Webster as "*one who feigns to be what he is not.*") on TV or in the movies? And what about your own practices? Are you a dissembler, defined by Webster as "*one who conceals his opinions or dispositions under a false appearance*"? We need to consider whether, by our actions and loving fashionable deceptions we "*lie... against the truth*" James 3:14 and are actually setting ourselves up to be deceived. Because truth will prevail whether it is believed and loved or not. You can stand on a very tall building and say you believe gravity has no power over you. But if you jump, you will end up smashed at the bottom because you ignored one vital element -- the truth. Therefore, my friends, if you would have God-given insight to discern the trickery and deception of these last days, search out the truth as it is in Jesus and "*Buy the truth, and sell it not...*" Prov. 23:23



Prophetic News Notes

New Ambiguous California Law may allow for Infanticide

"*And thou shalt not let any of thy seed [children] pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.*" Leviticus 18:21

"A gruesome new pro-abortion bill proposed in California could legalize infanticide for weeks, months, or even years [see below] after a child is born, an attorney with the Thomas More Society told LifeSiteNews.

"AB 2223 was introduced in February as a placeholder for future legislative language amid a raft of pro-abortion proposals advanced by lawmakers, following radically pro-abortion Democrat Gov. Gavin Newsom's promise to make California a 'sanctuary' for abortion, Right to Life League reported." ¹

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*“Opponents point to the vague language and new phraseology of abortion terms: ‘Although definitions of “perinatal death” vary, all of them include the demise of newborns seven days or more after birth,’ the California Family Council said.”*²



Proponents of the bill deny the charges of connections to infanticide. But this charge hinges on the definition of the term “perinatal” since AB2223 itself states, a *“person shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability or penalty, or otherwise deprived of their rights, based on their actions or omissions with respect to their pregnancy or actual, potential, or alleged pregnancy outcome, including miscarriage, stillbirth, or abortion, or perinatal death.”*¹

According to the Right to Life League’s post on Instagram, *“The bill doesn’t define the term ‘perinatal.’”*³ This leaves this term widely open to interpretation. For example, one lawyer *“cited MedicineNet which puts the definition of ‘perinatal’ at ending ‘1 to 4 weeks after birth,’ as well as the government definition of the phrase via PubMed.gov, which states: ‘The perinatal period, broadly defined, encompasses the time frame from ... 18 to 24 months after the birth of the child.’”*^{1,6}

Our own search on Merriam Webster yielded this quote, *“Perinatal depression is a mood disorder that occurs during the perinatal period, which includes pregnancy and up to a year after giving birth, according to the*

*National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). — Korin Miller, Health.com, 12 Apr. 2022”*⁴

Just to be clear, this bill also *“protects anyone who ‘aids or assists a pregnant person in exercising’ these rights. It also allows a woman to sue any police department or legal authority which arrests or charges her for hurting or killing her child under provisions of the bill.”*⁵

The killing of children was one of the terrible things that happened during the destruction of Jerusalem, a type of the destruction at the end of the world, making it a sign of the times we live in. According to 2 Chronicles 33:6, killing children provokes God’s anger. *“And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom... he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.”* Indeed, *“it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.”* Matt. 18:14 But God gives us this beautiful promise, *“Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.”* Isaiah 49:15

- 1- <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/california-bill-could-legalize-killing-babies-months-after-birth-in-newsoms-abortion-sanctuary-state/>
- 2- <https://californiaglobe.com/articles/infanticide-or-pregnancy-loss-abortion-bill-passes-assembly-judiciary-committee/>
- 3- <https://www.instagram.com/p/CbYGBD9vw8Z/> 4- <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/perinatal>
- 5- <https://www.californiafamily.org/2022/03/newsoms-abortion-council-opens-the-door-to-infanticide/> 6- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3322517/>

