

Ken Maley's "New New Testament" and the Jesus Seminar : Pt 1

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Ken Maley's "New New Testament", Jesus And Authors Of The New Testament Supposedly Instructed Maley To Rewrite The Entire New Testament, Inspired To Work Based On A Native American Vision Quest, Maley Claims That Jesus' Core Message Is That We Are God, No Serious Research And A Fabrication Of Maley's Own Mind, Maley's "Apostle Paul" Claims That We Don't Need To Be Saved, Jesus' Commandment To Fulfill The Great Commission, Maley's "Paul" Says To Discard Whole Chapters Of His Epistles Because They Are Not Divinely Inspired, "Paul" Supposedly Cries For Joy Because Maley Is Rewriting His Epistles With A Softer Edge, Questions Regarding Maley's Treatment Of Verses Which Condemn Homosexuality, The Woman Hater Accusation, Too Legalistic Or Too Liberal, Dead To The Law By Body Of Christ, Peterson's The Message Idiomatic Translation, Comparisons Between Maley's New New Testament And KJV Bible In John 14, Rise Of The Roman Catholic Church And The Byzantine Empire, Roman Catholic Ideology Regarding Millennial Rule Of Jesus Christ, Roman Catholic Pope And False Claim Of Superiority, John 14:6 In The KJV Bible Versus Ken Maley's Psychobabble, Watch Out For People Who Twist And Pervert True Meaning Of God's Word, Watch Out For Familiar Spirits And Necromancers

Lord help us! Well here we go again! Thanks to a heads-up by one of my diligent, young Facebook friends, almost two days ago I became aware of the existence of a new version of the New Testament. Published by a former Roman Catholic priest by the name of Ken Maley -- who prefers to refer to himself simply as "the scribe" -- it goes by the title of the "New New Testament". According to my online research, this very misguided work apparently became available as a paperback book on the Barnes & Noble website around September of 2011. It currently sells for \$9.60. I strongly discourage anyone from purchasing this deceptive piece of nonsense. Instead, donate the money to a needy street evangelist who is really preaching the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, or to some other more worthy Christian cause.

According to information that is found on Maley's website, he was supposedly instructed by "Jesus" to write his "New New Testament" during a three-month Native American "vision quest" in the desert. Maley states that he declined to do so at that particular time. However, according to Maley, being the rather insistent man that he is, in 2009 "Jesus" again asked him to take on the writing project. Maley claims that "Jesus" informed him that the reason why this rewrite of the New Testament became necessary, is because the main message of the original New Testament has supposedly been lost. He informs his website visitors that Jesus' core message was not Repentance and Salvation. Rather, it was that we are God, and we are divine.

I spent more than an hour reading and studying the limited

information that is available on Mr. Maley's website. Since I began this article fifteen hours ago, I have also visited several other websites as well in order to harvest any other information which might tell me more about Ken Maley and his "New New Testament". I can tell you plainly that it is both dangerous and deceptive. It is quite evident that Maley did not make any serious effort to refer to the original Koine Greek, to the Textus Receptus, or to any reliable source as he undertook his new translation of the New Testament. It is rather apparent to me that everything he writes is from his own head, and from his own imagination. Thus, it is not even accurate to call the "New New Testament" a real translation. It is simply a fabrication which finds no basis in the Greek manuscripts, as far as I can tell. But it gets worse.

Of course, Maley does not believe that. He is quite convinced that Jesus, as well as the original authors, and the Apostle Paul all spoke to him directly, and dictated to him exactly what he should write. As I said, he views himself as merely being the scribe; or perhaps he simply is not willing to take responsibility for his own actions. To give you a clear idea regarding how dangerous this book is, allow me to share with you some additional information from Maley's website. Maley claims that he was given two introductions for his book. One was by what he repeatedly refers to as the "Original Authors" -- he never outright calls them the Apostles, which makes me really wonder -- and the second one was supposedly dictated to him by the actual Apostle Paul, and can be found at the beginning of the Epistles. In this introduction to the new edition of his Epistles in the New New Testament, Maley's "Apostle Paul" states the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

Forget what I told you before about the need for salvation. You are already God's Children. You do not need to be saved from anything other than your belief that you are only human. You were already saved when you were born. You were saved from nothingness. That is the only salvation you ever need. Except perhaps from the fear that is still in you, instead of faith.

You were born into the Light, into God, into Love. The God that you are does not need to be saved, only recognized. You do not need to be saved; you only need to recognize you are indeed already the Daughters and Sons of God. You are God, as my brother John relates [10, 34].

----- End Quote -----

Please note that in the previous excerpt from Maley's book, the "[10, 34]" is referring to John 10:34. I will be offering one possible explanation for this verse a bit later in this article. At any rate, as you can plainly see, according to Maley's "Apostle Paul", we don't really need to worry about being saved. If that is the case, then I suppose that all of the centuries which have been spent preaching Salvation to the lost -- in obedience to Jesus' own commandment to go into all the world -- has been a complete waste of time and energy. Do you honestly believe that? I most certainly don't. Consider the following verses which clearly describe the need to carry out the Great Commission:

"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 24:14, KJV

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

Matthew 28:19, KJV

"And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:46-47, KJV

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."

John 6:29, KJV

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Acts 1:8, KJV

"And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house . . . Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears."

Acts 20:20, 31, KJV

"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things . . . So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Romans 10:14-15, 17, KJV

"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

1 Corinthians 9:16, KJV

"Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things."

