

The Bible Guys

of Yesterday and Today

January 2009

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Teaching all Nations

Great Commission

1469
Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go.^e 17When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.^f 19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,^g baptizing them in^m the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,^h 20and teachingⁱ them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the

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Volume XI Number 5

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have been taken from the King James Version.*

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The Bible Guys is a complimentary, monthly publication of



The People of Truth
A Holy Nation

From the Editor

By David M. McNabb

Greetings brothers, sisters and friends in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to the Lord at all times for His many blessings, and for His great grace.


Time races ahead, and new calendars now hang on our walls, reminding me that a year has now passed since we moved to Oklahoma. God has truly favored our undertakings, and established us in our new surroundings. At every turn, I have seen the provision of God, and His guiding hand. As each day passes, I am more assured that we are nearing the return of our Lord, and of our need to trust Him and rest in His tender mercies.

This month also brings a new resident to the White House: President Barack Obama. Let us, with this new administration, remember to heed Paul's admonition to Timothy, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

We continue to work on our Internet presence. Last month we started a social networking website at <http://holynation.ning.com>. Visitors can read posts, use Bible tools to search for Scriptures or get definitions, get current news of interest to believers, and register on the site. Registered members can personalize their page, post blogs, start and participate in forum discussions, upload pictures and videos, chat with other members online, and take advantage of a variety of other features. There are also Spanish and Russian sections on the site, offering the same features, including Bible tools and news in each language. I want to encourage you to take a look, and feel free to take part in our network.

Meanwhile, Brother Larry Danko has been reconstructing our main, informational site at www.tpot.org. A majority of the work to build and test the new site has been done, and it appears we are in the final stages of initial development. I am hoping to replace the current format with the new one before the February Bible Guys comes out. It will have a new look and feel, and will contain our extensive library of literature, as well as several other new features. It is a very exciting time for The People of Truth Online! Thank God for this technology.

We are also happy to have Arturo Linaldi and his family with us in Oklahoma. They moved from the Orlando area to Paden in December, and we are now hard at work on the translation of our literature into Spanish. As we go to print, Brother Linaldi is in Mexico, and we are looking for God to open more doors for the work in that country as well. We still have a presence in Florida, however, as Arturo's brother Jaime, and his family, have joined the People of Truth, and are continuing to teach the truth of God's word there.

We continue to pray for God's guidance in the lives of His people, and for us all to have willing hearts to do His will and His work. God bless you all. 

Teaching all nations

By C. Elden McNabb

Since the days of John the Baptist, until now, those who believe in the great God of heaven and the earth, and His Son Jesus Christ, have willingly submitted themselves to the ritual of “water baptism.” Jesus pointed out that it was John who initiated the new era of “the kingdom of God,” saying, “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it” (Luke 16:16). Even Jesus had to submit to this important Grace-Age ritual (Matt. 3:15).

After Jesus was baptized, He fasted for forty days, “and returned in the power of the Spirit” into Galilee. He began to gather His disciples, and would baptize in one place, while John was baptizing somewhere else; giving deference unto John, and made it a point to not interfere with His ministry. By the Biblical rules of succession, Jesus could not come into the fullness of His ministry until John had finished his.

The ministry of the gospel began with Water Baptism and marked the beginning of the end of the era of the “Law of Moses.” About seven years later, when Jesus was giving His final instructions to the Apostles, He said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to *observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you*: and, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:18-20).

When John began baptizing, the Grace Age began; when Jesus died on the cross, the Law of Moses was annulled, although it was another three and a half years until God caused the “the sacrifice and obla-

tion to cease” (Dan. 9:24-27). At that time, God ceased to honor the work of the Levitical Priesthood, and turned over the responsibility of the offering up of the “acceptable sacrifice” to the Apostleship (Acts 6:1-6). Then, for about another 30 years, God required even the Christian Jews to continue to offer sacrifices by the Priests in the temple.

