

Message# 294_6-30-2024 – In the Beginning

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Good morning everyone. Thank you for tuning into the message this morning.

In this current series of messages, I am, some might say, entering into this huge debate concerning what the world has titled, “Flat Earth.” I contend that this is not true. I am not entering into the debate - “Flat Earth vs Globe Earth.” I tried to make this clear in the first several messages - but - again - I want to try to make the point even clearer.

The reason for this series - is not to try to prove a point that I believe in “Flat Earth.” There is a much larger debate than that. The debate is simply this - “Is the God of the Bible real? Is the Bible credible?” The recent drama around “Flat Earth vs Globe Earth” is just part of what has been going on for centuries and comes from the “scientific community.” Whether it is what “science” has determined as absolute fact - so they say - even though if you go to another page of their website called “90 Years of Our Changing Views of Earth” you'll read this:

<https://www.nasa.gov/history/90-years-of-our-changing-views-of-earth/>

Indirect evidence of the Earth’s spherical shape has existed for a long time, but the photographic proof was lacking until well into the 20th century. The ancient Greeks believed the Earth was round and calculated its circumference with remarkable accuracy, while observers inferred our planet’s spherical shape as it cast a curved shadow on the Moon during lunar eclipses. With the advent of aviation, photographers could reach altitudes from which they could record the Earth’s curvature. With sounding rockets and then spacecraft returning photographs from ever-greater distances from the planet, we could begin to see the Earth first as a full disk, [that's interesting, didn't notice that first] then as a smaller and smaller blue oasis against the emptiness of space. Through these images, we gained a better understanding of Earth’s, and therefore of our own, place in the universe.

End quote.

Ok. So with advent of aviation, photographers could reach altitudes from which they could record the earth's curvature.

From Wikipedia, the highest altitude a plane has ever flown, quote:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-25#:~:text=On%2031%20August%201977%2C%20Ye,sustained%20altitude%20in%20horizontal%20flight\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikoyan-Gurevich_MiG-25#:~:text=On%2031%20August%201977%2C%20Ye,sustained%20altitude%20in%20horizontal%20flight).)

The absolute record for altitude for a ground-launched airplane is Russian pilot Alexandr Fedotov in 1977 when his MiG E-266M reached 123,523 feet. The record for an aircraft-launched airplane was on July 17, 1962. Robert White flew the X-15 to an altitude of 314,688 feet.

Then, we have Neil DeGrasse Tyson - the world's leading astrophysicist today - the heir apparent to Carl Sagan - and this is what he says, listen to this.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4qYkio86uHY>

Then this.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rE3QOj6t48c>

So which is it? NASA says through modern aviation, they have photographic evidence of the “curvature of the earth.” Then, you have Neil DeGrasse Tyson saying it is impossible to see the “curvature of the earth” because at 128,000 ft - you would be barely two dimes height off the surface of the “globe” - so at 314,000 ft - you'd only be about 3 and a half dimes off the surface of the “globe.” So, which is it? Neil DeGrasse Tyson - supposedly the world's leading astrophysicist says that the curvature of the earth cannot be seen at 128,000 ft - yet - as recently as last week - I've had ordinary people write to me and say they have seen - or they know a pilot who says they see the “curvature of the earth” at 35,000 ft. This is all really strange to me.

I sent the Neil DeGrasse Tyson clip to a man who told me he has seen the “curvature of the earth” from an airplane - and he wrote back to me and said thar DeGrasse Tyson was lying. Well, yes. I find no truthfulness in DeGrasse Tyson at all, but my point was completely missed. DeGrasse Tyson is one of the leading advocates of the spinning ball “earth” as they call it - and he says no one has seen the “curvature of the earth” - not even at 130,000 ft - but I have people telling me they see it on the beach - at sea-curvature - I mean - at sea-level.

