

August 2007

## In the News

### Creation of artificial life brought a step closer by DNA transplant

Mark Henderson

Craig Venter, the controversial biologist who led the private effort to map the human genome, has moved closer to his goal of creating the first artificial life form by replacing the entire genetic code of one microbe with that of another.

The groundbreaking experiment has in effect turned a bacterium into a different species by substituting its DNA with that of a close relative. The success opens the way for doing the same thing with a genome that has been man-made from scratch, to create synthetic life. *See Genesis 3:22, 23*

### Israelite priests hold first gathering since Temple era

Rapture Ready News - July 15, 2007

Jews belonging to the Tribe of Levi, and particularly the Kohen clan, came together for a mass gathering in Jerusalem on Sunday. It was the first large-scale gathering of biblically-mandated Israelite priests since the time of the Second Temple. *See Dan 12:11*

### Supercomputer steps up pace

BlueGene/P, from IBM, is three times more potent than the current fastest machine, BlueGene/L, also built by IBM. The latest number cruncher is capable of operating at so called "petaflop" speeds - the equivalent of 1,000 trillion calculations per second. Rev. 13:17

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# Sound the Trumpet!

Joel 2:1

## Why We Believe in the Premillennial Pretribulation Rapture of the Church

Some say we should not be concerned about prophecy. However, more than 25% of the Bible is predictive prophecy. If we are not interested in Bible prophecy, we are not interested in the Bible.

God thinks prophecy is important. "And the Lord said shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do" Gen 18: 17. How can we say we are not interested in that which God desires to reveal to us about the future?

More than ¼ of the Bible is predictive prophecy; approximately 50% of those prophecies have now been fulfilled. Those 50% have been fulfilled literally; therefore we conclude that the remaining unfulfilled prophecies will be fulfilled and that they will be fulfilled literally.

We conclude then, that the predictive prophecies concerning the Rapture, the Tribulation Period, the Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom will all be fulfilled literally, just as the first coming was fulfilled literally.

We have two different interpretations of the fulfillment of Bible prophecy.

### Ammillennialism – Premillennialism

These different interpretations of scripture involve a large portion of the Scriptures. These interpretations are radically different. They have a profound affect on the understanding of Scripture, on the purpose and direction of the Church, on the expectations of believers and upon the program and purposes of Satan.

Logically, one of these two views must be Apostate! Although we (premillennialists) may have fellowship with Amillennialists, who are brothers and sisters in Christ. We can have no fellowship with them concerning a large portion of the Scriptures.

Amillennialists teach:

1. There will be no future earthly millennium. The promises of Isaiah 11:6-12 are spiritualized away, along with many other promises.
2. The present church age is the millennium. That is not what Jesus promised the Church for this present age. See John 15:18, 19 and consider the lives and martyrdom of the Apostles.
3. The Church saints are now reigning with Christ in a spiritual millennium. See Luke 1:32, 33, Rev 2:26, 27. Both of these relate to a yet future day.
4. The Church takes the place of Israel and that God is finished dealing with the nation of Israel. See Romans 11: 25-29, Jeremiah 31:35-38. If you can spiritualize that, then language has no meaning.
5. Satan is Now Bound. They do intellectual handspings to prove this. They claim that Revelation 20 has to do with the future and yet relegate verses 2 & 3 to the past. The fact is that as the age goes on Satan's power is increasing 2 Timothy 3:13.
6. The Tribulation Period took place in 70 AD. Only a vivid imagination can, through spiritualizing things, place the events of the tribulation period back in that time!

7. At the End of this so-called spiritualized millennium, Christ will return and a general resurrection and judgment will take place.

In Contrast to that Scripture teaches:

1. There will be a future, literal, earthly millennial kingdom. It is a literal earthly kingdom in Isaiah 2:1-4. It has never happened in the world yet as in Isaiah 11:1-9. It does not describe our world today as in Jeremiah 23:5-8. It cannot be spiritualized as in Micah 1:1-3 and Zephaniah 3:9-12. God made promises to Israel, to David and his seed, Psalms 89:2-4. Do not listen to people who twist the scriptures. See also Hosea 3:4, 5. Those promises cannot and will not be broken. Psalms 89:30-37.
2. The Present Church Age is not the Millennium. Contrary to the Amil belief, the second coming of Christ precedes the Millennium. The second coming of Christ is presented in Revelation 19: 11 – 20:4, as preceding the binding of Satan, which is concurrent with the beginning of the Millennial age. Revelation 19:11-20 shows Christ's coming to earth. In Revelation 20:1-3 we have the binding of Satan. Revelation 20:4 tells of the beginning of the millennial kingdom.
3. The Church Saints are not now reigning with Christ in a spiritualized millennium. Instead of a time of spiritual peace, we are in a time of intense spiritual warfare. 2 Timothy 2:3, 4; 1 Timothy 1:18; Ephesians 6:13; 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5. In no way can the promises of the OT be spiritualized to fit our present situation. They picture, peace and rest and ultimate triumph. These are the very opposite of our present spiritual conflict.
- o The Church is not Israel and God still has a plan for Israel. God

