

The BBI BULLETIN

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Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth

Training Workmen that Need Not Be Ashamed

THE INSTITUTE UPDATE

RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

Dear fellow saints,

LESSON TWELVE -The Lord Jesus Christ-Part II

John the Baptizer

This has been a tremendous year for the **Berean Bible Institute**. We are now firmly settled in our new building and rejoicing in how the Lord has provided. The **BBI** staff and students truly appreciate their new surroundings. With our increased office and classroom space, everyone is much more comfortable. The nightly chapel is especially enjoyable as the acoustics in the auditorium are wonderful. This enhances our group singing as well as the special music provided by our students. Of course, the academic challenge continues to be formidable.

As a prelude to the Lord Jesus Christ entering into His public ministry, we find His cousin John baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins and declaring that the Kingdom of heaven was at hand (see Matt.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed to the ministry of **BBI** through their prayer and financial support. Please remember to keep us in your prayers as we move forward in the ministry of making Jesus Christ known "according to the revelation of the mystery."



3:1-6; Mk. 1:1-5; Lk. 3:1-6). John's ministry and message was in accordance with the God inspired utterances of the Old Testament prophets. Matthew clearly states that John was the one "spoken of by the prophet Isaiah" and identifies him as God's spokesman by quoting from Isaiah 40:3, (Matt. 3:3). John

Because Christ Lives,

was the voice in the wilderness who was to come to **prepare**, or make ready, for the appearance of the **Lord** as Israel's Redeemer. Mark adds the first half of Malachi 3:1 to Isaiah 40:3 to further reveal John as God's appointed messenger (Mk. 1:2-3). John was God's **advance man** to help ready the children of Israel for the coming of the Messenger of the covenant, the One who would fulfill the promises God had made concerning Israel and His Kingdom on earth that would be **ruled by the One from heaven**.

Dr. W. Edward Bedore, Executive Director

Tied to the Messiah's coming to set up His Kingdom is the **Day of the Lord**, which will be a time

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Mail Received At Box 587

FROM GEORGIA:

"Wishing you much success in the new school year. Here is something I am sending to help. Hopefully, it can be of some good use to help with the Grace message."

FROM WISCONSIN:

"I am enclosing a check to help in your ministry. Thank you for sending the informative and interesting newsletter. I appreciate and pray for your ministry, where students can learn the Word of God, rightly divided."

FROM WASHINGTON:

"Thank you for sending me the *BBI Bulletin*, I am enjoying the studies so much, what a Godsend."

FROM NORTH CAROLINA:

"Excitement floods our hearts over the newly found building for your school. The Lord has truly answered our prayer. We pray constantly for your teaching staff as well as the students."

FROM PENNSYLVANIA:

"We are glad to help out in the finances for your wonderful work to equip saints for the work of the ministry. We trust things are moving along for God's glory."

FROM WISCONSIN:

Thank you for sending the *BBI Bulletin*. I am glad to hear about the new home of **BBI** and for the Lord's leading in this event. I am so thankful for the Word of God, rightly divided."

FROM ILLINOIS:

"Thanks for the picture of our 'new school' building! It would be great if it is outgrown in a few years. Thank you for all the work you do, we certainly need young pastors coming up. So many older ones are needing to slow down."

*Only one life; 'twill soon be past.
Only what's done "in Christ" will last.*

THE BULLETIN BOARD

News & Announcements

The Midwest Grace Fellowship
Fall Conference

Dates: October 17-18, 2003

Location: Kansas City, Missouri

Contact: Kevin Heyle at:
(816) 520-3943

Spring Semester
begins January
26th!!! If you
would like more
information please
contact **BBI** at
(262) 644-5504.

If you have an
announcement, Bible
conference, new
church, special
meetings, etc, and
would like us to post
it on "The Bulletin
Board" please let us
know.

