

The Biblical Examiner

Since 1985, seeking first the Kingdom of God and its Advancement

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

A WICKED NATION OVERTHROWN

We have been going through the book of Jonah, and chapter three is especially helpful in our day of seemingly hopeless situations. I would have liked to put chapter two here also, for chapter two lays the foundation for this chapter. However, this chapter will stand alone for what I want to offer. These Jonah messages are available through dropbox, or I can send them to you.

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aorapi75i6bbtjfi/AAABM_EX7nB0BqeyqcIkCjila?dl=0

The obvious message in this chapter is that the most hardened and wicked society, or nation, can be turned around “overnight” with the Word and Spirit of God.

Jonah goes to Nineveh and proclaims the words of the Lord. The Ninevites hear, heed and turn to the Lord. The Lord repents, and Nineveh is spared.

V. 1, the second time... Jonah gets a second chance, but, really, Jonah did not have much of a choice.

We serve the God of the second chance. He can still use us if we will get back on the right track with Him. No matter what kind of a mess we have gotten ourselves into, we can still be used by God if we are willing to humble ourselves and submit to Him. Maybe He cannot use us as He might have been able to before, but it is never too late to serve God as long as there is breath within our bodies. We might even lose all of man’s trust, so we cannot serve the Lord openly, but we can serve Him with fastings and prayer.

This is a great declaration of God’s mercy, that he receives him again, and sends him forth as his Prophet, who had before shown such great weakness. (Geneva)

We fail to comprehend how merciful of a God we serve.

V. 2, “Get up, Jonah, and go say what I tell you to

say.”

The Lord does not ‘chide’ with Jonah, “Why didn’t you go do this the first time I told you to go?” It is our enemy who drags up the past to try to hinder our clear conscience. This destroys our effectiveness for God (1 Tim 1:19.)

The Lord spent 3 days and nights in the bowels of the earth, then rose again. After the earth “vomited” out the Lord, He then commanded His disciples to go preach to the heathens. They had the assurance of

His death, burial and resurrection behind their preaching. We have boldness because He lives and reigns in the heavens over all His creation today.

V. 3, the first time the Lord spoke to Jonah, he arose and fled from the presence of the Lord. Now he is just as quick to arise and obey without argument, though he

still felt the same concerning the whole situation.

True repentance will just as quickly arise to obey God as the rebellion was to arise and flee from God.

(Marg., of God). Nineveh was a great city to God, but to Jonah, it was a miserable city, and he wanted nothing to do with it.

Peter was typical of all the first preachers of the new Gospel of Christ. God wanted him to go to the Gentiles, but Peter was determined not to go. So the Lord had to move in a supernatural way to convince Peter that it was indeed the Lord commanding him to go. To the Jews, the Gentiles were no more than unclean dogs. On the other hand, to the Lord, they were great in His plan of redemption of the world to Himself through Christ, (Rom 9:24, 25.)

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Nineveh's wall was probably about 60 miles around. History reveals that many times the tillable ground was also included in the walls in order for the city to have its own food source in case of siege.

V. 4, he preaches no more and no less than what God told him say. *“preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee,”* v. 2. He was angry at the Lord, so he says no more than what he must say. Nor should we say more nor less than what God has instructed us to say. Did not the Lord warn us about taking from or adding to His word?

Note his message: *“Within forty days Nineveh will be overthrown”*.

God will not hold off His judgment forever. One day it will be full (Rom 2). EB Pusey (1860) writes:

[T]aught by that severe discipline, he discharges his office strictly. He cries, what God had commanded him to cry out, without reserve or exception. The sentence, as are all God's threatenings until the last, was conditional. But God does not say this. That sentence was now within forty days of its completion; yet even thus it was remitted. *Wonderful encouragement, when one Lent sufficed to save some 600,000 souls from perishing! Yet the first visitation of the cholera was checked in its progress in England, upon one day's national fast and humiliation; and we have seen how general prayer has often-times at once opened or closed the heavens as we needed.*