This is why I keep saying - and I really want people to understand this about this series - the “globe” believers can send me videos, they can send me Wikipedia articles, they can tell me about their own personal observations and the observations of their

“friends” - real or imaginary - but - on the other hand - the “flat earthers” do exactly the same thing. In the notes, there is a link to almost 20 minutes of the Felix Baumgartner's jump from 128,000 ft high. In the video, you can clearly see a curve - shot from a GoPro camera - which was one of the sponsors of the jump. The GoPro uses a wide angle, curved lens. At 2:34 of the video you see a camera shot from inside his capsule pointing to the outside - and woops - the horizon is perfectly straight. There is no curve.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvbN-cWe0A0>

So, again, my point. There are tons of videos on each side of the “debate” with “experts” arguing for each position. And it doesn't matter what issue of the debate people want to discuss. For every NASA video, there's a “flat earth” video. For every “curvature” video - there are just as many no “curvature” videos. For every great circle navigation theory - there's a “flat earth” response - from equally intelligent sounding people answering the theories of people who believe the “globe”.

This is why I am not interested in the videos, the Wikipedias, the “experts” in staking what I believe concerning Creation. I will take the Bible 10 times out of 10 days and twice on the last day, so to speak.

The “flat earth” debate. That's not the only Creation debate. The theory of evolution has been around for thousands of years. Listen to this and feel free to laugh out loud at any point while I'm reading this. From National Geographic:

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/theory-of-evolution/>

Ideas aimed at explaining how organisms change, or evolve, over time date back to Anaximander of Miletus, a Greek philosopher who lived in the 500s B.C.E. Noting that human babies are born helpless, Anaximander speculated that humans must have descended from some other type of creature whose young could survive without any help. He concluded that those ancestors must be fish, since fish hatch from eggs and immediately begin living with no help from their parents. From this reasoning, he proposed that all life began in the sea.

[Chickens do that, too. Guess they didn't consider that.]

Anaximander was correct; humans can indeed trace our ancestry back to fish. His idea,

however, was not a theory in the scientific meaning of the word, because it could not be subjected to testing that might support it or prove it wrong. In science, the word “theory” indicates a very high level of certainty. Scientists talk about evolution as a theory, for instance, just as they talk about Einstein’s explanation of gravity as a theory.

A theory is an idea about how something in nature works that has gone through rigorous testing through observations and experiments designed to prove the idea right or wrong.

[That is the exact opposite of what they just said.]

*When it comes to the evolution of life, various philosophers and scientists, including an eighteenth-century English doctor named Erasmus Darwin, proposed different aspects of what later would become evolutionary theory. But evolution did not reach the status of being a scientific theory until Darwin’s grandson, the more famous Charles Darwin, published his famous book *On the Origin of Species*. Darwin and a scientific contemporary of his, Alfred Russel Wallace, proposed that evolution occurs because of a phenomenon called natural selection.*

In the theory of natural selection, organisms produce more offspring than are able to survive in their environment. Those that are better physically equipped to survive, grow to maturity, and reproduce. Those that are lacking in such fitness, on the other hand, either do not reach an age when they can reproduce or produce fewer offspring than their counterparts. Natural selection is sometimes summed up as “survival of the fittest” because the “fittest” organisms—those most suited to their environment—are the ones that reproduce most successfully, and are most likely to pass on their traits to the next generation.

This means that if an environment changes, the traits that enhance survival in that environment will also gradually change, or evolve. End quote.

From this reasoning, he proposed that all life began in the sea.

Hmm. That's interesting. Take your Bibles please, and turn to Genesis chapter 1. Read beginning with verse 1.

[1] In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

[2] And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of

the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

[3] And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

[4] And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

[5] And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

[6] And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

[7] And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so.

[8] And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

[9] And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.

[10] And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called He Seas: and God saw that it was good.

[11] And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

[12] And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

[There's no evolution here. It is "kind after after kind."]

[13] And the evening and the morning were the third day.

[14] And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

[15] And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so.

[16] And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: He made the stars also.

[17] And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth,

[18] And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good.

