

# Hidden Cross

July 2008

## **Proof of the Rapture**

For some time, there has been an argument over end-times theology among Christians. One of the main features of this argument is the rapture – the belief that all of the Christians will be taken away from the earth before the worst of the tribulation occurs. I believe that I have found proof that such an event will happen, because such an event has happened before.

In Genesis 5:24, it states that Enoch walked with the Lord, and then was taken by Him. This means that he did not die, but was supernaturally removed from the earth. I believe that this is a foreshadowing of the rapture at the end times, especially when we consider that in Jude 14 it mentions that Enoch prophesied about the end times.

## **Book Almost Complete**

My first book is almost complete. If all goes well, I should have it printed before the end of August. More to come!

## **Video Projects Still in the Works**

Several times last year I wrote to you about my dinosaur video set. You may have been wondering just a bit about why I haven't written about it recently. Well, I am still working on it, but with my radio program, my college work, and my book writing, I had to set the miniseries on a back burner for the time being. I still plan on finishing it sometime in the next year or two, and when I start working on it again, I will let you know first thing.

## **Sagadii Radio Debate Update**

The "age of the earth" debate is coming along nicely. The debate will air in three segments on Sagadii Radio starting July 24<sup>th</sup>. The setup of the debate is as follows:

- Introductions
- Formation of the Planet
- Geologic Column
- Dating Methods
- Conclusion

The debate will feature Ian Juby on the side of creation, David Koerner on the side of evolution, and yours truly as the host and moderator. I am really looking forward to it, and you all should, too!

- America's Heritage
- What They Cannot Rise Above
- The Characteristics of Worship
- How Worship and Evangelism Relate to One Another
- Celebration and Reverence Balanced in Worship
- Deity-in-Chief

## America's Heritage

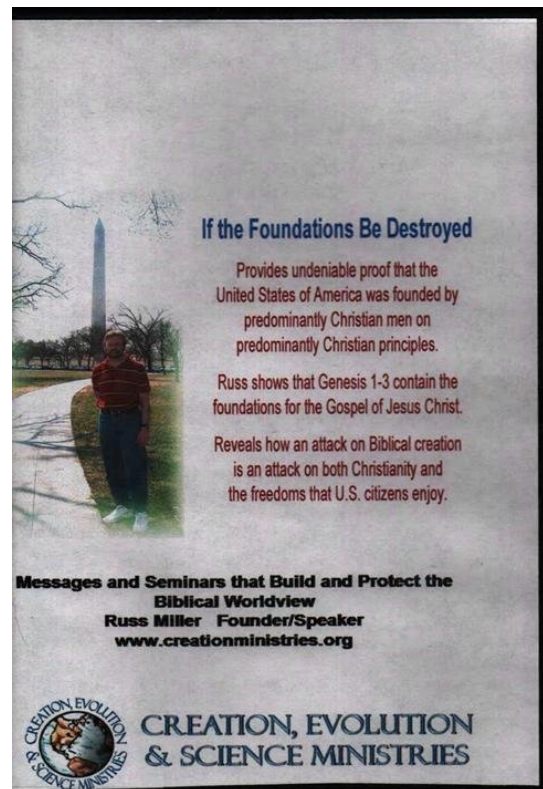
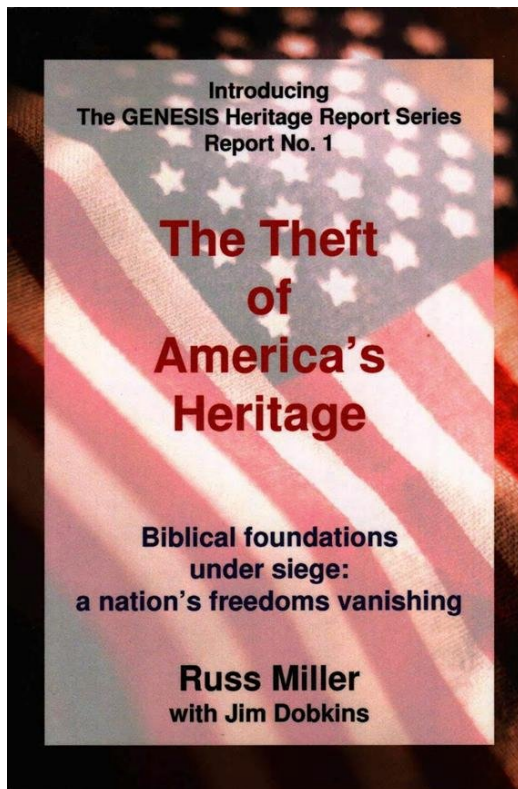
America was founded as a Christian nation. This being the month of our nation's Independence Day, let us celebrate truthfully by rightly understanding what America was based on. In order to help with that, I recommend some very good sources. First, I recommend for you these three episodes of Sagadii Radio:

-February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – [www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2009-2-27.mp3](http://www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2009-2-27.mp3) - Russ Miller talks about his first two books in the Genesis Heritage Report Series, The Theft of America's Heritage and The Facts Are Talking, But Who's Listening?

-May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 – [www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2009-5-1.mp3](http://www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2009-5-1.mp3) - Ray Comfort's message "The Divine Butler" has some very important information for us, especially at this time

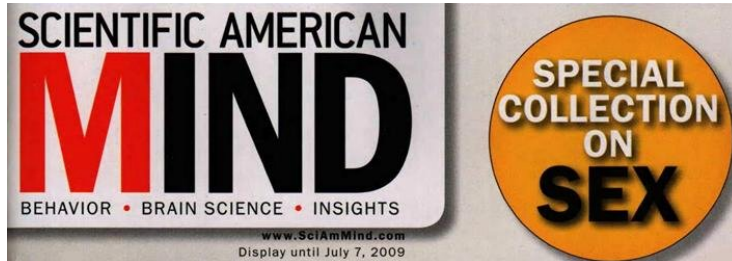
-July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 – [www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2009-7-3.mp3](http://www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2009-7-3.mp3) - Russ Miller discusses the Christian foundations of the United States of America, including the founding documents and the enduring songs through our history

In addition to these, or perhaps to say more in-depth than these, I highly recommend the book The Theft of America's Heritage by Russ Miller and Jim Dobkins and also the DVD presentation If the Foundations Be Destroyed by Russ Miller (both available through the online store at [www.creationministries.org](http://www.creationministries.org) ). You can find my reviews of both of these items in the March 2009 bonus issue at [www.hiddencrossministries.com/hiddencross20.1-creation\\_resource\\_reviews.pdf](http://www.hiddencrossministries.com/hiddencross20.1-creation_resource_reviews.pdf).



## What They Cannot Rise Above

In his book The Knowledge of the Holy, A.W. Tozer wrote that, “no people has ever risen above its religion”, and that, “no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God”. As a creation speaker and creation scientist I continually study opposition to the Biblical creation account, and I don’t think that I could sum it up any better.



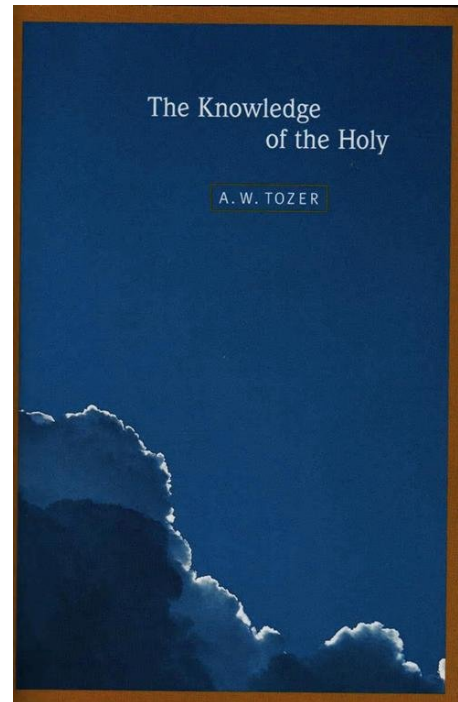
The most recent subject I have been studying is sex. The first article in the June issue of Scientific American Mind says that Bonobos, or what is more commonly known as the pygmy chimpanzee and now thought to be even more related to us than chimps, “engage in sex in virtually every partner combination (although such contact among close family members may be suppressed)” (Bonobo Sex &

Society, Scientific American Mind June 2009, p. 4-11). In the second article, it argued that males that have not developed completely (in a stage of arrested development) will “copulate forcibly with females. In other words, they rape.” (Disturbing Behaviors of the Orangutan, Scientific American Mind June 2009, p. 14-19). The third article in that issue (and the last I will discuss) states, “Observers have witnessed as many as 1,500 species of wild and captive animals engaging in homosexual activity” and, therefore, “...experts argue that humans, like some other animals, are naturally bisexual” (Bisexual Species, Scientific American Mind June 2009, p. 20-25).