“A few years ago,” relates Augustine, (de excid. urb. c. 6. (L.) add Paul. Diac. L. 13.) “when Arcadius was Emperor at Constantinople (what I say, some have heard, some of our people were present there,) did not God, willing to terrify the city, and, by terrifying, to amend, convert, cleanse, change it, reveal to a faithful servant of His (a soldier, it is said), that the city should perish by fire from heaven, and warned him to tell the Bishop! It was told. The Bishop despised it not, but addressed the people. The city turned to the mourning of penitence, as that Nineveh of old. Yet lest men should think that he who said this, deceived or was deceived, the day which God had threatened, came. When all were intently expecting the issue with great fears, at the beginning of night as the world was being darkened, a fiery cloud was seen from the East, small at first then, as it approached the city, gradually enlarging, until it hung terribly over the whole city. All fled to the Church; the place did not hold the people. But after that great tribulation, when God had accredited His word, the cloud began to diminish and at last disappeared. The people, freed from fear for a while, again heard that they must migrate, because the whole city should be destroyed on the next sabbath. The whole people left the city with the Emperor; no one remained in his house. That multitude, having gone some miles, when gathered in one spot to pour forth prayer to God, suddenly saw a great smoke,

and sent forth a loud cry to God.”

The city was saved. “What shall we say?” adds Augustine. “Was this the anger of God, or rather His mercy? Who doubts that the most merciful Father willed by terrifying to convert, not to punish by destroying? As the hand is lifted up to strike, and is recalled in pity, when he who was to be struck is terrified, so was it done to that city.” Will any of God's warnings “now” move our great Babylon to repentance, that it be not ruined? (*Barnes' Notes, Minor Prophets I*, pg. 414.)

He went forward one day in the city, and preached, and so he continued till the city was converted. (Geneva)

Jonah's cry not a cry against sin, for the Ninevites knew they were sinners. Every person has that built in knowledge of God's definition of sin, though man works to suppress that knowledge. According to Jonah's words, they knew that they were going to be overthrown because of their sin, and that the God of Jonah was going to do it.

Evidently, the account of Jonah's rebellion against God and God's supernatural dealing with Jonah to get him to go to Nineveh had reached the city before Jonah. So when he showed up with his message, it got their attention.

How was it to be overthrown? Sodom was overthrown with a volcano. Some time after Jonah, Nineveh was overthrown by an invading army. But here it is overthrown by just one man preaching a simple yet harsh message of judgment given to him by God: *“Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.”*

V. 4, a day's journey was about 20 miles, so it probably took about a day's journey to go through the city of Nineveh. His short message got the attention of the people and even reached the king.

Divine Threats contain conditions, divine promises and offers of mercy:

Ezekiel 33:14 *“Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; 15 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. 16 None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live. 17 Yet the children of thy people say, The way of the Lord is not equal: but as for them, their way is not equal. 18 When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby. 19 But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby. 20 Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal. O ye house of Israel, I will judge you every one after his ways.”*

In God's mercy, He sent His servant Jonah to this great wicked Gentile city to preach the message given to him by God. It was a short, harsh message.

His message was not "I bring you good tidings of great joy". His message was not a message of love and good will of God toward sinners. His message was not "God loves you, and has a wonderful plan for your life". It was not a message of repentance, but it forced that conclusion.

Rather his message was very harsh and to the point. It was one of the soon coming judgment and total destruction. It was a message that startled the Ninevites.

It is pleasant to hear about the love of God drawing the sinner to Himself, but here we see the threatened wrath of God moving a sinful city to repentance. God's wrath is always against the violation of His laws, "for sin is the transgression of God's law". (1 Jn 3:4.) It is more difficult to preach wrath against sin, than to preach the love of God. People would much rather hear love than law, but Paul tells us that the preaching of the law is required to make people see their need of the sinless sacrifice of Christ.

Galatians 3:24 *"Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."*

Instruction in the law of God is required to show the sinner his need for Christ in order to approach God. Every shred of hope in self, that is of keeping the law, for entering into the presence of God must be destroyed. Only the Law of God will bring about that destruction of "self".

God had designed to save Nineveh, and to bring its people to repentance, and here was a Hebrew prophet warning of God's wrath. Rather than mocking the prophet as did the Israelites, they heeded his warning, and obeyed his word.

