

UK BIBLE STUDENTS NEWSLETTER

End-March 2010

IN THE BEGINNING

The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being (Genesis 2: 7).

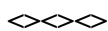
The Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the particle accelerator operated by CERN, sits astride the border between Switzerland and France. By crashing together opposing streams of sub-atomic particles known as ‘hadrons’, experimental scientists hope to replicate the conditions which existed at the time of the ‘Big Bang’, the theoretical starting point of the Universe. The advances in mechanics and theoretical and empirical science since the onset of the Industrial Revolution have been extraordinary. We have adapted to them and our familiarity with them has blunted our appreciation and wonder. But were we to import a resident of Britain from the year 1810 into one of our present-day cities, he might drop dead from apoplexy. Hardly anything would be familiar to him and the noise and motion of street traffic, the ubiquitous magical presence of talking, colour images, and those little hand-held blocks of plastic into which people talk would baffle him.

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IN THE REAR-VIEW MIRROR

Charles Douglas-Home, ‘Why there can be no military solution’, *The Times*, 20 May 1968.

It is no good pretending that because the Jews are allegedly descended from Isaac and the Arabs from his brother Ishmael that they are therefore all part of the same family, with similar characteristics. As far as the great mass of European originated Jews are concerned, that is not so. They are more Russian, more Polish, or more German than they are Middle Eastern, and few of them could have known or heard much about the Arabs until they emigrated to Israel. Israel is not a Middle Eastern state – yet. But it is true that those very Jews who came from central and eastern Europe are worried that it might be tuned into one eventually by the high birth rate, not so much of the 300,000-strong Arab minority within Israel but of the oriental Jews who came to Israel from Arab countries like Iraq, Morocco and Yemen, and who are definitely more Middle Eastern in character than they are European. At present they are not only in a minority but have little influence or participation in the leadership of the country. . . . [B]ut it is just as likely that over a period of time they will by dint of their numerical majority within the society gradually impose their own stamp on Israel, away from the character of a small eastern European state which it is today, and more towards a Middle Eastern one.



‘Studies in the Scriptures’, *The New Creation* (Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society; Brooklyn, 1904.)

‘Christian people are becoming more and more awake to the fact that a great tidal wave of unbelief is sweeping over Christendom; – not the blasphemous kind voiced by Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll, but the cultured kind represented in the scholarship of our day, which makes the danger all the more insidious. Not only are the great Colleges and Seminaries undermining the faith of the better educated, but the Common School books, and especially those used in the High Schools, are similarly inculcating a distrust in the Bible, a contradiction of its teachings. For a college graduate of to-day to declare his faith in the inspiration of the Scriptures would bring upon him the scorn of his companions – a scorn which few would

court, or could endure. At very best, a few will be found to claim that they believe that Jesus and his Apostles were sincere, though they blundered in quoting from the Old Testament as inspired.’

DRAGNET

Items of interest from the World Wide Web

China

Elastic iron for surgeries, buildings

<<http://www.canada.com/technology/science/Experts+design+elastic+iron+surgeries+buildings/2712105/story.html>>

United States

Sensors turn skin into gadget control pad

<<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/8587486.stm>>

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