At the crucifixion Jesus abolished “the Law of Commandments” (Eph. 2:15), and established “the Law of Faith” (Rom. 3:27). Our high priest, the High Priest of God, does not offer two goats for our atonement on the tenth day of the seventh month, as Aaron and his sons did. He took care of our atonement once and for all, on the 14th day of that historical year of His crucifixion. But we are not “free” as some ministers would like for us to believe. We are still under a law. It is just not the law from Sinai, but the law from Golgotha.

There were actually two sets of laws given to the children of Israel at Sinai. One set was a vast set of rules which covered all of the foibles of mankind. Then there was that set of “two tables of *testimony*, tables of stone, written with the finger of God” (Ex. 31:18). Moses, Jeremiah, and Paul, together make it clear that “the Ten Commandments” was God’s covenant of Marriage with Israel (Ex. 34:28; Jer. 3:6-15; Rom. 7:1-7).

God had no intentions of continuing to use the Law of Moses, even though it was “holy, and just, and good” (Romans 7:12). From its inception, it was intended to be primarily “our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith,” and it prophesied of every event of His plan which would occur, at least well into the eighth millennium. But after the Law of Faith came, there was no longer a need that we be under a schoolmaster. For we are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:24-25), but “being

not without law to God, but under the law to Christ” (1 Cor. 9:21).

God said, “I am the Lord, I change not” (Mal. 3:6). The record also shows that to be true of the transition to the “Law of Faith.” In Jesus, we have both a High Priest and a “Messenger of the covenant.” We have been given new commandments, of which some of them are the marriage covenant, and the rest are general, and Jesus is Lord of them all.

Accordingly, Jesus gave the New Testament Church a new marriage covenant. That covenant is recorded for us as the “Fourteen Commandments” in Matthew chapters 5, 6, and 7. Those three chapters are not simply “good advice to Christians.” Neither can they be lovingly included under the category of the eight “Beatitudes,” which, sadly, seems to be the pursuit of only a few Christians.

When the close disciples of Jesus had assembled with Him, on the mountain that day, He opened His discourse with those eight blessings. Then, in Matthew 5:13-20, He told them of the solemn responsibility which He was bestowing upon them. He concluded the admonition, saying, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill, for verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt. 5:17-18). He was preparing them for a new covenant which would replace the two tables of stone which God gave to their forefathers, and by which they “should be married to another” (Rom. 7:1-6).

As you study those three chapters, you will notice that the first two commandments, which Jesus named, were two of the Ten Commandments, and He replaced them with a New Testament definition. He actually made them more stringent than the O.T. In the new ver-

sion you are guilty of murder for only “hating” your brother, or a man is guilty of adultery by simply “lusting” after a woman.

In Matthew 5:21 through Matthew 7:20, Jesus gave “His disciples” the fourteen commandments, His covenant with the New Testament “Church:” the foundation on which The Twelve stand (Ezekiel 43:16:17; Heb.13:10). The 1st commandment is in Matt. 5:21-26. The 2nd is in Matt. 5:27-30. The 3rd is in Matt. 5:31-32. The 4th is in Matt. 5:33-37. The 5th is in Matt. 5:38-42. The 6th is in Matt. 5:43-48. The 7th is in Matt. 6:1-4. The 8th is in Matt. 6:5-18. The 9th is in Matt. 6:19-34. The 10th is in Matt.7:1-5. The 11 is in Matt. 7:6. The 12th is in Matt. 7:7-12. The 13th is in Matt. 7:13-14. The 14th commandment is in Matthew 7:15-20.

We have a record of other commandments which Jesus gave to His disciples, but they are not very numerous. Remember, we are not under a law of commandments. In reading the covenant which I just enumerated, we readily see that the commandments of our redeemer are not about “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not,” but rather an encouragement to acquire, and maintain a right attitude. It is a call to love our brothers and sisters in Christ; to love the world as He did, and together with God, leave all judgment to the Son of God (John 5:22). It is the Son of God who shall determine whose name shall be in “the Book of Life of the Lamb” (Rev. 13:8).