I would much rather witness to those who know nothing about the gospel of repentance and justification through faith then to try to witness to those who know all the right words. It is particularly the "Christian" religious leaders who mock the truth.

Psalms 62:11 *"God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. 12 Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work"*

V.5, *"Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God."* The people believed God as revealed in Jonah's short message, and their heart was struck with great fear. The king heard what was taking place in his city, so he called his nobles together, and they debated what should be done. They

decided to issue a royal proclamation, which included fasting with no food nor drink, covering both men and beast with sackcloth, and casting themselves upon the mercy of Jonah's God.

Faith in God, or "believed God" has been horribly abused today. To the average person, to *believe God* means you believe there is a "man upstairs". Every politician, especially at election time, believes in god, and will publically proclaim that belief. Every "religious leader" must profess a belief in god if he will have the sheep follow him with their money. Yet the god they refer to has nothing to do with the Holy, Just and Righteous God as revealed in the total of His Word.

Their god is not the Holy Father who gave His Only Begotten Son to pay the sin penalty for His people. Their god is not our God. Their rock is not our Rock. Deuteronomy 32:26-38. Their god is not the God who has given His command word with the demand that every person obey it. Their god does not have an unchanging law written in the nature of every man, and written in stone with an iron pen. The god of their belief is not a god of wrath against sin as Jonah presented here in chapter three. Their god is a god of love, who like themselves, winks at sin.

The list could go on and on defining the god of those who profess "belief in God"

Those who have a belief the God of Scripture will believe and declare all the counsels of God to the world, with equal authority of the Law, Psalms and the Prophets, as well as the Gospels and Epistles. (Acts 20:26, 27.)

Jonah chapter three tells us that to "believe God" produces great fear of the true God and who that God is. That fear produces a deep and serious awareness of sin, and turning to righteous living from sin. To "believe God" and turning from sin cannot be separated:

Deuteronomy 10:12 *"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul 13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?"*

Job 28:28, wisdom understands God and fears him. Pro 3:7, godly humility fears God and departs from evil. 13:19, fools hate the idea of humility and departing from their evil ways. See also Pro 8:13, 16:6, Ps 145:19, 147:11, Ecc 12:13 & Luke 1:50.

There was a popular song in the 50s, "Love and Marriage, Love and Marriage go together like a horse and carriage". Faith or "believe God" and holy living

have been torn apart today as has love and marriage.

Mark 1:14 "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel."

Those who profess the "believe God" yet have no desire to turn to righteousness from sin do not believe the Holy God of Scripture. They believe a false god, a god they have manufactured in their own imagination. Their god is an idol who can only deliver them to the place of eternal torment in the eternal lake of fire:

Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Jonah's message brought great fear upon the Ninevites, who were exceedingly wicked, and their conversion happened very quickly. They had been warned that within forty days the city would be overthrown. There is nothing in Jonah's message that called for repentance, and turning to the Lord. Yet the people from the king down knew the destruction could only be avoided by "believing God". They knew that believing God and repentance must go together. They knew that repentance could not be postponed until a more convenient time.

Repentance must not be put off, for we know not how long we have. One must not boast himself of tomorrow, for he knows not what tomorrow may bring. What caused the Ninevites to quickly believe and repent? God gave the spirit of repentance as the result of the preaching of one man. 2 Timothy 2:25.

First, we have an example of an entire wicked and perverse population turning in unison to Jonah's God in less than forty days. So we see that it is not beyond the nature of things for an entire population of a nation or nations to be converted to saving "belief in God" through Christ Jesus.

Second, we see here the willingness of the heathen who have never heard the gospel to repent, "believed God" and be converted.

Third, here was practical proof that Israel's God was the God of the heathen also, and He could prepare for Himself a people out of the most heathen tribes and nations of the earth.

V. 6, They were led in their repentance by those in civil authority, who set the example, as all leaders are required to do. The leaders are to have a good report among those who know them. Christians are commanded to pray for those in authority, whether civil or religious.

We hear a lot of revolutionary talk today, but very little of prayer and repentance.