[19] And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

[20] And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

[21] And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

[22] And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

[23] And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

[24] And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

There's no evolution here. It is "kind after kind."

[25] And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

[26] And God said, Let us make man in Our image, after Our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Man is distinctly different from fish.

[27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

God created man on the 6th day of Creation. God gave man dominion over the fish in the sea, over the fowl of the air and over the cattle, and over all the earth - the land - and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Continue on into Genesis chapter 2, read from verse 1.

[1] Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

[2] And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and He rested on the seventh day from all his work which He had made.

[3] And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it He had rested from all His work which God created and made.

[4] These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were

created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens,
[5] And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.

[6] But there went up a mist from the earth, and watered the whole face of the ground.

[7] And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Man did not evolve from a fish. It did not take millions and millions of years for man to evolve from a fish to what he is now. It took one day - in an instant of that one day - for God to create man from the dust of the ground - to breathe life into that Creation - and man became a living soul.

Evolution was a theory created by Godless men to make other gullible, naive people believe there is no God. And if there is no God, then, Carl Sagan, what do you have?

“It's just us.”

Life, then, is about us. It's all about man. There is no God. And if there is no God, then it is up to man to come up with morality and to come up with “laws”. Ever-changing, ever evolving, laws - which - if a man refuses to agree to - he will be hunted, captured, tortured, and maybe even killed for refusing to conform.

The shape of the world debate is just another invention of the scientists to make people doubt the Bible, which in turns makes them doubt the existence of God, which in turn makes them believe there is no God - which then - they will willingly live their lives in obedience to the ones they submit to. That's what this is all about. Everyone has a “god.” A god is someone's lawmaker. A god is someone's judge, their ruler, their magistrate.

The God of the Bible says He and He alone is supposed to be man's Ruler, Judge and Magistrate. The God of the Bible stands in the way of the gods of the world - and the gods of the world have for thousands of years been in a battle to get rid of the God of the Bible from the minds of people. Remember, “government” = control of the mind. Who is controlling the minds of people today?

It is man's little g “governments” that have control of nearly every single person alive

today. Nearly every single person alive today lives their lives according to the “laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations”, etc., of men. Why? Because most people do not believe that there is a God. They do not believe that there is or was a God that, In the Beginning God created. In the Beginning was the Word. All life came from God.

Let me show you some proof of that. Here's one. Turn back again to II Timothy chapter 3, please.

[15] And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

[16] All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

[17] That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

So, again, before we look at any Old Testament Scripture today - remember - it is the inspired, God breathed, God spoken, holy men of God spoke as God told them what to speak, wrote what to write. Turn to Isaiah chapter 58, please, begin reading in verse 1. Proof that most people do not believe in God today.

[1] Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

This is Bible 101. This should be some of the easiest things to understand from our Bibles. God raised up prophets, preachers, in the Old Covenant World to show His people their sins - their sins - their transgressions of the Law - the Law - being God's Law. The Laws of the God of Creation. The One Who created all things. The One Who created man out of the dust of the earth and breathed life in him. The Creator, the One who expects His Creation to live the way He said to live. Keep your finger here and turn back to Isaiah chapter 1, verse 1.

[1] The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

[2] Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.

In the Old Covenant World - in the Old Covenant World - not the New Covenant World - in the Old Covenant World - God revealed Himself in visions some times - to His

prophets, His preachers and He told them what to say to the people. It isn't necessary in the New Covenant World because He said everything He needed to say in the Scriptures - in the Old Testament. Inspired by God. Profitable for doctrine. Profitable for reproof, profitable for correction - when you are doing wrong - the Scriptures are there to bring us back to the right - for instruction in righteousness. Righteousness is not some fake, piety displayed in some "church". Righteousness is simply right living. Living according to the right way that God revealed to His people by His prophets in the Old Testament. Verse 3.

[3] The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, [Israel does not know his Owner.] my people doth not consider.

