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MY DIALOG WITH AI

"Cf. — A Conversation Between a Man and an AI"...

FEATURE STORY



Today's feature story is about an interesting and even fascinating dialog I had with the ChatGPT AI user interface I had started using over the last few months. I actually started with a very simple question: *What does "cf." mean before a Scripture reference?* I had seen this several times (cf) before passages in the bible while reading. I should also tell you that I was learning something quite amazing concerning Paul's letters that started about 14 months ago. Rather than take up space here, I will simply provide you with my dialog with AI. I chose a British speaking female voice personality AI interface so there is some context with the picture. I created that photo using AI as well. But here is the conversation. My input will be in **blue**, AI in **green**:

What does cf. mean before a scripture reference?

"Cf." is an abbreviation of the Latin word **confer**, which means **"compare."**

When you see **cf.** before a Scripture reference, the author is **not** necessarily saying, "This verse teaches the same thing." Instead, they're saying:

- **Compare this passage** with the one being discussed.
- **Look at this verse for a similar, contrasting, or related idea.**

For example:

- **Cf. Romans 5:12** — The author is inviting you to compare the current discussion with Romans 5:12 because it sheds light on the topic.
- **Cf. Matthew 24:15; Daniel 9:27** — Compare Jesus' words with Daniel's prophecy to see the connection.

This is different from a direct citation. If an author simply writes **John 3:16**, they're usually citing that verse as support. If they write **cf. John 3:16**, they're asking you to compare it with the passage at hand.

Since you've been studying Paul's letters and comparing passages, you'll likely encounter **cf.** often in commentaries, study Bibles, and scholarly works. It's a signal to **read both passages together** to better understand the author's point.

Paul in Galatians 1:11-17 seems to be referring to Acts 9:1-25

AI -Yes, that's a very natural connection to make. **Galatians 1:11–17** and **Acts 9:1–25** describe the same general period of Paul's life, but they do so from different perspectives.

Here's how they fit together:

- **Galatians 1:11–12** — Paul emphasizes that the gospel he preached was **not received from any human being** but came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
- **Galatians 1:13–14** — He reminds the Galatians of his former life as a persecutor of the church, matching **Acts 9:1–2**.
- **Galatians 1:15–16** — He describes God's calling and the revelation of Christ to him, corresponding to his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus in **Acts 9:3–9**.
- **Galatians 1:17** — Paul adds an important detail that Acts does not mention at that point: **after his conversion, he went into Arabia and then returned to Damascus**.

That last point is significant. In **Acts 9**, Luke moves rather quickly from Paul's conversion to his preaching in Damascus and then to the plot against his life. He doesn't mention the trip to Arabia. In **Galatians**, Paul fills in that gap because his purpose is to show that he did **not** immediately go to Jerusalem to be taught by the apostles. Instead, he received his gospel directly from Christ.

A common way to harmonize the accounts is:

1. Conversion on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:3–19).
2. A period in **Arabia** (Galatians 1:17).
3. Return to **Damascus** (Galatians 1:17).
4. Preaching in Damascus, growing in ministry (Acts 9:20–25).
5. Escape from Damascus (Acts 9:23–25; also mentioned in 2 Corinthians 11:32–33).
6. Three years after his conversion, Paul goes to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18; Acts 9:26–30).

So your observation is correct: **Galatians 1:11–17 is Paul's own autobiographical account of the events surrounding Acts 9**, with the important addition of his time in Arabia. That extra detail is crucial to Paul's argument that his apostleship and gospel came directly from the risen Christ, not from the Jerusalem apostles.

(Just as an FYI, my next comment, I am leading the AI to a doctrinal position I embrace in order to extract more information or see how the AI responds. – Rick)

Oh absolutely! My thoughts are that if Christ, in a risen glorified state, is going directly to Paul he must have a distinct purpose for him, eventually we will come to find out it's the mystery "kept secret since the world began". If this were not true than Christ could have still appeared to him and save him but would have just told Paul to keep preaching what the 12 preached.

AI - That's a thoughtful observation, and it reflects a key distinction made in what's often called the **mid-Acts** or **Acts 9 dispensational** interpretation.

From the text itself, several things stand out:

- In **Galatians 1:11–12**, Paul insists that *"the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man... but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."* He is emphasizing that the source of his gospel was the risen Christ Himself.

- In **Galatians 1:15–17**, Paul also stresses that he did **not** immediately consult the apostles in Jerusalem. His authority and message did not originate with them.
- Later, in Ephesians 3:1–9, Paul speaks of "**the mystery**" that had been made known to him by revelation.
- In Romans 16:25, he describes this as "**the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began**" (KJV).