You may be wondering what that has to do with anything, but Romans 1:18-32 explains and describes the naturalistic evolutionists very well: they worship and serve the creature more than the Creator (v. 25), they want to ignore God and remove Him from their thoughts (v. 28), and they will do all measure of vile acts (v. 29-32), among other things. We can clearly see that the evolutionist whose gods are nature and all it contains (including himself or herself) cannot rise above the view of god that they have. For this reason they seek to justify every vile deed with nature, but they forget that all the earth was cursed from our sin and our presence, and that sin is so vile and corrupting that even the natural world is tainted. Evolutionists, therefore, really are idolaters because our sinfulness has remade the perfect world into our image, and this is the thing they worship.

## The Characteristics of Worship

Of the many characteristics that a worship service is comprised of, if but five could be recorded and ranked as being most valued by me, they would be these: (1) Biblical accuracy, (2) strong exposition, (3) distinction of the church from the world, (4) declaration of moral



absolutes, and (5) confrontation and condemnation of evil. These five characteristics are those that most identify the church as a church, and without them there can be no church at all.

The first, and most important, of the characteristics of worship is Biblical accuracy. It matters not what a preacher says, but what the Bible says. If the preacher is drawing from the Bible, and doing so accurately, then it is a good sermon; conversely, if the preacher is contradicting the Bible, that is not a bad or even horrid sermon – it is an abomination. The Bible must be the absolute authority on all matters involved in theology, the structure around which the beauty of worship takes place. Worship, by definition, is praising and glorifying God, and if we turn in ignorance from what the Object of our worship says, and ignore His Word, then what we do cannot really be defined as worship.

The second of the characteristics of worship is strong exposition. To many this may seem repetitive, but it is not. It may be possible to have a sermon that is sturdy and steadily based on a strong structure of Biblical principles, but does not cite the Bible, and therefore it is weak in exposition. If a preacher preaches and never says on what Authority he speaks, then he is a minister under no authority but his own. A good sermon will cite the Bible and do so properly.

The third of the characteristics of worship is distinction of the church from the world. Many have tried to make the church more like the world, but where, then, is the incentive to come to church? It is the fact that the church is not the same as the world that makes it worthy of attendance and glorifying unto God. We are commanded to be in the world, not of the world (John 15:19, 17:14, and 17:16), and the church would be better off if these pastors would realize that.

The fourth of the characteristics of worship is declaration of moral absolutes. The God that the church claims to worship has created the world, giving Him the right to prescribe the moral law, the Ten Commandments, and to declare and carry out punishment of violations of that Law. If the church will not declare what God has declared, then they are not the church, and the Son of God will treat them likewise (Mark 8:38 and Luke 9:26). Since worship is supposed to be glorifying God, how can such happen if the very ones who are supposed to glorify Him attack and/or deny His very words?

The fifth and final characteristic of worship is that of confronting and condemning evil. It only makes sense that if we are to declare moral absolutes that we are seized by our convictions of them and therefore not only confront but condemn the violations of them. We are not commanded to suspend or cease judgment, as so many claim, but only to judge rightly (Luke 12:57 and John 7:24). Is this appropriate for worship? The answer must be an emphatic, “yes”. For too often in these last generations men have believed that worship happened only at designated places and times, and has not retained in his memory that God is to be worshiped at all times, in all places, in accordance with His nature (John 4:21-24).

In conclusion, the five characteristics that are most valued for worship are Biblical accuracy, strong exposition, distinction of the church from the world, declaration of moral absolutes, and confrontation and condemnation of evil. These five were chosen for but a simple reason; for without them, there would be no church or worship at all.

#### **Most Valued Worship Characteristics**

- 1) Biblical Accuracy
- 2) Strong Exposition
- 3) Distinction of the Church from the World
- 4) Declaration of Moral Absolutes
- 5) Confrontation and Condemnation of Evil

## **How Worship and Evangelism Relate to One Another**

Worship and evangelism are both glorification of God – one by praise (Revelation 4:11 and 19:5) and one by service (Mark 16:15). Most certainly there are similarities. The Law and the Gospel must be the core of both. If you have evangelism without the Law, then the gospel is foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18), and if you have evangelism without the gospel, you have legalistic condemnation (John 3:17, Titus 3:9). In a similar way, worship must also have the Law and the Gospel at the core of the sermon (and the sermon should dictate everything else in a worship service).

