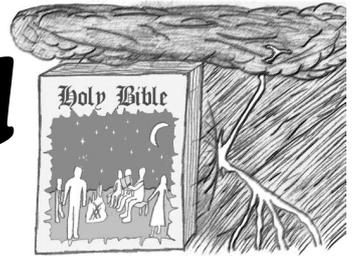


# Shelter in the Word

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.  
You are my refuge and shield: I have put my hope in your Word. —Psalm 91:1; 119:114*



Vol. 6, No. 1

Helping you become self-sufficient in the Word—for a lasting relationship with the Almighty

Jan-Feb 2003

## The Hypocrisy of Attacking Iraq an Open Letter to President Bush

*by Norman Edwards*

This letter was originally sent via e-mail on March 10, 2003 to President Bush, Vice President Cheney, my Michigan Senators and representatives, several other political entities, and over 900 *Shelter in the Word* readers for which I had an e-mail address. Because of technical problems with the e-mail, a new version, with recommendations added at the end was sent on March 19. This is that new version. At the point of sending, the war had not yet begun. Responses to this letter will be published in the next issue.

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for telling us in your press conference March 6th that you are seeking God's guidance through prayer in the Iraq conflict. It seems that you have the support of a great many of the religious leaders of the American "religious right". But being a Christian is more than just asking God about what we want—it is about doing what He teaches in the Bible. When Jesus was on the earth, the Pharisees were the God-revering, often praying, influential "religious right" of the day (Luke 5:33; 18:9-10; Matthew 23:29-30).

But the Pharisees had the sin of hypocrisy—they knew and talked about God, but they did not do what God said. **There is no doubt that Saddam Hussein is an evil man** willing to kill whoever is necessary to keep himself in power. But God expects more from Christians who have and believe His Bible.

Jesus said, "If you [Pharisees] were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains (John 9:41).

...But do not do what they [Pharisees] do, for they do not practice what they preach (Matthew 23:3).

But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you (Matthew 11:24).

..."Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is **hypocrisy**. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Luke 12:1-7).

The pressures of being President are indeed tremendous. But Jesus Christ had even more pressure, yet

### Also In This Issue:

- 6 U.S. Military Denies All Rights to Prisoners
- 8 Enduring With the Peace of God
- 9 Prayer Request for America
- 10 Questions and Comments from our Readers

did not sin (Hebrews 4:15). He offers us His strength in trouble (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Many Americans realize that most of their high-ranking political leaders owe much to the wealthy and powerful interests that helped them get into office. But you must never forget that it was the votes of the People of the USA who put you in that office. It is to them that you are responsible. Also, it was you who placed your hand on a Bible and promised to “defend the Constitution of the United States”. God is watching. May He give you the courage to stand up and do what is right.

It appears that you are working hard to try to resolve the problems of terrorism. Please consider the following nine areas where it appears that your administration is being hypocritical.

1) **Disarming Saddam is frequently mentioned, but it is not the real issue.** Why? Because the USA, as well as Russia, China, North Korea, Pakistan and other nations have much more powerful weapons than Iraq. Some of these nations have also threatened to use them or sell them to the highest bidder. All these nations, including ours, would probably use these weapons of mass destruction in their own defense rather than give them up to a stronger nation. Is it easy for Saddam to give up his weapons when some of his nearby enemies have them? Is the reason that your administration is against Saddam’s weapons is that he will not yield to economic or military pressure like most other nations do, because his interests are entirely self-serving, and because he is not afraid to use his weapons?

If you were in his situation, would you deal any differently? The USA must remember that we used nuclear weapons when it was in our best interest.

In addition, the practicality of enforcing disarmament is questionable. If we cannot find his “weapons of mass destruction” with our satellites, spy planes and inspectors in his country, will we be able to find them after he is militarily defeated?

Will not most of Iraq’s hidden weapons of mass destruction remain hidden? Might his “mobile weapons” simply make their way to other sympathetic middle-eastern nations?

2) **We talk about replacing Saddam as leader, but is that true?** —When most of the world would have stood with us if we removed him in 1991, we left him in office because he was “useful to us” in resisting Muslim fundamentalism in Iran. Can God or the rest of the world consider us a “righteous nation”, if we let an evil murderer stay in power because he is “useful to us”? Even more important, a few Iraqi military units rebelled against Saddam after the cease-fire, but we decided our treaty with this evil man was more important than their lives—and we watched while Saddam killed them. Will anyone in Iraq who believes in freedom dare rise up against Saddam again?

The hypocrisy continues when you say Saddam is a “Hitler-like man”, yet go on to offer to let him leave Iraq and “retire” in some other country. Are we being truthful or do we plan to kill him in his place of retirement? Does that make us a just nation? Who would want to govern Iraq, knowing that Saddam was alive and maybe continuing to work on some of those hidden “weapons of mass destruction”? What would stop him from supplying them to terrorists who would attack the present government in Iraq, or in the USA?

If we believe the solution to Iraq is primarily to remove Saddam, then we should either get the UN or our own courts to try him—probably in absentia—and then devise a clever plan to execute him alone (Ehud removed evil king Eglon in the Bible—Judges 3). But it seems that your plan is to send an army to occupy all of Iraq.

We must realize that even though many Iraqis abhor Saddam, they also abhor another nation killing their leader or invading and picking their leaders for them. Even though most Americans were disgusted with Bill Clinton and the House voted to

**Shelter in the Word** is designed to help people become self-sufficient in their Bible study, so that they may be able to serve the Almighty Creator, and receive salvation through His Son. *Shelter* is not affiliated with any denomination, and teaches that eternal life is available to **individuals** who live by the Bible, regardless of their belonging to a church organization.

Bible truth should be given freely (Matt 10:8). This publication is free and is designed to be copied easily. You have permission to copy part or all of it, as long as you do not change it. Reader’s articles and letters for *Shelter in the Word* are welcomed. (Please realize that there is no guarantee that items submitted will be published or returned.)

*Shelter in the Word* is published 6 times a year by Church Bible Teaching Ministry; 3690 Bath Rd, Perry, Michigan 48872 (this is not a mailing address) Issues are sent free to people who request the publication and are genuinely interested in it. Church Bible Teaching Ministry reserves the right to refuse service for any reason. Postmaster: send address changes to Shelter in the Word, PO Box 107, Perry, Michigan 48872-0107.

**Circulation: 2300**

*Shelter in the Word* staff: Bill Buckman, Norm & Marleen Edwards, Missi Lara, David Meidinger, Jon D. Pike

You may receive *Shelter in the Word* and other literature by mail or e-mail. Please send requests to the nearest location, below. (If you want to help with our expenses, please write checks to the name shown below).

