

# The Bible Banner

October 2023

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## Reformation Roots

Undeniably, at the root of the Reformation was Sola Scriptura and the Power of the Word of God. Indeed, sometimes this was demonstrated in a signal manner. Hungary's Count Francis Nadasdy, called "the darling of the Jesuits at the Court of Vienna," harassed the Protestants in innumerable ways. Upon one occasion, "having extruded [thrust out] Pastor Stephen Pilarick, of Beczko, he seized all his books, and transporting them to his castle, burned them on the hall-floor.

The Bible was reserved for a special auto-da-fe. It was put upon a spit and turned round before the fire, the count and his suite standing by and watching the process of its slow combustion. A sudden gust of wind swept into the apartment, stripped off a number of the half-burned leaves and, swirling them through the hall, deposited one of them upon the count's breast. Baron Ladislaus Revay caught at it, but the count anticipating him took possession of it, and began to read. The words were those in the fortieth chapter of Isaiah: *'The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God shall stand for ever.'* The Count Nadasdy, turning pale, immediately retired." (History of Protestantism, Vol. 3, pg. 238)

### Cheese Crackers

1 cup sesame cheese ½ Tbsp yeast (or leave unleavened)

1 ½ cups of flour, mixture of oat, millet and unbleached

**DO NOT USE WHOLE WHEAT FLOUR AS THIS WILL MASK THE FLAVOR**

For using yeast, warm cheese. Mix ingredients. Add more flour if necessary to be able to knead dough. Roll out onto 1 cookie sheet. Score into crackers. Poke a hole in the centers. Sprinkle with salt. Bake 8-10 minutes until light brown at 325°F (160°C). You may have to remove some of the crackers from the pan before others to avoid burning. I have also made "goldfish" for the kids from this recipe.



### Sesame Cheese

½ cup sesame seeds ¼ cup lemon juice

2 tsp garlic powder ½ cup olive oil (or less)

3-4 Tbsp nutritional yeast 1 ½ tsp salt

4oz. jar pimento OR 2 tsp paprika

1 cup water

Blend until smooth. This will take a while if you are using a regular blender.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

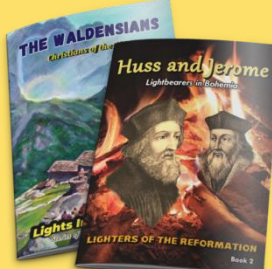


"No man is to be credited for his mere authority's sake, unless he can show Scripture for the maintenance of his opinion."-- John Wycliffe

### PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

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<https://lightindarkness.site/historical-stories/>



Titles include

The Waldensians, John Wycliffe, Huss and Jerome, Martin Luther, and more.  
Happy Reformation Day  
October 31!



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# Getting to the Root of the Problem

Editor's Note

Back in the “good old days” a common punishment for wayward youth was digging stumps. Since it combined digging and chopping, and digging and chopping for hours, the activity was apparently convincingly reformatory while it profitably cleared land for lawns and gardens. Indeed, for a tree to thoroughly be removed, its root also needs to be cut out. The book of Job declares, *“For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant.”* Job 14:7-9



The lessons from this concept play into so many aspects of life. In order to get rid of disease, one must get to the root of the problem and not just treat symptoms. The same is true with social problems, and in the spiritual world. For this reason, reformers like John the Baptist say, *“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees...”* Matthew 3:10

I have found just two Protestant reformers who are credited with getting to the root of the problem, John Wycliffe and John Knox. It is said of John Wycliffe, *“Men of learning and piety had labored in vain to bring about a reform in these monastic orders; but Wycliffe, with clearer insight, struck at the root of the evil, declaring that the system itself was false and that it should be abolished...Wycliffe came from the obscurity of the Dark Ages...Yet in the system of truth which he presented there was a unity and completeness which Reformers who followed him did not exceed, and which some did not reach, even a hundred years later. So broad and deep was laid the foundation, so firm and true was the framework that it needed not to be reconstructed by those who came after him.”* (Great Controversy, pg. 84,93)

Historian Wylie credits John Knox with striking *“the key-note of the Reformation in his native land. The Church of Rome, said he, is the Antichrist of Scripture. No movement can rise higher than its fundamental principle, and no doctrine less broad than this which Knox now proclaimed could have sustained the weight of such a Reformation as Scotland needed. ‘Others sned [lopped] the branches of the Papistrie,’ said some of his hearers, ‘but he strikes at the root to destroy the whole.’”* (History of Protestantism, Vol. 3, pg. 484)

Let us consider a portion of Knox's discussion with Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots.