GRACE SINGLES CONFERENCE

Date: Dec. 27th-31st, 2003

Location: *Grace Bible Church of the
Black Hills, Rapid City, South Dakota*

Theme: "Building Christian Character"

Contact: Pastor John Frederickson at:
(605) 341-9692

(Rightly Dividing cont. from page 1)

of judgment. Malachi asked: *"But who may abide (endure) the day of His coming? And who shall stand when He appeareth? For He is like a refiner's fire and like a fullers' soap"* (Mal. 3:2). Before the Kingdom would be inaugurated there would be a time of refining for national Israel. As silver or gold is purged of impurities by fire so will Israel be purged through tribulation. As the fullers' soap cleanses ones garments of filth so will Israel be cleansed from sin in the Day of the Lord. This refiner's fire, spoken of by the prophet Malachi, is referred to by Zechariah in a prophecy about Israel and the Tribulation (Zech. 13:7-9). This is also called the time of *Jacob's trouble* (Jer. 30:7). John spoke of fire in conjunction with the separating of the grain from the chaff. The chaff would be burned while the grain was gathered into the barn (Matt. 3:7-12). Both illustrations speak of Israel being cleansed. John's message and baptism were in accordance with the Old Testament prophecies concerning Israel, God's Kingdom on earth, and the promised Messiah whose ministry would supersede his own. John's baptism for the remission of sins was a baptism of initiation into the Kingdom and the acknowledgment of God's Anointed as King. Jesus Christ was the One whom John was preparing for.

A Nation Forever

God's promises to the children of Israel were not only for spiritual renewal of the people of God but also for the restoration of Israel as a great nation and deliverance from her enemies. Because of her failure to keep His Law, God had allowed the nations to rule over His people, but He had also promised to one day restore the Kingdom with a King from the line of David on the throne at Jerusalem. From the Babylonian captivity until this very day that promise has not been fulfilled, but God has given us complete assurance that one day it will be; *"behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time I will cause the Branch of Righteousness to grow up unto David; and He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, the Lord our righteousness. For thus saith the Lord: David shall never want (lack) a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel"* (Jer. 33:14-17). This is one of the

many references of the Old Testament prophets to the coming King and His Kingdom. This, in fact, is the primary concern of Jeremiah. It was written while Judah was on the very brink of disaster. God's message was that the kingdom would be taken away, but at the same time Jeremiah wrote extensively on the fact that the Kingdom would one day be restored. Isaiah and Ezekiel as well as almost all of the other prophets wrote on this theme as well (see Isa. 1:1-12; Jer. 23:1-7; 30:1-9; Eze. 11:14-20; 16:60-63; 36:8-38; 37:11-28; Dan. 2:44-45; 7:13-14; Hos. 14:1-9; Joel 3:16-21; Amos 9:13-15; Zeph. 3:14-15; Zech. 8:1-23; 12:1-14; 14:9-21). All of these and the dozens of other literal prophecies concerning Israel and her Messiah Redeemer are based squarely on the Covenants of Promise God made with Abraham and his descendants, the twelve tribes of Israel. These prophecies were all spoken to Israel in a historical context and had a literal meaning that they could understand and trust in. The Lord was not lying to them, nor was He leaving them in despair. Although the Kingdom would be lost, He promised to restore it one day with His Anointed on the throne. *"And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob (Israel) My servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they and their children, and their children's children forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever"* (Eze. 37:25).

