

Seattle, Artichokes, the Tower of Babel, and Hearing Implants

What possibly do Seattle, artichokes, the Tower of Babel, and hearing implants have to do with each other? Not a lot, on the surface. In order to explain it, I have to expose some of my convoluted thinking.

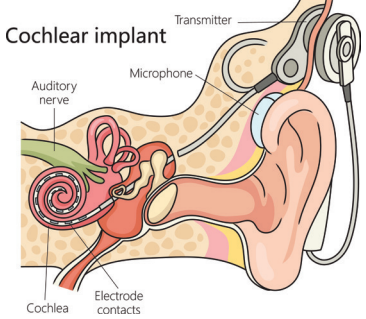
When I opened the Microsoft Edge browser on my computer this morning, what greeted me was a beautiful picture of downtown Seattle, easily identifiable due to the landmark Space Needle. That's so beautiful, I thought. And it is beautiful.



I reminded myself, however, how it can look so attractive on the outside, but inside a city like that is full of rot and corruption. Yes, I know, this whole world is full of rot and corruption, but cities concentrate all of that rot and corruption in a relatively small space, and the rot and corruption inevitably penetrates minds and souls that live and work there.

That's why many of us have chosen to live in a wonderful place like Lucerne Valley. First, we recognize, consciously or subconsciously, the downside of urban life. Second, we are willing to put up with the "sacrifices" of rural living: transportation issues, lack of immediate gratification of "fun" things to do, goods and services miles away, etc. Third, we recognize the connection with God and His creation that are more easily made when you live in dirt instead of concrete, with His critters nearby, and with long vistas, superb sunrises and sunsets, and wildflowers to ice our rural desert cake.

What's that got to do with artichokes and hearing implants? Much as I HATE technology and the way it's growing in complexity and smothering us by demanding we become dependent on it, I realized this morning again my own dependency. If I were put into a situation where there was no power available to charge devices, I would be totally deaf. As it is, I can function at 75% normalcy due to hearing implants, which are a direct result of the technology that enabled someone to figure out how to bypass a failed ear and connect a tiny microphone to the part of the brain dedicated to hearing. I'm probably not thankful enough for that miracle in my life. So I officially thank You, Father, for that miracle.



What's that got to do with Seattle? That's where the Tower of Babel comes in. Ages ago, early in human history, mankind became full of itself, and took credit for the marvelous things it could do, forgetting the Creator and His role in providing men with creativity and intelligence. So the people decided to build a marvelous Tower to the heavens and stood back to pat themselves on the back for

their ingenuity.

God looked down from the heavens and decided that such arrogance was not to be tolerated, so he scattered the people and confused the languages so that they couldn't communicate together very easily. That has worked for thousands of years, and still works to hinder open communication between peoples today, but we are busily building our own Tower of Babel.

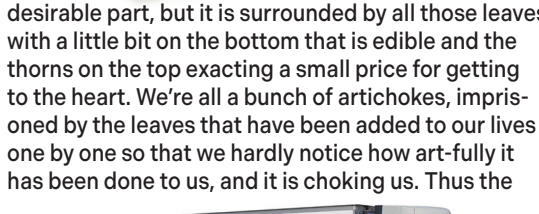
Our modern Tower's foundation is technology, growing exponentially, creating complexity, and making a huge mess of things, even as it sucks us in by making life easier in many ways and by making it



necessary to use the technology, e.g. "smart" phones, without which we find it hard to function. Our modern Tower also is unifying language again, using the internet and the technological advances in translation and teaching people a common language. What do we think God will do about that? The arrogance we share with our ancestors is on full display.

That picture of Seattle, beautiful as it is, is a perfect image of the pieces of our Tower of Babel, with tall buildings crowded close together, miles and miles of unseen but powerful communication and electrical cables, and humans pushed together, running around like little ants. It's the same "miraculous" achievement of technology that produced my hearing implants, and without these "miracles", we could not live as we do and sustain the populations as we do.