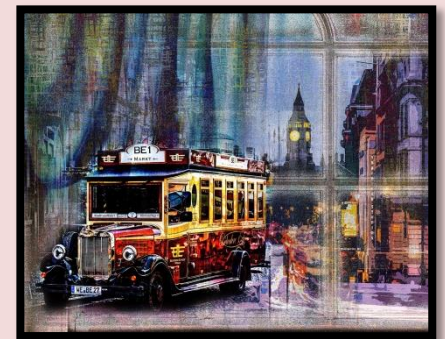


Bus Fare Dilemma

“If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:” 1 John 1:6

There was a pastor who lived in a suburb of London, England who pastored a church in the downtown area. He had an office in the church so he traveled back and forth between the church and his home in the suburbs on a bus each day. One week he preached on honesty.

On Monday, following his usual routine, he got on a bus to go to the office. Since he didn’t have the right change for the driver when he boarded the bus he handed him a bill. The driver gave him his change and the pastor put it in his pocket. While traveling along he counted his change and discovered the driver had given him too much money. His first reaction was to think how wonderful it was for the Lord to provide this extra money.



However, he soon realized this was not the honest thing to do, so he told the driver when he got off that he had made a mistake and given him too much money. The driver quickly said, *“No I didn’t make a mistake, I heard your message on honesty at your church and just decided to test you out.”*

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18



A Spoonful of Honey -- Food and Medicine

“And John was clothed with camel’s hair... and he did eat locusts and wild honey;” Mark 1:6 (Note: A variety of locust tree, called the carob tree is traditionally called “St. John’s Bread” suggesting that John ate carob, not grasshoppers). Since John the Baptist is a type of God’s last day people, I have always found his diet interesting.

Of course, there is the spiritual application of honey to God’s word and His law (Psalm 119:103 & 19:7,10) but today, let’s look at some of health benefits of honey. God’s word acknowledges the benefits of honey in reasonable amounts saying *“My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste;” Proverbs 24:13* However, it warns *“It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.” Proverbs 25:27* And the Scriptures qualify, *“Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.” Proverbs 25:16*



Honey and white table sugar are not the same. Honey has a lower glycemic load than white sugar. Also unlike refined sugar, which actually robs your body of nutrients, especially B vitamins, honey *“contains practically all the B complex vitamins necessary for digesting sugar.”*¹ But honey, especially raw honey, contains a lot more benefits than just “Bee” vitamins. *“Honey ... is far more than just a natural sweetener. It’s a ‘functional food,’ which means it’s a natural food with health benefits. Raw honey nutrition is impressive. Raw honey contains 22 amino acids, 27 minerals and 5,000 enzymes.”*²

Although some aspects of honey vary with the flowers from which it is made, *“It is noteworthy that, irrespective of its floral source, honey contains phytochemicals, flavonoids, catalase, phenolic acids, ascorbic acid, antibiotic-rich inhibine, tocopherols, and peptides, and most of these substances work in synergy to provide its beneficial effects. The other substances identified in natural honey include proteins, amino acids, enzymes (amylase, catalase, invertase, oxidase), and vitamins (including niacin, riboflavin, and pantothenic acid), as well as minerals (mainly calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium and zinc).”*³ Raw honey also contains some beneficial bacteria including *“different species of Lactobacillus”* as well as *“Bifidobacteria.”*⁴ Especially for eating, raw organic honey is best where it is available, but even pasteurized and diluted honey retains some of the benefits.



Besides its nutritional perks, honey also has a vast array of medicinal benefits. I began rotating a stock of honey through my medicine cabinet years ago (this is necessary because good honey crystallizes over time) when I learned that honey could stop some of the flesh-eating bacteria that were antibiotic resistant. Indeed, *“Honey is a natural antibacterial and antimicrobial.”*⁵ We personally know of someone that used Manuka honey as part of a two-part remedy to cure what the doctor had diagnosed as strep throat. It worked! In fact, *“Honey has been reported to have an inhibitory effect to around 60 species of bacteria including aerobes and anaerobes, gram-positives and gram-negatives. Pathogens that are found to be sensitive to anti-infective properties of honey are manifold. Various results are in favor of its activity against Bacillus*