Where Christians differ is **what that means**.

The **mid-Acts dispensational** view concludes that the risen Christ revealed to Paul a distinct dispensation and gospel for the Body of Christ that had not been preached by the Twelve during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Many other Christians, however, understand Paul's revelation differently. They agree that Paul received the mystery directly from Christ, but they see it as the unveiling of God's long-hidden plan—especially the inclusion of Gentiles as fellow heirs in Christ—rather than a different gospel from that preached by the Twelve.

What is beyond dispute from the text is that:

- Paul's commission came directly from the risen Christ.
- Paul received revelations that were previously hidden.
- Paul was uniquely appointed as the apostle to the Gentiles.
- The "mystery" had not been previously revealed in the way it was made known through Paul.

The next question is whether that mystery constitutes a distinct program alongside Israel's kingdom program or the fuller revelation of the same gospel. That's where different theological systems reach different conclusions based on the same passages.

Given our previous conversations, I know you're examining these passages from a dispensational perspective. In that framework, your point follows a consistent line of reasoning: if Christ appeared personally to Paul after His ascension, and Paul repeatedly emphasizes receiving a revelation not from the Twelve but from Christ Himself, then it makes sense to ask what new revelation required that direct appearance. That question naturally leads into Paul's teaching on "the mystery" in Romans, Ephesians, and Colossians.

Right on! And what I have recently come to embrace is that Paul still preached the kingdom to Israel longer than I had originally thought which now makes his earlier letters such as Galatians, Hebrews, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 and 2 Corinthians and Romans even easier to understand due to the construct of those church members throughout the regions. Once it was clear that Christ no longer offered the kingdom to Israel his ultimate purpose for Paul would be fulfilled through "the mystery". You can even see the differences in letters such as Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon which all provide a wonderful, glorious, loving, heavenly citizenship for God's children who are now described as One Body in Jesus Christ the Son both Jew and Gentiles equal without any national distinction!

AI - I can see how that framework brings a lot of coherence to your reading of Paul's letters.

Within that interpretive approach, there is a noticeable progression in Paul's ministry:

- **Early letters** (such as Galatians, 1–2 Thessalonians, 1–2 Corinthians, and Romans) are read against the backdrop of Israel still being a major focus of God's dealings. They contain frequent discussions about Abraham, the Law, Israel, signs, spiritual gifts, and the relationship between Jews and Gentiles.
- **Later letters** (especially Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, 1–2 Timothy, Titus, and Philemon) place much greater emphasis on the believer's heavenly position in Christ, the unity of the Body, Christian conduct, and the administration of the mystery.

One of the strongest themes in those later epistles is exactly what you mentioned:

- There is **one Body** (Ephesians 4:4).
- Believers are **seated together in heavenly places in Christ** (Ephesians 2:6).
- Christ has **broken down the middle wall of partition** between Jew and Gentile, creating "**one new man**" (Ephesians 2:14–16).
- In Christ, there is no spiritual distinction or advantage based on nationality; all are complete in Him (see Colossians 2:10 and compare Galatians 3:28).

Where interpreters differ is on **when** that transition occurred. Some place it at Paul's conversion (Acts 9), others around the Jerusalem Council (Acts 15), others after Israel's rejection in Rome (Acts 28), and many understand the entire Acts period as one continuous unfolding rather than distinct dispensations.

One thing I appreciate about your observation is that it encourages reading each letter in its historical setting. For example, Romans spends three full chapters (9–11) addressing Israel's place in God's plan, while Ephesians focuses far more on the Church as Christ's Body and the believer's heavenly calling. Regardless of one's theological conclusions, those differences in emphasis are plainly there in the text.

It sounds like your recent study has shifted your view from thinking the transition happened very early to seeing Paul's ministry as having a longer overlap during the Acts period before the later emphasis of the prison epistles became fully developed. That's a significant refinement of your understanding, and it's one that many students of Scripture continue to explore by comparing Acts with Paul's epistles.

What I have found is that the more factual information provided, AI will perform a deep dive that will enhance what it is that you want to communicate. In this particular dialog, I found it AI was more intuitive than I could have imagined. But the interesting thing now is that it will retain my theological position concerning Paul's letters; the seven he wrote **before** prison while preaching the kingdom gospel as Israel's offer was still on the table and Christ would return, and his seven letters **after** Israel as a nation would be rejected and the apostle imprisoned.