Jesus Christ: The Holy One of God

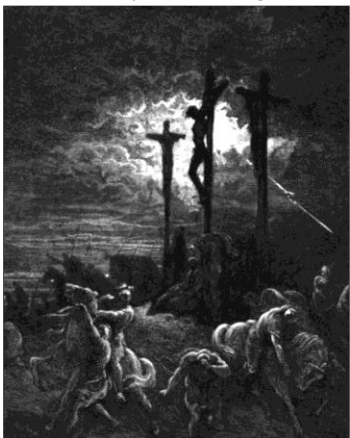
When the angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to announce that she had been chosen by God to bring forth a virgin born Son, he also specifically identified Him and His place in the prophetic picture. There can be no doubt that He was the long-awaited Messiah, the coming King, the Holy One of God who would rule in righteousness. Gabriel's God-sent message to Mary about her soon to be virgin born Son was *"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest (Son of God): and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end"* (Lk. 1:32-33). This is in line with God's promise to establish David's house, throne, and kingdom forever (see II Sam. 7:4-17). David's throne was in Jerusalem from which he ruled over his kingdom, the nation Israel. There has not been a king from the royal line of David to sit upon his throne since Nebuchanezzar and the Babylonians

destroyed Jerusalem in 586 BC (see II Kin. 25; II Chron. 36; Jer. 39; 52). Jesus Christ came as the rightful Heir to that throne. One day He will return to this earth in His literal resurrected body of flesh and bone to claim not only His throne but to reestablish or **restore** Israel as a righteous Kingdom under His rule. His Kingdom will mark the rule of God on earth.

In Isaiah, speaking in the context of the promised restoration of Israel and the Kingdom, we read: *"I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King"* (Isaiah 43:15). During His ministry on earth the demons recognized Jesus Christ and who He was, saying to Him *"...I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God"* (Mk. 1:24; Lk. 4:34).

The King of all kings

Those who were Christ's disciples during His ministry on earth failed to understand the full scope of what was taking place. They were looking for the One who would throw off the yoke of Gentile domination and restore Israel to a place of power and Glory. Having overlooked the prophecies concerning the suffering of



God's Anointed, they were devastated when He was crucified. They thought that all hope was gone, while in reality Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection brought real hope. Having given Himself as the perfect and final sacrifice for the sins of the people, He died

in fulfillment of the Mosaic Law (Heb. 9:26-28). But death could not hold the Son of God whose resurrection was a triumph over death itself (Acts 2:23-24).

After His resurrection, on the road to Emmaus, the Lord Himself explained to two of His disciples that His death, burial, and resurrection were within the prophetic plan and program of God as revealed by the Old Testament prophets (see Lk. 24:21). Their hope was right, they just failed to understand the order of events. Jesus Christ did come to redeem Israel and His work on the cross was the most essential part of their redemption, and the redemption of the world as well.

Having fulfilled the prophecies concerning His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection as foretold

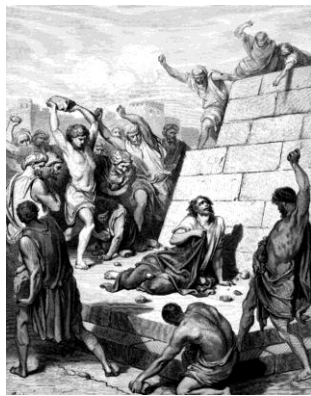
in the Old Testament, we know that Jesus Christ will also fulfill the Old Testament prophecies concerning His return to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. He will come in power and glory to establish His Kingdom. The prophets of the Old Testament wrote extensively on the subject. To deny Jesus Christ's literal return to rule and reign over the earth from Jerusalem is to deny large segments of the Bible as being true. Messiah will reign on earth with Israel, the privileged people of God. Isaiah reports that *"the Redeemer shall come to Zion (Jerusalem) and unto them that turn from transgressions in Jacob (Israel)"* (Isa. 59:20); Jeremiah reports to Israel; *"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise up unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"* (Jer. 23:5-6).