*anthracis[anthrax], Corynebacterium diptheriae, Haemophilus influenzae, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Listeria monocytogenes, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Pasteurella multocida, Yersinia enterocolitica, Proteus species, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Acinetobacter spp, Salmonella diarrhoea, Sal. Typhi [typhoid], Serratia marcescens, Shigella dysentery, Staphylococcus aureus, Streptococcus faecalis, Strep. mutans, Strep. pneumoniae, Strep. pyogenes and Vibrio cholerae. Previously, a small number of case studies examining the antimicrobial activity of honey against methicillin-resistant Staph. aureus (MRSA) organisms demonstrated that natural honey had an antimicrobial activity against the community-associated MRSA organisms in in vitro condition.”*⁶

We have also found that honey makes an excellent dressing for wounds and burns. When Mr. Tough Guy didn’t treat a small burn and it got infected, one dose of honey cleared it right up. Twice now it has been used by our African family with success for more extensive burns. Matching our own experience, several studies show that it works better than the usual hospital treatments. The American Journal of Clinical Dermatology actually states, *“As a dressing on wounds, honey provides a moist healing environment, rapidly clears infection, deodorizes, and reduces inflammation, edema, and exudation. Also, it increases the rate of healing by stimulation of angiogenesis, granulation, and epithelialization, making skin grafting unnecessary and giving excellent cosmetic results.”*⁷

Honey helps your body work better in many ways. *"The clearing of infection seen when honey is applied to a wound may reflect more than just antibacterial properties. Recent research shows that the proliferation of peripheral blood B-lymphocytes and T-lymphocytes in cell culture is stimulated by honey at concentrations as low as 0.1%; and phagocytes are activated by honey at concentrations as low as 0.1%."*⁸ In addition, *"Evidence indicates that honey can exert several health-beneficial effects including antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antidiabetic, respiratory, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, and nervous system protective effects."*⁹

In fact, the story in 1 Samuel 14:27 where Jonathan ate honey and *"his eyes were enlightened"* now has some health evidence to support it. *"Some evidence suggests that honey may have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory powers that can benefit the brain. An animal study found that rats that consumed honey had protection against brain damage caused by exposure to lead. In addition, a review states that raw honey may contain ingredients that help fight inflammation in the hippocampus, a part of the brain involved in memory."*¹⁰ Indeed, God's blessing, as found in a spoonful of honey, is both food and good medicine.

- 1-- The Divine Prescription, pg. 194 2-- <https://draxe.com/nutrition/the-many-health-benefits-of-raw-honey/> 3-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5295738/>
 4-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7413009/> https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318585933_Prebiotic_and_probiotic_properties_of_honey
 5-- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324997#wounds> 6-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3758027/>
 7-- American Journal of Clinical Dermatology 2: 13-19, No. 1, 2001 <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.628.2355&rep=rep1&type=pdf>
 8- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3758027/> 9-- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5424551/>
 10-- <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/324997#brain-health>

Kids' Corner

God's Amazing Creatures

Horned lizards, also known as horny toads, have spines on their flat, rounded bodies. They live in dry places that don't get much rain. The spines on the lizard's back and sides, like their other scales, keep them from losing water through the skin. But the horns on the lizard's head are actual horns. Horned lizards tend to move sluggishly and often sit perfectly still. They rely on their camouflage as their first defense to avoid detection by enemies. If something gets too close to a horny lizard it will run in short bursts and then stop abruptly to confuse the predator. If this doesn't work, they puff up their bodies to make themselves look bigger and more horned. At least eight species are also able to squirt an aimed stream of blood from the corners of the eyes for a distance up to 5 ft (1.5 m). The blood not only confuses their enemies but it also tastes bad to most predators. Jesus gave the horned lizard a lot of ways to protect itself. Jesus gave us the Bible to help keep us safe from Satan's lies. David said, *"by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer."* Psalm 17:4



Hey Kids!

Which of these things are talked about, by name, in the Bible?