The conversion of the Ninevites was as honest and true as anything could be, resulting in God sparing the very large, exceedingly wicked city. However, their righteousness did not pass down to their children. Isaiah, Nahum (3:18, 19) and Zephaniah all predicted the overthrow of the Assyrians long after Jonah's time.

The godliness of the fathers cannot be passed down without training up the children in the ways of godliness. How many people are depending upon the righteousness of their parents for their eternal hope?

WHEN THY JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH,
THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL
LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS. ISA. 26:9

V. 7, fasting is not a requirement for the Gospel Church, so it is

left up to the individual. Maybe for health, or maybe even for a spiritual victory, but fasting does not gain merit before God.

V. 8, the royal command was for man and beast to "cry mightily unto God." The royal command for man and beast was that "Neither man nor beast, herd nor flock" should taste food or water. Without food or water, the beast will cry out to God in their hunger, as men cried out to God in their fear.

Beast, whether domestic or wild, share in the wrath of God against man's sin. We see this in California even now, as the drought takes hold of Southern California.

Joel 1:20 "The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness."

Not only do men suffer the effects of sin as described in Deuteronomy 28, but so do the beast of the field.

At the royal decree, sackcloth was to cover everyone, including the beast. The king set the example, as he also sat in sackcloth and ashes, which was a further sign of humiliation. Sackcloth was a sign of genuine mourning and repentance before God.

In our Gospel age, humility is not outward covering with sackcloth and ashes, but it is humility of heart. 1 Samuel 16:7, Matthew 5:4, James 4:10, &c.

V. 8, the royal decree also commanded prayer, "cry

mightily unto God.” “let them turn every one from his evil way,” Every individual was to cry out to God, and turn from his evil way. Every citizen of the city was called upon to repent and turn.

V. 9, “*Who knoweth?*” The king’s desire and hope was that God would turn, repent and show mercy by turning away from his wrath.

Those who believe in the Biblical God of Mercy and Grace know that if even the most wicked man or nation will turn to God through the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s mercy and grace will abound.

John 14:6 “*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”
6:37 “*All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.*”

Those who will come to Him will find a faithful Friend and Father.

“*Who knoweth?*” We know that in His mercy, He will restore His contrite people to proper fellowship.

Joel 2:12 “*Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: 13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. 14 Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?*” (Heb 4:16.)

V. 10. “*God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways...*” God Himself testified that their repentance was real. One might be able to deceive men, but God cannot be deceived. Their belief was real, unlike many who profess “repentance”, which goes unproved by their works. Some may even profess humility and repentance with their works, but their heart is far from genuine humility before God. God sees the truth of the heart, and the works here testified of genuine repentance.

1:2, “*for their wickedness is come up before me.*”

It is important for us to see that no matter how strong or how wicked a nation, or individual, may be, it can be overthrown by men of God proclaiming the Word of God at the direction of God. The Lord does not need a large army nor terrible weapons of physical warfare to overthrow a nation, no matter how hardened in sin, rich, large and strong that nation may be. Nineveh was the strongest and richest nation of its day, and it was exceedingly wicked, yet it was overthrown “overnight” by one preacher who, over his objections, obeyed God, and delivered God’s message.

It is intimated in the Scriptures that a time is coming when “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Let the people of God, therefore, refused to be discouraged. Their labors are not in vain. Their example shall not be thrown away. Their hopes shall not be disappointed. The cause to which they have consecrated their best energies is assured of certain triumph. The kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdoms of our God and of his Christ; and when the victory is celebrated, it shall not be forgotten that you, my brethren, contributed to bring it about by your prayers and works and alms, and by your persistent pursuit of those things which make for righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. (*The Prophet Jonah*, Samuel Cleft Burn, 1880. Pg. 172)

• **“GOD REPENTED”, OR CHANGED HIS MIND TOWARD THEM.**

Jeremiah 18:7 “*At what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy it; 8 If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them. 9 And at what instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it; 10 If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them.*”

Would to God that He would see fit to overthrow our wicked nation as he did Nineveh through the proclamation of His Word.