Galatians 6:6, KJV

"Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:"

Colossians 1:4-6, KJV

"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2, KJV

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

2 Timothy 4:2, KJV

Not only does Mr. Maley's "Apostle Paul" claim that we do not need to be saved, because we are already "God" and just don't realize it yet, but you will also be shocked to discover that this "Paul" instructs Maley to throw out entire chapters of his Epistles, because "Paul" now realizes that what he wrote was not really divinely inspired. While I have not -- and obviously will not -- purchase Maley's blasphemous book, due to certain comments that he makes regarding sexuality on his website, as well as his strong emphasis on love, I do wonder if all of the verses where homosexuality is condemned by the real Apostle Paul, are omitted from his "New New Testament". I base this suspicion on the following comment which can be found on Ken's "About" page, where he even claims that the "Apostle Paul" cried for joy as he -- Maley -- rewrote his Epistles for him, and took out some of the "legalistic edges":

----- Begin Quote -----

"Paul's teaching to the scribe [meaning to himself, Maley] who took down this New New Testament was extremely strong on this point. His own conversion to Jesus was instantaneous on the road to Damascus; but his understanding of Jesus took many years to sink into his Pharisaical bones. He now wanted his writings which were still steeped in law, to be rewritten into the Love that Jesus preached. Paul cried tears of gratitude as this rewriting took place, and as the key of Jesus' Message was unlocked from the jail of the Mosaic Law. As this happened Jesus' Message was also unlocked from the jail of Paul's prejudice against women and sexuality, and let the reverence for women and the deep respect for sexuality that Jesus had come shining through."

----- End Quote -----

The key phrases in that excerpt which catch my attention are "prejudice against women and sexuality" and "deep respect for sexuality". Exactly what does Maley mean by that, and how far does he take it? Is it possible that similar to the unknown authors of the blasphemous "Queen James Bible", Maley does not believe that homosexuality is a sin? Given his own Roman Catholic background, and the sex scandals which have rocked that church in recent years, it does give me more cause to wonder how he has treated verses such as Romans 1:26-27. If

any of my readers happen to have a copy of Maley's book, I would be grateful if you could inform me regarding exactly how Maley words the aforementioned two verses, and any other anti-gay verses which I discuss in the series "Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!". Are said verses even included in Maley's book, or have they been completely expunged, because the voices in his head told him to do so?

It is obvious from his comments that similar to a number of other critics, Ken Maley does not like the Apostle Paul. At the very least, he strongly disagrees with some of Paul's writings, and apparently views him as a woman hater. What I find rather strange, is that while Maley views Paul as being overly legalistic, other critics, such as Christian Zionists and Christian Judaizers, view Paul as being overly liberal, due to his insistence that we have become dead to the law by the body of Jesus Christ, as we can easily determine by the following verses:

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;"  
Romans 3:20-21, KJV

"Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God . . . But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter."  
Romans 7:4, 6, KJV

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth."  
Romans 10:4, KJV

"And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."  
Romans 11:6, KJV

"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."  
Galatians 2:21, KJV

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith . . . Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"  
Galatians 3:11, 13, KJV

"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."  
Galatians 5:4, KJV

Many of my readers are probably familiar with, or have heard about the 2002 Bible translation that is referred to as "The Message". Written by American Pastor Eugene H. Peterson over a period of about nine years, this version of the Bible --

which Peterson claims is an idiomatic translation of God's Word -- just massacres the Scriptures, in my view. The very first time that I looked at it, my jaw dropped. It was like reading something that some 1960's hippie had written while on an acid trip. I honestly don't know how else to describe it. To me, at least, it sounds more like a New Age manual than God's inspired, holy Word.

While I understand Peterson's motivations, The Message just does not cut it for me. I will gladly take the King James Version of the Bible with its few hundred archaic English words any day. It is beautiful, it is poetic, it is very inspiring, and it continually encourages me, strengthens me, and feeds my soul.

Sadly, Ken Maley's "New New Testament" is just as bad as The Message, and maybe even worse. Let me share with you some Scriptural comparisons between the King James Version of the Bible and Maley's "New New Testament". Many of you will no doubt be familiar with the opening verses of the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John where Jesus tells His followers that He is going away soon so that He can prepare a wonderful place for them in Heaven. The Lord promises them that He will return again, so that they too can be where He is, as we see here. These verses have inspired the hearts of many millions of Christians over the centuries:

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:1-3, KJV

If as a Christian you have placed your faith and hope in the previous verses, and believe that someday you will likewise inherit a beautiful mansion in that Golden City in the sky, you might as well forget it if you are reading Maley's "New New Testament". Why? Because, believe it or not, there is no mention of any of this in it, as we clearly see here:

"Take all the worry and fear from your heart by believing in God and believing in me. My Dad's heart is huge, as I have already told you. I am changing your heart that you may understand God's heart. And when that is done our hearts will be One, so that as I am you also will be."

John 14:1-3, New New Testament

You see that? Just by listening to those false voices which are speaking to his head, Maley zaps the original verses out of existence, and makes them say something totally different from what the Lord intended. While this is only a guess on my part, I do have a suspicion regarding why Maley did this, and it is directly related to his Roman Catholic background. As I have pointed out a few times before, many centuries ago when the Roman Catholic Church was still in its formative years, it adopted the belief that Jesus Christ was present on Earth in the form of the Roman Catholic Church. However, that is not all.

It may surprise you to know that rather than a Celestial City

of Gold that is located in the Kingdom of God somewhere far away in the Third Heaven perhaps, the Roman Catholic Church also believed that the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ on the Earth was in progress at that very time via the so-called "mother church". In other words, while the western leg of the Roman Empire fragmented and collapsed during the 5th Century, the eastern leg -- which became known as the Byzantine Empire -- continued to thrive for another one thousand years. As you may know, the capital was moved from Rome to Byzantium, which was later renamed Constantinople and Nova Roma -- or New Rome -- and which today is known as Istanbul, Turkey. It was during that long period which was characterized by power, wealth and opulence, that many of the famous churches and cathedrals were built. The Byzantine Empire finally fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453 AD.

If you are familiar with the mindset of the Roman Catholic Church, then you will realize that this very same attitude of superiority continues to pervade that corrupt institution to this very day. To devout Roman Catholics, the Pope in Rome is the "vicar of Christ"; the Roman Catholic Church is the one true faith; and all other Christian denominations are viewed as being inferior to the "holy mother church". Thus, it is my personal suspicion that even though Ken Maley is no longer a Roman Catholic priest, he may still be a Catholic at heart, and he may still embrace Catholic dogma and ideology. This seems to be confirmed by the fact that on his website, Maley says that "His dream is to have his Catholic Spiritual roots reach down through to the original Spirituality that Jesus proclaimed."