One of the commandments which is not in the covenant, was given to Jesus’ disciples in Matthew 18:15-20. He gave a formula for dealing with an unrepentant person who has offended one of the brethren. He told them that, if they followed His directions, and the offender refused to repent and make amends, the Church must cast him out, and avoid him as they would a Gentile, or a tax collector. Then He

told them that, when they exercised that authority, the name of the offender would also be blotted out in heaven. Which means that when the Church would take a person’s name off the rolls of the Church, it would also be taken out of the “Book of the Holy City” in Heaven (Rev. 22:18-19).

One thing is sure, no man, except for Jesus Christ, has the authority to determine whether anyone’s name is to be entered in, or taken out of “The Lamb’s Book of Life.” This commandment shows clearly that membership in God’s Church is not the, so called, “body of believers.” The Church has the responsibility, and the authority to bind believers to the Church, or to loose them from the Church, as the situation requires. That authority must be restored to the Church before the glorious year of the Marriage of the Lamb shall come. Otherwise, the Wife could never be able to “Make herself ready” (Rev. 19:7).

When Paul had built up the Gentile Church in Corinth, he told them to exercise that same authority there. He commanded them to turn the fornicator over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh. That is, to get the effect of the lust of the flesh out of the Body of Christ, so the Spirit of the Body could continue to function. Then he told them, “What have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person” (1 Cor. 5:12-13). I think it is notable that, in his next epistle to them he admonished them to be merciful to the offender, and receive him back in again. It is apparent, therefore, that we have the authority to judge only whether a person is to be a part of God’s Church, but no authority to say whether anyone is “saved” or not. Apparently that fornicator was still saved.

“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.” On the contrary, under the “Law of Faith” commandments are given more as encouragement to help establish the believer in a life of faith, and truth, and love, and mercy toward all men.

It is necessary that some commandments be given, but those which were given in the New Testament seem to be largely some of the same ones from the Old Testament, but with love and mercy.

When James, the brother of Jesus, had heard all of the contentions about the need, or lack of it, for all believers to be circumcised, he sent messengers to the Gentile believers. He told them, “*It seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things*; that ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well” (Acts 15:28-29).

The end result of that long and heated council was four “necessary” commandments. James, and that august Jewish council, required of them nothing about circumcision of the flesh, or keeping of the Sabbath. Yet, to this day, thousands of Sabbarians are still arguing the point. Paul was very direct when he found some insisting on vegetarianism and Sabbarianism in Rome. He simply said, “Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind” (Rom. 14:1-5).

Paul told the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colosse to not let anyone judge them about the requirements of the ancient law, and that they should consider all of those things to be a shadow of things to come in the Grace Age. He said, “Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, (touch not; taste not; handle

not; which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men” (Col. 2:8-22)?

It was Jesus who brought us redemption, and it was Jesus who gave us Paul to convey unto the Gentiles the Law of Faith. The volume of it is too great for these few pages, so I will ask you to consider Paul’s words to Timothy. “Charge some that they teach no other doctrine, neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned*” (1 Tim. 1:4-5).

Finally, Jesus said, “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in His love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. *This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you*” (John 15:9-12).



The ages of God’s law

By Joel McNabb

Since the beginning of the creation, the great Creator has laid down the law. From time to time, He has given commandments unto man, who almost always found them hard to keep. We often think of the law as “**thou shalt not**,” which in some cases is true, but sometimes it is “**thou shalt**.” Like the law of gravity, “what goes up must come down”; so there are laws of God that show how He operates. In different ages, He laid out these laws to perform a work in His plan for mankind and His purpose on this earth. I would like to take a look at these different ages and

bring us to our age and the law to come.

In the book of Genesis, we find the **first age** of God’s commandments to man. He told Adam and Eve, “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.” He gave man the responsibility to rule over the earth and to be the caretaker of all the creatures. There is also the matter of replenishing the earth, (which in itself is somewhat a strange commandment, if the earth had never been inhabited before). God also gave them a **thou shalt not**: “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” This commandment is the one that got Adam, Eve and all mankind into trouble. It should have been an easy law to keep, only one tree of knowledge, and you could eat all you wanted of the rest of the trees in the garden. However, it was like telling your child not to touch the electrical outlet, and he can’t keep their hands off it, not really knowing the consequences of disobedience to what seems to be a small commandment.