- **Paul's early letters before prison, kingdom being preached: Galatians, Hebrews, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans**
- **Paul's later letters while in prison, kingdom offer removed: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon**

Terra Firma: The earth not a planet

preface by David Wardlaw Scott

I am now an old man, and, had I consulted my own comfort, would never have penned a line of this book, as for some years I have had cataract in both eyes, so that it was not without difficulty that I could read or write. So great, however, appeared to be the need, and being still anxious to serve my generation, I determined to undertake this work, in order to expose the fallacies of Modern Astronomy, which are so contrary to the Word of God, and so conducive to the promotion of Infidelity.

FROM THE EDITOR

Concerning our own personal bible study, it's simply not good enough for us merely to pick "chapter and verse" somewhere. We need to get away from the out of context "devotional" thinking or cease from "a verse a day keeps the devil away" mentality. We need to know to whom that scripture was written and in what circumstances. This is a reliable baseline way of thinking while you study the bible and you can depend upon it that if you want to be a workman in the scriptures. Ask this question and get the answer, you've got an answer rightly divided!



I do not enter the lists arrayed in the panoply of Neo-Science, to fight this great Goliath, but only with a few pebbles of the brook, yet I trust that, with God's blessing, the attempt may not be altogether fruitless.

I am well aware that—" as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man "

— Luke 17: 26

But while we should be ever ready for his Coming, it is not for us " to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power "— Acts 1: 7

And we are exhorted " in the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand, for thou knowest not which shall prosper" — Ecclesiastics 11: 6.

It may be that these pages may meet the need of some, who have not altogether been misled by unprovable fancies, and who will rejoice to find that the Biblical account of Creation is, after all, the only one which can be depended upon, and that Modern Astronomy, like its kindred theory of Evolution, that dangerous and degraded form of Buddhist metempsychosis, is nothing but " a mockery, a delusion, and a snare."

Thus, may the eyes of the understanding be cleared of that obstructive cataract, which obscures the sight of many otherwise sound minds, owing to the evil effects produced hereon by " science falsely so called "— 1 Timothy 6: 20

Not being a professional Astronomer, I required to read and think much while writing this book, and had to weigh every matter in an even balance, so as to make no statement which is not in strict conformity with Scripture, Reason, or Fact. I am especially indebted to " The Earth (not a Globe) Review," which was the means of first inducing me to begin this work to Dr. Samuel Rowbotham's (Parallax) "Zetetic Astronomy" to Mr. Carpenter's " One Hundred Proofs that the Earth is not a Globe " and to Mr. Winship's " Zetetic Cosmogony."

I would also express my best thanks to " Zetetes," the late Editor of " The Earth (not a Globe) Review," who, at my request, carefully read my manuscript before its being sent to the Printers, and who, on returning it wrote—" I am pleased to be in perfect accordance with so much that is in your book." I could not expect him to say more, as it rarely happens that men of independent thought can see everything in exactly the same light. The favorable testimony

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Whenever you're reading any part of Scripture, "Is the people of Israel at that time a factor recognized by God, or are they dismissed? And according to your answer, so you must act.

The apostle Paul tells us: I'm not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. He goes on to remind readers that

it's the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes it. But I do not now hold that line "to the Jew first" and neither should you. This has nothing to do with the antiseptic bullshit we hear at nauseam everywhere today let me explain. **If the Jew believes it, he believes it, but not as a Jew. He believes it as a sinner like I am. He cannot have any precedence over anybody else because he happens to be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.** There will be a time where that is coming again, but not now under grace, with the mystery having been revealed!

If you go through the epistle to the Galatians and Romans and count the number of times Abraham is mentioned and compare that to Paul's later letters he wrote while in prison, you might be surprised.

Abraham is never again mentioned in Ephesians, Philippians or Colossian...never. Why? because the promise made in Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians goes back before the foundation of the world, when neither Abraham nor Adam or any of us were in existence.

Our Biblical Earth



There are over 240+ Bible verses supporting the construct of a flat earth or geocentric stationary model. This is also known as the biblical geocentric cosmology. The dogma of the globe or ball earth has been gradually promoted over the last 125 years and in the last 80 years through the movie industry, Arthur C. Clarke and NASA and it's \$16B annual budget.

of such an expert in Astronomic subjects as "Zetetes," gives me confidence in placing the result of my labor before the Public, and I sincerely trust that it may not be "in vain in the Lord," but that it will be helpful to those of my Readers who are desirous of searching out the truth of God, as revealed in His works of Creation.

