



# The CORNERSTONE Challenge

A  
Ministry  
of:

## CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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### WHAT ABOUT ISRAEL?

February 2016

**ISRAEL'S PAST.** The Bible is full of passages which speak of Israel's unbelief and rebellion against God who formed her. Before his death Moses predicted this. **"For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you..." ~Deuteronomy 31:29.** Scriptures attest to the many times God judged them in various ways, even scattering them among the nations. (Usually on such occasions God also promised them restoration).

**ISRAEL IN THE PRESENT.** Israel is now back in the land God promised them – a small portion of it. I believe it is a miracle that they are there ( since 1948) since most of the world hates them. It is only by the grace of God they are still there. It seems the only ally they have is the United States and that is not what it once was. I believe Ezekiel 37 gives a picture of where they are today – a valley of dry bones coming together, but they have no breath in them. There is not the life of God in them. Ezekiel said by the Spirit of God: **"So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. And when I beheld, Lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them."** They will never have the life of God in them until they repent of their sins and trust Jesus Christ as their Messiah and Savior! But in the light of all the prophecies which have been fulfilled how could it be that their restoration and eternal salvation could fail to take place? Jesus said, **"If I go away, I will come again..."** And when He comes the second time, they will receive Him!

**ISRAEL'S FUTURE!** When the Lord Jesus Christ comes again, Israel will trust Him as their Savior and Lord. Their problem is **"an evil heart of unbelief: - ( like the rest of the world).** But God is going to change that as we read in Jeremiah 31:31-34: **"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my Law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people... for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."** There are many prophecies in both the Old and New Testaments which speak of Israel's salvation, like the one in Romans 11:25,26: **For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery... that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written' There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."** Of course, the Deliverer is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God! He is not only Israel's Savior, but He is the only Savior of mankind. Friend, have you ever come to God as a sinner and asked Jesus to save you because He died on the cross for you? There is no other way to be saved, **"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** ~John 14:6. In Acts 16:31 it says: **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved."**

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**GOSPEL TRACTS:** We have 39 different Gospel Tracts; most of them deal with salvation. Write or call for a sample packet and Order Form.

**JESUS BUT NOT THE CHURCH!** Some way out groups tell us that they like Jesus but not the Church. There are lay movements and extra-curricular organizations today that are not Church related. They endeavor to convert people to Christ, but leave them unaffiliated with any local fellowship of Christians. Christ is the Head of the Church and the Church is His body. We are not preaching the Head without the body or the body without the Head. A bodyless Head is as unscriptural as a headless body. Christ is the Groom and the Church is His Bride. We are married to Christ (Rom.7:4) and espoused to one Husband (II Cor.11:2). There is no marriage without the Bride and Groom. - Vane Havner. I have heard professing Christians say they didn't join a church in the New Testament. What nonsense? It says in Acts 2:41,42 "**There were added unto them about three thousand souls,**" and then it goes on to add: "**they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.**"

### CHALLENGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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## YOUTH CORNER

**EXCEPT!** D. L. Moody said, "Notice how the Scripture puts it: "Except a man be born again..." John 3:3. From amongst a number of other passages where we find the word 'except' I would just name three. 1 - 'Except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.' Luke 13:3,5. 'Except ye be **converted** and become as little children, ye cannot enter into the kingdom of God.' Matt.18:3. 'Except your **righteousness** exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven.' Matt. 5:20." If you are going to be saved from your sins you must **repent**. That word means to change your mind about your sin; about your religion, etc. If you truly repent and believe in Christ as your Savior (if you truly repent, you also believe) you will be saved. Acts 3:19 says, "Repent ye therefore, and be **converted**, that your sins may be blotted out..." The problem is, we are all sinners, and to go to Heaven you must be righteous. God says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done..." We simply cannot be good enough! So, God has provided a perfect righteousness for us in Jesus Christ who died for our sins. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the **righteousness** of God in him." ~II Corinthians 5:21. Imagine, poor sinners given the righteousness of God! But you must repent and be converted. Do it NOW! "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.**" ~Acts 16:31.

**MARTIN LUTHER ON SEPARATION FROM THOSE WHO TEACH ERROR.** "Those who boldly stand for the truth will not long remain on friendly terms with teachers of error. Unity with them would be an unmistakable sign that we have lost the true doctrine. To receive evil workers, as Paul calls them (Phil.3:3) requires that we call evil good and good evil (Isa.5:20). To do this is to plunge into confusion from which there can be no recovery until truth and righteousness are again defined and honored in Biblical terms." If there is one thing God hates it is mixture! He says, "**Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.**" ~Ephesians 5:11. You can't reprove them if you are going to join them!

**NOW HEAR THIS!** "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? What concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ... Wherefore come out from among them..." ~II Corinthians 6:14-17.

## NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

### **CHINESE LEADER CALLS FOR PALESTINIAN STATE WITH JERUSALEM CAPITAL**

The following is excerpted from "Chinese Leader," *Times of Israel*, Jan. 22, 2016: "Chinese President Xi Jinping called on Thursday for the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Speaking to the Arab League in Cairo while on a tour of the region, Xi said China supports the peace process in the Middle East and backs a Palestinian state along the 1967 borders with Israel. Xi also said his country would provide \$7.6 million to the Palestinians in support of a new solar power project. He announced billions of dollars in special loans and investments in the Middle East, as Beijing seeks to boost its economic ties and clout in the region." FBIS 2/5/16. Ed. We have said it many times, that just about the whole world is against Israel. America was once a strong supporter, but that is no longer the case. However, God is going to have the last word (as usual). He is going to save them and make them head of the nations and not the tail. (See p.1)

### **ENGLAND APPROVES GENE EDITING**

The following is excerpted from "Scientists get 'gene editing' go-ahead," *BBC*, Feb. 1, 2016: "UK scientists have been given the go-ahead by the fertility regulator to genetically modify human embryos. It is the first time a country has considered the DNA-altering technique in embryos and approved it. The research will take place at the Francis Crick Institute in London and aims to provide a deeper understanding of the earliest moments of human life. It will be illegal for the scientists to implant the modified embryos into a woman. But the field is attracting controversy over concerns it is opening the door to designer--or GM--babies. DNA is the blueprint of life--the instructions for building the human body. Gene editing allows the precise manipulation of DNA. ... The experiments will take place in the first seven days after fertilization.