We live in a world where men's little g "governments" think they own everything and everyone. Apparently, the same thing was going on in Israel during the time of Isaiah. I'm telling you, if the world that you have created for yourself, or the world that others have created for you and you have accepted, has you, your property, your life, ruled by, governed by, controlled by, anything other than your Creator - then the Book of Isaiah is for you today. The principles contained in this Book are as valid for righteousness - for right living - today - as they were back then. Cattle knows their owner. Asses know their owner - but people today live their lives completely apart from the One Who should be their Owner. They live, and move and breathe and have their beings in the little g "governments" they have created for themselves. "Our laws, our treaties, our statutes, our rules, our regulations, our ordinances - shall be the supreme law of the land."

And this happens as a result of one thing - "My people doth not consider their true Owner". And that's because the knowledge of God has been removed from the earth. The evolutionists, the NASA worshipers, the churchmen, the scientists - all have a part in removing God from society.

[4] Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward.

[5] Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

[6] From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

[7] Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers

devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.

[8] And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

[9] Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

[10] Hear the word of the LORD,

The prophets of the Old Testament were raised up by God, God spoke to them, God told them what to write and they spoke to the people as God moved them to speak. Today, the answers to all the problems that world faces today - are found in those same exact Words - Hear the Word of the LORD. Go back to Isaiah chapter 58. Read from verse 2.

[2] Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways,

God told Isaiah to write that the people were religious. And not in a bad way. They sought God daily. They delighted to know God's ways. They wanted to know God's ways. But there was a problem. And the text will reveal that they had forgotten their Creator so much - to the point that the egegius sins they were committing - they didn't even know it was sin.

as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God:
they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.

The text tells us that these were people who were seeking. They wanted the Ordinances of God. They wanted God's justice in their land. They took delight in approaching to God. Verse 3.

[3] Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and Thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and Thou takest no knowledge?

These people were perplexed. The text does not reveal malicious rebellion in these people. It certainly did in chapter 1. But by the time we reach chapter 58, it doesn't seem like the people Isaiah was trying to reach had wickedness and evil intentions in their hearts. But God was not hearing them. God was not paying attention to their supplications. There was a problem. Houston certainly had a problem - but their problem pales in comparison to this one. The people fasted. The people afflicted their souls.

(Qal) to be occupied, be busied with, to afflict, oppress, humble, be bowed down, to be put down, become low, to be depressed, be downcast, to stoop, to humble oneself, be humiliated

“Lord, what else do you want us to do? We've tried everything we know to do, and you won't listen to us. You won't turn your face to us. We've fallen to our knees, we beg your forgiveness.”

That's the way I read when I read these first 3 verses. I admit to you that I could be completely wrong about what seemed to be in their hearts. I don't know what was in their hearts. But I've read this a thousand times in my lifetime and it says that to me every time I read it. These seemed to be humbled - for once - Israelites, humbled Israelites - who were begging God to return to them - to show Himself to them and fix their sin.

Then, by the Word of the Lord, Isaiah reveals what God had told Him to tell the people what their sin was. As they were seeking God. As they were begging for forgiveness and understanding in the right way to live, Isaiah - the mouthpiece for God - the spokesman for God - tells the people.

Behold,

Remember from past messages, we've talked about this word Behold.

*a. **pointing to persons or things**, Genesis 12:19 and now הִנֵּה אִשְׁתְּךָ behold thy wife ! Genesis 18:9 הִנֵּה בְּאֵהָלָהּ behold (she is) in the tent (the suffix, when the noun to which הנה refers has immediately preceded, being not unfrequently omitted, Genesis 16:14: compare Dr§ 135. 6, 2), Genesis 30:3; Genesis 31:51 (twice in verse); Exodus 24:8 etc. With suffix of 1 person, **especially in response to a call, indicating the readiness of the person addressed to listen or obey**, Here I am ! (literally Behold me !) Genesis 22:1, 7, 11; Genesis 27:1, 18; Genesis 31:11; Genesis 37:13; Genesis 46:2; Exodus 3:4; 1 Samuel 3:4, 5, 6, 8, 16; 1 Samuel 22:12; 2 Samuel 1:7; Isaiah 6:8, compare **1 Samuel 12:3 הִנְנִי בִּי עֲנוּ here I am, answer against me**, 1 Samuel 14:43 (compare Drp. 292), 2 Samuel 15:26 (in resignation: compare Genesis 44:16; Genesis 50:18; Joshua 9:25; Ezra 9:15): of God Isaiah 52:6; Isaiah 58:9; Isaiah 65:1 (twice in verse) (repeated for emphasis). In the plural הִנְנוּ Numbers 14:40; Jeremiah 3:22; Job 38:35. — Emph. הִנְנִי אֲנִי Ezekiel 34:11, 20, compare Ezekiel 6:3. on אֲנִי אֶל, see 4 אל.*

