Doug Kutilek
B.A., MA, Baptist Bible College, Ph.D. candidate in Hebrew
Old Testament, Hebrew Union College

Robert Dick Wilson, the great Princeton Seminary Old Testament scholar who died in 1930, was well-practiced in exposing and refuting error in matters of Biblical studies. In one of his writings, he insisted on the importance of tracing every error back to its original source. His research had convinced him that almost invariably any commonly-held but false view could be traced back to a single writer, and that this error had become widespread, not because other writers had independently investigated the same evidence and arrived at the same conclusions, but merely because other writers were lazy and simply parroted the conclusions of the first writer. In short, the false conclusions were naively adopted and the evidence ignored.

Benjamin Wilkinson

In the investigation of King-James-Version-Onlyism, (KJVO) just such a genealogy of error can be easily traced. All writers who embrace the KJV-only position have derived their views ultimately from Seventh-day Adventist missionary, theology professor and college president, Benjamin G. Wilkinson (d.1968), and then through one of two or three of his spiritual descendants. In 1930, he wrote "Our Authorized Bible Vindicated," a book of several hundred pages which attracted almost no attention in its day (no doubt because it was awash in a vast ocean of unmitigated error).


Wilkinson was the first to misapply Psalm 126:7 specifically to the KJV as though the passage were a promise to preserve the words of verse six (when in fact the promise is the preservation of the persecuted saints of verse five, as I showed in my essay, "A Careful Investigation of Psalm 126:7, The Biblical Evangelist, vol. 17, no. 21, 10-14-83, later issued in booklet form as 'Why Psalm 126:7 is Not a Promise of the Divine Preservation of Scripture').

Wilkinson also manufactured the erroneous idea that the medieval Waldensian Bible was based on the Old Latin version and not the Vulgate, and that the Old Latin version was Byzantine in its text-type (all of which is demonstrably false, as I showed in 'The Truth about Waldensian Bible and the Old Latin Version,' Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 2, no. 2, Summer, 1991). Thus Wilkinson, is the first generation of KJV Onlyism.

J.J. Ray

Wilkinson's book lay unused and unknown (and how good it would have been had its errors died with him!), until 1953 when J.J. Ray, who is self-described as a "business manager, missionary, and Bible teacher" published a little volume, God Wrote Only One Bible (Ray is apparently still living, but we can find out nothing about him, and he refuses to reply to certified letters; if anyone can supply specific information about this man, we would greatly appreciate it). In his book, Ray heavily plagiarized, without note or acknowledgement, Wilkinson's book, repeating and propagating wholesale Wilkinson's errors and misstatements (the fact of Ray's plagiarism and dependence is documented in Gary Hudson's article, 'The Real 'Eye Opener',' Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 2, no. 1, Spring, 1991). Ray's book has gone through numerous printings, with total copies numbering perhaps in the tens of thousands. I first saw a copy myself in 1971 as a first year student at Baptist Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, where I was also introduced—by students from Ohio—to Rockman's Bible Babel and Fuller's Which Bible? It is of interest that Ray acknowledges that there are some erroneous translations in the KJV which do demand revision (pp. 30, 31, 102). A position today's KJVO mainstream would consider rank heresy.

David Otis Fuller

The other chief disseminator of Wilkinson's misinformation was David Otis Fuller, a Regular Baptist pastor. Fuller must be counted as part of the third generation, since, according to Fuller's own words in the dedication of Counterfeit of Genuine (1975), Ray's book God Wrote Only One Bible "moved me to begin this fascinating study," Ray and his book were also repeatedly noted on pp. 2-4 of Which Bible? I imagine the scenario went something like this: Fuller reads Ray; Fuller writes Ray for more information; Ray directs Fuller to Wilkinson; Fuller reads Wilkinson, is lead astray, then reprints Wilkinson in Which Bible? In 1970, Fuller issued Which Bible?, which was in its 5th edition by 1975 and contained 350 pages. Of those pages, almost half were taken from Wilkinson's Our Authorized Bible Vindicated, with some editing, first to conceal from view Wilkinson's cult affiliation, and second, to correct some of the worst of his errors. According to D.A. Waite, long associated with Fuller in KJVO matters, Fuller knew full-well that Wilkinson was an Adventist and deliberately concealed that fact from the reader, and even from the publisher Isee note at end of article, because the Baptist brethren "wouldn't understand," Fuller's haphazard "back and fill" operation aimed at editing out some of Wilkinson's grosser errors failed miserably to make a silk purse out of a literary sow's ear, with most errors left untouched (see the expose by myself and Gary Hudson, 'The Great 'Which Bible'? Fraud,' Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 4, no. 2, Summer, 1990).

