



FEED MY SHEEP

PUBLISHED BY JAMES W. BRUGGEMAN
STONE KINGDOM MINISTRIES
P. O. BOX 6388
ASHEVILLE, NC 28816 U.S.A.

Issue #18

May 2000

Intermezzo: The White Horse and Other “Coincidences”

Intermezzo: ...by extension, an interlude, break from the normal. We will put the continuation of our studies on sanctification on hold for now. There are simply too many other happenings occurring for which the space of our cover letter is inadequate. Before we recount these recent events and their possible significance, it will be helpful to provide some prefatory material as a Scriptural underpinning for the topics which follow it.

All things point to Jesus and to God’s Plan

We don’t believe there is any such thing as a coincidence. The dictionary defines “coincidence” as “2. the occurrence of events that happen at the same time by accident but seem to have some connection...” (Emphasis ours.) From time to time, we all experience numerous so-called coincidences, where we perceive two or more seemingly unrelated events or facts occurring simultaneously. Our only disagreement with the dictionary definition is the supposition that these things happen “by accident.” Were the dictionary writers to have instead said “seemingly” or “supposedly by accident,” we would be in total agreement.

It’s a matter of the sovereignty of God. We do not believe that any thing in the universe ever happens “by accident.” There is always a cause and a purpose for every supposed “coincidence.” God is the ultimate cause of all things and He has purposed all things in His Plan.

Ephesians 1: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

What we call “coincidences” are simply those facts, events, occurrences, etc. for which we can see no greater connection other than the curious “coincidence” factor. As we become more attuned to hearing God’s voice, we are better able to see beneath the outer “coincidence” layer and discern what God is saying or doing by this seemingly accidental confluence of events. To the extent that these things are properly discerned, they can then be utilized as either “signs confirming” or as indicators and guidance for the believer. But does God really

work that way?

To some Christians, these things are foolish, dangerous and some would even charge “heretical.” We understand their concern. We, too, once looked upon such things in the same condemnatory manner. It’s absolute nonsense, we thought. It’s utter foolishness. But is it possible that the following verse applies here?

1 Corinthians 1:27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise...

Is it foolish to attach meaning to coincidences? Could coincidences really have veiled meanings for us, if we could but see? On the other hand, isn’t it dangerous to one’s spiritual health, or even a heretical idea to take such occurrences as signs and attribute them to God as though He gives them for our guidance? It would be if they do not emanate from God. And that is precisely the point of this preface, that all things—the good, the bad, the in-between — all things emanate from God.

2 Corinthians 5:18 And all things are of God, ...

Romans 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things:

What about Satan then? Well, the devil, Satan, however you wish to define him, is nothing more than God’s agent. Whatever comes from the devil is ultimately sent by God. The devil is middle management. Go over his head and talk directly with the Boss. Furthermore, we certainly uphold the primacy of the Bible, the written Word of God, by which all other means of hearing God’s voice must be judged. Any sign which contradicts the written Word is a test. It must line up with the Bible or else to follow it would be idolatry.

If we were to carry this “all things are from God” idea to its ultimate, we might conclude that every thing at every time and in every place in some manner, shape or form is telling about Jesus and the Father’s Plan. And that is exactly what we are told in

Revelation 19: 10b ...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

This is no doubt a difficult passage to understand. “Prophecy” in this text refers to the broader meaning of anything that

tells forth the Plan (i.e., gospel, good news) of God. "Spirit" has a multitude of meanings and the one that appears to be most appropriate in this context is "the efficient source of any power, affection, emotion, desire, etc." In other words, the *animus*, the animating purpose for all prophecy is to testify of Jesus. And since, according to Colossians 1: 16, 17 all things, both visible and invisible (including thoughts, words, etc.), were created by Him and for Him, then all things must in some way be testifying of Jesus and the Plan of the Father.

From the macrocosm to the microcosm, the Most High God is involved in all the details. Have you ever stopped to consider the vastness of the universe? Our Milky Way galaxy contains several hundred billion stars and astronomers are now estimating that there are several hundred billion galaxies! Yet our Father tells us in Psalm 147, verse 4, that he has numbered them all and calls each one by its name! Jesus Himself tells us that the very hairs of your head are numbered. (Matthew 10:30)

If God is involved in the details to that extent, it is no surprise then that leading edge scientists (not necessarily Christians) are abandoning the so-called "chaos theory" and are now denying there is any randomness (coincidence) in nature. As they examined the behavior of subatomic particles, that which had at first appeared to be chaotic and totally random is upon deeper inspection now understood to be so intricately determined and so profoundly precise as to inspire awe at its beauty. Welcome, gentlemen, and meet your Sovereign Creator!