In my view, this explains why he refuses to accept what Jesus clearly states in the previous verses concerning preparing a place for His followers. In other words, Maley had to apply his own meaning to the verses because he still believes that Christ rules on the Earth via the Roman Catholic Pope. Thus, there is no room for mansions in the sky in his theology. I cannot conclusively prove this point, but from what I know about Roman Catholic history and the Roman Catholic mindset, it seems to make sense to me.

Only three verses later in the very same chapter, we find yet another clear example which demonstrates how Maley has taken the liberty to seriously corrupt God's Word with his devilish interpretation. The belief that Jesus is the only Way to the Father, the only Truth which is worth seeking, and the only manner in which we can ever hope to attain Eternal Life is a core doctrine of our Christian faith. This doctrine is clearly expressed in verse six, which is known to many Christians, and is often used as a witnessing tool as well, as we see here:

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."  
John 14:6, KJV

Apparently, "Jesus" and the "Original Authors" who Maley claims are communicating with him, don't particularly like that translation. Thus, they supposedly instructed him to write John 14:6 in the following manner instead:

"Jesus said, "As I am you already are. No one reaches their Divinity without knowing their Identity."

## John 14:6, New New Testament

Wow! What in the world is that? When I read John 14:6 in the King James Version of the Bible, I understand exactly what Jesus means. It is very clear to me that we must go through Christ in order to inherit Eternal Life, and thus eventually see the Father. This clear meaning is totally lost in Ken's outrageous New Age psychobabble version of the verse. There is no way that anyone could possibly use Maley's version of the verse to convey the idea that we must go through Christ in order to come to the Father.

As I noted earlier, it is evident that Ken Maley is not even referring to the original Greek words that are used in the text. I am certain of this, because if he did, there is just no way that he could translate the verse in that fashion. To prove this point, using the Strong's Numbers in my Bible app, I checked in Thayer's Greek English Lexicon. As it turns out, all three words -- "way", "truth" and "life" -- are present in the original Greek text. How is it then that Maley avoided using all three of them? So again, it is rather obvious to me that he is intentionally ignoring the original Greek text, and is simply listening to those crazy voices in his head, and writing down whatever they instruct him to write. That is where his "New New Testament" came from. There is absolutely nothing scholarly about it, as far as I can tell.

There are only a small number of actual excerpts from the "New New Testament" on Ken Maley's website, and they are all major perversions of the true Word of God. Even though I have not purchased Maley's book, I can just imagine what the rest of it must be like. In thinking about this, I was reminded of the following verses in which we are warned to watch out for know-it-alls who purposely wrest -- or twist and pervert -- the true meaning of God's Word:

"And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know."  
1 Corinthians 8:2, KJV

"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."  
1 Timothy 1:6-7, KJV

"And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."  
2 Peter 3:15-16, KJV

Even with the few examples from Maley's book which I have shared with you here, I hope you can see that you really do not want to touch his "New New Testament" with a ten-foot pole. As I said, it is dangerous deception from a man who has apparently been listening to voices which are clearly not from God. I simply cannot believe that a true spirit of God would instruct Maley to make such drastic, unfounded changes to the Scriptures which are totally divorced from



the original Greek text. Neither do I believe that a real spirit from God would instruct him to remove entire chapters from the Epistles of the real Apostle Paul. So where exactly do Maley's voices originate from? While I cannot tell you with absolute certainty or clarity, I can point you to certain Scriptures which offer one possible answer:

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 John 4:1, KJV

"Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God."

Leviticus 19:31, KJV

"And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people."

Leviticus 20:6, KJV

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer."

Deuteronomy 18:10-11, KJV

"And he caused his children to pass through the fire in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."

2 Chronicles 33:6, KJV

"And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger."

2 Kings 21:6, KJV

"Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiyah the priest found in the house of the LORD."

2 Kings 23:24, KJV

"And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?"

Isaiah 8:19, KJV

"And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards."

Isaiah 19:3, KJV

Exactly what is meant by a "familiar spirit"? According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, this phrase is derived from the Hebrew word "owb". I find it strange that this word is pronounced "obe" -- as in O.B.E., or Out of Body Experience -- because the Hebrew word "owb" refers to a necromancer; that is, one who invokes the dead. The word "owb" also refers directly to the ghost or spirit of a dead person as well. This is exactly what Ken Maley claims to be doing too. He repeatedly says that he is talking to the "Original Authors" and to the "Apostle Paul", as well as to "Jesus". He is directly violating what God tells us not to do.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

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Ken Maley's "New New Testament" and the Jesus Seminar : Pt 2

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Ken Maley's Lying Voices, Another Jesus And Another Gospel, Scriptural Warnings Regarding Hereticks False Brethren And False Doctrines, Westar Institute And The Jesus Seminar, "A New New Testament", Apocryphal And Pseudepigraphical Books, Book Of Enoch, Jesus Seminar Erroneously Claims Gospel Of Thomas May Have More Authentic Material Than The Gospel Of John, Jesus Seminar Denies Jesus' Divinity And Claims He Never Performed Any Miracles, Jesus Seminar Claims Jesus Did Not Die For The Sins Of The World And Was Never Resurrected From The Dead, Jesus Is The Firstfruits Of The Resurrection, Jesus Sightings Following His Resurrection, Jesus Seminar Claims Post-Resurrection Sightings Of Jesus Were Really Only Visionary Experiences And Not Real Physical Encounters, Jesus Seminar Claims That Only Small Percentage Of Jesus' Sayings And Deeds Are Authentic, Westar Institute Claims Book Of Acts Is "Imaginative Religious Literature", Westar Institute Says Not All Pauline Epistles Were Really Written By Apostle Paul, Westar Institute Casts Doubt On God's Word And Offers Their Version Of The Truth For A Price, Deception Cloaked Under The Guise Of Serious Scholarship, Putting Darkness For Light, God Does Not Lie, Age Of Strong Delusion And Deception, Two Evil Attacks Against Our Faith From Opposite Extremes, Lies Mixed In With The Truth, A Possible Explanation For "Ye Are Gods", Definitions Of Theos And Elohim, Congregation Of The Mighty