As reproduced in Which Bible?, Wilkinson's material is still plagued by blatant misstatements of the facts, distortions, misrepresentations and half-truths (see my article, "Wilkinson's Incredible Errors," Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 1, no. 3, Fall 1990; what else would you expect from a cultic writer?).

It is David Otis Fuller who knowingly misrepresented the views of Spurgeon regarding (continued on page 4)
THOUGHTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." - 1 John 5:21

Idolatry (worship of, excessive attachment or veneration for, something or someone that does not constitute the true and living God) is rampant throughout the world, a fact that the Lord Jesus attested to in Matthew 7:13-23. Jesus is saying that people who really believe they are Christians are not going to make it to heaven, let alone all of the pagan idolaters and false religious practitioners.

America, which is not a Christian nation in the Biblical sense, is as idolatrous as any nation on earth. The American landscape is filled with idolatry such as the worship of sex (internet pornography, strip clubs, etc.), sports (sports papers and channels are high priests of religious sports fanatics), computer games, movies, soap operas, music, etc. Anything that replaces true and complete devotion to Christ (Matt. 10:34-39), even one’s own family, is considered idolatry.

Within this ugly framework of idolatry comes yet another form known as bibliolatry, worship of the Bible. This peculiar brand of idolatry comes from what is known as the “King James Only” movement, propagated by such people as Pensacola Bible Institute preacher Peter S. Ruckman (author of The Last Grenade, etc.), Chick Publications of sensationalistic comic strip fame (Let’s Weigh the Evidence by Barry Burton, 1983), industrial design teacher Gail Riplinger (author of New Age Bible Versions, 1993), self-proclaimed “prophet” Tene Marrs (who promotes Riplinger’s book along with “New Age” conspiracy theories of all types) and others. These KJV Only promoters argue that all other Bible translations are untrustworthy (in some cases, “Satanic”) and only the King James Version is the true Word of God. Those who disagree are attacked as being guilty of blasphemy, heresy and as being “enemies of God’s Word.”

Ruckman stated that the first absolutely, inerrant version of the Bible came out in March 1851 by the American Bible Society (KJV, Oxford edition). Some KJV Onlyites have stated that the English KJV is essential to salvation and that a person cannot be “born again” (John 3:3-8) unless they are using a KJV! In fact, some KJV Only authors have declared that accurate Bible translations must be in Japanese, for example. Apparently, unless they are translated from an English KJV! Foreign missions, therefore, cannot be done without a KJV. Placing a Bible translation on par with salvation and the finished work of Christ is another Gospel (Gal. 1:6-9).

The Bible comes from inspired, original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts (II Tim. 3:15-17). KJV Onlyites say the English KJV translation is inspired rather than the original manuscripts and by inference then they are saying that the only people who had the right to translate the manuscripts were the KJV translators! In essence, they claim no pure Word of God before 1611! Nonsense! Faithful translations abound, NASB, NIV, NKJV, etc.—Heb. 4:12. God preserves His Word.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN ANSWERS?

Our ministry name is derived in part from Peter 3:15 which states, "But in your hearts set apart 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." (NIV). This is the goal of Christian Answers in an increasingly anti-Christian society here in America and throughout the world; giving answers and reasons why the Christian faith can be trusted and believed.