*“Conscience, madam,” said Knox, “requires knowledge, and I fear that right knowledge ye have none.”*

*“But,” said she, “I have both heard and read.”*

*“Have you,” inquired Knox, “heard any teach but such as the Pope and cardinals have allowed? You may be assured that such will speak nothing to offend their own estate.”*

*“You interpret the Scripture in one way, and they interpret it in another,” said Mary: “whom shall I believe, and who shall be judge?”*

*“You shall believe God, who plainly speaketh in his Word,” was the Reformer's answer, “and farther than the Word teaches you, ye shall believe neither the one nor the other. The Word of God is plain in itself, and if in any one place there be obscurity, the Holy Ghost, who never is contrary to himself, explains the same more clearly in other places, so that there can remain no doubt but unto such as are obstinately ignorant.”* (History of Protestantism, Vol. 3, pg. 503, 504)





Similarly, it is said that, *“Wycliffe accepted the Holy Scriptures with implicit faith as the inspired revelation of God's will, a sufficient rule of faith and practice. He had been educated to regard the Church of Rome as the divine, infallible authority, and to accept with unquestioning reverence the established teachings and customs of a thousand years; but he turned away from all these to listen to God's holy word. This was the authority which he urged the people to acknowledge. Instead of the church speaking through the pope, he declared the only true authority to be the voice of God speaking through His word. And he taught not only that the Bible is a perfect revelation of God's will, but that the Holy Spirit is its only interpreter, and that every man is, by the study of its teachings, to learn his duty for himself. Thus he turned the minds of men from the pope and the Church of Rome to the word of God.”* (Great Controversy, pg. 93)

When you “boil it all down” the root of the Reformation is: God’s word is the authority, not man, and not tradition. And every man may be taught of God for himself. For, as an American Reformer by the name of William Miller rightly stated, *“Scripture must be its own expositor, since it is a rule of itself. If I depend on a teacher to expound it to me, and he should guess at its meaning, or desire to have it so on account of his sectarian creed, or to be thought wise, then his guessing, desire, creed, or wisdom, is my rule, not the Bible.”* (Second Advent Manual, pg. 103)

The question today is does the Reformation continue in your life? Who is your authority? Do you study the Bible for yourself or just read books about the Bible? Are you laying the axe to the root?



## Prophetic News Notes– Digital Necromancy

Talking to the dead is forbidden by God. Deuteronomy 18:10-12 says, *“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 necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.”*

Webster’s 1828 Dictionary describes a Necromancer as *“One who pretends to foretell future events by holding converse with departed spirits; a conjurer.”*



Now the line of what constitutes talking to the dead is being blurred by Artificial Intelligence and “grief tech,” creating a form of digital necromancy.

Fox News reports, *“Artificial intelligence can't bring back the dead, but it may be able to simulate speaking to a lost loved one ... Jarren Rocks, product designer and manager at the Los Angeles-based software development company AE Studio, is working on a program called Seance AI, which will allow people to talk with a chatbot that mimics their dead loved ones.”*<sup>1</sup>

Charisma News explains, *“Grief tech is a growing practice of AI algorithms gathering data from people, such as their voice, photos, video, text messages, emails and any other bit of information a person can input into the program, so that when they die the AI will interact with their loved ones as if it were them. There are already programs that can create digital avatars of the person, including holograms.”*<sup>2</sup>

I believe this technology to be dangerous to tamper with for three reasons.

1. It is opening the door for demonic spirits to impersonate the dead. A former satanist tells the story of a spiritualist priest who stated, *“According to the great master, people do not even have to seek help from the supposed spirits of the dead to find themselves enmeshed in necromancy. Belief in life after death itself, constitutes necromancy. It allows demonic spirits opportunity to impersonate the dead.”* (A Trip into the Supernatural, Roger Morneau, pg. 60)
2. An old article clipping we saved from years ago (by former witch and Carolyn Sutton) warned that even the illusion of magic allows Satan a foothold. It stated *“Magic and illusion are based on deception. Deception originated with satan and his demons. Playing with deception of any kind is opening the door for Satan to work in your life (John 8:44; Ephesians 4:14,15).”* (An old magazine clipping, *Blocking Enemy “Gateways”* by K.C. (a former witch) and Carolyn Sutton)

3. God saw fit to warn us many times of the dangers of speaking to "familiar spirits." Isaiah 8:19,20 states *"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? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."*

As Christians, our only safe course is to *"have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."* Ephesians 5:11

1—screenshot <https://www.fox26houston.com/news/new-ai-tech-speaking-to-dead-family-friends>

2- <https://www.charismanews.com/world/92360-new-ai-generated-ouija-board-aims-to-converse-with-the-dead>



## The "Miracle" of the Relics

*"Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?... He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."* Psalm 2:1,4

In the early 1500s, as the Protestant Reformation progressed, God allowed an attempted "miracle" to help discredit the character and weaken the influence of the Roman clergy and their relics in Poland.