**Church Bible Teaching Ministry**

**PO Box 107 • Perry, Michigan 48872-0107**

**517-625-7480, Fax: 517-625-7481, e-mail: info@cbtm.info**

**Australia:** Dale Heslin; 9 Alice Jackson Crescent; Gilmore, ACT 2905  
e-mail: dale@pcug.org.au

**Canada:** C. Zimmerman, 268 Pennswood Wy SE, Calgary, AB T2A 4T3  
uscazim@msn.com

**Philippines:** Cesar Lumbuan; 2298 Florida St.; Balagtas, Pandacan; Manila  
e-mail: maxen@skynet.net

**U.K.:** Jenny Whiteman; 2 Warren Rd; Narborough, Leicester, LE9 5DR  
e-mail 100623.734@compuserve.com

impeach him, we would have fought against another nation that tried to kill him or pick a new leader for us.

Mr. President, please realize that each day that arms inspections continue and fighting does not begin, both lives and money are saved—and Saddam is prevented from openly developing new weapons. If Saddam were to use any weapon of mass destruction now—even ineffectively—he knows we would fight till he is gone. But if we try to depose him by force, he is likely to use whatever he has to protect himself—in downtown Baghdad, in a western-friendly neighboring state or in the USA. If we are acting in righteousness, we could expect deliverance from God from these evil weapons. But if we are acting in selfishness or hypocrisy, God may let Saddam succeed.

- 3) You continually use the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack and safety from terrorism as reasons for an Iraqi war. **The evidence that Saddam was involved seems poor, but the evidence that the American government had prior knowledge appears massive.** Most of the 9-11 hijackers and their funding appear to be from Saudi Arabia, apparently none are from Iraq. A search for the phrases “World Trade Center” and “Prior Knowledge” on [www.alltheweb.com](http://www.alltheweb.com) reveals over 20,000 pages that contain **both**. While some are from nutty, undocumented “conspiracy theorist” sites, many are mainstream American media sites or well-documented independent research sites. Some are English translations of foreign papers. It is very clear that many prominent people, even heads of state, do not believe that Bin Laden and Al Qaeda were alone responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

These web pages contain numerous stories of local law enforcement personnel who wanted to investigate potential terrorists, only to be refused permission by central office bureaucrats. Your new programs do not give more capability to local law enforcement, but rather concentrate power in a very central Homeland Security Department—that claims to have power to imprison American citizens without charges or a trial.

These web sites contain evidence that conflicts with the official explanation for events, they show FAA aircraft procedures that were not followed. Some sites have clear pictures of explosions in the seven WTC buildings—quite separate from the airplane crashes and building collapses. No one person could read all 20,000 web pages and investigate to determine which is true and which is not—but your administration has said almost nothing about these things.

Neither you nor Congress began an independent investigation of the September 11 attacks for 14 months. The National Commission on Terrorist At-

tacks was formed November 27, 2002 due to the demands of World Trade Center widows. And it is an extremely weak group—it has no power to grant immunity from prosecution, so anyone who was even slightly involved in any crime has no reason to testify. The commission members were appointed by the Democrat and Republican Parties—6 of the 10 members work for the airline industry. At this writing, only 373 web pages contain the phrase “National Commission on Terrorist Attacks”. The commission can subpoena no person or document unless both of its chairman and vice-chairman agree. Are we a free nation when one man has total authority to stop the truth from coming to the American people?

It is difficult to imagine that American citizens, even government officials, would somehow cooperate with a terrorist attack. But the investigation of such charges should be much more important than attacking Iraq. What good will it do to defeat Saddam if the real problem is at home?

There is also much more that you could do to protect our nation other than war. We could secure our borders for much less than the cost of this war. As it is now, illegal aliens can walk across the border into our national parks—with only greatly understaffed park police to worry about. Furthermore, we could require all non-citizens from terrorist countries to report to law enforcement on a regular basis—this is not unconstitutional—aliens do not have constitutional rights. Finally, we could invoke the death penalty for illegal aliens from “terrorist nations” who do not report within a certain length of time. This is much less harsh than starting a war and killing a lot of Iraqi people who are legally living in their own country.

- 4) **We are hypocritical if we fight Saddam just because he kills innocent people.** Saddam believes he is killing to “protect his own interests”—just like we thought we were protecting our own interests by killing in Cuba (Bay of Pigs), Vietnam, Grenada, Afghanistan, etc. America has lost about 4000 innocent civilians due to terrorist attacks. Iraq would probably lose many more innocent civilians if we attack. They will probably lose even more soldiers—men who have no option to avoid Saddam’s wars, but only the choices to fight or to die.

Yes, it is bad that Iraqi terrorists may try to kill almost anybody anywhere in the world—no warning, no charges, no trial, just dead. But are we not doing similar things? Did we not kill six suspected Al Qaeda terrorists in Yemen last November 5 by hitting their car with a Hellfire missile launched from an unmanned Predator airplane? We gave no warning, filed no charges, had no trial, and were not even sure who everyone in the car was.

- 5) **We claim we want democracy and freedom for**

**the Iraqi people**, but Islamic nations that are our “friends” do not have any such freedom, nor is the USA doing much to help them achieve it. The biggest single effect of the “war on terrorism” seems to be a massive loss of freedom in America.

For centuries, we prided ourselves on open press conferences, where reporters could ask the President any question. But your last “press conference” was made to look free, but was actually scripted: only planned questions and planned answers. What happened to freedom of the press, the 4th estate, the press as a “check and balance” on government? Is that all over?

Besides being denied free access to our own leaders, we are denied access to enemy leaders. Bin Laden’s taped messages are not made public with the excuse that he has encoded terrorist instructions in them. So what would be wrong with making them available a few weeks or months later? There is no embargo on the Muslim Internet traffic, music, literature, etc. that enters this country—could not he be sending terrorist instructions in that? It seems that our leaders must be afraid that Americans will hear what Bin Laden has to say. If Bin Laden were lying, it would be easy to simply include a truthful explanation along with his tapes. But if he is telling at least some truth—truth that is embarrassing to our leaders—that would explain why Bin Laden’s tapes are suppressed.

The so-called Patriot Act is the greatest constitution-bashing legislation of all time. It allows our government to imprison US Citizens for years without charges, trial, or access to council or their families. It allows the Homeland Security Department to keep numerous kinds of information on Citizens without their knowledge. It has turned auto dealers and travel agents into extension spy agencies, requiring them to submit information on all customer transactions. Most congressmen did not even have time to read this act when they voted on it. Is this freedom?