When he ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, Adam was fully aware that he was willingly breaking God’s commandment. “And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression” (1 Tim. 2:14). This fall brought death to mankind, and death reigned until an age when God would show man how he could get life back. During this age there was no law enforcement, and the wickedness of man became so great that it made God sad that He had ever created man.

His plan for man’s redemption was set in motion. The great wickedness of man caused God to take severe action. He was going to de-

stroy His creation and start all over, and He looked the whole earth over and searched for someone with whom He could start over. The Bible says that Noah, a just man and perfect in his generation, found grace in the eyes of the Lord, and Noah walked with God. God spared Noah and his family by sending the flood and destroying the wickedness from off the face of the earth. “When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (1 Pet. 3:20). They weren’t just saved from the flood of water, they were saved from a world that was not able to change. After the flood, with a new earth and someone to give the dominion to, it was time to start over with new laws and a **new age**.

As Noah and his family disembarked from the ark, another age dawned. God gave commandments once again, and said unto them: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth,” the same command as He had given Adam and Eve. They were to fill the earth with mankind again. He also gave them dietary laws. Instead of just a vegetarian diet, He said that “every moving creature that liveth shall be meat for you” (Gen. 9:3). There was no suggestion that they should only eat clean animals, but everything that liveth, even as the green herb. All animals (clean and unclean, insects, serpents, and slugs) were given for nutriment for the human body. This led God to give a “**thou shall not**.” “But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.” Eating blood was not allowed, because it contained the life of the body, and life is a gift of God. He has given every creature a spirit, which allows it to live. “Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”

One more law was given to man after the flood, “Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man” (Gen. 9:6). Man was to kill the murderer, though this commandment was not given to Adam, as we see in the case of Cain. By letting the murderer go free we saw how bad the earth can become. If we are made in the image of God, murder is like killing God Himself. It led to man’s great wickedness, which caused God to bring in the flood. Death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression. Our destiny is set from the time we are born, we live our lives and then we die, without hope. Adam’s decision affected all mankind and left us with death as our future. After the flood, man did not change though God had started all over again. And man, with inbred sin, resumed his course of self destruction.

Is there a way to obtain life again? Yes there is! We are still following the plan of the Creator, and His purpose for man on earth. Out of Noah’s three sons, He chose the lineage of Shem. Abram, the tenth generation from Shem was chosen by God to raise up a people to whom He would give His laws of life, for Abram would be faithful to pass on his faith from generation to generation. In Abram’s generation, mankind had become idolatrous, and the only way God could make a transition to life for man was to get Abram out of his country and kindred. So Abram, by the command of God, left with the covenant of promise, and became a pilgrim. God knew that he would command his children and his household after him, that they should keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment, so that the LORD would bring His promise upon Abraham. To his seed, God would give the laws of life, which is our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ.

God told Abraham that it would take over four hundred years before His promises would come to pass (Gen. 15:13-16; Ex. 12:40-41).

He brought them to Himself to Mt. Sinai, to give them His laws of life. By the law that was given to Moses, God taught His chosen people the ways of life. Moses said in Deut. 30:15, “See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.”

The time for God’s words to be revealed was at hand, as Jesus said, “the words I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life.” Before Moses, God’s word was not written down, although God did speak to man from time to time. Now they had God’s words where they could see them and be reminded of them.

The Mosaic laws are just another step in man’s search for life. You may have heard of Ponce de Leon, who looked for the fountain of youth, some way to find eternal life. God gave the laws to teach us the way. “The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul, and in keeping of them there is great reward.” The children of Israel could have been lead to life, if they had kept the laws of God. From the time the law was given and even to our present day, the law has not been kept by man. Paul even said, “neither we nor our fathers could keep” the law, even though, when it came to the law, he said he was blameless. If Israel could not keep Gods law, why was it important for Him to give it to them? It was to show man what sin is. “What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. And the commandment,

which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin” (Rom. 7:7-14). The law was to bring us to Christ, the one true way to life.