D. Wardlaw Scott
25 Trinity Road
Wood Green, London
March 1901

TRUE SPIRITUALITY an excerpt by CH Welch and edited for publication and readability

When you come to Paul's epistle to the Romans, you've got his climax epistle as the final word that he gives in his ministry as a **free man**. After that, he became **the prisoner**. And in that epistle, He says; "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. For it is the power of God unto salvation, to everyone that believeth to the Jew first." The Jew was still "first" he hadn't been set aside! In his defense, in Acts 26. He (Paul) says that he was standing there for the hope of the promise of the fathers and to which hope **our 12 tribes** instantly serving God, day and night hope to come. When he addressed the Jews at Rome after the shipwreck, he said, "for the hope of Israel, I am bound with this chain." In the island of Malta after that shipwreck, he was the only one who had enough gumption to go round and get firewood because of the cold. There were prisoners, there were sailors, there were soldiers, and they were all shivering. And it was Paul who hadn't got his halo on. There are some people could do it, take a leaf out of Paul's book. You know the old saying that "somebody is so spiritual minded is no earthly good." Well, the Apostle Paul wasn't that then. Not like that. He was the only one who could forget himself. That's true spirituality. And by so doing, he manifested to everybody there **the Pentecostal gifts were still in operation (because the offer of the kingdom was still on the table for Israel)**. A viper seized upon his arm. And those people in Malta, they knew what a viper was. I mean, I've seen people run for their lives at a poor little grass snake, but all they knew and they watched to see that it would swell up and fall dead.

Logical proofs that the earth is not a spinning ball.

This section of The Lighthouse Journal will be used to list proofs that the earth we live on is "as flatter than a pancake or flatter than the state of Kansas" as described by Edward Hendrie in his book; "Proof That Our World Is Not a Moving Globe".

We will be quoting various proofs from men who present the biblical cosmology of our earth. While many Christians embrace the creation account as opposed to evolution, many also seem quite agitated believing we live on a flat plane. While they embrace creation, they believe NASA's model of the spinning ball, gravity, the moon landing and the ridiculous notion the sun is 93 million miles away and that the earth is spinning on its axis at 66,000 mph while rotating around the sun with the other "planets".

[Full text of "Edward Hendrie - The Greatest Lie On Earth Proof That Our World Is Not A Moving Globe"](#)

What is it that absolutely infuriates people about this? Why do Christians lose their mind over this? Is it their fascination with science fiction possibly? I am the first to admit that between movies and old-time television shows, I find these things quite entertaining. But I have recognized the distinction between science and science fiction. For the first 56 years of my life, believing in a spinning globe was something I never gave a second thought to, I just never stress tested that model. After all we are all taught this model from the moment we start walking and talking. Interestingly enough, the books that convinced me we live on a flat plane were that of David Wardlaw Scott and Dr. Samuel Rowbotham which can be read in the public domain. Here were Godly men describing the virtues of God through the biblical cosmology that doesn't require any bullshit, storytelling, fake news, false narratives or pending events to ensure that those of mankind embrace an alien invasion that will coerce him give up his liberties. Rowbotham's literature and experiment on the Bedford Canal were foundational. With over 240 scripture references we will use this section of the journal to bring the truth of God's word to learning about the biblical cosmology of the flat plane called earth.

It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

- Isaiah 40:22

And when nothing happened, they changed their mind. They said; "This man must be a god!" And then we are told that the father of the man who entertained him was sick of a bloody flux. That's Anglo-Saxon. The word in the original is dysentery. Either of them they're not one of those funny pains that somebody heals and nobody knows what it was. (it was) Dysentery. He put his hands on him and healed him! So, the very last chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, you've got "these signs shall follow them that believe they shall take up serpents and they shall lay their hands on the sick. And then the very next epistle, he says, I've left behind a valued servant sick." And he sends to Timothy a prescription for his oft infirmities. Not because there was any lack of faith on the part of Paul, but that he comes "within the brackets" friends and a new dispensation had started!

So, you see, it's not good enough for us merely to pick chapter and verse somewhere. **We want to know to whom that was written and in what circumstances.** And you can depend upon it that if you ask this question and get the answer, you've got the key! Whenever you're reading any part of Scripture, **"Is the people of Israel at that time (during whenever era you are reading in the bible...) a factor recognized by God, or are they dismissed? And according to your answer, so you must act (comprehend how God is dealing with mankind)!"**

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech no language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. **In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.** – Psalm 19:1-6

Mankind can see in plain view, using the law of perspective and with the evidence our Creator has given him easily discover that earth is a plane and not a planet. By the exercising the most baseline levels of observation including looking out the window of jet aircrafts (or an airplane...huh, imagine that...), a ride in a ballon, or even a stroll on the beach, the horizon will meet always meet him in the eye. We have been lied to, misled, coerced over decades by agencies that wish to do us harm for power and money.