Christopher Radziwill, cousin to the famous Prince Radziwill, grieved at his relative's lapse into Protestantism which he deemed heresy, made a pilgrimage to Rome, in token of his own devotion to the Papal See. Christopher Radziwill was rewarded with a box of precious relics from the Pope.

One day after his return home with his inestimable treasure, the friars of a neighboring convent waited on him, and telling him that they had a man possessed by the devil under their care, on whom the ordinary exorcisms had failed to effect a cure, they besought him, in pity for the poor demoniac, to lend them his box of relics, whose virtue doubtless would compel the foul spirit to flee. The bones were given with joy.



On a certain day the box, with its contents, was placed on the high altar; the demoniac was brought forward, and in presence of a vast multitude the relics were applied, and with complete success. The "evil spirit" departed out of the man, with the usual contortions and grimaces. The spectators shouted, "Miracle!" and Radziwill, overjoyed, lifted eyes and hands to heaven, in wonder and gratitude.

However, in a few days thereafter his servant, smitten in conscience, came to him and confessed that on their journey from Rome he had carelessly lost the true relics, and had replaced them with common bones. This intelligence was somewhat disconcerting to Radziwill, but greatly more so to the friars, seeing it speedily led to the disclosure of the imposture. The pretended demoniac confessed that he had simply been playing a part, and the monks likewise were constrained to acknowledge their share in the pious fraud. Great scandal arose; the clergy bewailed the day the Pope's box had crossed the Alps; and Christopher Radziwill, receiving from the relics a virtue he had not anticipated, was led to the perusal of the Scriptures, and finally embraced, with his whole family, the Protestant faith. (*History of Protestantism*, Vol. 3, pg. 173)

Indeed, the counsel of Psalm 146:3-5 still rings true.

*"Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God:"*



## Rooting out an Ear Infection

Although often denied, *"Cow's milk allergy is associated with recurrent otitis media [middle ear infection] during childhood."* In fact, one published study of over 250 children found that *"children with CMA [cow's milk allergy] ... experienced significantly more ROM [recurrent otitis media]..."*<sup>1</sup> These ear infections, of course, can be easily remedied by eliminating dairy from the diet. But, not all ear infections stem from milk. One particularly painful ear infection I remember having as a child came from swimming in contaminated lake water and not disinfecting my ears properly. As a child, the common remedy for an ear infection was another round of antibiotics, which to me was nasty tasting and slow and I wished for a better remedy. Of course, today, we also know the dangers of antibiotics. For

example, *"A study examining the impact of antibiotics prescribed for nearly 1500 adult patients admitted to The Johns Hopkins Hospital found that adverse side effects occurred in a fifth of them, and that nearly a fifth of those side effects occurred in patients who didn't need antibiotics in the first place."*

*Their report, published June 12, 2017 in JAMA Internal Medicine, adds to growing evidence that antibiotics are not benign..." Notice, just in the first 90 days, "Nearly 20 percent of patients treated with antibiotics experienced adverse side effects."*<sup>2</sup>



I've "been there, done that" with negative reactions to antibiotics, and for that reason too, I wanted a better remedy for ear infections. Recently, I got my chance. I had a bad infection in my ear that was keeping me awake. Judging from the pain coming from around my ear, and out into my head, I feared the infection might also be trying to spread and cause something like encephalitis or meningitis. I decided to try an onion "ear muff" hoping that the quercetin or the sulphur or something in the onion would be helpful.

First, I cut an onion in half with the rings showing. Then, I saved half and baked the other half for about 30 minutes in the oven (This was simply how long it took for it to get soft enough I could squeeze out the juice). At this point came the hard part of trying to squeeze out a little juice without burning my hand.

After squeezing some juice into a spoon and allowing it to cool slightly, I poured it into my ear that was hurting.

I put the baked onion into a clean, old, stray cotton sock. This allowed me to put one layer of cloth between my ear and the onion, and double more layers on the other side of the onion to help keep it insulated and warm.

Almost immediately, the warmth lessened the pain enough that I was able to go back to sleep. When I woke up, there was no

pain remaining in that ear, but now the other ear was hurting. So, I repeated the process for the other ear, with the same positive result. Frankly, I was surprised that it was so effective both at relieving the pain and fixing the problem.