With this brief and cursory apologetic for God's planning of all things, we are now better prepared to entertain the possibility that God was giving signs in some recent events and has graciously allowed us to see beneath their surface, if ever so slightly. For a more extensive study on these things, obtain our Bible study series *The Sovereignty of God*.¹

From Hagar's Town to the White Horse

Four years ago we (Stone Kingdom Ministries) sponsored a Feast of Passover & Resurrection celebration at Hagerstown, Maryland. We came back a year later to the same location. Present the second year was Stephen Jones, who discerned from the correlation of many things too involved to detail here that a work of spiritual warfare needed to be done at that time and location.

One of the key indicators was the name of the town, Hagerstown, which we associated with Hagar's Town. Thus the spiritual work was agreeing with the Father that "the son of the bondwoman was to be cast out." This is derived from Paul's explanation of the story of Ishmael and Isaac. Paul writes:

Galatians 3:21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?

22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman.

23 But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise.

24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. [Hagar]

25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. ...

28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.

29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born after the Spirit*, even so *it is* now.

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

Paul clearly states that those events are an allegory. There are two groups of people being spoken of. On the one hand, there is the Ismael group which are related to the old covenant (the Mosaic law covenant), Mt. Sinai, the old city of Jerusalem, and Hagar the bondwoman. It is evident that Hagar's Town is the old Jerusalem. Much of modern Christianity are actually of the Hagar-Ishmael group. They will not inherit in the first resurrection because they are still looking to the old city. They look for the Jews to rebuild the temple there. They look for Jesus to return there and for his feet to literally touch the mount of Olives. But God has forsaken that old city just as he forsook Shiloh. Others fall into the Hagar-Ishmael category because of their insistence on keeping the letter of the law to the flouting of the spirit of the law. They look to their lawkeeping for righteousness. This is bondage, Paul says.

On the other hand, there is the Isaac company which are related to the new covenant, the new and heavenly Jerusalem, and are of Sarah, the free woman. The name Isaac means "he laughs." The Isaac company are light of heart and full of laughter and joy, knowing that our sovereign God has absolutely everything in His Plan. Isaac was a type of Jesus Christ at his first coming and Isaac is also a type of the Manchild, the Body of Christ, at His second coming. At the second coming of Christ, we know that He comes riding on a white horse. Much more could be said on the Hagar's Town connection, but for lack of space, we must move on to Philadelphia.

Knowing this spiritual work was now completed at Hagar's Town, we decided it would be appropriate to find a new location for our 1999 Passover/Resurrection gathering in the northeastern United States. Mike Kopec, Jr., and Rob Corry did the legwork and found a marvelous facility near Philadelphia called the Sheraton Great Valley Hotel. Upon our arrival, we discovered that the Sheraton's in-house restaurant is an old structure, now tied into the modern hotel, but whose origin is traced back to the colonial era. It is called "The White Horse Tavern."

We sensed immediately that this was an interesting "coincidence." We shall skip our discernments of 1999 (concerning the kings in the basement *et al.*) and move on to our second year at the White Horse in the Great Valley. Like Hagerstown, it was only in the second year of our meeting there that Stephen Jones was able to attend. (Readers of our last couple of FMS cover letters will recall that I had not even intended to have Stephen there for reasons of the costs involved, but it just so

“happened” that he was going to be within driving distance and we would have no airfare to be concerned about. What a coincidence.) This year there were no formal works of spiritual warfare that I was aware of, but we did find great interest in the following.

Paul explained how the Ishmael company would not inherit, but Isaac would. But what will they inherit? They will inherit with Christ both the sceptre and the birthright. Jesus is heir of the world, both to rule it and to own it. We are joint heirs with Him. (Romans 8:17) Jesus came the first time as the scion and the lion of the tribe of Judah to claim the sceptre. At His second coming He will claim the birthright, but apparently not without a fight. All of Revelation 19, from verse 11 onward describes a great battle scene.