The Biblical command to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Tim. 6:12), to "set for the defense of the gospel" (Phil. 1:1), to "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3), to "be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict" (Titus 1:9), "to put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not" (Rev. 2:2), to "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves" (Matt. 7:15), to "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good" (I Thess. 5:21), with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition; and perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth" (2 Tim. 2:25), to follow the example of Paul and Apollos who "rigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ." (Acts 18:28). These are but a few of the many sources for the call to ministry, discernment and evangelism.

The inerrant Word of God (II Tim. 3:16-17) whereby the gospel is preached, is "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes," (Rom. 1:16), the weapon of our evangelism. As Hebrews 4:12 states, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." This is the evangelical missionary methodology of Christian Answers— to bring the Biblical perspective to a culture that is almost completely ignorant of it; to bring Christian truth, Christian answers to those who, as the prophet Isaiah said, have made "lies...and falsehood" their refuge (Isa. 29:15); to smash lies and falsehoods with the "hammer" of God’s word (Jer. 23:29); see also Proverbs 30:5-6, Psalm 18:24, Isaiah 48:8, John 5:39-47, I Cor. 14:37, and Acts 17:11.

Christian Answers utilizes all outreach that God allows us including television, radio, audio cassettes, video tapes, speaking engagements, and the printed page. The materials we have been able to produce have been used by churches, Bible teachers, Christian apologists, laymen and others as well as those seeking life in Christ.

We are not afraid to use any public forum whenever the Lord leads. Of course this type of ministry is not for the faint of heart and very often leads to the same type of suffering and persecution that we find in the book of Acts. But as the old saying goes, “one life will soon be past, only what’s done for others will last,” and as Paul said, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:14), knowing this mortal life is short and God’s eternity is only a moment away for all.
Peter S. Ruckman

Also in the third generation, without question the most arrogant and abusive of the KJVO partisans is Peter S. Ruckman, who passes for a Baptist preacher and whose current delusions have thrust upon the public in a monthly publication Bible Believers’ Bulletin, but especially in a series of uniformly bound and uniformly bad books that are claimed to be commentaries on various Bible books, topical books on Bible related subjects, and books related to the Bible text and translation issue. All of his writings are characterized by the most vehement vilification and denunciation of everyone and anyone, lumping together great defenders of the faith through the ages, such as B.B. Warfield, A.T. Robertson, and Charles Spurgeon (when he’s not falsely claiming Spurgeon’s support for his own views), with the likes of Wellhausen, Hitler, and Harry Fosdick.

Far worse is the torrent of errors that flood each work and virtually each chapter of Ruckman’s every published work. He single-handedly injected more misinformation into the controversy than all the other writers combined. It is also he who first propagated the erroneous idea that the KJV has no copyright (I refuted this error with extensive documentation in “The KJV is a Copyrighted Translation,” first published in The Biblical Evangelist, vol. 17, no. 11, May 27, 1983, and reissued in a revised and expanded form in Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 4, no. 3, 1993).

It was he who manufactured out of whole cloth the false claim that no Protestant scholar has ever personally examined the Latin Vulgate manuscript (see for my refutation, “Ruckmanism: A Refuge of Lies,” Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 4, no. 4, January, 1994).

It was he who created out of thin air the absurd notion that there was no Greek translation of the Old Testament until one was produced by Origen in the third century A.D. (proven false by me in “The Septuagint: Riplinger’s Blunders, Believe It or Not,” Baptist Biblical Heritage, vol. 5, no. 2, Third Quarter, 1994).

