

The Bible Banner



October 2022

Looking for that Blessed Hope

The newspapers once carried the story of a father and mother who, finding that their little girl had taken and eaten something from the cupboard, began to shake and slap the child. When the child became drowsy, they did not let up, but continued their shaking and slapping for four hours. What cruel punishment for such a little offense! No, it was compelled by love. The child had swallowed ten sleeping tablets, and the doctor said the only hope of saving the child's life was in keeping her awake. We do not always understand the path through which God leads us, but we may be certain His chastisement is always born of love. God does not always choose to stop the harshness of the winds, but He rather directs us through them. *"...we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."* Romans 5:3-5

Date Sandwich Crunch

Crust: 1 cup whole wheat or spelt flour 1 tsp salt
1 cup oat flour (may blend quick oats) 4 Tbsp sucanat or coconut sugar
1/3 cup water 1/4 cup olive oil

Mix the dry ingredients together, and then add the wet ingredients until a soft moist ball of dough forms. Add a little more water or oil if necessary. (We have found flour dryness seems to vary from place to place and brand to brand). Roll dough thinly onto a parchment-paper-lined cookie sheet. This covers about 3/4 of a large cookie sheet. Cut your desired size of crackers with a knife or scorer. Prick each cracker with a fork two or three times. Bake at 350°F (175°C) until lightly browned and nearing crisp. When these are done they should break apart fairly easily at the prescored places. Depending on your oven, you may be able to remove some crackers before others are done. Once these are cooled enough to work with, spread the filling on one cracker and top with another cracker to form the date sandwich.



Filling: 16 oz. or about 2 cups of date pieces 1/2 cup water
1/4 cup sucanat or coconut sugar
Cook in saucepan until dates are paste-like and water is absorbed. Add more water if necessary for drier dates.

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

CULTIVATE UNDERSTANDING – Pick different Christian words and try to draw a picture of each concept. Use your Bible and an old dictionary or concordance to try to better understand words like faith, hope, love, trust, sanctification, justification, judgment, etc. Have the whole family or group participate. Discuss together why you drew what you did for each word.
"But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Job 32:8

Quotable Quotes

"God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart. When you are so weak that you cannot do much more than cry, you coin diamonds with both your eyes. The sweetest prayers God ever hears are the groans and sighs of those who have no hope in anything but His love."—Charles Spurgeon

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Editor's Note—Hope, even for a Rat

The phone rang and our daughter answered it. “Who is this?” asked a woman’s voice on the other end. “Diana,” answered our daughter. “Oh, I think **you** have the wrong number,” replied the lady, politely but unapologetically. After our daughter hung up and told us what had happened, we all had a good chuckle about the woman’s confused response. But indeed, some things in life are just in the way you look at them.

And the way you look at things can literally be a life or death matter. Indeed, *“Sickness of the mind prevails everywhere. **Nine tenths of the diseases from which men suffer have their foundation here. . .**”*¹ For example, *“according to Dr. R. S. Fisher, Coroner of the City of Baltimore, a number of individuals die each year after taking small, definitely sublethal doses of poison, or after inflicting small, nonlethal wounds on themselves; apparently they die as a result of the belief in their doom.”*²

But state of mind can work positively too. The Bible makes this clear. Consider the value of hope to strengthen the heart. *“Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”* Psalm 31:24 The opposite is also true. *“Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.”* Proverbs 13:12

Someone recently shared this rat study with me, and though I don’t necessarily condone the unkind methods of testing, the result is quite enlightening. The interesting but brutal experiment was conducted in the 1950s by a Johns Hopkins scientist named Dr. Curt Richter. *“In the 1950s, he conducted a gruesome experiment with domesticated and wild rats. He first took a dozen domesticated rats, put them into jars half-filled with water... The idea was to measure the amount of time they swam before they gave up and went under. The first rat, Richter noted, swam around excitedly on the surface for a very short time, then dove to the bottom, where it began to swim around, nosing its way along the glass wall. It died two minutes later. Two more of the 12 domesticated rats died in much the same way. But, interestingly, the **nine remaining rats did not succumb nearly so readily; they swam for days before they eventually gave up and died.**”* This difference aroused Richter’s curiosity.

*“Now came the wild rats, renowned for their swimming ability. The ones Richter used had been recently trapped and were fierce and aggressive. One by one, he dropped them into the water. And one by one, they surprised him: **Within minutes of entering the water, all 34 died.**”*

“‘What kills these rats?’ he wondered. ‘Why do all of the fierce, aggressive, wild rats die promptly on immersion and only a small number of the similarly treated, tame, domesticated rats?’

The answer, in a word: hope.



“The situation of these rats scarcely seems one demanding fight or flight—it is rather one of hopelessness,” he wrote. ‘[T]he rats are in a situation against which they have no defense ... they seem literally to “give up.”’