In the Afghanistan war, you designated captured Taliban soldiers as “unlawful combatants” and said that they did not have to be treated according to the Geneva Convention for prisoners of war. But there is no law that gives us the right to mistreat these prisoners, so does that give your forces the status of “unlawful combatants”? Not only is the “unlawful combatants” designation hypocritical, it encourages others nations to mistreat our servicemen when they are captured. Most of us can remember the TV images of downed airmen beaten by Iraqis in the 1991 Gulf War. Yes, Saddam was evil to do that and proudly displayed his evil to the entire world. But is our country not hypocritical by refusing Taliban prisoners Geneva Convention treatment and hiding our evil in Camp X-ray in

Cuba? If this unlawful combatant status is good, why not put it on TV for all to see? Just recently, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was captured and taken to an “undisclosed location”. Have we forgotten the difficulty we had finding American Airmen that were taken to “undisclosed locations” in North Vietnam? Could they rightly classify us as “terrorists”—fighting a war for no clear purpose for eight years and killing hundreds of thousands?

- 6) **Our approach to nations and the UN has been hypocritical.** A few months ago, you were saying that Saddam was a menace to the world because he was violating UN rules on forbidden arms. You sought the support of the UN—which decided upon weapons inspections, rather than immediate war. But now that the UN and many other nations do not see enough evidence to fight, you have said that we are ready to fight without their approval—for having arms forbidden by the UN. If the UN is a valid international body of law, the both of us should follow it. But if it is not, then how can we fault Saddam for having arms “forbidden” by the UN?

If Saddam is so evil, why do other nations not see it? If his weapons of mass destruction are so dangerous, why are few of his neighbors ready to help depose him? Is it possible that they think Saddam is a bad neighbor, but that more American control in the region is even worse?

- 7) **You are asking God to bless the outcome of this conflict, but is it a Christian Cause?** You certainly have mentioned sending physical food and supplies to Iraq in the event of war, but you have never mentioned “spiritual food”—freedom of religion for Iraq. Christian missionaries are not free to operate there. Most of our “friend” Muslim countries would be against this. Indeed, they would all ask what right America has to “teach morality” when we export to their nations so much pornography, violence, irreverence and financial corruption—both in movies and in reality. We could accomplish far more to bring peace in our nation by repenting of our national sins—more than any size of army we could build or any amount of money we could spend:

“When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, he makes even his enemies live at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7).”

If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven. (Deuteronomy 28:1,7)

Furthermore, if we want God to bless our conflict, should not we follow His instruction to avoid making treaties with other nations? (Exodus

34:10-12; Deuteronomy 23:6; Joshua 9; 2 Kings 18:21). Should we want to obey Him to receive military victory? (Leviticus 26:3-8).

8) You spoke of your “constitutional responsibility” to protect our country—but the President’s responsibility is limited to acting as Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces (Federal Constitution, Article 2, sec. 2). The constitution gives Congress the power to declare war and fund armed forces (Article 1, sec. 8). It also defines “treason” to include anyone giving “Aid and Comfort” to our enemies (Article 3, sec. 3). As, you know, the USA has not declared any war since World War II—and in every undeclared “war” since that time, American and multinational corporations have been “trading with the enemy” without prosecution. Do not succumb to pressure to engage our armed forces on your own authority; if we are to fight a war, let Congress declare it as the constitution mandates. If this were to be a declared war, many of those wealthy Americans who are doing business with Iraq could be convicted of treason. They might suddenly decide that this war is unnecessary. Please have the courage to stand up to the power economic forces of this world. It is better to solve this problem by their loss of profits than it is by the death of tens of thousands of Iraqi and American people.

9) **Is this war about oil?** Given the hypocrisy of many of your administration’s stated reasons for fighting Iraq, control of oil seems to be at least a likely reason. The collusion of the world’s oil companies is easily demonstrated in any city: gas prices at all stations always go up and down together. If trouble in the Middle East drives up the prices for companies who import from there, even the pump prices for companies that import only Mexican oil go up a similar amount. While it is hard for the average American to find accurate information, it would seem that Iraq has the largest reserves of oil apart from the countries that are now a part of the world “oil monopoly”. An oil monopoly could not greatly increase the world price of oil with an independent producer like Iraq that could potentially flood the market with reasonably priced oil. Yes, these possible scenarios would take years to develop, but what better time to attack Iraq than now, when the 9-11 attack is fresh in everyone’s mind, and with a President such as yourself, who has been in the oil business until you became President.

The importance of oil in this war was emphasized several weeks ago when your administration announced their plans to protect Iraqi oil fields from Saddam in case he planned to destroy them. This came before plans of how to protect Iraqi civilians or soldiers who did not want anything to do with the war. You stated that you plan to hold the oil “in trust for the people of Iraq”. Has that been accomplished

in most other Middle East countries? Do not a few grow wealthy from the oil business while the common people of the country pay fairly stiff prices at the pump? What about our own country? Is our oil held in trust for the American people? Or, do Americans pay 18.4 cents per gallon federal tax and even more state tax? Have not many of these gas-tax dollars been diverted for uses other than the roads that governments promised they would be used for? Can the Iraqis really trust the American government with their oil?

Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God (James 4:1-4, NKJV).

### **Conclusion**

Every Citizen of the USA ought to be thankful for the many honest men and women who serve in our government and our armed forces. The religious freedom we have was bought and preserved by those who were willing to fight and die for it. But every Citizen also ought to speak out against the many times that our leaders have reinforced their own riches and rulership by making self-serving decisions—not country-serving decisions.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Saddam Hussein is an evil man. But you, George Walker Bush, know the Christian way. Don’t be a hypocrite. Tell the truth; do what is right! In the future, May Christ will say to you: “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 5:21), not:

...I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you (Matthew 21:31).

### **Practical Recommendations**

The Bible supports self-defense. The USA was clearly attacked in September of 2001, both with airplanes and anthrax. But to what degree Saddam Hussein was responsible for those attacks is unclear to much of the world—even to many Americans. Establishing the precedent of going to war with another nation because we think they have weapons of mass destruction, because they might have attacked us, or because they might attack us is very dangerous. It will turn many

neutral nations into enemy nations—nations that will be willing to be a haven for terrorists.