My study in Jonah can be downloaded: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aorapi75i6bbtji/AAABM_EX7nB0BqeyqclKcJiIa?dl=0

OPEN RESPONSE

Introduction: The following is Ted Weiland’s response to Chuck Baldwin’s article as found at <http://chuckbaldwinlive.com/Articles/tabid/109/ID/2262/How-Christians-And-Conservatives-Are-Helping-To-Destroy-America.aspx>. Mr. Weiland’s article, with the footnotes and working hyperlinks, is found, at <http://www.constitutionmythbusters.org/open-response-to-pastor-chuck-baldwins-how-christians-and-conservatives-are-helping-to-destroy-america/#sthash.kABmFZoY.dpuf>. As you will see below in my closing remarks, I must basically agree with Mr. Weiland’s response. In the past, we have shown how this nation has departed seriously from the original founders’ covenant with the Lord God. What is now taking place in the US is God fulfilling The Mayflower Covenant made 400 years ago.

Caution: Mr. Weiland is a “Christian Identity” evangelist. I have a book available upon request, “Identifying Identity’s Gentile Corruption”, which shows Mr. Weiland’s heretical teaching concerning the lost tribes of “Israel”.

Open Response to Pastor Chuck Baldwin’s “How Christians and Conservatives are Helping to Destroy America”

By Ted Weiland.

I appreciate much that Pastor Baldwin stands for.

As compared with most of today's pastors, he's one in a million. Given the time to sit down and compare notes, he and I would probably find more that we agree than disagree on. Nevertheless, I couldn't differ with him more when it comes to his promotion of the U.S. Constitution as the supreme law of the land, per Article 6. In fact, he undermines much of the good he could otherwise accomplish if it weren't for what seems to be an undying devotion to the biblically adverse Constitution. This is tragically true of not only Pastor Baldwin but of many of today's pastors and ministry leaders.

As well-intentioned as I'm confident Pastor Baldwin is in his article "How Christians and Conservatives are Helping to Destroy America," I cannot in good conscience let this article stand unchallenged. There's far too much at stake. Consequently, it merits a response:

Chuck Baldwin: "What makes America America? What distinguishes this country from the nations of the world—or from world history, for that matter? Even casual historians must admit that there has never been a country like the United States of America ever to exist. This nation is unique to world history. There has never been a country like this—and probably will never be one like it again."

Ted Weiland: America's greatness is equivalent to God's blessings upon her. So *why* did America become such a great nation? Deuteronomy 28:1-14 provides the answer. Yahweh¹ pours out His blessings upon nations that look to His moral law as the supreme law of the land:

Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as Yahweh my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as Yahweh our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)

Consequently, America's greatness was *not* the result of the late 18th-century humanistic government of, by, and for the people, based upon Enlightenment and Masonic concepts. Instead, Yahweh blessed America as a result of the 17th-century's Christian Colonials' governments of, by, and for God, based upon His immutable moral law.²

Because Yahweh is also true to His word in Deuteronomy 28:15-68, we know America began to be cursed the moment the Constitution was adopted. It was only by God's grace and mercy she lost her blessings incrementally. However, without repentance for our national apostasy, it was inevitable America would find herself where she is today: well on her way to being fully cursed.

CB: "As hard as it is for the anti-God types to admit, America has a deeply-rooted Christian history and culture. However, when one says, "America is a Christian country," (usually spoken by a Christian, of course), he or she may mean something that NEVER existed. So, let's set the record straight: America was never founded as a theocracy. And even though there are some well-meaning, albeit naïve, Christian people today who pretend that America once had, and should have again, a theocratic-type government and society, the fact is, America was NEVER a theocracy.

TW: Pastor Baldwin could not be more incorrect about theocracies, and for two reasons.

First, if we're to believe men such as Alexis de Tocqueville, William McGuffey, and Pastor John Cotton, then America (or at least portions thereof) was in fact a Biblical theocracy:

Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1835:

They [the 1600 Colonials] exercised the rights of sovereignty; they named their magistrates, concluded peace or declared war, made police regulations, and enacted laws as if their allegiance was due only to God. Nothing can be more curious and, at the same time more instructive, than the legislation of that period; it is there that the solution of the great social problem which the United States now presents to the world is to be found [in perfect fulfillment of Deuteronomy 4:5-8].