*“Richter then tweaked the experiment: He took other, similar rats and put them in the jar. **Just before they were expected to die, however, he picked them up, held them a little while, and then put them back in the water. ‘In this way,’ he wrote, ‘the rats quickly learn that the situation is not actually hopeless.’**”*

*“This small interlude made a huge difference. The rats that experienced a brief reprieve swam much longer and lasted much longer than the rats that were left alone.”*³ Indeed, in contrast to the ‘hopeless’ rats who drowned in 5-10 minutes, the ‘hopeful’ rats continued to swim up to 81 hours or 3 days.² *“They also recovered almost immediately. When the rats learned that they were not doomed, that the situation was not lost, that there might be a helping hand at the ready—in short, when they had a reason to keep swimming—they did. They did not give up, and they did not go under.”*³

As Christians, we also have hope in a ‘hopeless’ world for it is written, *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”* Titus 2:13

*“After elimination of hopelessness,” wrote Richter, “the rats do not die.”*³ And indeed, *“...we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”* Romans 8:24,25 It is looking past the visible to the hope of the Invisible that gives us hope.

"The conclusion drawn was that since the rats BELIEVED that they would eventually be rescued, they could push their bodies way past what they previously thought impossible."⁴

We too, may base our hope on how God has led His people in the past. *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."* Romans 15:4

Then, *"let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation."*
1 Thessalonians 5:8

1-- Healthful Living, pg. 234 2-- <https://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.536.1405&rep=rep1&type=pdf> (Recognizing there are real satanic agencies, we disagree with certain portions of this article) 3-- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/kidding-ourselves/201405/the-remarkable-power-hope> 4-- <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/power-hope-rat-experiment-dr-curt-richter-santosh-swamy>



Prophetic News Notes – Alien Counterfeiters?

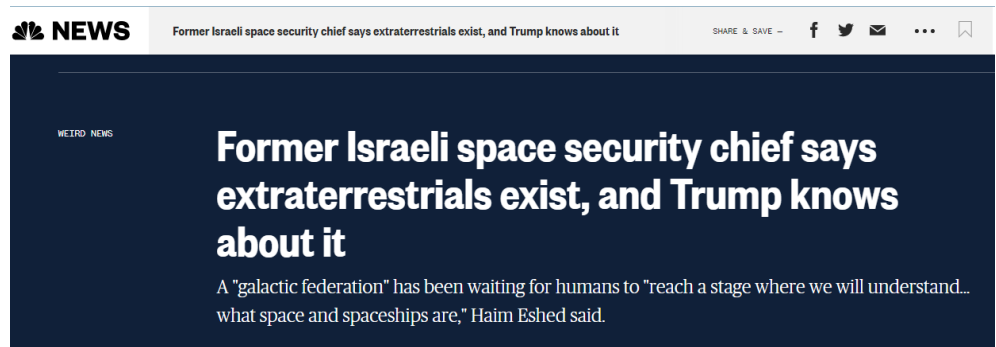
"For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." Revelation 16:14

Bit by bit, this prophecy is beginning to be confirmed before our very eyes, just as planned. Before he was converted, Roger Morneau was a high level satanist. In the interview "A Trip into the Supernatural," Morneau revealed what the satanic high priest told him about *"the master's Grand Plan for harvesting the multitudes of the earth into his cause, just before the close of the Great Controversy between the forces of good and evil."* The satanic high priest stated, *"It's going to be done in a unique manner, this grand plan, people are going to eat this stuff! **Demon spirits will declare themselves to be inhabitants of far distant planets of the galaxies;** that are coming to warn the inhabitants of planet earth of the impending destruction of the planet, unless something seriously proper is done to avoid it...the spirits will show themselves willing to give valuable guidance that will not only help people avoid the destruction of the planet, but it will cause it to enter into a higher state of existence."¹*

We don't have to guess what would be the result of something like this. On Sept. 21, 1987, then-U.S. President Ronald Reagan gave an address to the United Nations General Assembly.... *"Perhaps we need some outside, universal threat to make us recognize this common bond,"* Reagan proposed. ***"I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world."*** And yet, I ask you, is not an alien force already among us? What could be more alien to the universal aspirations of our peoples than war and the threat of war?"²

Not too long ago, an Israeli "respected professor and retired general" came out with information strikingly similar to Morneau's predictions, *"A former Israeli space security chief has sent eyebrows shooting heavenward by saying that earthlings have been in contact with extraterrestrials from a 'galactic federation.'*

"The Unidentified Flying Objects have asked not to publish that they are here, humanity is not ready yet," Haim Eshed, former head of Israel's Defense Ministry's space directorate, told Israel's Yediot Aharonot newspaper....*A respected professor and retired general, Eshed said the aliens were equally curious about humanity and were seeking to understand 'the fabric of the universe.'...*