*b. **introducing clauses involving predication:***

(a) with reference to the past or present, it points generally to some truth either newly asserted, or newly recognized, Genesis 1:29 behold ! I have given to you all herbs etc. Genesis 17:20; Genesis 27:6; 1 Samuel 14:33 etc.; **often one upon which some proposal or suggestion is to be founded,** Exodus 1:9 (compare הן Genesis 11:6) 1 Samuel 20:2, 5; 2 Kings 5:20. When the proposal is to be of the nature of an entreaty or request, הַנְּהַי is often used, instead of the simple הִנֵּה Genesis 12:11; Genesis 16:2; Genesis 18:7; 1 Kings 20:31; 1 Kings 22:13 and elsewhere (see נָא).

(b) with reference to the future. Here it serves to introduce a solemn or important declaration Exodus 32:34; Exodus 34:10; Isaiah 7:14; and is used especially with the participle (the futuram instans [immanent future], Dr§ 135. 3) in predictions or threats, Genesis 20:3 הִנְּךָ מָת (literally) behold thee (accusative) about to die, thou art about to die, Exodus 4:23; Exodus 7:17; Exodus 9:3; Deuteronomy 31:17; 1 Samuel 3:11; 1 Kings 20:36; 1 Kings 22:25; Isaiah 3:1; Isaiah 10:33; Isaiah 17:1; Isaiah 19:1; Isaiah 22:17; Isaiah 24:1 + often; in the phrase 1 הנה ימים באים Samuel 2:31; 2 Kings 20:17 = Isaiah 39:6; Amos 4:2; Amos 8:11; Amos 9:13 + 15 times; very often with the suffix of 1 person singular, as הִנְנִי מְבִיא Behold, I bring (literally behold me bringing, or about to bring)... Genesis 6:17; Exodus 10:4 & often, especially in Jeremiah; Genesis 9:9; Exodus 8:17; Exodus 9:18; Exodus 34:11; 2 Kings 22:20; Isaiah 13:17; Isaiah 29:14; Isaiah 43:19; Jeremiah 8:17; Jeremiah 11:22 (הִנְנִי פֹקֵד; so Jeremiah 23:2 +) Jeremiah 16:16; Jeremiah 20:4, etc.; anomalously, with change of person, Isaiah 28:16 הִנְנִי יֹסֵד (according to points) behold me, one who has founded, Isaiah 29:14 הִנְנִי יוֹסֵף behold me, one who will add (so Isaiah 38:5); but it is dubious whether the participle יֹסֵף, יֹסֵד should not be read.

c. **וְהִנֵּה very frequently in historical style, especially (but not exclusively) after verbs of seeing or discovering, making the narrative graphic and vivid, and enabling the reader to enter into the surprise or satisfaction of the speaker or actor concerned:** Genesis 1:31 and behold, it was very good, Genesis 6:12; Genesis 8:13; Genesis 15:12; Genesis 18:2; Genesis 37:29; Exodus 2:6; Deuteronomy 9:13 etc.: in the description of a dream Genesis 37:7, 9; Genesis 40:9, 16; Genesis 41:1, 2, 3; Isaiah 29:8, or of a vision Amos 7:1, 4; Amos 8:1 etc. With a participle (the context fixing the sense to the past), Genesis 24:30; Genesis 37:15 (both without suffix); Judges 9:43; Judges 11:34; 1 Kings 19:5, 11 +.

