

The Protestant Reformation: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

Session 8



Andy Woods, Th.M., JD., PhD.
Sr. Pastor, Sugar Land Bible Church
President Chafer Theological Seminary

Introduction

- I. Oct 31, 1517
- II. 500 years
- III. Far reaching impact
- IV. Partial restoration
- V. Restoration of a hermeneutic
- VI. Selectively applied
- VII. Subsequent generations applied consistently
- VIII. Preview



Overview

- I. The early church
- II. The Alexandrian eclipse
- III. The Dark Ages
- IV. The contribution of the Protestant Reformers
- V. The Reformers' incomplete revolution
- VI. Reformed Theology today
- VII. Dispensationalism & the completed revolution
- VIII. Looking back 500 years later



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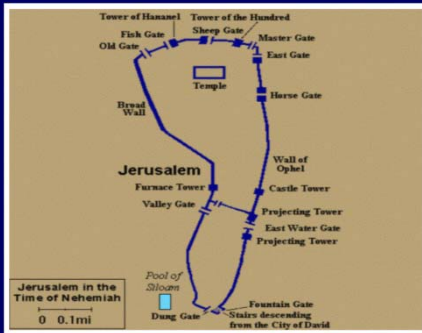




Dangers of Allegorization – Philo



Dangers of Allegorization Gates of Nehemiah 3



Dangers of Allegorization




- I. Text is not being interpreted
- II. Authority is transferred from text to interpreter
- III. There is no way to test the interpreter
- IV. No mechanism for controlling the interpreter's imagination



Pentecost, *Things to Come*, pps. 4-5

What Caused the Shift Into Allegorism?

- A. Need for immediate relevance
- B. Incorporation of human philosophy into interpretation
- C. Gnostic dualism (Gen. 1:31; 1 John 2:22; 4:2-3; Acts 17:32; 1 Cor. 15:12)
- D. Decline of the church's Jewish population
- E. Constantine's Edict of Milan (A.D. 313)
- F. AD 70 and Hadrian's (A.D. 117-138) "Palestine"



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III. The Dark Ages (or the Middle Ages)

- A. Lasted from the 4th to the 16th centuries
- B. Obsolescence of prophetic studies
- C. Domination of Augustinian Amillennialism
- D. Only one church: Roman Catholicism
- E. The Bible is removed from the people
 - 1. Allegorization
 - 2. Illiteracy
 - 3. Mass read in Latin
- F. Sale of indulgences
- G. Anti-Semitism
- H. Church in need of rescue





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IV. Contribution of the Protestant Reformers

- A. Preparation of the Reformers
- B. Emphasis on literal interpretation
- C. Denunciation of allegorization
- D. Rejection of church tradition as a guide
- E. Priesthood of all believers
 - 1. Bible translations
 - 2. Literacy
- F. Basis for the American system of governance
- G. Five *solas*
- H. Rejection of celibacy of the priesthood
- I. The ultimate sacrifice
- J. Rejoice



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THE 5 PILLARS of REFORMED THEOLOGY

Number	Latin	Meaning
1.	<i>Sola Scriptura</i>	Scripture Alone
2.	<i>Solus Christus</i>	Christ Alone
3.	<i>Sola Fide</i>	Faith Alone
4.	<i>Sola Gratia</i>	Grace Alone
5.	<i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>	To the Glory of God Alone

THE 5 PILLARS of REFORMED THEOLOGY

Scripture Alone — sola scriptura — THE ONLY FOUNDATION
The Bible is the only infallible and sufficient rule for governing issues of life and doctrine.

Christ Alone — solus Christus — THE ONLY MEDIATOR
Because Jesus Christ is the sole mediator between God and man, salvation is possible only by his death and resurrection.

Grace Alone — sola gratia — THE ONLY METHOD
Our justification and salvation are both solely by the sovereign grace of God and not dependent on any action or condition man provides.

Faith Alone — sola fide — THE ONLY BELIEF
Our justification before God is by faith in Christ alone, and not by works.

Glory to God Alone — soli deo gloria — THE ONLY AMBITION
All glory and honor is due to God alone.

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Belief – God’s One Condition for Justification

Gen 15:6

Then he **believed** in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever **believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.



Acts 16:30-31

"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "**Believe** in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)

"For by grace you have been saved **through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."



Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)

"And **without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."



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Romans 3:27-28 (NASB)

“Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.”



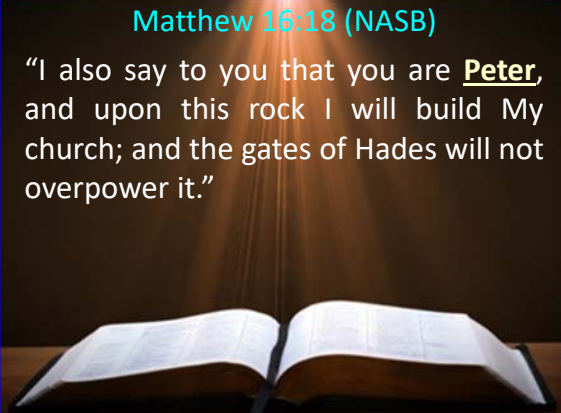
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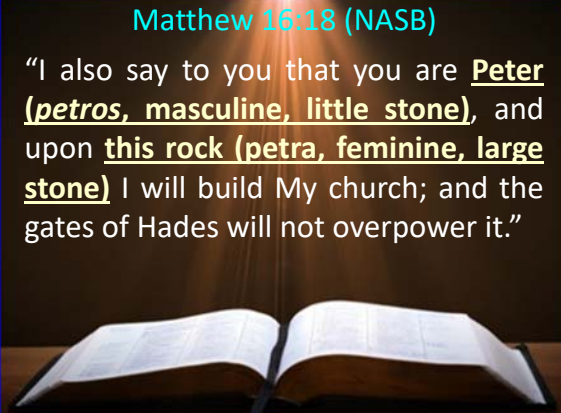
Matthew 16:18 (NASB)