*"Eshed said cooperation agreements had been signed between species, including an 'underground base in the depths of Mars' where there are American astronauts and alien representatives. **'There is an agreement between the U.S. government and the aliens. They signed a contract with us to do experiments here,'** he said.*

"Eshed added that President Donald Trump was aware of the extraterrestrials' existence and had been 'on the verge of revealing' information but was asked not to in order to prevent 'mass hysteria.'... The White House and Israeli officials did not immediately respond to NBC News' request for comment. Sue Gough, a spokesperson for the Pentagon, declined to comment."³

One might write all this off as conspiracy theory or this man being a little crazy, except for the newly set up US Space Force (*"the Sixth Branch"* of the US military) with a logo that *"looks like the one from StarTrek"*⁴ (an alien TV show). Also another headline recently caught my eye, stating, *"Congress Admits UFOs Not 'Man-Made,' Says 'Threats' Increasing 'Exponentially.'"* Reading further, the article explains, *"Buried deep in a report that's an addendum to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, a budget that governs America's clandestine services, Congress made two startling claims. The first is that 'cross-domain transmedium threats to the United States national security are expanding exponentially.' The second is that it wants to distinguish between UFOs that are human in origin and those that are not: 'Temporary nonattributed objects, or those that are positively identified as man-made after analysis, will be passed to appropriate offices and should not be considered under the definition as unidentified aerospace-undersea phenomena,' the document states..."*



US Space Force logo looks like one from Star Trek

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US HANDOUT

US Space Force logo on left and the Star Trek emblem on right.

The article also states, *"Marik von Rennenkampff, an Obama-era DoD [Department of Defense] official, said in an op-ed in The Hill about the budget.... 'This implies that members of the Senate Intelligence Committee believe (on a unanimous, bipartisan basis) that some UFOs have non-human origins,' von Rennenkampff continued. 'After all, why would Congress establish and task a powerful new office with investigating non-'man-made' UFOs if such objects did not exist? Make no mistake: One branch of the American government implying that UFOs have non-human origins is an explosive development.'"*⁵

It seems that the stage is set for Satan to manifest himself. *"For instance, he [the satanic high priest] said the spirits will promise that if their recommendations are followed carefully they will usher in a glorious new age of peace and prosperity and there'll be no more wars; there'll be no more famines; there'll be no more people getting unhappy with one another; neighbor will love neighbor; and social unrest will not take place no [any] more; there'll be perfect happiness for a thousand years; that's what the spirits are going to promise."*¹

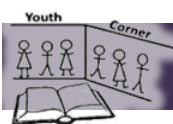
But those who follow this demonic "alien" direction *"overlook the testimony of the Scriptures concerning the wonders wrought by Satan and his agents. It was by satanic aid that Pharaoh's magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be similar manifestations of satanic power. The coming of the Lord is to be preceded by 'the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness.' 2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10. And the apostle John, describing the miracle-working power that will be manifested in the last days, declares: 'He doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do.' Revelation 13:13, 14. No mere impostures are here foretold. Men are deceived by the miracles which Satan's agents have power to do, not which they pretend to do."*⁶

1-- A TRIP INTO THE SUPERNATURAL--A Harrowing Brush With the Powers of Darkness, Temcat transcript of Roger Morneau's story in his own words, pg 9 --available here

<https://www.biblepicturepathways.com/video-library.php>

2-- <https://www.cultureready.org/blog/reagans-1987-un-speech-alien-threat-resonates-now>

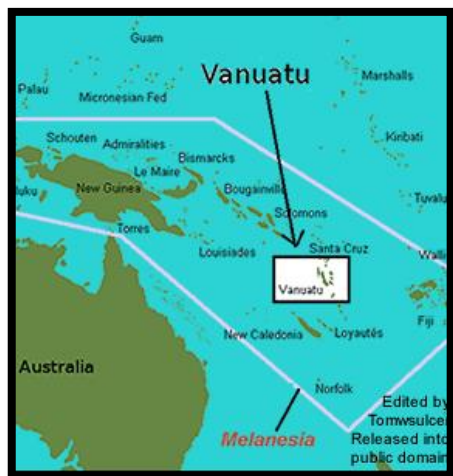
3-- <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/weird-news/former-israeli-space-security-chief-says-extraterrestrials-exist-trump-knows-n1250333> 4-- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-51245262> 5-- <https://www.vice.com/en/article/3adadb/congress-admits-ufos-not-man-made-says-threats-increasing-exponentially> 6--Great Controversy pg. 553



Hope Thou in God

"For in thee, O LORD, do I hope: thou wilt hear, O Lord my God." Psalm 38:15 On a Friday, the first day of June 2001, a pastor in Vanuatu (a country made up of islands in the Pacific Ocean) received a call from two laymen from the northern part of Ambrym island.

