

Thus Saith God's Word

by Rev. Ted Brooks, West Saddle Creek Baptist Church

The cities of America built with wrong materials
 "Then when lust hath conceived it bringeth forth sin, and sin when it is finished bringeth death."

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." (James 1:15 - Proverb 27:1.)

During the last 24 hours approximately 260,000 people died of a deadly disease. Through out the world thousands are mourning the death of their loved ones, and 260,000 more will die within the next 24 hours of this plague. James tells us the cause of this malady, "and sin when it is finished bringeth forth death." Someone has stated that in 24 hours more people will die than there are person in Nevada. (Grooms).

From a recent report we learned that 60,000 per year are killed in auto accidents in the United States. Every 9 minutes around the clock a body lies sprawled on the highway, dead, because of an accident. Death is sure. Often death is sudden. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment." (Hebrew 9:27.) My friend, you nor I have any guarantee we'll see the sun rise tomorrow. (JD - Grooms, Treasure Path).

My friend, you only need to ride the Interstate I-95 north, every few hundred feet there are crosses, markers, flowers, marking the place where someone died. What is wrong someone asked. God warned us of a people who would boast of self-sufficiency. God warned us "Boast not thyself of tomorrow for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth, where as ye know not what shall be on the morrow." (James 4:14 - Proverb 27:1)

Tecumseh of the Shawnees once ask the question where today are the Pequot? Where are the Narragansett, the Mohican, the Pokonakot and many others once powerful tribes of our people? They have vanished before the avarice and the oppression of the white man, as snow before a summer rain. (See Brown, Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee). You and I may ask that question, where are those who once penned it down on our church covenant and spoke of prosperity: to sustain our ordinance, discipline, and who sought to have strong doctrine? Where are those who were once among us whose manners were decorous and were praise-worthy?

Now let me say this, I do not claim to be a community leader. God has not called me to be an "organization leader." God has called me to preach and to publish His word. But I do know what a leader is. They are those who would rather stand alone than to creep and crawl with the crowd. They are those who will stand alone for God rather than moping with the multitude. And sincerity is the face of his soul. A leader is one who is moved by the Spirit of God and not by Inter-net. A leader is to be conscious of the possession of adequate resources of power, endowed with wisdom and courage, and he or she is able to judge rightly, to expose and condemn the sin of the people. A leader of God will have his face toward the unfolding of God's plan and purpose for humanity, and when he has done all, he will still stand.

Tecumseh of the Shawnees wanted to know where were the leaders?

Why were there so many people being killed? Where were the once powerful leaders of the tribes? You and I need to be concerned where are the once decorous and praise-worthy who once preached to us and warned us of sin. And told us that when it has been conceived, sin would bring forth death?

Where are those praise-worthy who cried out for justice? Men who were champions of the oppressed? My friend, a leader is one who sees the sins of his people. Let me share with you the life of a real leader called Micah. He was a prophet of God who cried out for justice, a man praise-worthy, who lamented over the impending destruction of Jerusalem. Micah walked through the streets and squares of the capital. Micah did all this because he knew that sin when it was conceived would bring forth death. Micah walked through the street stripped and naked, howling like a jackal and screeching like an ostrich. (Micah 1:8.)

It was that kind of preaching that made a profound impression on both, kings and the people.

Micah preached destruction of Samaria as recorded in Micah 1:6-7. Perhaps you are thinking now that I am saying, a leader should walk naked in our street. I would say yes if it would stop 260,000 people from dying and being killed on our highways.

But we could do something. I belong to The Burnt Swamp Baptist Association with our sixty churches, hundreds of pastors and evangelists and if we were to come together with our neighboring churches, and cry as Micah cried concerning Samaria and Jerusalem, my friend, the highway would not be lined with grave markers.

Micah's message was from God and all should harken, and that the Lord God be witness against you, and the Lord will come down and tread

upon the high places of the earth. (Micah 1:3.)