Evangelism should be a clear presentation of the Law and the Gospel, and worship should be clear as well. However, evangelism should include little more than the bare essentials, while worship services should include elaboration, example, and teachings which edify the congregation – as milk to the young in Christ and meat to the old (Hebrews 5:13-14, 1 Peter 2:2).

Worship, though, is also severely different than evangelism. For example, evangelism targets the unbeliever, while worship is for the believer. Evangelism seeks to bring emergency care to save a soul; worship is sustenance for the soul thereafter. It is necessary that the worship go above and beyond the message of the Law and the Gospel, but it must never abandon those things, instead showing how all things are linked to them for the true believer (John 14:15, 14:21, and 15:10).

Some foolish churches have abandoned true worship by holding church services for the unbelievers (I think Willow Creek is the main one). However, these churches are just the opposite of the real church – they do their evangelism by bringing unbelievers in and then kick them out when they are saved. As the pastor of that one church (I'm still not sure if it is Willow Creek or not) said, "If you got saved last week, then last week was the last week this was the church for you." What kind of a messed-up message is that? "Welcome to the family of Christ – now get the hell out." That makes no sense, and is the exact opposite of the way worship is supposed to be (John 9:38). As Pastor Scott said, "unbelievers are more than welcome in this church, but we aren't going to cater to them." They can come into the church, but they are really nothing but spectators until they are born again.

To conclude, worship and evangelism are certainly related because both must have the Law and the Gospel as their core. However, they are most certainly not the same thing; neither are they interchangeable. The church must do both, and do them correctly, all for the glory of God.

## **Celebration and Reverence Balanced in Worship**

What is it that we are celebrating in worship? It is God Himself. What is God? God is the Creator, Lawmaker, Judge, Redeemer, Sanctifier, and King. God is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, righteous, infinitely wise, and loving. We balance celebration with reverence in a very simple manner – we keep reminding ourselves of who God is and what He has said and done. Any diminishing of our understanding or perception of God will not only diminish our reverence of God, but our celebration as well.

Take, for example, the people who deny the Law. They perceive God as all-loving, which is a wrong understanding of God. They then fail to revere Him as they should, instead fighting hard to rewrite or reinterpret what He said. Since Christ is no longer the Savior of people from their sins, but rather their mistakes (since they deny the Law of God, and therefore can't have any violations of the law which are called sin), they fail to comprehend the debt they owed, and

so they cannot comprehend the suffering required to pay for it. This is just one example of how a right understanding of God will automatically balance out the celebration and reverence of God.

## **Deity-in-Chief**

Back in December on Sagadii Radio (the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008 episode available at [www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2008-12-5.mp3](http://www.sagadiiradio.com/sr-2008-12-5.mp3)) I talked about Obama and religion. I also wrote about this topic in the special election issue for October 2008.

I just wanted so say something about this: I would rather die than bend my knee to the false god Obama. We elected a president, not a god. How dare he sit back and let people declare him as such!

Since this will most likely cause some government officials to want to “talk” to me (and by “talk” I mean attempt to force me to worship this false Christ in clear violation of the first amendment) please email me. We can arrange a public display of such – you can make an example out of me. Maybe behead me, or slit my throat. How about a hanging? Or what about a crucifixion? There haven’t been any of those for a long time! Please, oh please, come after me! I won’t bow to this new baal – I must be punished!

Folks, it may seem a bit goofy now, but when they start enforcing the Mark of the Beast, this won’t be a joke. I wasn’t completely sure that people would really believe that a mere person was a god until I started to see the swooning over Barack Obama. If he isn’t the anti-Christ, he’s the selected stand-in for Lucifer’s dress rehearsal. It is clear that no person who would accept the worship of others (as Obama has) is on the side of God, but I am on God’s side. Since no one can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13), I choose to serve God and not Obama.

The background is set; the characters ready. The play begins when the rapture comes. Now, I ask you: what role will you play in these final days?

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4:

*“<sup>3</sup>Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup>Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”*

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

E-mail me

And while you are on the net, check out the following websites:

Ianjuby.org

Livingdinosaurs.com

Omniology.com

Creationministries.org

Creationastronomy.com