If other nations with similar amounts of evidence against their enemies decide to start a war, we could have dozens of wars throughout the world. Have not we learned from the past two world wars? It is very possible that we could defeat Saddam, occupy Iraq, and find we are in a world many times more hostile to us than before we started. This is a much better approach:

- 1) Keep our military presence in the Gulf. Let all of the nations in the area know that if they attack our forces, we will retaliate and possibly invade.
- 2) Demand continual inspections to search for weapons off mass destruction and terrorist cells. Extend these to other countries where Al Qaeda operates—get to the proven sources of terrorism affecting us.
- 3) Develop a clear policy that the USA will apply equally to all smaller nations in regard to what actions will cause us to bring arms inspectors, to come in to look for terrorists, and to militarily attack.
- 4) We found few links to the 9-11 attacks in Iraq, but there are plenty of links here in America. Encourage the State of New York, the State of Pennsylvania, and the governing committee of Washington, D.C. to appoint completely independent commissions to investigate the attacks. Give them inde-

pendent authority to subpoena any documents and persons and to grant immunity and/or witness protection.

- 5) Work on plans to decentralize homeland security to the 50 states where practical. People work the hardest to defend the place where they live. This will bypass the numerous problems with law enforcement people who had leads on the 9-11 attacks before they occurred, but who were stopped by uncaring central bureaucracies.
- 6) Provide better security along our northern and southern borders. Expel suspicious non-citizens.
- 7) Rather than just ask God for his blessing, declare a national day of repentance, prayer and fasting as previous presidents have done—to repent of the pornography, corruption, greed and other sin that we export overseas, which will cease needlessly offending Islamic nations and bring the blessings that the true God promises to those who obey him.

Thank you, and may God bless you as you follow Him.

—Norman Edwards  
info@cbtm.info  
Church Bible Teaching Ministry  
Snail: PO Box 107; Perry, Michigan 48872  
Tel: 517-625-7480 Fax: 517-625-7481

## U.S. Military Denies All Rights to Prisoners

This article includes the full text of an Associated Press article that appeared, among other places, on Newsday.com. The facts of the article can be confirmed by many other sources. The meaning of the article is very important to think about. The article will appear in the indented typestyle, below. My comments are in this regular type of writing.

### Court Denies Taliban, al-Qaida Hearings

By SAM HANANEL, Associated Press Writer

March 11, 2003, 4:01 PM EST

WASHINGTON — The 650 suspected Taliban and al-Qaida fighters held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba have no right to hearings in American courts, a federal appeals court ruled Tuesday.

Admittedly, many of these may be evil individuals who have killed many other innocent people. From both a biblical and legal standpoint, some, maybe most of them probably desire death. But as the article says, they are just “suspected” fighters. They may include people who were forced to serve the

Taliban and were simply with them when they were captured. They may include good people whom the Taliban were holding as prisoners. The important thing to realize is that the number is not so large that the USA is unable to adequately take care of them either in Afghanistan or in this country.

The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said the detainees are aliens held outside U.S. territory and therefore are not entitled to rights granted by the U.S. Constitution — such as having access to a lawyer and not being held indefinitely without charges being filed against them.

“If the Constitution does not entitle the detainees to due process, and it does not, they cannot invoke the jurisdiction of our courts to test the constitutionality or the legality of restraints on their liberty,” the three-judge panel wrote, upholding a lower-court decision.

That means that these detainees do not have access to courts of the USA, Cuba or Afghanistan. From a legal perspective, they are “as good as dead”.

Whatever wrongs they may suffer, they have no remedy. When God's people refused to obey him, He told them that one of the worst things possible would happen to them—that they would be taken away to another land as slaves (Jer 14:8; 16:13:17:4; 22:28).

Historically, God taught ancient Israel to utterly destroy the men of a city that refused to make peace with them (Deut 20:10-15). God himself will deal with them when He raises them from the dead (Matt 10:45; 21:31; Rev 20:11; etc.). But the captives that they kept alive still had certain rights (Deut 21:10-14). Even slaves had many rights in the Bible (Ex 20:10; 21:2-8, 20-21, 26-27; Lev 19:20; Lev 25:39-55; Deut 12:12,18; 16:11,14; 23:15-16).

The Bible never teaches long term imprisonment as a punishment. These men should have been kept in Afghanistan where there are most likely to be witnesses that can either condemn or exonerate them. If they are guilty of murders and other evils, they should be executed and their families informed. That way, their wives have a chance to remarry and bring up their children. A woman with a living, imprisoned husband cannot remarry, but it is also almost impossible to work and raise a family on her own.

The unanimous decision represents a victory for the Bush administration, which plans to hold the men indefinitely while authorities interrogate them and determine whether they should be sent back to their homelands or face military tribunals.

The case was brought by the families of 16 detainees from Australia, Britain and Kuwait. They claim the government is unfairly holding the men – some for more than a year – without charge, leaving them in a state of legal limbo.

"You can't just drop people into a black hole and forget about them," said Joe Margulies, an attorney who argued the case on behalf the British and Australian prisoners. "There has to be a right to test the lawfulness of their detention."

Amnesty International spokesman Alis-tair Hodgett also criticized the decision.

"To hold people without charge and without access to legal counsel risks the creation of an American gulag for those detained in the course of the war on terror," he said.

This is especially important as part of the Mission that President Bush talks about is bringing freedom to other people. A great many dictators throughout the world imprison people for long periods of time without any "due process". Are we no different? Does the fact that George Bush decided to call these people "unlawful combatants" suddenly remove all of their rights in the sight of God, or even the Geneva

Convention on prisoners?

Amnesty International frequently does a good job of pointing out human rights violations—mostly in other nations, but sometimes in the USA. Indeed, we have cast these people into a "black hole"—at a time when we most need to establish credibility as a "rule of law" nation.

In its ruling, the appeals court relied on a half-century-old Supreme Court ruling that said German prisoners detained by the United States in China had no right to access to federal courts.

The Guantanamo base is a 45-square-mile area on the southeastern tip of Cuba. The land was seized by the United States in the Spanish-American War and has been leased from Cuba for the past century.

The Supreme Court case referred to here is *JOHNSON v. EISENTRAGER*, 339 U.S. 763 (1950). While both this case and the present case involve attempted access to USA courts by war prisoners, the situations are very different. The 1950 case involved 27 Germans in China who were specifically accused of continuing to help the Japanese fight after Germany had officially surrendered. They were tried in a military court: 21 were convicted and 6 were acquitted. The 21 were sent directly to Germany, their homeland, to serve their sentence under American military forces there. Access to their families or to German courts (as they were re-established after the war) was not an issue in this case.