Micah had no fear of Israel and Judah. They were the two capitols of Samaria and Jerusalem which should have been the center of law and order,

and justice. My friend, our leaders have sit and done nothing. Our roads are marked with death. Our young girls are being assaulted, killed, homes and families are destroyed. Moral corruption has spread like a contagious disease. All over this county is corruption. There ought to be a leader like Micah. Somebody ought to be able to say like Dr. Martin L. King, "I've been to the mountain top." Dr. King was appalled at the wickedness and the degradation, the selfishness and the violence, the innovating luxury, and the gross materialism of the inhabitants of the great cities.

Micah saw what it was about Israel and Judah that God recognized that they were much like our cities today, loving the evil and hating the good.

It was the men of rank and influence that have turned the moral order upside down. In Micah's day, much like ours, our rulers, leaders, the guardians of justice have betrayed their trust. Like the days of Micah, Israel and Judah oppressed the people they governed and build prosperity of Jerusalem on violence and injustice. (Micah 3:9-10.)

You see, my friend, Jerusalem and Samaria were built, but they were built wrong. In those days the prophets were much like in our day. They were blind guides, leading the people astray. They were motivated by money. They bless the man who satisfied their want, "materialism", and declare war against him who put nothing into their mouths.

God will forsake them in the days that are coming. He will have no reservation to import to such men. (Micah 3:11)

In the days of Micah judges and leaders could not be trusted. Instead of administering justice impartially, according to certain facts and legal principles, their decision were influenced by money and bribes. (Micah 3:11.)

In Micah's day the preachers also had their price. They would manipulate the sacred orders and give instruction in accordance with the size of the fee. (Micah 3:11.) They had this mania for money which is all the more officious because it is covered by the veneer of false pity. (Micah 3:11.)

While professing to lean upon the Lord the notable are in fact worshippers of money.

Upon them all rulers, prophets, judges and priest, Micah pronounced judgement. "Therefore because of you Zion shall be plagued as a field. Jerusalem shall become a hoop of ruins, and the mountain of the house a wooden height." (Micah 3:12.)

Because of poor leaders, corruption of the leaders, God promises them that calamity will over take them.

My friend, our country, our United States, are on a road marked nowhere going to a town called never.

Tecumseh ask the question where are the leaders. The valley and their villages were filled with their dead. Where were their leaders.

Do you know where yours are? Does he stand like a man, or does he creep and crawl with the crowd? Is he or she one that can ride the roads and not be hurt by the markers of the death of our young and old? Oh my

friend, we need leaders who will sleep on what they plan to do, rather than to stay awake on what they have done.

Tecumseh said, will we let ourselves be destroyed in our turn without a struggle? Will we give up our homes, our country, bequeathed to us by the Great Spirit? The graves of our dead and everything that is dear and sacred to us? I know you will cry with us "never, never". My friend it is time for us to start living now, so that we can live again, when we are placed in that casket, what people say can't hurt or help us.

Pediatric Pointers

by Dr. Joey Bell, Pembroke Pediatrics

by Amy Wells, Duke PA student

One of the most common infection in children during this time of year is a middle ear infection, also known as acute otitis media. Acute otitis media occurs when there is inflammation behind the ear drum. Bacteria and viruses travel through the eustachian tube (a tube which connects the nose to the middle ear) to cause a build-up of pus in the middle ear. Children are more likely than adults to get ear infections because their eustachian tubes are shorter and straighter. Shorter tubes make it easier for bacteria and viruses to travel to the middle ear.

Common symptoms of ear infections include ear pain, hearing loss, and fever. Very young children may be fussy, pull at their ears, or have trouble eating and sleeping. Ear infections are often associated with colds, so children may also have runny noses or cough. Sometimes the infection causes the ear drum to burst, allowing pus to drain out of the ear.