d. like II. הִן (b), nearly = if (rare): Leviticus 13:5, 6, 7, 8 (& elsewhere in this and the next chapter) וְהִנֵּה and behold = and if, Deuteronomy 13:15; and Deuteronomy 17:4 וְהִנֵּה אֶמֶת **and behold it is true = and if it be true,** Deuteronomy 19:18; 1 Samuel 20:12; compare 1 Samuel 9:7; 2 Samuel 18:11; Hosea 9:6.

Here's what God told Isaiah to tell the people that day.

Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.

Exact. The Hebrew word is

עָשָׂה nâgas, naw-gas'; a primitive root; to drive (an animal, a workman, a debtor, an army); by implication, to tax, harass, tyrannize:—distress, driver, exact(-or), oppress(-or), × raiser of taxes, taskmaster.

Keep your finger here in Isaiah 58, and turn to II Kings chapter 17. Read beginning in verse 17.

[17] In the nine and thirtieth year of Azariah king of Judah began Menahem the son of Gadi to reign over Israel, and reigned ten years in Samaria.

[18] And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD: he departed not all his days from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin.

[19] And Pul the king of Assyria came against the land: and Menahem gave Pul a thousand talents of silver, that his hand might be with him to confirm the kingdom in his hand.

[20] And Menahem exacted the money of Israel, even of all the mighty men of wealth, of each man fifty shekels of silver, to give to the king of Assyria. So the king of Assyria turned back, and stayed not there in the land.

Taxed. Taxed the people.

Turn over to II Kings 23. The how to and how not to of Government according to Scripture. According to the inspired Word of God. Verse 35.

[35] And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give it unto Pharaoh-nechoh.

[36] Jehoiakim was twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.

[37] And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

Turn to Nehemiah chapter 5. Read more of the inspired Words of God. Verse 1.

- [1] And there was a great cry of the people and of their wives against their brethren the Judahites.
- [2] For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, are many: therefore we take up corn for them, that we may eat, and live.
- [3] Some also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth.
- [4] There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, and that upon our lands and vineyards.
- [5] Yet now our flesh is as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and some of our daughters are brought unto bondage already: neither is it in our power to redeem them; for other men have our lands and vineyards.
- [6] And I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words.
- [7] Then I consulted with myself, and I rebuked the nobles, and the rulers, and said unto them, Ye exact usury, every one of his brother. And I set a great assembly against them.
- [8] And I said unto them, We after our ability have redeemed our brethren the Judahites, which were sold unto the heathen; and will ye even sell your brethren? or shall they be sold unto us? Then held they their peace, and found nothing to answer.
- [9] Also I said, It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?
- [10] I likewise, and my brethren, and my servants, might exact of them money and corn: I pray you, let us leave off this usury.
- [11] Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the the hundredth part of the money, and of the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact (nawgas - tax) of them.

From the modern version - The Message Bible - quoting it only because I'm saying that in this day and age, there's no excuse for not knowing what the word exact - nawgas - means in Isaiah chapter 58. Luke 3, from a modern version.

12 Tax men also came to be baptized and said, "Teacher, what should we do?"

13 He told them, "No more extortion - collect only what is required by law."

The KJV version of Luke 3 says - tax - tax no more than what you are allowed.

And hundreds of years before the account from Luke, God had told Isaiah to tell the

people that they were not to tax labor. Why? Why does God call it sin to tax labor? That answer should be easy. Go to Ecclesiastes chapter 3. Read beginning in verse 9.

[9] What profit hath he that worketh in that wherein he laboureth?

[10] I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.

[11] He hath made every thing beautiful in His time: also He hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

[12] I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

[13] And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

Enjoying the good of all his labor. How much of it? This isn't hard to understand. Shouldn't be.