The gospel of John tells us that the law came by Moses, but grace and truth by Jesus Christ. There was another age of law needed to show a more perfect way to life. God sent His only begotten Son as He sent Moses, to give us the new law of grace. In Matt. 5-7, Jesus, as Moses, went up on a mountain and gave to His disciples this law. It is called by many the Sermon on the Mount, but if we read passage correctly, Jesus actually got away from the crowd and only His disciples were with Him when the sermon – or law – was given.


“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matt. 5:17-18). Jesus did not throw away any of the commandments of God, He made them even stronger. The words of Jesus were given with the intent that we might come to a closer relationship with the God of creation, who, from age to age, desired to bring man nearer to the place for which he was created. Jesus said, “If you love me keep my commandment,” “for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Being set free from the death sentence of Adam, the way of holiness is accessible to those who choose to keep His law. His grace is sufficient for all who accept that blood of Jesus. He went to Mount Calvary, and His laws were set in

something stronger than stone, written with His blood on our hearts.

Now as we come to the end of the grace age, a new age is approaching. The culmination of all the laws, which were given by God from Adam to Jesus, will be put into action: The age of Judgment in which Jesus will have all power and authority to meet out true justice. He must reign, till he hath put all enemies under His feet.

One of these laws is revealed in, Zech. 14:16. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles." If they will not keep this commandment, the rains will stop and famine will come upon their land until they submit to the commandments of the Lawgiver.

The new age of God's law is upon man, who has had two thousand years of the grace age, yet has not changed. All around us today, the wickedness of man has only worsened. Our time is up, and it is God's time now. Jesus said in Revelation 22:10-14, "Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." We are dealing with the **laws of life**, and in Him we live, move and have our being. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John

3:16). We still have a choice today, but time is running out. What will you choose, life or death? "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15). 

New constitutions recognize old deity

By David M. McNabb

Pachamama is the Andean goddess of "Mother Earth." In January, Bolivian voters approved of a new constitution that granted more power to the indigenous people of the country, and to their beliefs.

The document's arguably most striking feature is its elimination of any references to The Roman Catholic Church, recognizing instead the earth goddess Pachamama. The language of the new constitution puts Pachamama on equal standing with God, as is evidenced in the words near the end of the preamble: "Fulfilling the mandate of our people, by the strength of our Pachamama and thanks to God, we reform Bolivia."

By the popular vote of the people, Bolivia joined Ecuador in reestablishing paganism as its recognized national religion. Late last year, Ecuadorans approved of their own new constitution, which also elevated nature.

In the preamble to Ecuador's constitution, it is declared, "Celebrating nature, the Pacha Mama, of which we are a part, and which is vital to our existence, Invoking the name of God and recognizing our diverse forms of religiosity and spirituality, ...We have decided to construct a new form of citizen coexis-


tence, in diversity and harmony with nature, to achieve wellness..."

Article 71 of Ecuador's new constitution states, "Nature or Pacha Mama, where the life is reproduced and made, has a right to an integrally respected existence and to the maintenance and regeneration of its vital cycles, structures, evolutionary functions and processes."

These two new documents, each the supreme law in its respective land, reveal the ultimate goal of the environmental movement, and represent a new-found success in achieving that goal: turning the hearts and minds of the people towards the creation and away from the Creator.

The prophet Jeremiah recorded God's question, "Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit" (Jer. 2:11).

And so it is, under the guise of tolerance and freedom, the nations are returning to their old gods. What is worse, is that born-again believers are being deceived by the radical green religious agenda.

While it is true that man is to show good stewardship of the nature over which God has given him charge, it is God who is worthy of glory, honor and power, for it is He that hath created all things, and for His pleasure they are and were created. 



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