The Afghani prisoners, by contrast, have not been convicted of anything by any court. They are being held in an area that is officially part of Cuba, but over which Cuba has no control whatever. Any crimes committed by anyone on the Guantanamo base would be handled by USA justice systems—probably a military court. But indeed, it is not technically territory of the USA. It should be obvious that the very reason the US military took the prisoners there **is to deprive them of legal rights**. Guantanamo is one of the few places in the world where the US has complete control, but where it is not technically our territory. These efforts to evade both our own and international legal systems are evil—and Americans ought to refuse to put up with it.

None of the roughly 650 prisoners from 40 countries has been allowed to see their families, but a handful of Afghan and Pakistani detainees have been sent home after being cleared by U.S. authorities.

It is good that the people in charge found that some should not have been there and then sent them

home. But this very fact also shows that mistakes have been made, and that there is a good chance that more of the men are their unnecessarily. This makes it all the more urgent to settle the issue: punish the guilty and let the rest go. If there is a strong suspicion that these men did evil, but not enough evidence to convict them, then the U.S. military should take the advice from Solomon's treatment of Shimei or the Israelite "cities of refuge" (1Ki 2:36-42' Num 35:26-32). The prisoners should be moved back to a city in their homeland, along with their families, and told that they must never leave that city and never have any communication with any military or terrorist networks. This could be monitored with modern electronic gizmos. If they violate these terms, they will die for it. This is much better than their present "fate worse than death".

Thomas Wilner, an attorney representing 12 Kuwaiti detainees, sent a letter Tuesday to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Attorney General John Ashcroft renewing his request to meet with the men, citing new urgency because of the recent spate of suicide attempts by prisoners at the base.

U.S. officials have reported 22 suicide attempts by 16 prisoners.

This author has read unconfirmed reports that some of the men are being tortured there. Of course, these are unconfirmed reports, because independent sources are not able to reach the prisoners. This is what makes the situation so dangerous. If we allow our government to establish the Guantanamo base as a place where people are held indefinitely without trial or due process, what is to stop it from being used as a place where anyone will be sent who does not cooperate with the US military—or with the US government? What is to stop federal politicians from having the military or CIA send their political opponents there? Yes, kidnapping them would be a crime. But if there is not evidence of the kidnapping, there is no investigation or trial. Once someone arrives at Guantanamo, they have no access to the outside world and the world has no access to them. It **does not matter** who sent them there and whether they are guilty or innocent. Is this the free America that we are fighting to preserve?

— comments by Norman Edwards

---

## Enduring With the Peace of God

*by Tommy Willis*

As the end of the age draws near, Revelation 6:4 tells us: "And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword." Put that together with Matthew 24:10, which tells us that many Christians will become offended and betray and hate one another, and it does not give a pleasant picture.

Many things will come along to take us out of a peaceful setting. The world will constantly throw things at us. No sooner we get done with one problem (we may get a little breathing space), and then something else usually comes along fairly soon. The Christian walk is a constant battle no matter what level of growth we have. And we need to have God's peace to endure through it all. We need not fear these trials, because God promises not to allow us to go through more than we can endure. And His peace is how we will deal with it all.

If you are seeking God diligently and learning to stay with Him, then He is going to give you the peace not to become offended or hurt at what you

encounter—to where you won't take things in that personal hurt way the world does. Learning not to become offended is no idle matter, because if we look at the above Scripture we see that it relates in helping us endure till the end as verses 12-13 tell us. These verses tell us the love of many will wax cold, but he that endures till the end will be saved. As we learn to stay with the love and forgiveness of God, we stay on safe ground.

Once I heard someone say: "If I knew life was going to be this difficult, I never would have signed up." Although much of this is in jest, people do relate to this subconsciously at times—because they didn't ask to be born, they often feel offended at the suffering of life that comes their way. But as Christians we need to be aware and seek God not to drift into these dangerous attitudes.

Many become offended at what they see the Church leaders doing, and they often feel hurt and betrayed. But we need to understand that we will be judged by the way we react, and not by what others do to us. I share this because I paid a terrible price for years because I judged the leadership. It was many

years before God got my mind straightened out. My growth didn't go forward until I stopped judging **people**. We need to judge the right and wrong of the matter, for how else will we know the right thing to do? We must prove out what we hear and make sure that we are staying with Scriptural facts. Do not let any man deceive you, for Jesus tells us many will be deceived. But just make sure you are not spiritually judging Christian leaders as you go about examining matters, because only God can make the spiritual judgments. Do as Paul said, "Judge nothing before the time" (1 Cor 4:5). This will keep you out of a lot of trouble.

And this will help you stay at peace brethren. While others are caught up in striking out at one another, God will keep your heart and mind at peace. Yes, some of the leaders became the leaven we needed to put away. But let us not forget to examine our own life, and the sins that we need to put away in our own life. We will stay on much safer ground by doing so.

As groups continue to divide and scatter, many Christians have been moved out of their Christian comfort zone. God is allowing and will continue to allow things to come upon us to get us out of that comfort zone. We will have draw closer to God—this is the only thing that is going to pull us through. We won't make it without the peace of God.

Never let too much time go by without asking yourself, "How is my personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Examine yourself this way; it will be a safeguard for you. Many of us do not want to do this, but it is very important to do so.

Most of us are confronted with stressful events on a weekly basis. The vicissitudes of life simply

bring things our way; and we will need to learn to deal with that everyday stress.

And Scripture tells us that the time ahead will be like a time as no other (Mt 24:21). And we are going to need the peace of God to endure.

Study Philippians 4:6-7. Here God tells us not to worry about anything, but instead learn to take it to Him in thankful prayer, and the peace of God that passes human understanding will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. For years I would run the problem over and over in my mind until I was miserable. Then God taught me to apply the above principle and there is so much more peace in my life now. It doesn't mean things go perfect, but things go such much better with God around. When I find myself distracted and worrying now, it's because I'm not praying and meditating as I should—which means I'm not applying the above Scriptural principle; so I repent, and correct the problem, and pray and hope not to drift again. It is dangerous to get our minds off God, but all too often we allow the distractions of the world to do so.

Whether it's the affairs of everyday life that you have to deal with on the job, or with your family, or financial problems—if we learn to take it to God and build up our personal relationship with Jesus Christ, then you will be given what's needed to handle the problem. God promises us to give us His peace to endure through it all if we seek Him diligently.