Amongst these documents we shall notice, as especially characteristic, the code of laws promulgated by the little State of Connecticut in 1650. The legislators of Connecticut begin with the penal laws, and ... they borrow their provisions from the text of Holy Writ ... copied verbatim from the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy....

America was exalted in the eyes of the world because of her applied righteousness, embodied in Yahweh's perfect law. Since 1788, when the United States of America, as a nation, [officially and nationally] stopped following Yahweh's laws and began following the laws of WE THE PEOPLE, our legislation has ceased providing righteous instruction to others. Instead, the rest of the world now holds America in disdain. If

America hopes to regain her favored status in the eyes of the world, she must return to her original Constitution. [Which I will define below as the Mayflower Compact. Ed.

McGuffey's Eclectic Reader, America's most popular school book in the 1800s, also testified to America's early form of theocratic government:

Their form of government was as strictly theocratical insomuch that it would be difficult to say where there was any civil authority among them distinct from ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Whenever a few of them settled a town, they immediately gathered themselves into a church; and their elders were magistrates, and their code of laws was the Pentateuch.... God was their King; and they regarded him as truly and literally so....

William McGuffey was undoubtedly influenced by the writings of renowned early American preachers such as John Cotton:

The famous John Cotton, the first minister of Boston ... earnestly pleaded "that the government might be considered as a theocracy, wherein the Lord was judge, lawgiver and king; that the laws which He gave Israel might be adopted...." At the desire of the court, he compiled a system of laws founded chiefly on the laws of Moses....³

Were de Tocqueville, McGuffey, Cotton, and others naive for viewing Colonial America as theocratic, as was suggested by Pastor Baldwin? I don't think so.

The second reason Pastor Baldwin errs regarding theocracies is because *all* governments are theocracies.

When one understands that the principal means by which we keep the First Commandment is by observing Yahweh's other moral laws and that idolatry is not so much about statues as it is statutes, it becomes apparent that all governments are theocratic. They serve either the true God or some false god, as demonstrated by what laws they keep and consider the supreme law of the land.

Furthermore, all nonexistent false gods always represent we the people in one form or another. In other words, today's We the Peopleism is just a contemporary form of Baalism.⁴

... There is no escaping theocracy. A government's laws reflect its morality, and the source of that morality (or, more often than not, immorality) is its god. It is never a question of theocracy or no theocracy, but whose theocracy. The American people, by way of their elected officials, are the source of the Constitutional Republic's laws. Therefore, the Constitutional Republic's god is *WE THE PEOPLE*.

People recoil at the idea of a theocracy's morality being forced upon them, but because all governments are

theocracies, someone's morality is always being enforced. This is an inevitability of government. The question is which god, theocracy, laws, and morality will we choose to live under?...⁵

CB: The only theocracy in the history of the world was Old Testament Israel under Moses.

TW: Obviously untrue.

CB: After the death of Moses, God expected Israel to be governed by the principles established through Moses.... Only through Moses did God directly govern the people. And even within the government of Israel, God established the roots of what became known as republican (small "r") government....

TW:

...Constitutionalists insist the United States government is a republic, not a democracy, but they never stop to consider that the two are virtually the same regarding sovereignty.

Christian Constitutionalists further insist republics are Biblical. However, because republics (like democracies) rely upon the majority vote of the people for the selection of their leaders, rather than upon Yahweh's choice (as per Deuteronomy 17:15), republics are not anymore Biblical than are democracies. Both democracies and republics culminate in a government of, by, and for the people rather than a government of, by, and for Yahweh. The same is true with other issues voted upon by the people: ultimately the majority's will is exalted over Yahweh's will.

As demonstrated in Chapter 3, both republican and Christian governments are ultimately theocracies. As a result, they are incompatible and hostile to each other. A republic looks to the people as its sovereign; a Christian theocracy looks to Yahweh. The very definition of a sovereign, or supreme ruler, excludes simultaneous sovereigns....⁶

CB: So, if by "Christian nation" people mean that America was established as some sort of theocracy, they are gravely mistaken. It is also unfortunate that some well-meaning (at least, I think they are well-meaning) Christian people give the unchurched world the impression that they are trying to create some sort of theocracy in America today. Some even go so far as to teach that we don't need a Constitution or State and municipal laws—and any such laws are themselves evil. This is an asinine philosophy, to say the least.