Concerning the restoration of Israel with Messiah as King, the Scriptures tell us that the Living God, who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt, will one day cause them to dwell in their own land (Jer. 23:7-8). Of course, this means Israel will dwell in safety and prosperity under the righteous reign of a King from the line of David. Daniel the prophet proclaims the same thing in his interpretation of Nebuchanezzar's dream when he said that the God of heaven will *"...set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever"* (Dan. 2:44). The kingdoms destroyed are literal kingdoms, the kingdom replacing them will be a literal kingdom, and the conquering stone cut out without hands is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Zechariah's message is *"thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of Hosts, the holy mountain"* (Zech. 8:3); and that *"the Lord shall be King over all the earth...."* (Zech. 14:9). Yes, the Mighty King will one day return to earth to rule and reign over the earth from His capitol in Jerusalem. He is identified by the Apostle John as the King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:16; also see Deut. 10:17; Ps. 10:16; 24:7-8; 95:3; Jer. 10:6-7; 46:18; 51:57; Micah 4:13; Zech. 14:16).

When Will He Come?

Jesus Christ's coming in power and glory as the conquering King of kings and Lord of lords will be preceded by the Tribulation period. His coming will, in fact, bring that terrible time of death and destruction to an end. But, before the Tribulation comes, the Body of Christ must be removed from the earth in the event that it is commonly called the Rapture. This catching away of God's people will bring to a close this present Dispensation of Grace that we live in today.



The first chapters of the book of Acts tell us of the rejection by national Israel of her King and His Kingdom. The climax of this drama was played out in chapter seven with the stoning of Stephen. His sermon was an indictment of Israel's national and religious leaders as the ones who not only rejected Christ, but also the testimony of the Holy Spirit as witnessed by the signs and wonders and preaching carried out by those who were His followers (see Acts 1:4-8, 12-22; 2:1-39; 3:1-10; 4:5-22; 5:12-32; 6:8-7:60).

Instead of bringing judgment upon the nations who have rejected God and upon Israel who joined the world's rebellion by rejecting God's Anointed, God ushered in the Dispensation of Grace. Instead of the prophesied Tribulation that will precede Jesus Christ's return "to break them (the nations) with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Ps. 2:9), God extended His Grace in a new Dispensation. No one knows when this Dispensation will end and the Tribulation will begin, but the time will come, and could come at any moment, with the Rapture of the Church. But until that time salvation by grace through faith alone is being offered to Jew and Gentile alike without distinction.

Our Hope

Believers of this present Dispensation are not to be looking for the King or His prophesied Kingdom to come to earth. We do not look for Jesus Christ's return to earth but for "that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13) when Christ Jesus will come in the clouds to take the Church which is His Body to its heavenly abode.



COURSES OFFERED FOR THE SPRING 2004 SEMESTER

(January 26th-May 20th)

BLOCK ONE CLASSES

102 - Apologetics.....	(2 hrs)
104 - Bible Exposition II.....	(4 hrs)
106 - Basic Bible Doctrines II.....	(2 hrs)
108 - Romans.....	(2 hrs)
110 - Acts.....	(2 hrs)
112 - Cults.....	(2 hrs)
116 - Biblical WorldView.....	(1 hr)

Total=15 hrs

BLOCK TWO CLASSES

202 - Christian Education I.....	(2 hrs)
204 - Bible Exposition IV.....	(4 hrs)
206 - Practical Disp. Theology II.....	(2 hrs)
208 - The Minor Prophets.....	(2 hrs)
210 - Homiletics II.....	(2 hrs)
212 - Church History.....	(2 hrs)
214 - Youth Ministry.....	(1 hr)

Total=15 hrs

SPECIAL CLASSES

1002 - Biblical Principles of Marriage.....	(2 hrs)
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What Would He Say?