I hope that it is apparent to you by now that Ken Maley is listening to lying, deceptive spirits of some kind. I don't know if it is the actual spirits of dead people, or if it is lying demonic spirits. Of course, there is likewise one other

possibility; and that is that it is all just in his head and a product of his own imagination. Whatever the case may be, it is evident that he is preaching another Jesus and another gospel. Maley's "New New Testament" is in fact a false gospel which totally contradicts what we know to be true from the real Gospel. It is a gospel which claims that we are "God", and that we really don't need to be saved. Let me share some additional verses with you from the New Testament regarding hereticks, false brethren, and false doctrines, and how to react to them:

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."  
Acts 20:28-30, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."  
Romans 16:17, KJV

"But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."  
2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."  
Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"  
1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and

destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness:  
from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound  
doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to  
themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and  
contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are  
unprofitable and vain. A man that is an heretick after the  
first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is  
such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."  
Titus 3:9-11, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as  
there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall  
bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought  
them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many  
shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way  
of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of  
Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of  
Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come  
any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not  
into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that  
biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:9-11, KJV

While we have concentrated on Maley's "New New Testament",  
please note that there is another "A New New Testament" on  
the Barnes & Noble website as well that was published by Hal  
Taussig. He was a founding member of the Jesus Seminar. For  
those of you who are not familiar with it, the Jesus Seminar  
was launched in 1985 as the first of a number of large-scale,  
collaborative research projects concerning serious questions  
that involve religion, by the Oregon-based Westar Institute.  
To date, the institute has completed six seminars involving  
the Bible, and is currently involved in two additional ones.  
Scholars who participate in the Westar Institute's research  
projects are referred to as fellows. According to their own  
website, the Jesus Seminar "was organized to discover and  
report a scholarly consensus on the historical authenticity  
of the sayings and deeds attributed to Jesus in the gospels."

Published in March of 2013, "A New New Testament: A Bible for  
the 21st Century Combining Traditional and Newly Discovered  
Texts" contains ten gnostic or apocryphal books which are not  
found in the Biblical Canon, in addition to the regular New  
Testament Books, which consists of twenty-seven Books. These  
ten new books are the following:

The Gospel of Mary (Magdalene)

The Thunder: Perfect Mind

The Gospel of Thomas

The Odes of Solomon

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Acts of Paul and Thecla

The Gospel of Truth

The Prayer of the Apostle Paul  
The Letter of Peter to Philip  
The Secret Revelation of John

As I have mentioned before, in times past, I have personally read a number of apocryphal and pseudepigraphical writings which are not included in the Biblical Canon -- including the Gospel of Thomas -- and I did not become fully convinced that any of them are truly Divinely Inspired. Perhaps my position is due to the fact that I am simply used to reading what we refer to as the accepted Canon, but I just did not sense the same Spirit when I read these other works. They seemed both strange and confusing to me, and I was unable to connect with any of them in a spiritual sense, other than with the Book of Enoch, which I discuss in the article entitled "The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?".

For those of you who may not be that familiar with the terms, apocryphal works are a growing collection of ancient writings, the authenticity of which is in doubt. These "books" consist of hundreds of different writings. In similar fashion, there is another collection of ancient writings which are referred to as pseudepigraphical works. These are spurious -- or fake -- writings, usually Jewish in origin, the authorship of which has been ascribed to various Patriarchs and Prophets of the Old Testament era, but which are claimed to have actually been written within about two hundred years of the birth of Christ. Be advised that these writings can be both deceptive and confusing, as well as outright fictitious, which is why I never advise my friends to read them. They should not be read by Christians who are young in the faith, in my view.

For those of you who may be interested, I discuss the Gospel of Thomas more at length in my article entitled "The Gospel of Thomas: Introspection or Heaven-Spection?". In contrast to my own position, the Jesus Seminar asserts -- erroneously so, in my view -- that the Gospel of Thomas may contain even more authentic material than the Gospel of John. Quite frankly, worldly scholarship or not, I find this notion to be rather ludicrous.

I urge all of my Christian friends to beware of the Jesus Seminar and the Westar Institute because they are dangerous. As I briefly mention in my 2006 article entitled "Beware of Wolves, False Brethren and Antichrists!", in spite of their deceptive name, members of the Jesus Seminar soundly reject the belief that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and the true Son of God. During their early years, the Jesus Seminar did not even believe that Jesus existed as a historical figure. If memory serves me correctly, I recall watching a video or two years ago where this false belief was clearly vocalized.

Apparently, in more recent years, the fellows of the Jesus Seminar have changed their views concerning Jesus to some degree. However, while they now appear to accept Jesus' existence as a historical figure -- at least that is my impression -- they continue to believe that He was just a regular man who was born to two human parents, just like the rest of us. Not only that, but the Jesus Seminar does not believe that Jesus ever performed any actual miracles, or that He died on the Cross for the sins of the world, as the Bible indicates. As a result, neither do they believe that

He was truly resurrected from the dead, thus becoming the Firstfruits of the Resurrection, the First Begotten of the dead, and the Firstborn of many brethren, as we clearly see by the following verses:

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body . . . For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren."  
Romans 8:22-23, 29, KJV

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."  
1 Corinthians 15:19-23, KJV

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature . . . And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."  
Colossians 1:15, 18, KJV

"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,"  
Hebrews 12:23, KJV

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood . . . I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."  
Revelation 1:5, 18, KJV

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:"  
John 11:25, KJV

Because members of the Jesus Seminar don't believe that Jesus physically rose from the dead following His Crucifixion, they also reject the belief that He was physically encountered by His followers after His Resurrection, even though we have the testimonies of Mary, of the Apostles, of the Apostle Paul and of over five hundred other of the Lord's Disciples. Not only did they speak to the Lord, but some of them also touched Him and ate with Him. In addition to Jesus' multiple appearances which are recorded in the Gospel of John chapters twenty and twenty-one, consider the following additional verses which reveal the resurrected Christ:

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given

commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me . . . And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight."  
Acts 1:1-4, 9, KJV

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time."  
1 Corinthians 15:3-8, KJV

So exactly how do members of the Jesus Seminar endeavor to explain these clear sightings of Jesus? In their spiritual blindness and hard-heartedness, they propose that any New Testament accounts of the Lord being sighted following His Resurrection weren't really physical encounters, but simply "visionary experiences" by some of His followers. On their Westar Institute website, the fellows of the Jesus Seminar specifically state the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The Fellows concluded that the Jesus of history is very different from the icon of traditional Christianity: Jesus did not walk on water, feed the multitude, change water into wine, or raise Lazarus from the dead. He was executed as a public nuisance, not for claiming to be the son of God. And in the view of the Seminar, he did not rise bodily from the dead; the resurrection is based instead on visionary experiences of Peter, Paul, and Mary."