Middle ear infections are generally treated with antibiotics, such as amoxicillin, septrin, or zithromax, depending on the duration and severity of the infection. As the antibiotics work to kill bacteria, the pus in the middle ear will dissolve, and children's hearing will improve. With

proper treatment, even ear drums that have ruptured will usually heal. Sometimes, however, children may retain non-infected fluid in their middle ear even after appropriate antibiotic treatment. This fluid may also cause temporary hearing loss and may last for a month or more following antibiotic use.

Some children are more likely to develop ear infections than others. Traits that increase the chance of infection include being male, being Native American, having allergies or immune deficiencies, and having anatomical abnormalities such as a cleft palate. Children exposed to cigarette smoke or those in day care also have a higher risk of developing ear infections. Breast-fed children are less likely to get middle ear infections. Ear infections are not contagious, but the colds that often precede them are.

Untreated ear infections can lead to serious complications, so any child with a suspected ear infection should be seen by a health care provider. Other causes of ear pain include dental problems, foreign objects in the ear, damage to the ear canal, or impacted ear wax. A pediatrician or other health care provider will best be able to diagnose the exact cause of earache and prescribe the appropriate remedy.

Northland 100% Juices Deliver More Than Great Taste

National Poll Reveals Why Americans Drink Cranberry Juice

(NAPS)—Great taste and health benefits top the list of reasons why Americans drink cranberry juice beverages, according to a recent study by Northland Cranberries Inc. It's not surprising that taste ranks so high with cranberry juice drinkers. After all, Americans have loved the taste of cranberries, which are native to North America, for centuries. Plus, the fruit has been linked to such potential health benefits as the prevention of urinary tract infections and gum disease.

While some cranberry juice drinkers like the juice for its taste and some for its health benefits, nearly everyone agrees about one thing—they want 100 percent juice. In fact, 86 percent of cranberry juice consumers want a juice that's all-natural or 100 percent juice, unlike cranberry juice cocktails, which are sweetened with high fructose corn syrup. This helps explain the 93 percent jump in sales of bottled 100 percent juice cranberry beverages last year.

That's good news for Northland Cranberries, which offers a line of 100 percent juice beverages in eight tasty cranberry flavors: Traditional Cranberry, Cranberry Raspberry, Cranberry Apple, Cranberry Grape, Cranberry Strawberry, Cranberry Peach, Cranberry Cherry and Cranberry Blackberry.



Consumers may know what they want when they head to the supermarket, but when they get to the juice aisle—buyer beware! With juice cocktails, juice drinks and juice beverages there are so many choices, finding 100 percent juice can be confusing. Products labeled "juice cocktails," "juice drinks" and "juice beverages" are not 100 percent fruit juice. Creating even more confusion, some cranberry juice brands offer juice drinks, juice cocktails and 100 percent juice all under the same brand name. To be sure they're getting 100 percent juice, consumers need to read the fruit juice content which appears above the Nutrition Facts box on most beverage labels. Or, they can count on Northland, which is and always has been 100 percent juice.

The study also polled consumers on their fruit and vegetable eating habits. It found that

newsworthy trends

All-Terrain Vehicles Surge In Popularity.

(NAPS)—If it needs to be hauled, hunted or hiked, chances are it's easier and more enjoyable to do using an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). Sales of ATVs have skyrocketed in recent years for a number of reasons. These four-wheel or two-wheel-drive packhorses can travel where hiking isn't practical and using a four-wheel drive pickup or sport-utility vehicle isn't possible.

ATVs are strong enough to haul heavy loads, tough enough to endure a barrage of pounding and small enough to wind through tight trails to distant locations. "They're ideal for those who work or play outdoors, such as farmers, ranchers, hunters, campers and explorers," said Mark Blackwell, vice president of Arctic Cat, a leading U.S. manufacturer of ATVs and snowmobiles.

In general, ATVs are sized (and priced) according to engine size. Yet several other features, such as performance, comfort and durability, are equally important to true ATV enthusiasts. Before you buy, look for these attributes:

- **A fully sealed and waterproof engine, transmission and magneto.** Don't shorten the life of your ATV by getting one that's susceptible to water, dirt and grime. "Not all manufacturers seal and waterproof, but Arctic Cat does," Blackwell explained.