promised three things to Abraham and his seed.

- **Land** - Genesis 13:14, 15 - a literal land and described as such. To change that clear, plain statement is to twist the Scripture.
  - **Seed** - Genesis 17: 7, 8 - unconditional, "I will give it unto thee, and to they seed after thee." To change that clear promise is to make God a liar and discredit His Word. Gen. 3:1 "Yea hath God said", as Satan asked Eve. An eternal possession, "for an everlasting possession".
  - **Blessing** - Gen 22:17, 18 – The promise of blessing for Israel is not forfeited because of sin. In the Church, pseudo-Christians do not partake of the blessing promised to the Bride of Christ and the Bride of Christ does not forfeit her blessing because of sin. Forgiven sin magnifies the Grace of God. God will punish and correct Israel but not make an end of her. Jeremiah 30:11; Jeremiah 31:33-36; Zechariah 12:10-14; 13:1, 8, 9. To spiritualize these promises is to twist Scripture and leave us uncertain of "rightly dividing the Word of truth". See also Isaiah 11:11,12
4. Satan is Not Bound. In Revelation 20:1-3 notice the purpose for which he is bound. He is bound so that he cannot deceive the nations for the duration of the thousand years. Satan is obviously not bound now in the Church age. Acts 5:3, 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 Peter 5: 8.
  5. The Tribulation Period did not take place in 70 A.D. The book of Revelation is a prophecy about future events, not a history about past events Revelation 1:1, 3. Most scholars believe the book was

written about 95 A.D., certainly after 70 A.D., therefore it cannot describe events in 70 AD. Irenaeus placed the writing of it in 95 to 96 AD in the reign of Domitian who died in 96 AD. In Matthew 24:21 Jesus describes the tribulation period as the greatest time of tribulation that has or ever will happen to Israel. The events of 70 AD do not fit that category. Josephus gives an eye witness account of what happened in 70 AD, 101,700 Jews were taken prisoner, 1,356,460 killed. The holocaust saw 6,000,000 Jews killed, so the tribulation period is yet future. Zechariah 13:8, 9. All the events of Revelation 6 to 19 were not fulfilled in 70 A.D.

6. Christ will return prior to the millennium not after it. See Revelation 19:11 to 20:4, this corresponds with what Jesus taught in Matthew 25:31-34, 40-41. Eternity will not begin until after the Millennium. Revelation 20:7; 21:1

Scriptures tell us that someday Christ will come and remove the usurper of this world from his position of ruling over this world. 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:2, 3.

In Luke 1:32, 33 Christ will come to rule over a redeemed Israel, reestablished in their own land. Satan knows if he can destroy Israel he can prevent Christ from fulfilling His promise and thereby he can defeat God. That is what anti-Semitism is all about, that is what is going on in the mid-east today. That is exactly what Amillennialism is attempting to do theologically. It is a part of Satan's attempt to defeat God's program.

This is why the Roman Catholic Church has been anti-Semitic down through the ages. It claims to be the kingdom of God on earth. That claim makes no room for Israel to receive the kingdom; the Roman Catholic

Church says that Rome is the eternal city not Jerusalem.

## Wait on the Lord

*“They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” Isaiah 40:31.*

Waiting on the Lord occupies a large place in the Scriptures. It is a major tool of the Lord in preparing His servants to serve Him.

Abraham spent a lifetime waiting on God to send the promised blessing.

Moses spent forty years quietly waiting on God.

David was prepared to be Israel's greatest king, alone in the wilderness, tending the sheep.

Elijah spent much time waiting on God to prepare him for a powerful ministry. He sat in a quiet place all alone for a year, waiting on the Lord. There were no coffee shops, TV, newspapers, family or friends, just Elijah and the Lord. He spent two and one half years waiting on God at Zarephath. Before Elijah could raise the dead, call down fire from heaven or call down the rain, he had to learn to wait on the Lord.