Turn to II Thessalonians chapter 3. Read verse 10.

[10] For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

The Law, the Law, the Law. Friends, this is the Law, also. Why is this the Law? Because it's clearly based on Isaiah 58, Ecclesiastes 3 and the many other Scriptures from the Old Testament where God established Laws against taxing labor. You don't tax a man's labor. If he works, you don't tax his labor. If he refuses to work - well - then he doesn't eat. Naturally, if a man didn't work, he wouldn't have anything to purchase food, or he wouldn't have produced his own food if he had not worked. There is a principle here that would eliminate the welfare programs that men have established to provide for those who refuse to work.

For those who refuse to yield to the Old Testament Law - maybe you've followed golden hair Andy Stanley in unhitching yourself from the Old Testament. What should we do then with James chapter 5. Turn there, please. Begin in verse 1.

[1] Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

[2] Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

[3] Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

[4] Behold,

There's that pesky little word again. Behold. Amazing the consistency. It keeps getting tied to verses of the Bible that deal with taxing labor. This is amazing. This is incredible. How can you have forgotten what God told Isaiah to say in Isaiah 58? How is it that you have forgotten your Owner?

Behold, the hire

That's not difficult. Even for some who have unhitched from the Law of God, from the Scriptures, that's not hard. The hire:

μισθός *misthós*, *mis-thos'*; *apparently a primary word; pay for service (literally or figuratively), good or bad:—hire, reward, wages.*

Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth:

Where's the fraud? Withholding taxes from people's pay. Where's the fraud? It goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden, "Hath God said?" Did God really say a man should enjoy the good of all his labor? Did Isaiah really say that it is sin - very egregious sin - to tax a man's labor? What I'm saying to you this morning, is that because the scientists claim to have disproved the truths of Genesis chapter 1, and the churchmen have unhitched themselves from the Scripture - man now has made it his law, his statute, his ordinance - that it is perfectly fine to tax a man's labor. It's perfectly fine to withhold taxes of all sorts from a man's pay.

Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped [your fields] are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

Sabaoth. What is the Lord of sabaoth?

σαβαώθ *sabaōth*, *sab-ah-owth'*; *of Hebrew origin (H6635 in feminine plural); armies; sabaoth (i.e. tsebaoth), a military epithet of God:—sabaoth.*

As if we haven't seen enough already, I'm telling you that the Bible says that taxing labor makes God so angry He wants to declare war. Sabaoth is the military epithet, the attribute, the character, *an adjective or descriptive phrase expressing a quality characteristic of the person or thing mentioned.*

“Oh Charlie, you're exaggerating, your doing that exegesis thing again. Taxing labor, withholding pay from someone's labor isn't that big of a deal.” Turn to Romans chapter 9. Look at verse 29.

[29] And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrhah.

Sabaoth is mentioned two times in the KJV. James 5 and Romans 9. In Romans 9, it's mentioned in regards to Sodom and Gomorrhah. Do you think what I'm saying is exaggerating? Do you think this is an insignificant thing? Do you really think it's no big deal to tax labor or withhold pay from someone's labor? These passages of Scripture are so simple. So easy to understand. There is only one way to make people doubt these things are true and that is to undermine the existence of God. Doubt the Word of God as the inspired, God breathed, God spoken Word of God - the Word that instructs, corrects, reproves and shows people how to live right.

You do that, you manipulate a civilization by presenting a different view of Creation. You present a view of Creation that does not involve Genesis chapter 1. You present a view of Creation that leaves the Creator out. That denies the Owner. That leaves it all just to man. Whether it's evolution, whether it's the denial of the movement of the sun. Whether it's a denial of the 6 days of Creation in favor of stars being “lightyears” away. Millions and millions of years away. If it's a denial of the firmament. The top, the arch, vaulted ceiling, that is holding waters above the heavens in their place - if it's denying that the Bible says the earth - the land - is shaped like clay under a seal - if it's denying that the world's waters are kept in place by some sort of ring - when we deny the teachings of the Scripture - then we remove the existence of God. When we remove the existence of God - then - it becomes easy for a civilization to tax labor and force nearly 100% compliance into a system where God said - “If you do this, I will not even hear your prayers.” Then, we sit back and wonder, where is God?