----- End Quote -----

As I noted a moment ago, the purpose behind the institute initiating the Jesus Seminar research project was, in their words, "to discover and report a scholarly consensus on the historical authenticity of the sayings and deeds attributed to Jesus in the gospels." No doubt, you are probably asking yourself what conclusions the Westar Institute arrived at upon completion of the Jesus Seminar. Not surprisingly, they came out very much against the belief that the majority of the teachings and acts which are attributed to Jesus in the Gospels are authentic. Their website notes the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"In the judgment of the Jesus Seminar, 18 percent of the sayings and 16 percent of the deeds are authentic."

----- End Quote -----

If this is their conclusion regarding the sayings and deeds which have been attributed to Jesus Christ, you can probably imagine what their conclusions are concerning the remainder of the Biblical research projects -- or seminars -- which they have undertaken over the years. If you still doubt that the true intentions of the Westar Institute is to weaken and destroy our faith in God's Word, then consider what they have to say on their "Acts of the Apostles" seminar page. Once again they clearly attempt to cast doubt on God's Word:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Today we are convinced that Acts is a work of imaginative religious literature exhibiting the characteristics of other such literature of its day. When critically examined, it is unable to support the high level of trust that Christian interpreters have traditionally placed in the accuracy of its story."

----- End Quote -----

Aren't you just pleased to know that the Book of Acts is just "imaginative religious literature"? Are you beginning to get the picture that under the guise of so-called "scholarship", the real purpose of the Westar Institute is to slice and dice God's holy Word? As a result of their seminar concerning the Apostle Paul, the Westar Institute again arrived at negative and damaging conclusions which cast serious doubt on Paul's authorship of the various Epistles which have been ascribed to him. Consider the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

"The letters of Paul delivered a distinct voice and universal vision to the first-century Mediterranean world. Unfortunately the distinctive sound of Paul's letters have been distorted by the cacophony of later voices that have attempted to speak in his name."

"A comparative analysis revealed that not all the letters are from the same hand. By focusing on the vocabulary, phrases, social situation, Christology and ecclesial understanding of the letters, scholars can detect earlier and later voices. From this analysis the Pastoral Letters (1 and 2 Timothy and Titus) prove to be not Pauline. 2 Thessalonians also shows indications of another hand."

----- End Quote -----

Aside from their goal to cast doubt on the authenticity and Divine Inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, it also becomes evident that another goal of the Westar Institute is to bring in a little extra cash on the side. As we have seen, "A New New Testament" was published by one of the founding members of the Jesus Seminar. In the case of the Apostle Paul, once they convince the reader that all of the Epistles were not really written by Paul, they offer their own solution in the form of a new translation from the original Greek which they call "The Authentic Letters of Paul". Of course, if you want to read it, you have to purchase it first.



In conclusion, we need to strip away the deceptive cloak of scholarship and realize that the Westar Institute is not to be trusted. Those people are deceivers and serpents in the grass. They are in fact antichrists, because they publicly deny Jesus' Divinity and Messiahship, and they cast serious doubt upon the Divine Inspiration of God's Word. Don't let the name "Jesus Seminar" fool you, because they are not what they may at first appear to be. To reiterate, their goal is obviously not to support God's Word. Rather, it is to tear it down, piece by piece, and to fill Christians' minds with one doubt after the other, while cloaking their vicious lies in the guise of so-called "serious scholarship".

The Westar Institute only offers spiritual darkness instead of true light. They are actually false angels of light who use their seminars and worldly scholarship as sharp tools to accuse God of being a liar, and His Word of being a lie, so please don't be deceived by them! They are basically pitting their own word against God's Word. They want you to believe them, instead of believing what the Bible tells us. Please consider the warning that is found in the following verses as well. If someone is lying, it certainly is not God:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"  
Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"  
Numbers 23:19, KJV

"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."  
Romans 3:4, KJV

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;"  
Titus 1:2, KJV

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."  
John 8:44, KJV

"Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son."  
1 John 2:22, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."  
1 John 5:10, KJV

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."  
1 John 1:10, KJV

As I have warned for almost two decades now by way of my many articles and series, truly, we are living in an age in which strong delusion and deception prevail. It is everywhere, and most certainly can be found in many churches as well. In this article we have now examined two different extremes; both of which attack our faith in devilish but very different ways.

In the first case, it is claimed that the New Testament has lost its spiritual punch over the centuries due to religious and political manipulation; and that as a result of that, we have failed to realize that we are "God". This statement is so typical of how Satan chooses to operate. I have shared with my readers many times before how the Devil will always mix in a little bit of truth with his lies and deceptions, so that we will naively swallow his poisonous goop. Thus, while I can certainly agree that the Bible has been manipulated by religionists and politicians over the centuries -- please refer to such series as "Is the KJV Bible the Inerrant Word of God?" -- I most certainly cannot embrace Maley's ultimate position that we are "God", which he bases on John 10:34 and Psalm 82:6.