### **KUWAIT AIR ENDS NEW YORK SERVICE OVER REFUSAL TO CARRY ISRAELIS**

Kuwait is supposed to be a "moderate" Muslim nation, but it has shut down a coveted London to New York service rather than carry Israelis as ordered by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Like Saudi Arabia, Kuwait does not allow Jews even to visit the country. The following is from *The Times of Israel*, Jan. 17, 2016: "Kuwait Air is ending its New York to London service over the carrier's refusal to carry Israeli passengers." The U.S. Department of Transportation will not tolerate unlawful discrimination, and has mandated that the airline immediately cease that

practice and allow Israeli passengers to travel between the U.S. and London,' Anthony Foxx, the transportation secretary, said in a statement on Friday. 'In light of our demands, Kuwait Airways has chosen to cease passenger service from New York JFK airport to London Heathrow by January 18.'"

### **POPE: BAPTISM UNITES ALL CHRISTIANS**

The following is by Matt Costella, Fundamental Evangelistic Association, Jan. 26, 2016: "Baptismal regeneration--the belief that one becomes a member of the body of Christ through baptism rather than through faith alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ--is a false gospel embraced by many of the major 'Christian' denominations. Pope Francis recently stated that Christian baptism not only brings salvation to the sinner, but it is the key to unity with all Christians--Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant. In his general audience during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope declared that 'the mercy of God, which works in baptism, is stronger than our divisions' (Catholic News Agency, 'Pope Francis: For Christians, Baptism Is Stronger Than Differences,' Jan. 20, 2016). According to the pope, baptism creates 'an indissoluble bond between us Christians, such that, by virtue of baptism, we can consider ourselves truly brothers.' The CNA report described how the pope pointed to a 12th century baptismal font in the Lutheran Cathedral of Riga in Latvia and said the font signals the origin of faith recognized by all Christians which 'is our common baptism.' The culprit for disunity, according to the pope, is 'egoism, which plants seeds of division, closure, and contempt in our minds and hearts.' Christians today need to understand--especially as evangelicals continue to laud the pope and strive for unity with Rome--that the false gospel of baptismal regeneration embraced and propagated by the Roman Catholic Church is truly a damnable heresy. Baptism is simply an ordinance to be practiced by those who have already trusted in Christ as Savior--an outward testimony of one's relationship with God. And it should be noted that 'egoism' does not create division in the church--false doctrine does! God's Word commands believers to not only separate from false doctrine and those who practice it, but it commands Christians to 'earnestly contend' for the faith and warn about the 'wolves in sheep's clothing' who attempt to destroy the flock and draw away disciples after themselves." -Copied Ed, Baptism doesn't unite all Christians and baptism doesn't save anyone. The plain truth is most "Christian churches" don't really baptize people, for sprinkling is not baptism. Baptism means "to immerse!"

## NOTHING HE WANTED

Old Uncle Bud Robinson was a holiness preacher sixty or seventy years ago. He was known for always being ready with a witty word in season. Once while preaching in New York City, some friends offered to take him around to see all the sights. They showed him the skyscrapers, the ships coming in and out from Europe and around the world. They took him for a ride on the subway and to many other places of interest. At the close of the day Bud went back to his room, got on his knees and began to pray. He prayed: "Lord, I thank you that I got to see this big city today – the skyscrapers, the large ships coming in and out of the harbor, and so many other places of interest. But, Lord, the thing that I want to thank You for most of all is, I didn't see anything that I wanted." How sad it is to see some Christians who always seem to be interested and searching for the things of this world. God says, "**Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.**" ~I John 2:15-17. When one is saved, our life, our interests should be different. "**Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**" ~II Corinthians 5:17. Then, again, God says, "**Set your affection on things above, not on things on earth.**" ~Colossians 3:2

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## NOW IS THE TIME TO BE SAVED

On a voyage from New York to San Francisco, the steamship Central America sprang a leak in mid-ocean. A vessel in the vicinity, hearing her signal of distress came close by. The captain of the would-be rescue ship sent a message: "What is amiss?" The reply came back, "We are in bad repair. Lie by till morning." The reply came, "Let me take your passengers aboard now!" Because it was night, the Captain of the Central America, not wanting to possibly lose anyone, and believing that they would be able to keep the ship afloat until daylight said, "Lie by till morning." Once again the Captain of the rescue ship said, "You had better let me take your passengers now." As on the previous occasions the answer came back: "Lie by till morning." It was about an hour and a half after the last call when the lights of the Central America were missing and no sound was heard. The Central America had gone down and all who were on board perished because it was thought that they could be saved at a later time. Perhaps someone is reading this article who is not saved from his sin. You have never been "**born again**" through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You need a Savior! Christ died for your sins 2,000 years ago, but you must put your faith in Him. The Bible says, "**Prepare to meet thy God!**" Perhaps you may say, "Well, I will do it at a later time but not now." Delay is dangerous! God says that the time to be saved is NOW – when you hear the Gospel, the "Good News" that Christ died for your sins. Listen to God: "**...Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**" ~II Corinthians 6:2. If you are not saved, God's time for you to be saved is right now, while He is speaking to you! "**Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.**" ~Proverbs 27:1.