

THOUGHTS

BY DOUGLAS W. SCHROEDER
SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

THE WORD TODAY'S ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

J Love offerings are the best kind because they come from a place of genuine gratitude! Love offerings in the Old Testament were the bonus offerings given to God just because He is great, loving, merciful, generous, etc. A love offering was in addition to the expected tithe (10% of gross income).

As Christians, we can do better than just tithing. For those who are hard pressed financially, perhaps a tithe is the limit. But many more are super-abundantly blessed, so it is appropriate to give love offerings.

U The Word Today's anniversary offering is a love offering given by believers who want to see the world reached efficiently with the Gospel. This year, the partners of TWT along with the members of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, the home of The Word Today, out of love gave over \$120K! Praise God! More than 10 million people will hear the news about Jesus because of it! This offering is fundamental to maintain several of the 81 languages in 52 countries that The Word Today reaches.

Please keep praying and talking up The Word Today. We have a vision to reach 100 languages by the 50th anniversary, in May of 2028! It's a huge goal, but if God chooses to bless, it can be accomplished! Already, some people have begun investing and planning to enable it. THANK YOU for your participation in TWT!

N SPECULATION SPREAD

One of the dangers of our highly technological times is speculation spread. With lightning speed, anyone with a camera and the will to gain notoriety can influence from hundreds of thousands to millions of impressionable people. News sources are increasingly becoming entertainment hubs and rumor mills. Sites such as "Outkick" routinely combine political commentary and images of models and influencers. Uniformly conservative articles without the hype and fluff are disappearing quickly. Imagine how convoluted public information will be when AI controls all of the major news and entertainment outlets!

E An example of how fruitless speculation saturates the culture is found in the demand that the Trump administration release UFO files. Viral themes of alien bodies - four types of aliens! - from crashed or shot down craft percolates through the public sphere. Veiled references to proof of intelligent agency piloting the UFOs, but denial of aliens leads to the inference that some suggest spiritually hostile beings are at work.

All sorts of ridiculous speculation regarding aliens have been floating about online. Clickbait articles claim the bodies of four different alien species have been retrieved by the government.

2026



*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

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Today, the head of NASA flatly declared he knows of no alien bodies, but that they are checking out more thoroughly the images and footage of unidentified objects. Will that put to rest the nonsense about aliens? Of course not, because the same agency is spouting speculation that evidence of microbial life may be found on Mars! The most absurd scenarios are floated as being tenable.

The scripturally illiterate Christian is at a great disadvantage in weeding out the hype, misinformation, disinformation, and click bait! It is getting to the point that for many, speculation is replacing certainty. Some are adapting to linger in subjectivity when solid answers are within reach!

FALSE ALARM

As I backed the car out of the parking spot at the bank, I looked around to see if there was a vehicle nearby, and seeing none, I proceeded. Suddenly, there came a sound like a horn of a nearby car, so I quickly hit the brakes. But there was no car nearby! The audio Bible was playing, and in a moment, I realized that the timing had been exquisite; the narration with background sounds had stopped at the perfect moment. When I started up the car, the narration about the fall of Jericho after the people Israel marched around it seven times continued. As the discussion talked about the seventh circuit of the city, a background horn was blown, reminiscent of the Jews blowing their horns in triumph before the walls of the city collapsed! False alarm, no worries!

I laughed at the perfect timing of the horn blasting in the audio Bible at the precise moment I began backing the car. It is far better to be put on warning incidentally than to miss a warning and steer into disaster!

WHEN THE QUESTIONS COME

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3:15).

The man at the health club I met today practices Jainism, and I realized I had forgotten the basic tenets of that religion. I will research it and be more knowledgeable in our next visit. The woman at the post office couldn't articulate it but asked me as a pastor about different "Bibles." She meant paraphrased Bibles, and she wondered what kind of Bible to read since she is just starting. I told her I would get her a student Bible, which is filled with helpful guidance for newbies. In such instances, be prepared to spend a bit of time and provide resources. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know," and do more research!

*Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder*

THE WORD TODAY reaching the world with GOD'S WORD