At Hagar’s Town we were reminded that the Isaac company are related to the heavenly Jerusalem, the one in the “clouds.” (Not literal clouds, in our opinion.) After the ascension, the angels told the disciples that Christ Jesus would return in the clouds. (Acts 1:9-11) So at Philadelphia, our attention became focused upon the white horse in the clouds theme. John writes in his vision:

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

As a biblical symbol, the horse is primarily associated with military strength and power. White almost always indicates righteousness. The menu of the White Horse Tavern contained a page detailing its history. Quite curiously, part of it related to the “Battle of the Clouds.”

“On September 16, 1777, Washington ordered his troops into the hills surrounding the White Horse to halt the advance of the British. As Washington’s troops both outnumbered the Tories and held an advantageous position, many historians believe the “Battle of the Clouds” could have been a decisive victory for the Continental Army. Their gunpowder was rendered useless, however, when a terrific thunderstorm soaked both armies.”

We see this as a confirming sign that our deliverance at this end of the age will be by supernatural means. Our “gunpowder” (firearms and other arms of the flesh) will be rendered useless. This is in complete harmony with our deliverance described in Isaiah 10:22-27. Thunder represents the powerful voice of God. Notice how Jesus on the white horse in the clouds neutralizes all human “gunpowder” with his voice.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, [The sword is the word of God.] that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

This passage points us back to Isaiah 63 where Isaiah gas given to see far into the future and witness the same event as John describes here. A key point is that “the battle is the Lord’s.” He alone treads the winepress (Isaiah 63:3). The heavenly armies which follow Him are apparently only witnesses, not participants in the great battle of Revelation 19. Notice that their clothing is not dipped in blood.

14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

But the Savior’s garment was dipped in and sprinkled with blood.

13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called **The Word of God.**

This is another indicator that Jesus pictured on the white horse indeed represents Him coming to do the second work. The first work was as the lion of Judah to claim the scepter, His right to rule the earth. The second work is to claim His birthright and to perform the “Joseph work” with His body, which is to provide “food” for all the world. The Joseph connection is evident because when Joseph’s brothers faked his death, they dipped his vesture in blood to persuade Jacob of his supposed death. See Genesis 37.

Then to top off our blest weekend in Philadelphia, just before leaving, we were given a copy of an e-mail which reported that many persons had received signs that a great revival is once again going to occur in the country of Wales. (Their heraldic emblem is a red dragon!) Among other things, the report said: “White Horse Visions Happening All Over The World... The one million hours was passed on the 8th of February--the same day, when I was in Scotland, the second White Horse vision [was] released. I saw Jesus on the White Horse burst through the gates in the heavenlies (last year many people around the world saw the vision of Jesus on the White Horse BEHIND the gates). When I returned to the U.S. the following week I discovered that many people had also had the same vision on the same day....”

Is it not interesting that we were at the White Horse facility for two years, and in the first year, unbeknownst to us, people were seeing visions of Jesus on the white horse behind the gates, and now this year, again totally unbeknownst to us during the weekend, saints around the globe were seeing visions of Jesus bursting through the gates? It appears that we are in for exciting times in the years ahead!

The church at Philadelphia

Speaking to the Overcomers fo the church at Philadelphia, Jesus promised them a special blessing of protection.

Revelation 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

In 1999, we titled our gathering “The Philadelphia Experiment,” as a play-on-words. It was a reference to Ron Oja, whom we were introducing to our conference for the first time, and — well, if you know Ron, you know why I called it an “experiment.” But it was also a reference to the secret Navy experiment there during WWII where the U.S.S. Eldridge allegedly disappeared into thin air and traveled in both time and space.

Read about it in *The Philadelphia Experiment: Project Invisibility* by William L. Moore and Charles Berlitz, published by Grosset & Dunlap, 1979. There are two versions of it available on video. Rent the one made in 1984. The newer version is total fiction. The 1984 version is based on what allegedly hap-

pened. We believe there is something to it for many reasons including the following.

Everyone has heard of that famous number, the *pi* ratio (= 3.14...); but very few have heard of that even more interesting number called the *phi* ratio. Whereas *pi* is related to the properties of a circle, *phi* is related to the properties of a spiral. There are books written about this (It is part of "Sacred Geometry."), so we are only trying to convey the connections. Here we are near the end of the age, believing that Father will provide supernatural protection and deliverance for those who He has chosen. Of all seven churches, only the one at PHI-ladel-PHI-a is promised protection through the "hour of temptation."