Many look for power to do a work for God, and their life is often in turmoil; they often lack the peace of God. But to have God's peace to stay in a calm mind, while others around you are in chaos because of what is happening in society—this is power; this is success! "For He is our Peace.." (Eph 2:14). ☞

---

## March 9, 2003—Prayer Request for America

Let's change the world!! This is something that can make a difference: 9 PM Prayer. In W.W.II, there was an advisor to Churchill who organized a group of people who dropped what they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace. There is now a group of people organizing the same thing here in America. If you would like to participate, every evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time, stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for **the safety of the United States, its citizens, and for peace in the world**. If you know anyone else who would like to participate, please pass this along. Together,

we **can** make a difference!!

Thank You, and God Bless America!

Sent by Joe & Shelly Surbeck

*[This prayer request did not ask for a military victory or presuppose that God was behind our cause. It simply asked God for safety and peace—something that He wants to give us. This is in great contrast to the evil and Satanic forces that actually relish the killing and destruction aspects of war. May God hear the people who dedicate themselves to pray in this way. — NSE.]*

# Questions & Comments

from Our Readers



**Bahá'í Attempts to Unite All Religions**

February 10, 2003

Dear Mr. Edwards

The governing council of the Bahá'í international community, the Universal House of Justice, has addressed a special message to the world's religious leaders on an issue that is of common concern. It is our pleasure to forward the enclosed copy for your personal reference.

—Charles French. Corresponding Secretary

### A summarizing quote from the message:

There can be no doubt whatever that the people of the world, of whatever race or religion, derive their inspiration from one heavenly Source, and are the subjects of one God. The difference between the ordinances under which they abide should be attributed to the varying requirements and exigencies of the age in which they were revealed. All of them, except a few which are the outcome of human perversity, were ordained of God, and are a reflection of His Will and Purpose. Arise and, armed with the power of faith, shatter to pieces the gods of your vain imaginings, the sowers of dissension amongst you. Cleave unto that which draweth you together and uniteth you.

### Dear Charles French,

Thank you for writing to me. I am somewhat familiar with the Bahá'í religion. I appreciate the “love your neighbor as yourself” attitude of Bahá'í adherents—most of them make “good neighbors”. I appreciate the dedication and desire of Bahá'í religion to work with all peoples to bring world peace.

However, it appears to me that the Bahá'í religion will not be successful due to the erroneous assumptions made in the paragraph above:

1. There is **great doubt** (not “no doubt”) that the people of the world derive their inspiration from only one heavenly source. How could a powerful “god” create a vastly complex universe that works so well, then furnish his people with multiple religious that are completely opposed in some areas—and then not bother to tell any of the groups that the religions he inspired have become obsolete?
2. Most of the worlds’ major religions teach that

there is a Devil or Satan (adversary) that deceives others. Most people in Christianity, Judaism and Islam believe in a literal devil. Their scriptures certainly mention one—only minority modern liberal sects do not acknowledge a devil. Most Hindu’s believe in Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver and **Siva the destroyer**. Most mutli-god religions believe in both good and bad gods. Buddhists, secular humanists and many new-age religions do not believe in a literal devil, but most do not believe in a literal God, either. Even so, Buddhists believe that there is both good and evil “inspiration”.

3. You claim that most religion is “ordained of God, and is a reflection of His Will and Purpose”, yet you write religious leaders and ask them to “shatter to pieces the gods of your vain imaginings”. How can leaders “shatter” what was “ordained of God”? If God, the Creator of the universe, has spoken to man as the Bible, Koran and other holy books claim, then what right has any man to change or disregard those books? And if the books are mostly, or completely the ideas of men and **not** the words of God, then their religion is false and should be completely abandoned. Now, it is true that much of the practice of Christianity, Islam and Judaism are man-made rules not found in their respective scriptures, but it is the fundamentalist segments of each of these religions that were responsible for its beginning, that define the religion today, and that have the most effect on history.
4. The efforts to “draw together” the common points of all religions is simply the creation of another man-made religion—every bit as likely to split into factions as so many other man-made religions have done.
5. The question is not how to merge a lot of incompatible religions, but the questions are “Who is the God that created the Universe?” and “What does He expect of us?”

There are only a few commonly-known writings throughout the world that claim to be the words of the Creator of the Universe. Many of the Eastern religions do not even claim to have such writings. Whereas Christianity, Islam and Judaism all acknowledge the Old Testament. It does not take too long to study the manuscripts available, and the con-

tent of the writings to make a decision about which are the ones that reveal the true God. The problem is that very few people do it, and the leaders of nearly all religions do not encourage it—they are too interested in teaching people to look to themselves rather than to look to God.

If the True God has purposefully hidden knowledge of Himself or revealed it only to a select few, then it does not matter what we do, since we cannot of our own find out the purpose for our lives.

If the True God's will is unavailable to mankind, then the only way to assure peace is for a single powerful government to take control. Such control may come about by military conquest, or by voluntary agreement, or by a combination of both. The reality of human history shows that most world-dominating empires came about by a combination of both—but once established, the leaders of those empires frequently begin to serve themselves, rather than their subjects. The Bahá'í proposals to unify mankind through religious oneness seem little different than other human proposals promising peace and unity in exchange for submission. If the Bahá'í religious leaders were able to unite the world under that Bahá'í religion, there is no guarantee that they would be any more benevolent, once in power, than any other dominating leaders of the past.

The writer believes that an honest study of religious books claiming to be the Word of the Creator will show the Bible to be the only credible book. In addition, it contains the only sensible explanation for the purpose of human existence: men and women are here in temporary bodies so that they can learn to be righteous like their Creator, so that they can someday be given eternal life. While the Creator sometimes gives select people a task to accomplish whether they want to or not (Jonah is one example), He still leaves them freedom to personally do good or evil. He tells them to choose good (Deut 30:19; John 3:15-18), but does not force them. For those who never learn His way, He will separate them like "sheep and goats", based on whether they treat others like they would want to be treated themselves (Matt 25:31-46).

In that judgment day, I believe that the Eternal will separate those in the Bahá'í religion, like the "sheep and goats". One side will be those who participated in it because they believed they could serve their neighbors and bring about peace; and the other will be those who participated knowing it was false, or who hoped to personally gain power or wealth by it. May all those in the Bahá'í religion look at the Bible and see the true knowledge of God.

— Norman Edwards

Feb. 28, 2003

Dear Mr. Norman S Edwards,

Thank you for your "politically" oriented article in *Shelter in the Word*—the Constitution Party platform and your comments—it could go further. Doctrinal error and compromising presumptuousness aside, it is time to challenge would-be believers to get out of the out-house.

To this end, please examine the following as the only adequate motivation for such political regeneration. If such nose is to create its proper stir, it must go beyond the relatively rare "Sabbath-keepers only" community. All of us have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and repentance is the too largely unused heritage of us all.