“I also say to you that you are **Peter**, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”



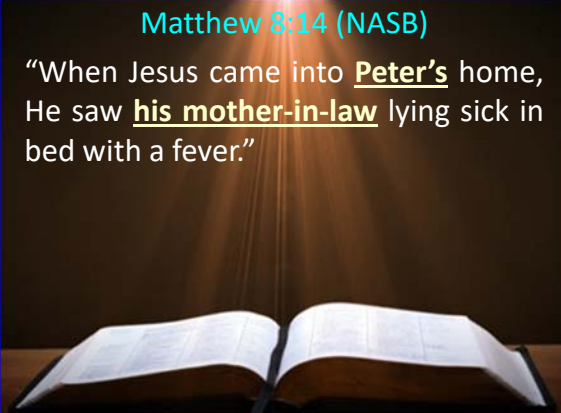
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“I also say to you that you are **Peter** (**petros, masculine, little stone**), and upon **this rock** (**petra, feminine, large stone**) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”



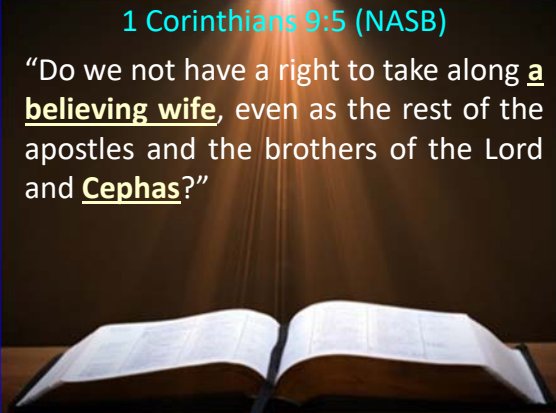
Matthew 8:14 (NASB)

“When Jesus came into **Peter’s** home, He saw **his mother-in-law** lying sick in bed with a fever.”





1 Corinthians 9:5 (NASB)


“Do we not have a right to take along a believing wife, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?”



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William Tyndale
(A.D. 1494–1536)

“In 1535, Tyndale was arrested and jailed in the castle of Vilvoord (Filford) outside Brussels for over a year. In 1536, he was convicted of heresy and executed by strangulation, after which his body was burnt at the stake. His dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened; this seemed to find its fulfilment just two years later with Henry's authorisation of the Great Bible for the Church of England, which was largely Tyndale's own work. Hence, the Tyndale Bible, as it was known, continued to play a key role in spreading Reformation ideas across the English-speaking world and, eventually, to the British Empire.”

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Tyndale

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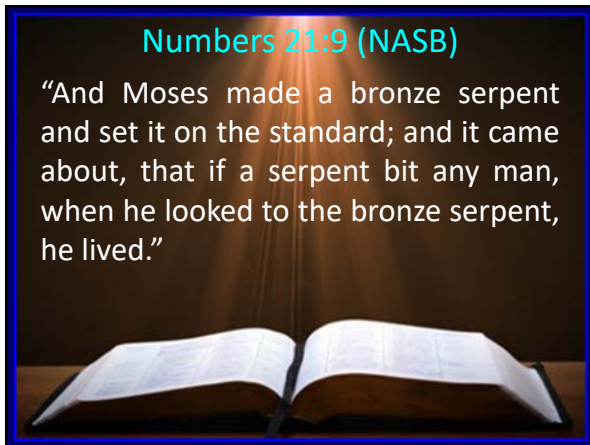
CONCLUSION

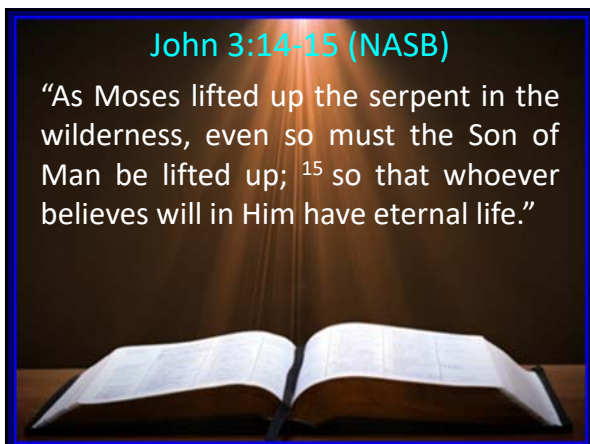
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2 Kings 18:4 (NASB)

“He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.”




Joshua 1:2 (NASB)

“Moses My servant is dead; now therefore arise, cross this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them, to the sons of Israel.”




Matthew 16:13-23 (NASB)

¹⁶ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”...¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, “**Blessed are you, Simon Barjona**, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”



Matthew 16:13-23 (NASB)

²⁰ Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's.



NEXT WEEK

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