*If He should come today and find my hands so full
Of future plans, however fair,
In which my Savior has no share,
What would He say?*

*If He should come today and find my love so cold,
My faith so very weak and dim
I had not even looked for Him,
What would He say?*

*If He should come today and find that I had not told
One soul about my heavenly Friend
Whose blessings all my way attend,
What would He say?*

*If He should come today would I be glad,
Remembering that He died for all
And none through me had heard His call,
What would He say?*

—Grace Troy

THE MAGNITUDE AND MAGNIFICENCE OF GOD'S CREATION

by Dr. W. Edward Bedore

Some kind of understanding of the magnitude and magnificence of the created universe is necessary for us to even begin to appreciate the creative work of God. For the most part, humanity fails to appreciate God because they are so taken up with themselves that they are busy comparing themselves among themselves and they miss the true vastness and grandeur of His creative work. A vastness and grandeur that is designed to demonstrate the necessary existence of a Creator God (Rom. 1:19-20). Even with the relative ease and speed by which we can travel to distant lands today, the world we live on is still a large place when we consider our day-to-day activities. But, when the very vastness of God's creation is seriously considered, our world shrinks to insignificance in comparison.

The Magnitude of Creation

If we were to travel to a largely uninhabited area with little or no artificial light to obscure our view, we could see about 3,000 individual stars with the naked eye on a clear moonless night. However, with even a small telescope the number of stars that could be seen would be increased over 30 times, to about 100,000.¹ All of the stars we would see would be in our own galaxy, the Milky Way. A galaxy is a large group of stars, gas, and dust that are gravitationally tied together. From earth, the Milky Way appears as a North-South band of softly glowing light in the sky. The light we see comes from the 100 billion stars that make up the Milky Way. And, beyond our own galaxy there are around 100 billion more such galaxies in existence of all shapes and sizes² containing literally trillions of stars. Concerning the extreme immensity and grandeur of the created universe, Clarence Benson said:

"When we take but a cursory view of the nocturnal heavens on a clear and calm evening we are almost overpowered with emotions of wonder and awe at the amazing grandeur of the vast canopy above us and the number of brilliant orbs which shed their radiance upon us. But when the eye of the intellect, assisted by the telescope, the spectroscope, and the discoveries of science endeavors to span the boundless spaces above us, and estimate the

number, magnitude, and remoteness of the constellations and systems dispersed through the regions of immensity, we are overwhelmed at the extent and grandeur of the scene. Millions upon millions of magnificent and mighty luminaries have been running their designated courses for thousands of years. The regularity and harmony of their movements, and the noble and important ends to which they are destined, proclaim that 'the hand that made them is divine.'"³

Dr. Benson wrote these words in the 1930's when man's ability to "see" into space was not nearly as advanced as it is today. With all of the knowledge that has been gained about the universe through space probes and the use of more powerful telescopes, radio telescopes, and even a telescope positioned in space in a satellite, we should be even more awed by the vastness of the universe of which the world we live on is a part of.

As the magnitude of the Creation is incomprehensible to our finite human minds, we should say with the Psalmist, "*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth His handiwork*" (Ps. 19:1).

From both its immensity and the attention that the Scriptures give to the material universe, we know that the Creation is a very important part of God's plan and purpose in the redemption of mankind. And, in considering the magnitude of creation, we must always keep in mind that the God who created it is infinitely greater. He is also infinitely more powerful than all of the combined energy that is to be found in the physical universe.

However, despite the Scriptural evidence of the Doctrine of Creation and the evidence provided by the existence of the created world, evidence that all men and women must face daily, for the most part humanity is ignorant of the significance of the Creation. Superficial "scholars" and "scientists" whose unproved, and mostly untenable, theories are boldly presented to the public as fact foster the prevailing ignorance about God's creative works on the popular level. Even believers are taken in by their pseudo-scientific and philosophical arguments and are convinced that their understanding of clear statements from the Bible must be adjusted and re-explained to harmonize with popular scientific theories. And this, even though these theories are constantly being re-examined, challenged, and changed because of their inherent weaknesses, while

the revealed Word of God remains unchanged and unchangeable. Benson correctly identified this phenomenon as a problem of unbelief and pride.