- **More than six inches of ground clearance.** For riding your ATV over logs, rocks or bumps, you'll need at least six inches of ground clearance, according to *Sports Afield* magazine. And the higher, the better, according to Blackwell. "For example, all Arctic Cat ATVs have between eight to nine inches of ground clearance—the most of any ATV—yet still maintain a low center of gravity."

- **A fully independent double A-arm front and rear suspension (300cc and smaller ATVs).** Independent front and rear suspensions are crucial for steering and comfort.

- **A semi-independent rear suspension (400cc and larger ATVs).** A semi-independent suspension allows both rear wheels to



Automatic transmissions are becoming a popular feature on ATVs of all sizes.

stay in contact with the ground over obstacles, providing consistent traction. "Without this, you're just spinning your wheels," Blackwell stated.

- **At least 175 pounds of cargo capacity.** Again, the more the better. "Arctic Cat ATVs lead all other ATVs in hauling capacity," according to Blackwell. "Even our smallest and least expensive ATV, the 250, can carry 75 pounds in front and 150 pounds in the rear."

- **Front and rear disc brakes.** Drum brakes require more adjustment and maintenance. "All Arctic Cat ATVs have dual-piston hydraulic disc brakes front and back, controlled by a single hand lever," Blackwell noted.

Automatic transmission is becoming a more popular feature on ATVs, especially among those who use ATVs for utility purposes. The newest Arctic Cat ATV, the 500 4x4 Automatic, boasts the Duramatic™ automatic transmission. "Customers love the convenience of an automatic transmission," Blackwell said.

For more information on buying an ATV or finding the nearest Arctic Cat dealer, call 1-800-587-4275. You can also see the full line of Arctic Cat ATVs at www.arctic-cat.com.

Reflections by Alta Nye Oxendine

New Year 2000

I've always assumed that my computer, though old, would be fine for 2000, since the software I bought for it had just come out in 1993. Not just to be sure, on Friday, December 31, I decided to check out the calendar's capability of rolling over to 2000.

When I did the "Go to" command, and saw that the two months, December 1999 and January 2000 were right there, side by side, I was relieved.

But then, when I turned the computer back on, shortly after midnight, the calendar told me it was January, 1980!

So THIS is what all the experts have been saying could happen! To my relief, my daughter, who has a computer science minor, reminded me to simply type in the date each time I turn the machine on. It worked!

She has used lots of different kinds of software in her various jobs, but never this PARTICULAR one. Someone else may be able to show me how to re-program my calendar for "2000: in place of the '80s or '90s, so it will automatically STAY in this new decade!"

Actually, since no damage has been done to my computer, it was sort of fun to get in on the kind of action that caused ALL those months and years of Y2K worry.

Y2K-YEAR2000

Y2K

YIELD TO THE KING

Did you see that two-line message on the sign in front of Tabernacle Baptist Church between Pembroke and Lumberton? A timely thought, I believe.

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Interactive Web Tool

(NAPS)—The Internet provides a healthy dose of information on a variety of subjects, including natural health. Now there's even a website that customizes natural health programs.

A new online tool at healthshop.com gives users personal action plans for natural health.

By typing in such data as family health history, current lifestyle, environment, nutrition and personal health goals, users can get a personalized natural health program, including recommended supplements, diet, exercise, mind/body/spirit, and lifestyle changes.

This "healthplanner" tool is available at the online natural health store healthshop.com, (www.healthshop.com) which now offers a line of "e-xpress" health-planners that generate personalized natural health solutions for six of the most common health issues: menopause, colds & flu, PMS, headaches, fatigue and stress.

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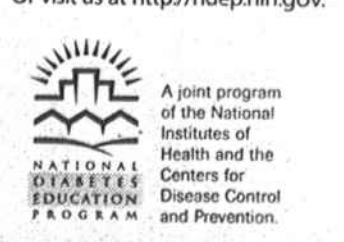
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