I will be quite honest with you. I really do not know with absolute certainty what Jesus meant when He quoted from Psalm 82 in the tenth chapter of the Gospel of John. I can offer one idea regarding what I think it may possibly mean, but it is definitely not what Ken Maley proposes. Following are the verses from both the Gospel of John, along with the entirety of Psalm 82 for your consideration:

"The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him."  
John 10:33-38, KJV

"[A Psalm of Asaph.] God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations."  
Psalms 82:1-8, KJV

In the Gospel of John, the word "gods" is translated from the Greek word "theos". Many of you will no doubt recognize this word as the root of such English words as "theologian" and "theology". According to Thayer's Greek English Lexicon, this Greek word refers to a god or goddess or to deities and

divinities in general. In Psalm 82, according to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, the word "gods" is derived from the Hebrew word "elohim", which will also be familiar to some of you. "Elohim" is really the plural form of "elowahh", or simply "el". In fact, in Psalm 82 above, the word "God" is translated from "el". More often than not, the word "elohim" is translated as "God" in the Old Testament, even though it is actually the plural form of the word.

So there are two questions that we need to try to answer. The first one is who is the "them" to whom Jesus is referring in the phrase "If he called them gods"? The second question is who are these gods that Asaph mentions in his psalm? Based on what Jesus says in the previous verses, my inclination is to believe that Asaph is not referring to human beings. Rather, he may be referring to the spiritual sons of God -- that is, the Angelic Host and other Divine Beings -- who were present from the beginning of time when God first made the physical heavens and the Earth. Stated another way, they were present when God the Father spoke the Word through His Son Jesus, and brought the physical realm into existence. Thus Jesus states "unto whom the word of God came".

Furthermore, Jesus may likewise be suggesting that before He came to Earth, He stood amongst His spiritual brethren "in the congregation of the mighty" of which Asaph writes in his psalm. It certainly makes a lot more sense to me that when he writes that "God standeth in the congregation of the mighty", Asaph would be referring to this great spiritual congregation in the Heavenly Realm. In fact, in that first verse in Psalm 82, the word "gods" seems to be reflecting back to the phrase "congregation of the mighty". In other words, when Asaph says "the congregation of the mighty", he's actually talking about these gods. Thus, because Jesus likewise stood amongst His spiritual brethren "in the congregation of the mighty" as a fellow son of God in His pre-human existence, He was telling His critics that He had the full right to be called the Son of God on Earth.

Please go to part three for the continuation of this series.

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Ken Maley's "New New Testament" and the Jesus Seminar : Pt 3

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Sons Of God Son of God Son Of Man And The Only-Begotten Son Of God, Born-Again Sons Of God Through Faith In Jesus Christ, Angelic Sons Of God In Heavenly Realm, Sons Of God Beheld The Act Of Creation, God The Father Made All Things Through Jesus, Jesus Has Been Highly Exalted Due To His Sacrifice Of Love And

Is The Heir Of All Things, Every Knee Shall Bow Before Jesus, Jesus Sits At Right Hand Of God, No Fairy Tale, Elohim Is The Plural Form Of El, Let Us Make Man In Our Image, There Is Only One God The Father But Also Other Gods, Additional Definitions For "Elohim" And "Theos", Kingdom Of God Is An Organized Place With A Governmental Hierarchy, Different Positions Functions And Levels Of Authority, Devil's Kingdom Also Has A Hierarchy, Saints Shall Be Judges Rulers And Priests, Ken Maley's Twisted Interpretation, Love Is The Greatest Commandment, God's Love Was Expressed Through Jesus' Sacrifice, Loving And Forgiving Each Other Is Not Enough For Us To Merit The Gift Of Salvation

This doctrine will no doubt shock some Christians who are not aware of these Biblical truths, because they have been taught all their lives by organized religion that Jesus is the only son of God. However, that simply is not true, and this fact is clearly born out in the Scriptures. Jesus is not the only son of God. As I first explained fifteen years ago in the series entitled "Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?", what He is, is the only-begotten son of God. In other words, He is the only son of God who was born in the flesh of an earthly woman. It is for this reason that He is both the Son of Man and the Son of God. If you doubt that this is so, then simply examine both the Old and the New Testaments, and see how the three words "beget", "begat" and "begotten" are used. They all refer to childbirth in the flesh.

Later, these very same three words also refer to spiritual rebirth as well, which is what happens when we choose to accept Christ and become born-again "sons of God" in John 1:12, as we see by these verses:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"  
John 1:12, KJV

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."  
John 3:3-8, KJV

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."  
John 6:63, KJV

Clearly then, not only are there other sons of God already existing in the Heavenly Realm, but Jesus is the Son of God

on Earth, and we too become sons of God through our faith in Jesus Christ. As a result, in a very true sense of the word, we become Jesus' spiritual brethren. Not only that, but as you will see in a moment, we will each inherit a spiritual body which is similar to His body. Furthermore, one of these days, we too will be elevated to the Heavenly Realm, and we will become sons of God in the fullest sense of the word. We will become a part of the "congregation of the mighty". As I point out in other articles, there are several mentions of these Angelic sons of God in the Old Testament. Consider the following verses and let their truth sink into your mind and heart:

"And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown."  
Genesis 6:1-4, KJV

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them."  
Job 1:6, KJV

"Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD."  
Job 2:1, KJV

"Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?"  
Job 38:4-7, KJV

To reiterate, while I may be mistaken, it seems to me that if God the Father would refer to any of His creations as "gods" and "children of the most High", as we see in Psalm 82:6, it would certainly be to the spiritual sons of God which He created before He brought the physical realm into existence. As the previous verses that are found in the Book of Job seem to indicate, those Angelic Beings were firsthand witnesses to those amazing events. It is no wonder then that the Lord informs the Patriarch Job that they just "shouted for joy" when they beheld what God had just created through His very own Son, Jesus Christ. Now wouldn't you likewise be totally awestruck to behold God in the very Act of Creation? That God the Father created all things by the hand of Jesus Christ is made evident to us by verses such as the following:

"But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."  
1 Corinthians 8:6, KJV

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:"  
Ephesians 3:9, KJV

"For by him [by Jesus] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."  
Colossians 1:16-17, KJV

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;"  
Hebrews 1:1-3, KJV

Please notice that in the previous set of verses concerning Jesus, we are told that "he is before all things", and that God has appointed Jesus "heir of all things". You see, as I explain in the aforementioned series, because Jesus was so willing to leave the Heavenly Realm, and come to the Earth and take on the form of lowly human flesh, and eventually be slain like a sacrificial animal for the sins of the world, God the Father has highly exalted Him above His spiritual brethren; that is, the other sons of God. Jesus now occupies a unique position in the Heavenly Realm at His own Father's right hand. He was willing to make a great Sacrifice of Love, and by so doing, God the Father honored Him by making Jesus His very own heir. This amazing truth is firmly established by additional verses, such as the following:

"The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins."  
Acts 5:30-31, KJV

"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."  
Romans 14:11, KJV

"Which he [God the Father] wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."  
Ephesians 1:20-23, KJV

"And being found in fashion as a man, he [Jesus] humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name

of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."  
Philippians 2:8-11, KJV

"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."  
Romans 8:34, KJV

"If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."  
Colossians 3:1, KJV

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high . . . But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?"  
Hebrews 1:3, 13, KJV

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;"  
Hebrews 8:1, KJV

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"  
Hebrews 10:12, KJV

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."  
Hebrews 12:2, KJV

"Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him."  
1 Peter 3:22, KJV

We have all read wonderful stories or watched movies where the king's son must prove himself to his father before his father will trust him with the all-important job of running the kingdom. Thus, the son dons his armor, and along with his fellow compatriots marches off to war to fight battles for some worthy and righteous cause. Having defeated the wicked enemies who sought to destroy the kingdom, the son returns home to praise, accolades and admiration. However, more importantly, having proven himself to be a strong man, a worthy soldier, a fierce leader and a loyal subject of the kingdom, the kingly father recognizes his son's worth and crowns him prince and heir to the kingdom. But that is not all. Let's not forget that the prince also gets the girl.

While what I have just described for you is obviously very fictional in nature, in a way, that is exactly what Jesus did for us. He willingly left His comfortable position in the Kingdom of Heaven and came to Earth in order to fight

against Satan, death and hell. He fought to the death, even giving His own life, so that we -- Satan's human prisoners -- could be freed from death and hell. Having achieved His primary objective, His Father raised Him up and He returned to the wonderful Kingdom from whence He had come, where He in fact was crowned Prince and Heir to the Kingdom. However, that is now all. Guess what? Jesus also got the girl. Huh? Please read "Once Upon a Time: A True Story".

Now, I understand that some of my readers are going to be a little uncomfortable regarding the fact that the Bible talks about these other gods in Heaven. After all, we have had it pounded into our brains by organized religion that there is only one God. In fact, the Scriptures clearly confirm this point. For example, the previous verses states "But to us there is but one God, the Father". Following are some more verses which verify this Scriptural truth:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"  
Deuteronomy 6:4, KJV

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."  
Isaiah 44:6, KJV

"Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any."  
Isaiah 44:8, KJV

"I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:"  
Isaiah 45:5, KJV

"Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me."  
Isaiah 45:21, KJV

"Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me: for there is no saviour beside me."  
Hosea 13:4, KJV

"And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he . . . And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"  
Mark 12:32, 39, KJV

"Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith."  
Romans 3:30, KJV

"Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one."  
Galatians 3:20, KJV

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in



one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through  
all, and in you all."  
Ephesians 4:4-6, KJV

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men,  
the man Christ Jesus;"  
1 Timothy 2:5, KJV

"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the  
devils also believe, and tremble."  
James 2:19, KJV

First of all, despite attempts by some theologians to change  
the meaning of the word, because it goes against what they  
want to believe, and makes them rather uncomfortable, let us  
not forget that the word "elohim" is in fact the plural form  
of "elowahh", or "el". It does in fact mean "gods", and not  
just "god". We have already clearly seen that God the Father  
and Jesus Christ created the Universe together. Therefore,  
in that sense alone, it is correct to view "elohim" in the  
proper plural sense. Furthermore, as I have mentioned before,  
the Book of Genesis does say "Let us [plural] make man in  
our [plural] image" -- Genesis 1:26. Obviously, there had to  
be more than just one party present at the Creation Event.  
Not only were God the Father and Jesus present, but all of  
the sons of God were likewise present, and no doubt watching  
the Act of Creation with utter amazement, as we have already  
discussed.

But how can we possibly reconcile the clear fact that these  
Celestial Beings are being described as gods in Psalm 82:6?  
There is actually an easy explanation which may relieve some  
of the uncomfortable feeling you may be experiencing. As it  
turns out, while the Hebrew word "elohim" is translated as  
"God" -- note the capital "G" -- a total of 2,346 times in  
the Old Testament of the KJV Bible, if we examine the Brown,  
Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, we  
discover that "God" is actually the final definition that is  
provided for this word. It is preceded by such definitions as  
rulers, judges, divine ones, angels, gods, god, goddess, and  
godlike one.

In short, we can conclude then that when this "congregation  
of the mighty" are referred to as "gods", it is not saying  
that they are God the Father, or even as powerful as God the  
Father, which would contradict all of the "one God" verses.  
It probably means that these Celestial Beings are actually  
rulers, judges, Divine Ones, Angels and godlike in nature;  
not only because a Spiritual Hierarchy actually exists in  
the Heavenly Realm, but also because they are comprised of  
a spiritual substance which makes them godlike in nature. In  
the New Testament, the definition for the Greek word "theos"  
confirms this point as well. While it is translated as "God"  
with a capital "G" 1,320 times in the King James Bible, you  
will recall that it can refer to a god or goddess, and also  
generally apply to deities or divinities. Furthermore, the  
final definition for "theos" is magistrates and judges, just  
like the word "elohim" which also means rulers and judges.

As I explain in such articles as "Sex, a Bowl of Soup, and  
the Nature of Angels", a governmental hierarchy exists in

the Spiritual Realm. As the Apostle Paul informs us, God is not the author of confusion. The Kingdom of God is a place of organization where everything is in peace and harmony, and is run efficiently by our Heavenly Father. Each entity has a specific position and function. Some are Archangels, while others are regular Angels. Some are warriors -- such as Michael and the Angels who are discussed in the Book of Daniel as well as in the Book of Revelation -- while others are messengers -- such as Gabriel. We can't possibly begin to imagine all of the various jobs which are available in that Wonderful Place. However, if we consider that they are running the entire Universe, there must be a lot of them.

