

Blessed Assurance

By Wayne Vasilenko

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As we go through life, we deal with lots of situations and problems; we deal with joy and sorrow, and at times we deal with confusion and uncertainty. How do you feel about your personal life issues? Do you feel that you're governed by "Fate," that things just happen randomly or by pure chance, and it's just a matter of you being in the right place at the right time in order to prosper, succeed, or even to fail? Or do you feel that there is some kind of plan for you; do you feel as though you're being drawn in a particular direction? Looking back at my own life, I recall as I considered these questions and feelings often over the years. I have pondered these questions concerning both my life in general, and also more importantly pertaining to my relationship with God. When I was a child, the biggest issues of life of those mentioned above I recall dealing with, is confusion and uncertainty. As children we all learn, see, and hear lots of things that we may not understand; however this may have more to do with experience, rather than intelligence. Just because someone doesn't understand something doesn't mean they are stupid, they simply may not have anything to compare or relate to concerning whatever the issue is, or perhaps they simply didn't consider all the information presented to them.

Lack of understanding is not limited to the young, it follows us throughout life. What changes over the years however, is how we deal with our lack of understanding. It seems that the older we get, the more we mask or try to hide any lack of understanding we might have. Most people don't like to admit that they don't understand something because of Pride! Many years ago, I taught advanced circuits and transistor theory at a vocational school. I recall as I was reviewing material for an up and coming test, I asked my students many times, "Does everyone understand all the material you will be tested on?" Everyone in the class nodded yes. I then asked, "Does anyone have any questions concerning anything that will be on the test?" Everyone nodded no. As you may have guessed, not everyone passed the test which indicated that not all of my students really understood the material we reviewed just the day before. There are many variables that can contribute to this, for example there are many distractions that people face such as family problems and the like; there are also people who simply have problems retaining knowledge for a myriad of other reasons. What I am trying to get across to everyone is that although we may feel confident one minute, our confidence can be shattered in a heartbeat.

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The same can also be true when it comes to Spiritual matters. Not long after I became a Christian, an acquaintance of mine (my accountant) asked me to talk to his son who was really getting into the “Theory of Evolution” in school. The young boy had a Genius I.Q. level and he was 100% convinced that this unverified theory was rock solid. I sat down with the young man one evening and asked him to explain to me what he believed to be the explanation of mankind’s existence and the world as we know it. I listened quietly as he went on and on about how there was nothing and all of a sudden there was this “Big Bang” and suddenly the universe was born! Then, over millions and millions of years, this and that, just happened to combine in the exact proportions and life appeared! He went on to say that life over additional millions and millions years, somehow life became more and more complex... ya’ll know the drill. It is all taught as “fact” in all public educational institutions. Many of us, myself included, have since figured out that the whole evolutionist theory is just that... theory, and there is not only no proof of evolution, but we don’t see it happening today! You would think that evolution if true would be a continuing process. As I previously stated, I sat quietly as this young man confidently told me what he believed and after he concluded I asked him one question... “About that Big Bang that supposedly set all of this in motion; who pushed the button that set off the Big Bang?” The young boy just stared at me and I could see that he was frantically searching his mind for an answer; I just stared right back at him for a few minutes until I was sure he had no answer and simply stated... “That was God.” I then went on to explain to him that man always tries explaining things with his limited perspective but it always, as in the case of evolution, they reach a dead end where nothing makes sense except an intelligent creator.

Just like my students that weren’t really sure about the material on that test, man’s pride gets in the way when he doesn’t understand something as deep as the origin of man and the universe. Instead of questioning what they are told, people will just go with the flow as they say, rather than daring to challenge what they are told by people who appear knowledgeable. All of my students appeared to be knowledgeable the day before the “test,” however not all were as knowledgeable as they thought. Many of you who are regulars on the Selah Life web site may wonder why I put such importance on Bible Prophecy. The bottom line is that Bible Prophecy gives us assurance. God gave us His Word for a reason! Many, especially true Christians would respond to that statement saying, “Well yeah...Duh... of course God had a reason!”

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However, too many people if asked, “What were some of those reasons;” many of them would give a lot of erroneous replies; however, it all boils down to this simple verse:

1 John 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

God’s word is all about our redemption! We were created for fellowship with God Himself... we were created in His image, perfect in every way! But when we chose to disobey the one and only rule God imposed on us, we were no longer perfect. From that point on, all of the communication between God and man was directed at bringing us back to perfection. Many people, when they read the Bible see God as this “mean egotistical ogre” out to punish all of us for disobedience, but all of it... all of God’s word, is meant to show us the unfailing love He has for us! One might ask, “What about all of those laws God gave,” aren’t they impossible to follow?” The short answer is yes... it says in the Bible, “All have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God!” The law was given because the people wanted the law! They wanted to prove to God that they were willing to follow or do anything their God demanded to prove their love for Him...

Exodus 19:3-8 (NKJV)

³ **And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: ⁴ 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. ⁶ And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."** ⁷ **So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. ⁸ Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD.**

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The people back then were as confident they could pass the test as my students were; however, they too were surprised to find out that they weren't as competent as they thought. When we think of tests we usually don't think of them as a "Go – No Go situation." Although we all would like to "Ace" tests we take, most of us don't always expect to get 100%, some of us would be happy with a 90% score, some would settle for a 70% score. However with God, it's 100% or nothing! For us that is bad news... but God knew we would fall short, and He again provided a way for us to be perfect in His sight... THAT IS GOOD NEWS!

John 3:14-17 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Let us once again look at the first Bible verse referenced in this writing:

1 John 5:13 (NKJV)

¹³ These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.

Both my former students and my friend's son were disillusioned, believing they had all of the answers; however they all ended up disappointed when they found out they were lacking answers. The evolutionists put their faith in theory; my former students put their faith in themselves, so what sets belief in Christianity and the Bible apart from them? Many would argue that the Bible can't be proven to be true, but that is not a true statement! The Bible proves itself! How can anything prove itself? Through prophesy! From the instant Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, God's redemption process began. The process would take place over a long period of time; however in that process, God would assure us over and over of His love and faithfulness towards us through His prophetic Word. He would tell us through prophesy of things that would occur in the future and through their fulfillment we would gain assurance.

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We are about to enter into the season in which we remember one of God's most important prophecies, the one concerning the birth of our Savior which was fulfilled in minute detail.

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

² But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.

Luke 2:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

This story which is known to most as "The Christmas Story" was just the beginning. The birth of that child whose name is Jesus was foretold thousands of years before it took place. What happened afterward was also foretold and it was all for you and me... Our Redemption! This Christmas season, remember the true meaning of the Christmas Story. You can rest assured of the validity of this story, it happened just as the Bible said it would. You can also rest assured that prophecies yet to be fulfilled will happen just as stated in God's Word. Put your faith in Jesus, the Lord and Savior of the world. You too can have Blessed Assurance.