And how was Ruckman drawn into the fray? What book influenced him? Ruckman’s first-born book on the subject (unfortunately not still in print, The Bible Belief (1964) betrays unmistakable signs of heavy dependence on Ray. Ruckman’s chart of ‘corrupt’ texts and versions facing p. 28 is an abbreviation of Ray, pp.36–79; Ruckman’s “tree” of “good” versions facing p. 73 is a virtual reproduction, with very minor alterations, of Ray’s chart on p. 109; on p. viii of the footnote references, Ruckman specifically mention Ray’s book, though giving the title as “God Only Wrote One Book,” which is typical of Ruckman’s level of accuracy. Just as Wilkinson misapplied Psalm 128:7 to the KJV, as did Ray, so did Ruckman. Furthermore, in his so-called The Christian’s Handbook of Manuscript Evidence (1950), Ruckman commends Ray (along with Edward F. Hills) as one of a very few

Which Bible? In numerous printings in at least five editions has had a very extensive influence in shaping current debate and disseminating much of the misinformation that characterizes KJV-onlyism today. Without any doubt at all, the vast majority of this highly destructive controversy is a direct result of Fuller’s deceptive and inflammatory book, Which Bible?, and that he must bear the odium of stirring up strife among brethren (Proverbs 6:19).

From Ruckman have sprung, like the serpent heads from Hydra, a teeming uncontrolled mass of incredibly uninformed writers, editors, preachers and evangelists, imagining that they are defending the true faith when in fact their ignorance of the truth is almost immeasurable. As John Broadus was wont to say, it is amazing how much ignorance some men have been able to accumulate. In truth, there are natural, limits to everything, except human stupidity, (magnified by stubborness).

Among those heavily influenced by Fuller can be named D.A. Waite, who now does a great deal of his own misleading, and E.L. Bynum Jr., whose comic books espoused KJV-onlyism, has acknowledged in letters that he is entirely dependant for his information on Fuller and Ruckman. I am reminded immediately of an ancient Jewish proverb: “If you wish to strangle, be hanged on a good tree,” that is, if you must rely on an authority, you do well to make sure it is a reliable one.

Now the women are getting in on the KJV-onlyism act, promoting and profiting from the gullible multitude seduced by the sleight-of-hand tactics generally employed. The latest piece of perversive propaganda is a huge pile of waste paper called New Age Bible Versions written by Mrs. G.A. Riplinger. The lady says that God was the ‘author’ and she is His “secretary” hence “G” (God) “A” (and) Riplinger. She alleges a Satanic inspired “author” and she is His “secretary”-hence “G” (God) A.G. Riplinger. The lady says that God was the ‘author’ and she is His “secretary” hence “G” (God) “A” (and) Riplinger. She alleges a Satanic inspired conspiracy on the part of Bible versions which is sponsored by the “New Age Movement.”

This was just “too much” for even some KJV-onlyites to swallow, and Riplinger’s book has been dubbed as "an unpublishable book" by David W. Cloud in O Timothy magazine (vol. 2, no. 8, 1994). Cloud remarks that the claim by Riplinger that God was the “author” is something that “even the most radical charismatic prophets hesitate to use such intemperate language.” Nevertheless the book has received the unqualified endorsement of KJV–

(continued on page 4)
on their foreheads." The phrase "his name" and is not found in the KJV. She continues on page 106, "Will the unwary, reading Revelation 14:1 in a recent version, be persuaded that the Bible sanctions and encourages the taking of 'his name' on their foreheads before they receive his Father's name?" Such sounds truly ominous, until one discovers that in point of fact it is the Textus Receptus, the Greek Text of the New Testament utilized by the KJV translators, that alone does not contain the phrase, "his name." The Majority Text contains it, as do all the Greek texts. We have merely a mistake on the part, most probably, of Desiderius Erasmus, the Roman Catholic priest who collated what became the Textus Receptus. He had major problems in producing the text of Revelation and merely skipped over the phrase referring to the Lamb's name. Sadly, reading the New Age Bible Versions could lead to an attack on the NIV on the basis of a basic mistake.