How will they be protected? Look at Bible precedent. The three Hebrew young men who were thrown into Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace were supernaturally protected (Daniel 2). There was a fourth person seen in the fire. Speculation: Does that represent the pre-incarnate Jesus protecting them from out of the fourth dimension? The Navy's PHI-ladelphia experiment had to do with existing beyond our space-time dimensions. The Navy's (Tesla) technology also relates specifically to the *phi* ratio, but that is far beyond our scope here. This supernatural protection, I believe, will occur as the Overcomers are "caught up" into the fourth dimension; i.e., the heavens, the "clouds." There they will be witnesses as the Savior goes forth on his white horse. P. S. While writing this section, I just discovered that the first meaning for the word "temptation" in Revelation 3:10 is "experiment." Is the Philadelphia Experiment encoded in the Bible!?

The "Gee, it's a small world" coincidence

Probably most people have experienced the "small world" type of coincidence. Here's one of mine: Thirty years ago I was a radar repair technician in the Air Force. I was stationed in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan at a small radar installation on the U.S.-Canadian border. There were several radar sets there and I was assigned to work on the height-finder radar. There were only a handful of us who worked on it. One fellow technician was a blond-haired, young man named Warren. He was of Finnish descent and his home state was Minnesota.

In November 1997 Doug Evers and I were visiting the late Martin Paulat's Arise and Shine Fellowship in Minneapolis. As best I recall, Martin taught briefly; then he invited Stephen Jones to teach, and after Stephen sat down, Martin hollered out in his brusque yet lovable manner "O-J, get up there and tell us something about the Lord and numbers." A fellow named Ron Oja went to the front and shared some insights for about twenty minutes.

A short time later, at potluck lunch in the fellowship hall, I said to him: "Like mine, your name is most unusual. I believe I was acquainted with a man with your last name in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan in 1969 and '70."

"Oh, that would have been my brother, Warren!" he replied.

What a small world! Doug and I stayed there all afternoon and well into the evening, mostly listening to Ron sharing about 100 million things, including a few million "coincidences"

of his own. (If you've heard him, you know what I mean.) So, was it a mere happenstance that Ron and I should have this common bond from 30 years ago. What are the odds of that happening? Well, as I have now come to believe: "Oh, approximately 100 percent!" God planned it for His purposes from before the foundation of the world. Every coincidence is part of the Plan of God, if we can only but see.

The Art-Vanita coincidence

Another event occurred at our White Horse gathering which touched all who heard. There was a brother in Christ in attendance named Art. He is the father of nine children and is a building contractor. Fourteen years ago his brother, Michael, had also been in the construction business. One day, Mike excitedly related to Art how on that day he had been doing a job for a lady (named Vanita) who had shared the gospel with him. Mike was bubbling with the joy of the Lord as he continued to share with Art how he (Mike) now realized that there was a whole lot more to Jesus Christ than he had ever realized. Mike had become a believer now thanks to the Lord moving upon Lady Vanita to share with him.

A day or two later, on April 30, 1986 Mike was murdered. He actually died in the hospital in the early morning hours of May 1st from wounds suffered in the attack. Art's mother received a card of condolence from Vanita, but Art had never met the lady then, nor at any time since. He hoped one day that he would so he could thank her for leading Mike to the Lord.

Fast forward to our Philadelphia conference in late April 2000. During a break, Art goes back to the refreshment table to mingle with other attendees. Most guests had used their first names only on their name badges. Art begins conversing with a lady. They discover they both live in the same general area of Pennsylvania. As the conversation continued, Art relates the story of losing his brother 14 years ago. Seeing her unusual first name, he wondered "could it be?" Upon hearing Art tell of Mike's death, Vanita exclaimed "You're Artie!" Tears flowed as they embraced. And tears flowed among all there who heard the story. Did the Father plan this or was it a mere coincidence? Be sensitive to your "coincidences."

Endnotes

1. Audiotape album #A-101, *The Sovereignty of God*. \$33 ppd.

Feed My Sheep is a part of the teaching ministry of James Bruggeman and is sent out freely upon request. The tithes and gifts of those who are fed by it make it possible for us to continue in ministry. Gifts may be sent to P.O. Box 6388, Asheville, NC 28816. Thank you.