Later, I found a study published in the African Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology in July of 2012 had already demonstrated the “analgesic [pain-relieving] and anti-inflammatory effects of fresh onion juice” on rats. They stated, “*The obtained results illustrated a significant analgesic property for fresh onion juice in both pain phases [acute and chronic] compared with positive control group (Pv≤0.05); the effects were similar to that of morphine (5 mg/kg) as the standard treatment.*”<sup>3</sup> So here they found the pain-relieving qualities of the onion juice to be similar to that of morphine—pretty impressive. But apparently, the anti-inflammatory properties of the quercetin and other factors were also even more effective than the standard drug treatment.

They state, “*In inflammation assessment, fresh onion juice was able to decrease the hind paw thickness [inflammation] significantly in comparison with control group (Pv≤0.001). In the mean time, it also demonstrated better results than the standard treatment, diclofenac with a 10 mg/kg dosage, (Pv≤0.05).*”<sup>3</sup> The study findings were summed up thus, “*It can be concluded that fresh juice of onion is capable of inhibiting both acute and chronic pain as well as inflammation, with a more strong effect towards inflammation.*”<sup>3</sup>

Evidently, the onion is one root that God has given us for rooting out an ear infection (and other infections). Indeed, the humble onion again demonstrates that God has made the “*herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth.*” Psalm 104:14

1- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10728925/>

2- [https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/study\\_finds\\_one\\_in\\_five\\_hospitalized\\_adults\\_suffer\\_side\\_effects\\_from\\_prescribed\\_antibiotics](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/media/releases/study_finds_one_in_five_hospitalized_adults_suffer_side_effects_from_prescribed_antibiotics), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2630756>

3- Evaluation of analgesic and anti-inflammatory effects of fresh onion juice in experimental animals--July 2012 African Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 6(23):1679-1684 [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228481650\\_Evaluation\\_of\\_analgesic\\_and\\_anti-inflammatory\\_effects\\_of\\_fresh\\_onion\\_juice\\_in\\_experimental\\_animals](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228481650_Evaluation_of_analgesic_and_anti-inflammatory_effects_of_fresh_onion_juice_in_experimental_animals)

## Kids' Corner

### God's Amazing Creatures

There are 30 species of clownfish. They are also called anemonefish because they live in the poisonous sea anemones to protect themselves from larger animals looking for food.

Depending on the species, clownfish are overall yellow, orange, or a reddish or blackish color. Many species also show white bars or patches.

Clownfish live in the warmer waters of the Indian Ocean, including the Red Sea, and Pacific Ocean, the Great Barrier Reef, Southeast Asia, and the Indo-Malaysian region. There are no clownfish reported in the Atlantic Ocean.

Clownfish mainly eat zooplankton (tiny, microscopic animals), but will eat algae as well. Isn't it amazing how God made these fish to use sea anemones to protect themselves from predators?

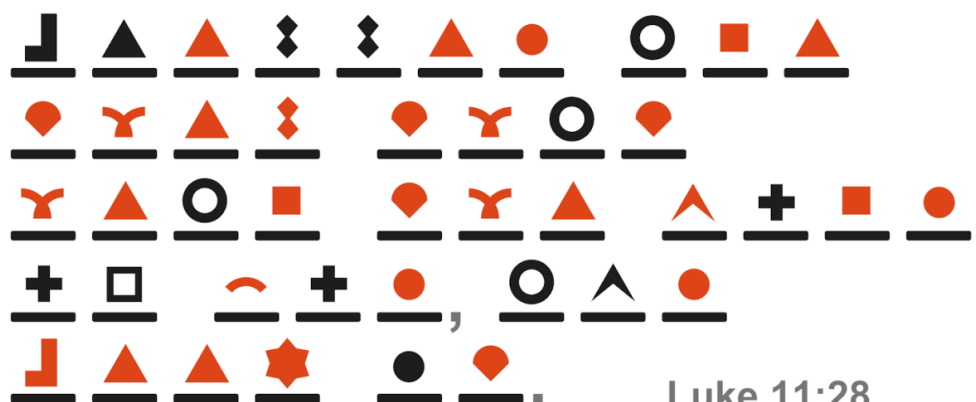


### Translate the Bible!

Many of the reformers translated the Bible into languages that people could understand.

Can you translate this portion of the Bible into English?

A=○ K=└ U=○  
B=└ L=▲ V=∩  
C=★ M=□ W=△  
D=● N=▲ X=◆  
E=▲ O=+ Y=◇  
F=□ P=★ Z=■  
G=∩ Q=∩  
H=∩ R=■  
I=● S=◆  
J=+ T=◆



Luke 11:28