God has determined a desired pattern of human interactive function which He has revealed to the human race, first to the ancient Israelites, through the prophet Moses, and then, via the apostles of Jesus Christ, to the entire world of humanity.

Prior to Moses, the pattern of intentful human existence was desired and revealed by God to the ancient patriarchs, beginning with Adam. This pattern was different in ways that we can see only vaguely, because of the lack of an overt and clear record of what God revealed to them. At the time of Moses, God's desire was revealed clearly and added to. Perhaps some elements were deleted—we do not know to any thorough degree. This then is the pattern which has been passed on, upward in time, to us.

God has been very accommodating to our desires relative to His Instruction in this regard. He added to or changed His Instruction a number of times due to ancient Israel's stubbornness and unfaithfulness. We (they) went from a totally benign and beneficent theocracy, with God as a truly loving and caring Father, eventually to a self-rule free-for-all. We are not loosely guided by religious leaders who felt mostly self-called to the position of advising us concerning eternal life, and by community leaders whom we allow into position to administer our temporal "life securities."

We have largely cut direct rule by God out of the picture. It is still available, on an individual basis, to those who discipline their lives to Him according to His Instructions, and on a corporate basis, to those who, doing the above, as individuals, come together in love and agreement as a single body under the Redemptive Leadership of Christ. Those who are capable and willing to do this, have, as an option reserved for them by God Himself, the ability to live in that original form of theocratic God-rule as a social body-group, and there are some who attempt to do this. They do not yet, in this age, comprise sovereign nation-groups within the world of men. They are believers in God

**Comments  
on the  
Constitution  
Party and  
"Political"  
Works**

and His Word, who seek to obey His Word and the leading of His Spirit in them, as dearly as they can see to.

The majority of human rule do not find it desirable to live under God-rule, but they do desire some order and security in their national-corporate existence. Because these persons are in the great majority—in the national context—the form of government which they have effectively chosen is one which allows their own less-than-mature tendencies of relationship with God and with their fellow man, to rule them. It is essentially a delegated self-rule, where others amongst them are chosen—unofficially or officially—to hopefully counsel, advise, care for and protect them, while they pursue a variety of life-style activities, designed to fulfill what they consider to be their needs. It is this greater national-level government, within the context of a very large world of growing dangers, which we must examine as history, as present state, and as option in this form of self-rule which we have chosen.

It is not yet time, nor is their sufficient maturity or agreement for us to surrender ourselves to God's own theocratic rule of all of our lives. We have been given the grace of God, in this constitutionally-based democratic republic, to arrive within striking-distance of divine governmental efficiency. We must remember where we came from, and why and how we started here as a nation-effort and, finally, how we became a nation.

Secular nation-hood was not God's first desire for us, but because of our limitations, He allowed it and gracefully guided it. The forms of it are still available to us within the Constitution of this country. That Constitution defines us as a nation and guides us in the most effective way to potentially live as God's universal citizens on an ever more crowded and dictatorially dangerous planet, wherein we can and should be an inspiration to all other nations and peoples, and not a by-word of derision, as we are fast becoming.

We do not need to be another Babylon or Rome. Neither do we need to take it upon ourselves to forcefully establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. Christ will do that. All that we must do is prepare the Way in the most benign, beneficent and direct way possible, and the Constitution that our national fore-fathers have left us, is God's own secular allowance-tool for that purpose. We are still called and required by God to adhere to His rule by His first-line and ideal Requirements, yet many of our fellows—and, indeed, even ourselves—are not yet fully capable of this. We must therefore continue to climb this Great Mountain by one difficult but faithful step at a time.

If you choose to publish this, please do not edit it or insert your editorial comments between its lines and paragraphs. It is distracting to the flow and integrity of the contents. For this I thank you very much.

Yours in all the Power, Grace, and Love of our Master Jesus Christ,

— Stuart Beaumont, Florida

**Dear Stuart Beaumont,**

Thank you for your excellent analysis. I would like to add that up to the flood, and for some time after it, there had to be some access to knowledge of God simply through Adam and his descendents. If one looks at the ages given in the Bible, numerous people who were alive when Adam was alive lived all the way to the flood. Then, after the flood, Shem lived until the time of Abraham. It appears, from the Bible, that after God broke up the Tower of Babel (Babylon), that he took hands off of the world until Abraham. Most of the people probably deliberately tried to ignore God. So when God found Abraham a righteous man, he began to work specially with him, and then later with his descendants during the time of Moses.

I agree with you that it seems presumptuous and foolhardy for people, no matter what our belief in God, to think that we will bring about the Kingdom of God through own master plan. However, it seems equally erroneous not to work toward to implement righteous principles in our own lives and in our societies everywhere we can. The Church is the body of Christ and we should be doing greater works than He did in His human life (John 14:12). Christians reap the benefits of helping themselves and others by living a righteous life now, as well as learning to rule with Christ at His return.

— Norman Edwards

August 19, 2002

**Glad to  
Take a  
Little  
Action**

Thank you for your article in the "News of Interest to Christians" section which directed me to the website of ConservativePetitions.com where I can add my name to the various worthwhile petitions. I do want to make a difference and I do want to have a say in determining which laws are good and bad. I will refer many people to this site! Way to go! Keep up the good work!!

— Donna Polly

**Dear Donna Polly,**

Thank you for your encouragement. I continue to sign these petitions occasionally.

— Norman Edwards

April 30, 2002

**Starting a Local  
Congregation**

Dear Brother Norman,  
Thank you for your generosity in sharing with me your hard works and

hours put into the compilation of your teaching materials. I am certain that it will be of great help to me when I teach church planting—*Starting A Local Congregation* surely will be a tremendous help to equip the brethren who are planting churches.

Once again I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and would like to keep in touch with you, Please update me of what you are doing, I am encourage by your generosity and in what you are doing. God bless.

— Ricky Cheng

**Dear Ricky Cheng,**

Thank you very much. I hope many people use it to start congregations or help existing ones.

— Norman Edwards

February 3, 2002

Hello,

I just finished reading your article concerning starting a local congregation. I found it quite helpful and will begin structuring a local congregation using portions of it. I do want to ask you if you know of any sources of information where I can obtain examples of some of the organizational documents such as a church covenant, polity, governing procedures, book of order or the like.

Thank you,

— Greg Wetterauer

**Dear Greg Wetterauer,**

I was hoping to publish more documents as I helped write them for our local congregation, but progress has been slow. I will e-mail you the three documents that I have for our Church Bible Teaching Ministry: 1) Declaration, 2) Mission Plan, 3) Statement of Beliefs. However, a local congregation often needs more documents than a ministry.