TW: Such laws are evil only if they violate Yahweh's moral triune law.⁷ *This* is the standard by which everything (including the U.S. Constitution) must be ethically examined.

When the Constitution is *actually* examined by this standard, it's found to be anything but biblically

compatible. In fact, there is hardly an Article or Amendment that is not antithetical, if not seditious, to Yahweh's sovereignty and morality.⁸

CB: I, for one, would never want a so-called theocracy administered by the likes of the vast majority of Christian teachers and pastors today.

TW: Nor would I. Most of today's Christians pastors and teachers would never be in the position of administering a Biblical theocracy because the majority of them do not meet the Biblical qualifications.⁹

CB: Are you kidding? Most of them can't even govern a small congregation of believers who are ostensibly assembled under the same ideology, same eschatology, same ecclesiology, etc. Have you been to a church business meeting lately? You really want those people dictating national laws? God forbid!

TW: Although Pastor Baldwin has a legitimate concern regarding today's pastors and teachers, his objection is nonetheless a straw man. His concerns about the dearth of biblically qualified men does not trump the fact that government and society should be established on Yahweh's moral law.

Follow Pastor Baldwin's reasoning to its logical conclusion and one can only conclude that he prefers a government administered by unregenerate men employing their own fickle finite "laws" (Judges 21:25, Matthew 15:6-9) over biblically qualified men employing Yahweh's perfect law and altogether righteous judgments (Psalm 19:7-11) as the standard for society.

CB: No! There is no Moses on the scene today with new revelation dictating God's will for the nation.

TW: We don't need a Moses today. God has already provided us with His triune moral law by which we're to be governed.¹⁰ What we need are biblically qualified judges who will implement and adjudicate Yahweh's law instead of their own capricious edicts:

Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers.... And let them judge the people at all seasons.... (Exodus 18:21-22)

The Bible stipulates, among other things, that judicial appointees must be men of truth who fear Yahweh and hate covetousness. (See Chapter 5 "Article 2: Executive Usurpation" for a list of additional Biblical qualifications.) The United States Constitution requires no Biblical qualifications whatsoever. Nowhere does the Constitution stipulate that judges must rule on behalf of Yahweh, rendering decisions based upon His

commandments, statutes, and judgments as required in Exodus 18. That not even one constitutional framer contended for Yahweh, as did King Jehoshaphat, speaks volumes about the framers' disregard for Him and His judicial system:

And he [King Jehoshaphat] set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city, and said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: **for ye judge not for man, but for YHWH**, who is with you in the judgment.... And he charged them, saying, **Thus shall ye do in the fear of YHWH**, faithfully, and with a perfect heart. (2 Chronicles 19:5-9)¹¹

CB: That being said, there is no mistaking the fact that America has a deeply-rooted, rich Christian tradition.

TW: Indeed! A rich and deeply-rooted *17th-century* American Christian tradition when the Christian Colonials established governments of, by, and for God, based upon His moral law. That all changed when the constitutional framers rejected Yahweh's law for their own Enlightenment and Masonic concepts.¹²

CB: America's founders, even *those who were not professing Christians* [emphasis added], as we understand the term today, acknowledged that fact....

TW: Pastor Baldwin has inadvertently highlighted one of at least two reasons why the Constitutional Republic was doomed from its inception:

Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. (Matthew 12:25)

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18)

The second reason is found in the following passage:

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. (Matthew 7:26-27)

The house known as the Constitutional Republic was *not* built upon the rock of God's Word but upon the

sand of non-Christian Enlightenment thinkers, such as John Locke.

CB: Noah Webster (himself an outspoken Christian, of course), said, “The religion which has introduced civil liberty is the religion of Christ and His apostles, which enjoins humility, piety, and benevolence; which acknowledges in every person a brother, or a sister, and a citizen with equal rights. This is genuine Christianity, and to this we owe our free Constitutions of Government.”