The arguments put forward in this book at times are quite rigorous. The chart found on page 36 of her book should fascinate anyone seeking logical thinking. On page 232 we are warned against the letter "s." Riplinger writes, "Watch out for the letter s'...sin, Satan, Sodom, Saul(had to be changed to Paul). The added 's here is the hiss of the serpent." Such argumentation would lead us to abandon such terms as salvation, Savior, and sanctification as well! Indeed, on page 174 our author recommends the KJV's use of the term "sober" over other translations, possibly missing the "hiss" of that "s" on "sober." I, as a Reformed theologian, was certainly amazed to discover that, according to Riplinger, the "Five Points" of Calvinism form a Satanic pentagram(p.231)! And everyone should surely take heed to Mrs. Riplinger's use of "acrostic algebra" on page 147. Here, in a passage reminiscent of the identification of Henry Kissinger as the anti-Christ two decades ago, Mrs. Riplinger demonstrates how the abbreviations for the New American Standard and the New International Version add up to the word "sin" when the Authorized Version is taken away. Not only is such argumentation utterly without merit, but it is interesting to note that throughout the rest of the book Riplinger abbreviates the New American Standard Version Bible as NASB, but solely for the purpose of this trip into "acrostic algebra," she changes to the NASV, an abbreviation used nowhere else in the book. Indeed, over and over and over again the arguments that are put forward could easily be turned around and used against the KJV and Riplinger's position. The use of such argumentation should warn the reader that all is not well in New Age Bible Versions.

Double standards are rampant throughout the book. After attacking all modern versions for daring to use the term "one" in their translations, she fails to attack the NVI for using it in her own citation(Apocalypse page 93). When the modern versions do not follow the KJV in rendering the Greek term as 
A, she accused them of being ignorant of mythology on page 127; but when they recognize similar gods in Old Testament passages, she accused them of rejecting the one true God in favor of false gods.

And in what would probably be one of the most amusing examples of double standards, if it were not so sad, Riplinger attacks all who are "Reformed," or "Calvinists," in many places.

(continued on page 5)
It seems that as long as someone had anything at all to do with the production of the NIV, it is fair game to not only impugn their character, but to misrepresent their words. For example, on page 89 of New Age Bible Versions, we read the following, "Even NIV translator Larry Walker applauds the rejection of the Hebrew Old Testament for the Ugaritic wherein the gods of paganism reside." The reference is given to Walker's article, The NIV: The Making of a Contemporary Translation, specifically pages 101-102. Yet, one will search in vain throughout the article for the slightest reference to a rejection of the Hebrew Old Testament in favor of anything else at all. The citation simply has nothing to do with the allegation that is made.

On page 165 we have another personal attack upon an NIV translator, Herbert Wolf, for his defense of the very logical, scholarly translation of the Hebrew "zelekha" in poetic contexts by the term "prosperity." Ignoring the very solid, reasonable defense given by Wolf, Riplinger chooses instead to play games with the man's name, writing, "Perhaps the armour and breastplate of righteousness does not fit Mr. Wolf and his pack because they are puffed up and paunchy, because they have devoured souls (Ezekial 22:25)." She goes on to say, "Paul said that those like Wolf, who teach that gain is godliness' are 'destitute of the truth.' Equating financial prosperity with spirituality is a godliness' are 'destitute of the truth.' Equating that those like Wolf, who teach that 'gain is prosperity and spirituality; this is mere fantasy (Ezekial 22:25)."

In reality, the reason that the NIV and NASB wording of the KJV, 'God and our Savior Jesus Christ,' are being referred to when this is not the case. Now, on page 370, with reference to Titus 2:13, Riplinger says, "Few clear and decisive texts declare that Jesus is God. But, without doubt of its own, the NIV, following inferior manuscripts, altered what the Holy Spirit said through John, calling Jesus Son.' My what a difference context makes! And Palmer is exactly right. There are less than ten places in all the New Testament that could properly apply the term "(God) to Jesus Christ, if that is not "few" then what is?"