Paul spent a year in the Arabian Desert alone with the Lord.

The Lord desires to prepare you to glorify Him, but that preparation involves, quiet waiting on the Lord. How are you making out with this call on your life?

Not to *Wait on the Lord* is to:

👉 Reject God's place in your heart and life

- 👉 Usurp God's guidance
- 👉 Allow the flesh to lead you
- 👉 Guarantee defeat

To *Wait on the Lord* is to:

- 👉 Learn to resist the rationalizing of the flesh nature
- 👉 Learn to say no to the flesh nature's impulses
- 👉 Learn how to find the will of God

What are you *Waiting on the Lord* for right now?

What are you in danger of rushing into, by not *Waiting on the Lord* that will change the course of your life?

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## The Drums of War

The drums of war are rolling like thunder in the mid-east, while in the west there are feverish attempts to reach a peace agreement. The leaders in the west are fearful of a cataclysmic mid-east war that would disrupt oil supplies and perhaps destroy economies as a result.

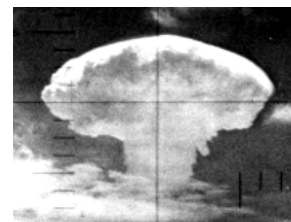
The whole world, including Israel, is totally committed to establishing a Palestinian state on land God has committed to Israel.

The problem is that the Islamic nations do not want peace; they want to drive Israel into the sea. The peace they will accept is a peace that puts them into a better position to destroy Israel. This is exactly what happened in Gaza and southern Lebanon.

The world is divided into two camps, those who seek to destroy Israel and those who seek to divide

Israel's land for peace. Both are defying God and His Word.

Iran and Syria with their proxies Hamas and Hezbollah are poised to launch an all out war to destroy Israel. Israel is increasingly being positioned to ultimately resort to nuclear weapons to defend herself (called the Sampson option) from all out attack.



### In the News continued...

#### 'IDF preparing for all-out war'

Israel News - ynetnews.com

General who served in Second Lebanon War says army's premise now completely different than before war which 'proved we were wrong in 2000 when our military power was aimed at Palestinian terror; now we realize that we should be preparing for something completely different'.

"The IDF (Israeli Defense Force) is preparing itself for an all-out war, and this is a major change in the military's working premise following the Second Lebanon War," said Major-General (res) Eyal Ben-Reuven, who served as the Northern Command chief's deputy during the war.

When conflict breaks out with Syria, he said, Israel will face a challenge, because the Syrians "will be willing to take military and civilian hits but will strive to harm the Israeli home front in order to gain future achievements in a political process and to further split Israeli society".

"Therefore, the IDF's mission will be very focused and will have to be quick, in order to neutralize as quickly as possible the strategic areas threatening Israel's soft underbelly, thus preventing Syria reaching its coveted goals."

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**Senior IDF officer says Hamas has built de facto army**



# THE PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH

In the past ten years a large percentage of churches in North America and around the world have changed from traditional churches to contemporary Purpose Driven Churches.

This is a profound change; it is a total departure from what the Scriptures teach the church should be. It is a change which involves a change of vision. It is a change which involves a takeover of the church by those who have a totally unbiblical vision for the church.

Dr. Rick Warren, author of the Purpose Driven Life and the Purpose Driven Church has stated, "When you reveal the vision to the Church, the old pillars are going to leave. But, let them leave, they only hold things up."

That statement reveals that a profound change in the church is being undertaken. A careful study of the change involved will reveal that the church is being fashioned into something that is not the Church of Jesus Christ.

Look at some of the outward changes that are a part of the pattern of the purpose driven church.

1. The word church is often eliminated, and replaced with the words campus or Christian fellowship, etc.
2. Words like sin – lost – hell – unsaved – heaven – are eliminated from the Pastor's message.
3. Altar calls for salvation are eliminated.
4. The terms "saved" and "lost" are replaced with 'churched" and "unchurched" implying that to be churched is to be saved.
5. The removal of the Hymn Books, taking away much of the doctrinal teaching of the Church's music.
6. Business meetings are eliminated; often biblical offices such as Deacons are eliminated.
7. The pastor or a new leader, with a few assistants, takes charge of all church business.
8. New Bible versions are used, often just verses flashed on the screen.
9. The pulpit is changed or removed.