Even the Dark Side of the Spiritual Realm is organized into different positions of authority. Thus, in his Epistle to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul writes as follows:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."  
Ephesians 6:12, KJV

As we have seen, the words "elohim" and "theos" also refer to magistrates, rulers and judges. The reason why you may find this point interesting is because of the following verses:

"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom."  
Daniel 7:21-22, KJV

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."  
Revelation 20:4-6, KJV

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?"  
1 Corinthians 6:2-3, KJV

Collectively, do you understand what all of these verses are actually telling us, beginning with Psalm 82:6? If not, let me tell you. They appear to be saying that when God's adopted children graduate into the Spiritual Realm, they apparently become a part of that great "congregation of the mighty". In other words, they become a part of those gods. They become a part of God the Father's special Royal Elite. They become priests, rulers and judges who will not only rule the world, but who will even judge the Angels. As I explain elsewhere,

I suspect that this latter point means that they will judge the Fallen Angels who have caused so much calamity on the Earth over the past millennia. It's called you reap what you sow.

Having explained all of the above, while I tend to accept a spiritual interpretation for Psalm 82:6, and believe that it is also what Jesus may have meant as well, just look at how Ken Maley seems to twist everything around. Maley contradicts everything that the Bible teaches us regarding the need for Repentance and Salvation. According to Ken Maley's seriously misguided thinking, being as we are "God" in his view, there is really no need for any of us to be saved from anything. We simply have to love, and everything will be fine. We can all agree that love is an important teaching in the Scriptures. In fact, it is one of the most important commandments of all, which even Jesus emphasized. This is made evident by verses such as the following:

"Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."  
Matthew 22:36-40, KJV

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."  
John 13:35, KJV

"Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."  
Romans 13:10, KJV

"Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."  
1 Corinthians 8:1, KJV

"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."  
1 Corinthians 12:31, KJV

"And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing . . . And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."  
1 Corinthians 13:2, 13, KJV

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."  
Galatians 5:14, KJV

"If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:"  
James 2:8, KJV

"And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins."  
1 Peter 4:8, KJV

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."  
1 John 4:8, KJV

However, loving each other is not sufficient to save any of us, as any Bible-knowledgeable Christian knows. If loving each other is enough to merit Salvation, then Christ died in vain. The fact of the matter -- as I explain in so many other articles -- is that we can only be saved through faith in the Atoning Sacrifice of Christ, because we are all prisoners to sin and death. Jesus' Sacrifice is by far the biggest Love in the Bible, which is so clearly expressed in the following well-known verses:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."  
John 3:16, KJV

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."  
Romans 5:8, KJV

"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."  
Romans 8:38-39, KJV

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he [Jesus] laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."  
1 John 3:16, KJV

"We love him, because he first loved us."  
1 John 4:19, KJV

To me, what Maley teaches does not sound that much different from the blasphemous Urantia Book, which claims that Jesus' Sacrifice on the Cross was both barbaric and unnecessary, and that all we really have to do is be willing to forgive each other, and all will be well with us. In both cases, it sounds like a bunch of deceptive New Age nonsense and psychobabble. Just love and forgive each other, and we will all arrive in Heaven some day. If it is that simple -- not that any of us really do it to the full -- then why did Jesus have to die? The obvious answer is that it is not quite that simple. The truth of the matter is that loving each other and forgiving each other are not enough to merit our Salvation.

Please go to part four for the conclusion of this series.

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Ken Maley's "New New Testament" and the Jesus Seminar : Pt 4

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We Are Of All Men Most Miserable If Christ Did Not Rise From The Dead, Ken Maley And The Westar Institute Go To Opposite Extremes, Christ Is Risen From The Dead, Our Faith Is Not In Vain, Spiritual Bodies, Conclusion, Suggesting Reading List

So what about the latter extreme; that is, the conclusions of the Jesus Seminar? It should be evident to you that what we have basically been told is that Jesus is not who the Bible says He is. If Jesus is not who He says He is, and if He truly did not rise from the dead, and if He does not really now sit at the right hand of the Father, then like the Apostle Paul, what is their left for any of us to say other than this:

"But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."  
1 Corinthians 15:13-19, KJV

You see, that is the end result of believing anything that the Westar Institute and the Jesus Seminar say. We are lost. We are without hope. Our faith is a total waste of our time. We have been deceived. Once we are dead, we are dead, and it is the end of the road, and the end of the story for us. The Westar Institute and the conclusions of the Jesus Seminar go to the exact opposite extreme of Ken Maley. We go from being "God" to being absolutely nothing after death. We can forget about the new heaven and new Earth, and New Jerusalem must surely be a pipe dream to the Westar Institute. However, I do not accept that nonsense; do you? The Apostle Paul obviously didn't either. That is why in the very same wonderful chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 he also writes the following:

"Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? . . . But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming . . . Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality,

then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:12, 20-23, 51-58, KJV

Following are some additional inspiring verses which discuss this very same topic. Please read them and rejoice, knowing that, as the Apostle Paul writes, your faith is not in vain, contrary to what the devilish Jesus Seminar promotes:

"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:"

Romans 6:4-5, KJV

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

Romans 8:29, KJV

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life."

2 Corinthians 5:1-4, KJV

"Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Philippians 3:21, KJV

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

1 John 3:2, KJV

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, KJV

With these inspiring verses I will bring this series to its conclusion. I trust that you have found it informative, and I pray that it has been an inspiration and a blessing in your life. If you happen to have an account with Facebook, Twitter

or Google+, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this series, or which are related to this series, and which are likewise located on the Endtime Prophecy Net web server:

Beware of Wolves, False Brethren and Antichrists!  
Is Jesus the Only Begotten Son of God?  
Is the KJV Bible the Inerrant Word of God?  
Message to the World  
Not Everyone is a Child of God  
Once Upon a Time: A True Story  
Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!  
Sex, a Bowl of Soup, and the Nature of Angels  
The Book of Enoch: Truth or Heresy?  
The Psalm 83 War False Doctrine Exposed!  
The Gospel of Thomas: Introspection or Heaven-Spection?  
The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!  
The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!

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