Go back to Isaiah chapter 1 again, please. After reading Romans 9:29, how the Bible says it was the Lord of Sabaoth that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrhah. I want you to see something that I purposely left out from Isaiah 1, before I left to go to Isaiah 58. Look at

the rest of verse 10.

[10] Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the Law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

I see all of these passages tied up nice and neat together. You don't tax labor. If you do, it will rile up the Lord of Sabaoth. And you are going to end up like Sodom and Gomorrah. Today, we better hear the Word of the Lord. We better hear the Law of God. I'm telling you, God's people. If you are involved in a system that is taxing labor - you better remove yourself. There is a God. No matter how hard the scientists try to tell you there isn't One, there is a God. He will not be mocked. He hates taxing labor as much today as He ever did before.

And I'll tell you right now, when some evil men representing their state called Missouri, conspired together to arrest me, and make the claim of putting me in prison for the rest of my life, the basis for their conspiracy - they told me - was concerning what I am preaching to you today. It's the Word of God. It's the Law of God and I will not stop preaching it - and living it - until the day God calls me home. And then I can only hope that my children and my grandchildren will continue preaching and living the Word of God.

In the rules of debate, ethical people are told they are supposed to avoid ad hominem attacks. The dictionary defines ad hominem as

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ad_hominem

Ad hominem (Latin for 'to the person'), short for argumentum ad hominem, refers to several types of arguments that are fallacious. Often nowadays this term refers to a rhetorical strategy where the speaker attacks the character, motive, or some other attribute of the person making an argument rather than attacking the substance of the argument itself. This avoids genuine debate by creating a personal attack as a diversion often using a totally irrelevant, but often highly charged attribute of the opponent's character or background. The most common form of this fallacy is "A" makes a claim of "fact," to which "B" asserts that "A" has a personal trait, quality or physical attribute that is repugnant thereby going entirely off-topic, and hence "B" concludes that "A" has their "fact" wrong - without ever addressing the point of the debate. Many contemporary politicians routinely use ad hominem attacks, which can be encapsulated to a derogatory nickname for a political opponent. End quote.

Define it however they may. The truth is that the God of Creation, the God of the Bible is the inventor of ad hominem. Turn again to Psalm 53 and read again - from verse 1:

[1] The fool hath said in his heart,

These are the Words of God. This is the inspired Word of God.

There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.

[2] God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God.

[3] Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

[4] Have the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread: they have not called upon God.

[5] There were they in great fear, where no fear was: for God hath scattered the bones of him that encampeth against thee: thou hast put them to shame, because God hath despised them.

[6] Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

I wonder how many people know that Psalm 14 says almost the exact same thing as Psalm 53. Verse 1 of chapter 14:

[1] The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

[2] The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.

[3] They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

[4] Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.

[5] There were they in great fear: for God is in the generation of the righteous.

[6] Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

[7] Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! when the LORD bringeth back the captivity of His people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad.

God has no problem at all with ad hominem attacks on people who say there is no God. On people who deny the Genesis account of Creation. And you know what, I don't have a problem with it either. Friends, I'm telling you, if what you believe about Creation or God's Creation - as in the world - the earth, the waters, the heavens, the firmament, the sun, the moon and the stars - if what you believe about any of those things has been shaped, formed or molded by NASA - you better reevaluate. In closing today, if you can stomach it, I want you to listen to this - ad hominem attack against NASA that I'm going to close this message with.

If what you believe about the world has come from NASA, if you believe what they say about Creation, about the Big Bang, about the shape of the world. I'm telling you, you need to throw it out and start all over again. You better make sure that what you believe comes from the Bible, comes from the inspired Word of God, comes from, Hear the Word of the Lord.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=NASA+lgbtq