10. Those who are not Purpose Driven Supporters are marginalized.
11. Closed meetings between the Pastor and chosen Staff Members without reports to the congregation.
12. Service times are changed, some services may be eliminated.
13. A repetitive 40-day Purpose Driven Study Program, which stresses psychological relationships with each other, with community and the world.
14. The choir is eliminated, taking away its devotional impact.
15. The singing of repetitive praise lyrics, an appeal to the emotions rather than the mind.
16. Purpose Driven films are used prior to the service or during the service.
17. The organ and piano are replaced with Rock Band instruments.
18. Dress styles are changed to casual dress; we are not here to meet with a sovereign, awesome God.
19. The décor of the church is changed to eliminate any resemblance to the former church.
20. For the youth, the emphasis is made on fun and partying.
21. Music is changed to Contemporary Rock Style

These changes turn the church around 180 degrees and leave the church unidentifiable as the Church of Jesus Christ. The church is masqueraded so that the world feels comfortable about coming in. If numbers is your only objective, this is a good strategy.

Far more important than the outward changes is the fundamental changes as to what the church believes, what the church is to be, what the church's message is, and what the church is to be doing.

Rick Warren stated on May 23, 2005, at the PEW Forum on Religion, “the word fundamentalist, actually comes from a document in the 1920’s called The Fundamentals of the Faith, and it is a very legalistic and narrow view of Christianity.” The five fundamentals of the faith to which Warren objected are:

- ❖ **The inerrancy and full authority of the Bible.**
- ❖ **The Virgin Birth and full Deity of Jesus Christ.**
- ❖ **The bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.**
- ❖ **Christ’s Atoning, vicarious death for the sins of the world.**
- ❖ **The literal Second Coming of Christ.**

These doctrines are the basic irreducible essence of Christianity - to reject these truths is to reject Christianity. Doctrinally, Warren is changing the very foundational beliefs of the church.

It is not that the fundamentals of the faith are being denied in Purpose Driven Churches, it is that they are no longer behind the philosophy and practice and teaching of the PDC.

The PDC is preaching a gospel that is not the gospel of the New Testament; it is called Easy-believism. Subtle changes can make a profound difference.

I believe that at some point, the heart of every unregenerate person desires salvation without repentance and a change of life. That is the great contrast between genuine Christianity and all other religions. (Luke 13:3, 5).

Fill the church with the unsaved, preach easy-believism and watch the church grow. Easy-believism is the gospel without repentance and a change of life. You can gather a multitude around that type of a gospel. The multitudes of Christendom and the multitudes of the Cults verify that, but when you build a church on easy-believism, though you may have some Christians in it, you do not have the Church of Jesus Christ.

When you look at Revelation 2 and 3, you find Christ removing the candlestick (decommissioning) those churches who depart from the Word of God. (See also Matthew 7:21-23).

Rick Warren has stated, “It is my conviction that anybody can be won to Christ if you discover the key to his or her heart ... it may take some time to identify it but the most likely place to start is within the person’s felt needs”. This is psychology, not the gospel. The gospel does not consist of meeting the felt needs (desires), the sinner must turn from his or her own desires before they can be saved. This is another gospel, which is not the gospel. This is the ground work for easy-believism. Galatians 1:6, 7.

The PDC has abandoned another vital aspect of the church, SEPARATION. The PDC seeks to make the church appear like the world in every possible way. It creates an environment in which the world can come in and feel at home.

All down through the history of Israel and the church, a mixed multitude has brought destruction to the people of God. (2 Corinthians 6:17)

The church is called out of the world, to be separate from the world. The PDC is determined to change that! The church is called to go outside the camp bearing the reproach of Christ. It is warned not to love the world.

The church is not to bring the unsaved into its fellowship. The church is commanded to go out into the world, to win men and women to Christ, to baptize them and then bring them into the fellowship to be discipled. Subtle changes can make a profound difference.

Ecumenism is a part of the PDC; it is at the leading edge of bringing all of Christendom together. The church is commanded in scripture not to fellowship, or associate with those who depart from sound doctrine. (2 John 10:11, Jude 3)

I believe the Purpose Driven Church is the part of the great last days’ apostasy (Matthew.24:5)

If you are a follower of Christ, I urge you to come out of the whole Purpose Driven and Seeker Friendly Movement. (Revelation18:4, Matthew 24:24).