“This second hand thinking of the masses largely explains the prevailing belief that there is a conflict between science and Scripture. But it is well to point out that this modern incertitude of men has all come about through the folly of resting on somebody else’s unbelief, and this unbelief in reality has come about, not from the revelation of any contrary facts, but from a blind prejudice and pride in man’s modern enlightenment.”⁴

In the years that have gone by since Dr. Benson penned these words, the situation has not become better. Instead, as man’s knowledge and technology has advanced, he has generally become more arrogant in his own “wisdom” and entrenched in his “decided unbelief” in a supernatural Creator in favor of the blind chance of Atheism or the impersonal guidance of Pantheism, either of which leads man away from God. This being true, the importance of the acknowledgment and proclamation of the magnitude of God’s creative works to effective evangelism should be evident to every believer. “O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all...” (Ps. 104:24).

The Magnificence of Creation

Not only does the incomprehensible magnitude of the Creation speak to us of the greatness of its Creator, but its magnificence also speaks to us of the incomprehensible glory of His Being. Man simply cannot duplicate the awe-inspiring beauty that we find in nature. Throughout history man has created images of all kinds from nature, both small and large, through drawings, paintings, and sculptures using various mediums. And, more recently, he has been able to create visual images through photographs, motion picture films, videotapes, and digital computer enhanced graphics. But none of these are capable of inducing the same emotional response that actually experiencing nature firsthand does. For example, seeing a high quality, well directed movie with the best quality sound system available on a large theater screen of Niagara Falls that was filmed from the deck of the excursion boat The Maid of the Mist, could never instill the same appreciation for its striking splendor and power that actually boarding the boat and riding it into the spray at the bottom of the Falls will do. We enjoy

seeing colorful sunrises and sunsets, a full moon, the multitude of stars on moonless nights away from city light, balmy spring days, and gently falling snow. Our world is full of beauty, and wherever we go we encounter it. The National Park System of the United States is a dynamic witness to this fact. Each year, millions of people visit Yellowstone, Yosemite, The Grand Canyon, Mammoth Cave and 365 other parks, monuments, rivers, trails, historic sites, and recreation areas in the system. Even barren deserts and harsh arctic wastelands have an aesthetic attraction to them. We grace our homes and offices with pictures of landscapes, seascapes, plants and animals, and people of all kinds. We plant trees, flowers, shrubbery, and other kinds of plants in our yards to adorn them. We grow plants inside of our homes and businesses. We like homes with “a view,” and those who can afford it often build houses with spectacular panoramic views of the ocean, mountains, river valleys, and other places of natural splendor because they are pleasant to behold.

That there is an inherent beauty found throughout the Creation speaks to us of the design and careful planning that was involved in bringing the universe into existence. Even in its present sin-cursed state, the magnificence of Creation reveals to us that a transcendent, all powerful, and glorious God must exist; a God of far greater magnitude and magnificence than His Creation. Yes, His existence is evident, “for God hath showed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead...” (Rom. 1:19-20). The wonders of the created universe truly do “declare the glory of God” (see Ps. 19:1-6).

Endnotes

1. Donald B. DeYoung, *Astronomy and the Bible: Questions and Answers*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1989), pg. 57.
2. *Ibid.*, pg. 57
3. Clarence H. Benson, *Immensity: God’s Greatness Seen in Creation*, (Chicago, IL: The Scripture Press, 1937) pg. 20.
4. *Ibid.*, pg. 19



The BBI Bulletin is the official newsletter of the **Berean Bible Institute Inc.**, and is sent free of charge to any who request it.

Berean Bible Institute exists as a non-degree granting school of adult education, which endeavors to provide advanced Biblical and doctrinal studies in accordance with the Biblical principle of right division and the revelation of the mystery along with practical training in ministry and leadership skills, in order to help individuals become prepared to do the work of the ministry in local churches, the mission field, at home or abroad, with the overall goal of making the Gospel of Jesus Christ known to the lost throughout the world, the edification of believers, and the promotion of personal Bible study.

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Berean Bible Institute, Inc. admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

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