They requested him to visit them and help continue with the series of meetings which they were already conducting. The pastor, realizing he had no money to travel to the area, nevertheless asked his daughter to accompany him. The place they had to travel takes 4 to 5 hours to go by a 25HP outboard motor, but they were going to be traveling by canoe.



From the beach, they could see big swells on the ocean and it was also very windy. The pastor told his daughter, *"We have always heard from the Bible that Jesus looks after his people, and He can do the same to His people today. If we are drowned in the ocean today, it will be His problem to save us, because we are on His errand."* His daughter agreed, and they hopped into the canoe. But before they could even go one meter (3 feet) the canoe got drowned in the swells.

The pastor and his daughter pulled the canoe ashore. And while the daughter drained the water off the canoe the pastor checked and arranged their bags of clothes and books which would now be all soaking wet. But to his amazement the bags, although very wet outside, were very dry inside. Not a drop of water was inside! Feeling encouraged, he asked his daughter to report on how the swells were developing. She said she could only see 7 huge swells coming in to crash on the beach. After the last of the 7 swells swept in and out of the beach, the pastor and his daughter offered a short prayer. His prayer was something like this: *"Our father in heaven. You are the father of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. You commanded the sun to stand still when Joshua was fighting. You commanded the sea and the wind to be still and they obeyed you. Today we are going on your mission, and we now ask your protection from the wind and from the sea. Please keep them still as we travel through."*



Again, they hopped into the canoe, but this time the sea was as calm as the river; there was now no wind. The time was 5:30pm and the sun was hanging just above the horizon. They should be at their destination around 12 midnight or 1 in the morning. The pastor began to paddle his way out toward the first point, out into the open sea. Then, unexpectedly and without notice or indeed apparent change the surprised daughter who was sitting at the front of the canoe informed her father, *"We have reached our destination."* There were no exclamation remarks between the two, but rather a solemn silence. They knew God had answered their prayer miraculously because it was now exactly 5:35pm (only five minutes after they left) and they had already reached north Ambrym!! The pastor had asked God to calm the sea and the wind, and God had added speed!

The pastor and his daughter pulled the canoe ashore and quickly went and told the story to the few believers. The pastor excitedly stated that in his lifetime of ministry, he has never before been through such an experience. He encouraged that if we have faith in God, God will open up ways for spreading the gospel from place to place and money won't be heavily relied on. He reminded that often we rely too much on money for the completion of God's work when God wants us to rely on Him. And indeed, the Christian must hope, not in appearances, but in the promises of God's word. For Jesus said, *"With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."* Matt. 19:26b



Bee Sting Prepared



Having thousands of yellow jackets and hornets at our house this summer has made us think through our bee sting first aid. Thankfully, after becoming vegan, both my husband and I lost our dramatic adverse reaction to bee stings, but the thought that several hundred bees could sting at once made us review our options again.

Mud is number one for immediate availability—just dirt and water (or saliva). Baking soda is also frequently available. Just mix with a little water and put on the sting.



However, **Activated charcoal** rates number one for potentially bad stings. It can be mixed with water and taken internally as well as making a poultice of charcoal and oats (or other binder) used directly on the sting. A bathtub full of water and charcoal could also be used in the case of many stings. For bad stings, a good rule of thumb is to change the poultice every 10 minutes for the 1st hour, but you can find more specific directions for activated charcoal here <https://www.swiftrunnerministries.com/charcoal-remedies.php>.

In addition to the charcoal, if I were worried about a potentially bad reaction to stings, by mouth, I would add a **high dose of vitamin C**. This has an amazing effect at quelling allergic reactions. In fact, once I heard of a man who got bitten by an American poisonous snake (not quite as deadly as snakes in other countries). On the way to the hospital, he drank lots of **lemon juice**. Upon reaching the hospital, he was told they could not help him because he didn't know exactly what kind of snake had bitten him. Turns out, he didn't need their help, God's blessing and the lemon juice did the trick. Other good extras to keep in mind, along with lots of water, are **turmeric**, (a natural corticosteroid), **nettle tea** (a natural antihistamine), and **the herb plaintain** may also be used internally and externally for bites and stings. **Quercetin**, which is found in onions, and highest in red onions, may also help to reduce allergic reactions. Above all, **remain calm**. The Great Physician has given us a remedy for both physical stings and spiritual stings. *"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin... But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

Kids' Corner

God's Amazing Creations

*"For thou art my hope,
O Lord GOD: thou art
my trust from my
youth."* Psalm 71:5

Seeds are little lessons
in hope. We can't see
the fruit, only the seed.
But we know God can
sprout the seed and
make the fruit grow.
**Match each seed to
the fruit or flower that
will grow from it.**