And the artichoke? This is really only, as coffee, and it may "choke" you up. (Come on. Laugh a little!) I realized that I feel like an artichoke in a way. In the center of the artichoke is the heart, the most desirable part, but it is surrounded by all those leaves with a little bit on the bottom that is edible and the thorns on the top exacting a small price for getting to the heart. We're all a bunch of artichokes, imprisoned by the leaves that have been added to our lives one by one so that we hardly notice how art-fully it has been done to us, and it is choking us. Thus the



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arti-choke. (Well, I tried, anyway.) Seriously, however, our lives ARE like that, growing new thorny leaves as time goes by, daring God's Spirit to touch our hearts through our protective leaves.

So how do we get out of this? We surrender. We surrender our lives to the living God and enter His kingdom right there and then, walking and living in a totally other reality than this ugly, broken world. We actually stop living in this world, even as we still are of it, and we live in God's kingdom. We walk as pilgrims in a foreign land, aiming to go Home.

As you read these excerpts from the Bible, think Seattle and its enticements. Think artichokes and their leafy armor. Think how advanced technology can really help us live this life but always aims to entrap us and keep us from our Father.

Friend adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? . . . (James 4:4-5)

Here Jesus is praying for His disciples and all of us who follow Him: . . . *the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. (John 17:14-16)*

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

Finally, THE answer: . . . *that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 1:17-19)* (I LOVE that passage!)

As my dad (Ernie Gommel) said when he gave his life to God, "Now that's a God I can follow!" Maybe you should, too (if you don't already).

Linda Gommel

LVEDA Meeting

(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

Monday, April 27th
5:00 pm at the Moose Lodge
on Foothill Road, just west of Tradepost Road.

- ✓ Reports from our **County, State and Federal representatives.**
- ✓ Progress reports from **County Sheriff's Department, CHP and Code Enforcement, Animal Control.**
- ✓ Sienna Solar Update
- ✓ Caltrans projects / Code Enforcement actions / Animal Control
- ✓ COP recruitment.
- ✓ Health Vans -- which ones do what.
- ✓ "Disadvantaged Community" status.
- ✓ Graffiti

Is something bugging you?
COME TO THE NEXT MEETING TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION!

Bear Valley Mobile Health Center
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will be here, on the Porches
May 14 & 28, 2026 / 10am-3pm

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On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

Not Fake News: He Is Risen

CHRISTIAN LIVING • APR 5, 2026 • 65

Jaimee Michell @JaimeeUSA

Liberals need to calm down.

President Trump is not going to harm gay people, bring back slavery, or strip women of their rights...

He's not a Muslim.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

BREAKING LIVE 19:45

"No Kings is uniting with No Dinosaurs and No Unicorns for a combined No Brains March this weekend."

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

IS TRUMP A KING?

Flowchart: YES/NO paths based on removal from office, face elections, courts block actions, Congress override.

FINAL ANSWER: Not a King. Just a guy with a term limit and dies on his power.

KINGS DON'T GET IMPEACHED.

PATRIOTPOST.US: OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS

MEAT IS SO GOOD THAT EVEN VEGANS PRETEND THEY'RE EATING IT

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS

NO DEODORANT

Image of a protest with people holding signs.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

An Inconvenient Truth: Republicans Aren't Nearly As Unified Or Committed To Saving America As The Democrats Are At Wanting To Destroy It.

PATRIOTPOST.US: OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS

This is why we're free **This is why we're safe**

Image of two American flags.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST COMMENTARY & ANALYSIS

"Now have ICE operate the DMV's."

Image of a man in a suit speaking.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

LVM Commentary - April 23-29, 2026

Canadian Astronaut Humanely Euthanized After Suffering Light Bruise During Takeoff

SCIENCE • APR 3, 2026

Image of an astronaut in a hospital bed.

Elon Musk Launches Emergency Rescue Plumber To Repair Artemis' Toilet

SCIENCE • APR 3, 2026

Image of Elon Musk and a plumber.

As Astronauts Reach The Farthest Any Human Has Been From Earth, Mission Specialist Pretty Sure He Left The Oven On

SCIENCE • APR 7, 2026

Image of astronauts in a space station.