In passing, I wish to note that Riplinger even misleads her readers regarding the deity of Christ in an effort to maintain the accuracy of the KJV. I am referring to two important passages, Titus 2:13 and 2 Peter 1:1. The NIV translates Titus 2:13, "While we wait for the blessed hope the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ," and 2 Peter 1:1 says, "To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as theirs." In both cases the KJV interrupts the proper translation, splitting up the terms "God" and "Savior," resulting in the phrasingology, "our God and our Savior, Jesus Christ," as if two persons, God the Father, and Jesus Christ the Savior, being referred to when this is not the case. Now, on page 370, with reference to Titus 2:13, Riplinger says, "All Greek texts have the wording of the KJV, 'God and our Savior Jesus Christ.'" In reality the reason that the NIV and NASB (and I might add the NKJV) and others accurately translate these passages as "our God and Savior, Jesus Christ," is due to what is known as Granville Sharp's Rule. Without going into detail, the KJV translators were not aware of this grammatical feature of koine Greek, and hence did not translate these passages accurately. The Jehovah's Witnesses mistranslate these passages purposefully, of course, for obvious reasons. Now, if I were looking for conspiracies, I'd have to identify Riplinger as a secret Jehovah's Witness trying to infiltrate the Church. Of course, I know that is not the case and would never make such an argument, yet this is the kind of argument presented throughout her misleading book.

The topic was so important for Riplinger that she addressed it again on page 331. Here she says that I Thessalonians 1:4 translated by the NIV is so "scandalous and sacrilegious" that it will "stun and shock the reader." One has to wonder what Riplinger would say about the following quotation from Martin Luther: "If any man ascribe ought of his salvation, even the least part, to the free will of man, he knows nothing of grace, and has not learned Jesus Christ." This is excerpted from the booklet mentioned below.
REVISION IS NO “MYTH”!

A strange and new doctrine concerning the King James Bible is held by some today. It is said that the KJV is an absolutely "infallible" translation that "perfectly preserves the Word of God in English" from 1611 to the present. In this insistence on absolute perfection for 'every word' of the translation, it is common to hear some argue that the KJV hasn’t undergone any significant "revision or change" since 1611.

Dr. F.H.A. Scrivener, perhaps the greatest authority on the history of the Authorized Version, aptly said concerning these changes that "much of the greater part of them are deliberate changes, introduced silently and without authority by men whose very names are often unknown." (The Authorized Edition of the English Bible, 1611. Its Subsequent Reprints and Modern Representatives, Cambridge, 1884, pg. 3). Dr. Scrivener did a masterful collation of such changes in the KJV occurring in the revisions of 1613, 1629, 1638, 1744, 1762, and 1769. Also, Dr. Benjamin Blayney, whose 1769 edition best represents the current KJV, said concerning his revision that "many errors that were found in former editions have been corrected, and the text reformed to such a standard of purity, as, it is presumed, is not to be met with in any other edition hitherto extant." (Scrivener, pg. 238). Revision is no "myth" at all!

Our purpose here is to reproduce enough evidence to explode the real "myth" - the erroneous "infallible" translation theory that parrots the notion that there were only "changes in spelling and typesetting" in the KJV revisions. It is hoped that this will help re-establish the scriptural and historic doctrine of the inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible in the original languages. We must hasten to say that in spite of the following partial list of changes, the KJV is a trustworthy and accurate translation into English.

**REFERENCE**

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<td>he that hath not the Son, hath not the life</td>
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"Gary Hudson is an evangelist, writer, and a former “Ruckmanite.” Check out his website: [www.kingjamesonly.org](http://www.kingjamesonly.org)."

**The “King James Only” Controversy Video Series**

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- Roman Catholicism #1 (Rob Zins)
- Roman Catholicism #2 (Rob Zins)
- The "King James Only" Cult #1 (Gary Hudson)
- The "King James Only" Cult #2 (Gary Hudson)
- Seventh-Day Adventism #1 (Wallace Slattery)
- Seventh-Day Adventism #2 (Wallace Slattery)
- The "Church of Christ" (Bob L. Ross)
- United Pentecostals (Steve Morrison)
- Word-Faith Heresy #1 (Michael Horton)
- Word-Faith Heresy #2 (Michael Horton)
- Mormonism (John McKay)
- Jehovah's Witnesses #1 (Larry Wessels)
- Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
- Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
- Islam (Dr. Samuel Shahid)

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Jehovah's Witnesses #2 (Larry Wessels)
Nation of Islam (Wilford Darden)
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