I will post additional documents on our web sites or publish them as they become available.

— Norman Edwards

March 6, 2002

**What Makes a Good Concordance?**

Dear Mr. Edwards:

You are one of the few people I know of who might have the answer to two questions I have. If you

know and have the time to be able to share, I sure would appreciate the information.

I understand that, among the 12 spies, Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim, and Caleb was of the tribe of Judah. Do we know the tribes of the remaining ten spies? If so, what are they?

There is much information available regarding the > various Bible translations and their pluses and minuses

and the history and agenda of each. I am looking for similar information regarding the various concordances that are available (Strong's, Young's Cruden's, etc.)

Thanks!

— Jeanie Rosenthal:

**Dear Jeanie Rosenthal,**

The first question appears easy. There was one man from each of the thirteen tribes, except for Levi—only twelve spies. They are all listed in Numbers 13:1-16.

Here are what I consider the important factors in choosing a concordance for serious Bible study.

1. Any study concordance should be exhaustive (complete). This means it shows you every place where almost every word is used in the Bible. Most concordances will have some list of about 40 very common words such as "a, an, of, the..." that are not indexed because one simply does not use them to look up verses. This is not a problem. I do, however, recommend that one avoid abbreviated concordances where some editor has decided where the important uses of important words are. These may be much smaller and easier to use, but you never know what critical verses some editor decided to leave out.

2. Decide whether you want to search for words in English, or in the original languages. If your primary use of a concordance is simply to find the location of verses that you know "are in there somewhere", then an English language concordance is the best. However, if you want to study doctrines—knowing what the Bible says about specific subjects, then a Greek or Hebrew concordance would be better. For example, you could look up "minister" in an English concordance and find about 100 verses in the Bible—but the verses you find would have come from a variety of Hebrew and Greek words—that do not all have the exact same meaning. On the other hand, you could use a Greek concordance to look up "diakonos" (Strong's #1249) and find all of the verses where it is used. You would find that it is sometimes translated "servant", sometimes "minister" and sometimes "deacon". This is a much better way to study a single subject or thought in the Bible, but it has the disadvantage of dealing with foreign language words. Books like the Englishman's Greek Concordance and Englishman's Hebrew Concordance make this type of study possible for people who do not speak Hebrew or Greek, but it is more difficult.

3. Decide the order you would like for each word listing. If you look up "minister" in Strong's Exhaustive Concordance, you will find that it gives all occurrences of that word, starting in Genesis and ending in Revelation. It uses the famous Strong's numbers to tell you which original Hebrew or Greek word was

used in each particular verse. Strong assigned a number to every Hebrew/Greek root word used in the Bible—both his works and others use these numbers. Strong's is useful for English language studies—looking up every place a certain English word occurs. But the only way to know what Greek word was present in the original is to look at the little "Strong's number" at the end of each entry, and look it up in the back of the concordance. By contrast, Young's Analytical Concordance divides each English word's entry into a series of sub-lists, one for each Hebrew/Greek word. For example, if one looks up the word "minister", there is a separate subsection for each of the 17 different Hebrew and Greek words that are translated "minister" at least once in the Bible. This is very useful for learning how Hebrew and Greek words are translated, but to look through every place, in order, where the English word "minister" is used, you will have to look at all 17 sub-lists at once.

4. Consider getting a concordance for the Bible translation that you use. Most concordances are for the King James Version. That is helpful in that the King James Version as a greater correspondence between Greek/Hebrew words and English words than most other major translations (Young's Literal Translation, the Concordant Bible and others being exceptions). Many people use a KJV concordance with a different Bible version and don't notice much of a problem. For proper names and clearly translatable words, there is

little difficulty. But a lot of surprises can occur with words that vary a lot between the different Bible translations. For example, if you look up "hell" in a King James concordance, you will find that many of the verses it gives do not contain the word "hell" in the New King James Bible and even less contain it in the "NIV". However, if you get an NKJV concordance and look up "hell", then it will correspond exactly to the verses you find in the NKJV. There are concordances available for most of the major Bible translations. Most of the smaller, one-man translations do not have concordances. Computer Bible programs effectively provide exhaustive concordance lookup for any translation they can access, even though the concordance may not exist on paper.

5. In addition to just showing where all the words are found, most concordances also have definitions for all of the Hebrew and Greek words. This is an area where concordances vary greatly. Strong's, while useful, does not always represent complete research. The definitions it gives for some words tend to simply be the apparent meaning used by King James translators. Other concordances use a much broader basis for giving the meaning of words—looking at other ancient documents, etc. Many researchers ignore the dictionaries that come with a concordance and use a lexicon such as Thayer's, Vine's, Brown Driver Briggs, Zodhiates, etc.

6. If the Hebrew/Greek dictionaries in a concordance are not important to you (point 5), and if the concordance corresponds to your desires for points 2-4 mentioned above, then the brand name probably matters little. Most concordances today are produced by computer and are very accurate. If you can read small type, get a small lightweight concordance. If big type is important, buy big and carry the weight. After that, buy the cheapest one you can find.

As a real case, any exhaustive concordance would have worked to find the answer to your first question. I just looked up "Caleb" and found the passage that was talking about the spies.

Finally, if you are doing a lot of searching, there is no comparison to using a paper concordance and a good computer searching program. Computer programs allow one to look for combinations of words that would be very difficult with a manual concordance. Suppose you wanted to look up the phrase "day of the Lord". "day" occurs in 1533 verses, "Lord" in 6668 verses. It would be a formidable task to compare these two lists and find the 484 verses that contain both "day" and "Lord". A computer search program will find them quickly, or will even find the 23 times where the exact phrase "day of the Lord" is found. 

## Share Your Shelter

Our Savior never argued or tried to force someone to believe in Him. We should not do that either. But if *Shelter in the Word* has helped you, you can share it with others who might be interested in it or helped by it. One of these methods might work for you.

1. Talk to them about what you have learned and encourage them to study the Bible themselves.
2. Copy your *Shelter* and give it to them (almost any office or copy store will do this for \$1 to \$2).
3. Give them your *Shelter* (we will send you a replacement issue if you write or call).
4. Copy just this page or write down the address or phone so they can request their own subscription.

For subscriptions and other literature, write or phone:

***Shelter in the Word***

**PO Box 107; Perry Michigan, 48872-0107**  
**Tel: 517-625-7480; Fax: 517-625-7481**  
**e-mail: [info@ShelterInTheWord.com](mailto:info@ShelterInTheWord.com)**