TW: The standard for determining whether the Constitution is Biblical is *not* a bunch of dead men’s (often cherry-picked) quotations but instead the Word of God—particularly His immutable moral law:

Recognizing the Bible and Christianity’s influence upon society is not the same as legislating and adjudicating according to Yahweh’s law. One only needs to look at the record to know there has been a dearth of the latter since the Constitution’s ratification.¹³

Why is this? This was not the case in the 1600s Colonial governments.

In order to conclude the Constitution is a Christian document, today’s Christian Constitutionals have severed the framers’ words from their actions. To date, the battle between Christians and secularists over the Constitution has been a war of quotations—and there are plenty to go around for both sides, often from the same framers....

The only means of determining whether the framers were Christians is to compare their actions to the Word of God:

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity [*anomian* – lawlessness]. (Matthew 7:21-23)

This is a perfect description of the constitutional framers. Although some of them claimed to be Christians, they openly practiced lawlessness [beginning with the Constitution they framed].¹³

CB: Webster also said, “When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to choose for rulers just men who will rule in the fear of God. The preservation of a republican government depends on the faithful discharge of this duty.”....

TW: Although I appreciate Webster’s sentiments,

God never entitled man to vote for anyone. The framers usurped the Biblical election process by which we end up with the best of the best of two or more biblically qualified candidates, every single time. They replaced it with constitutional elections (what amounts to not much more than a popularity contest) that, thanks to Article 6’s Christian test ban (which all but eliminated Biblical qualifications) can, *at best*, only provide the best of the worst.¹⁴

CB: Daniel Webster noted the following: “Finally, let us not forget the religious character of our origin. Our fathers were brought hither by their high veneration for the Christian religion. They journeyed by its light, and labored in its hope. They sought to incorporate its principles with the elements of their society, and to diffuse its influence through all their institutions, civil, political, or literary.”....

TW: Indeed! Our 1600s Pilgrim and Puritan fathers. This is *not* true of most of the late 1700s lawyers, Freemasons, and Enlightenment boys.

For more regarding the late 1700s founders’ true religious persuasions, see Dr. Albert Mohler’s interview with Dr. Gregg Frazer. Dr. Frazer proves from the key founders’ own writings that they were neither Deists in the purest sense of the word, nor Christians in the Biblical sense. Instead, they were Theistic Rationalists.

Dr. Mohler is President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Dr. Frazer is Professor of History of the Master’s College in California.

CB: America’s founders never thought they were creating a theocracy, but they did have a “high veneration” for the Christian faith and “sought to incorporate its principles” into American government.

TW: Then *why* is there hardly an Article or Amendment that’s not hostile to Yahweh’s triune moral law?¹⁵

CB: The principles of the Christian faith include both Natural and Revealed Law. The Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, especially, clearly illustrate the founder’s understanding and appreciation for these principles.

TW: The standard is *always* God Almighty’s morality as codified in His revealed law, *not* some undefined natural law. By *this* standard, the Constitution is found to be biblically seditious and is the reason America finds herself teetering on the precipice of moral depravity and destruction.

The sins of the late 1700s founders were of both commission and omission. By their sins of omission

alone they doomed America to its present deplorable state of affairs:

...3. Every problem America faces today can be traced back to the fact that the framers failed to expressly establish a government upon Yahweh's immutable morality as codified in His commandments, statutes, and judgments. (Would infanticide and sodomy be tolerated, let alone financed by the government, if Yahweh's perfect law and altogether righteous judgments were the law of the land? Would Islam be a looming threat to our peace and security if the First Amendment had been replaced with the First Commandment? Would Americans be in nearly as much debt if usury had been outlawed as a form of theft? Would crime be as rampant if "cruel and unusual punishment" had not been outlawed and criminals were instead punished with Yahweh's altogether righteous judgments? Would we be on the fiscal cliff if we were taxed with a flat increase tax rather than a graduated income tax?)...¹⁶

CB: The Declaration begins, "When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which THE LAWS OF NATURE AND OF NATURE'S GOD [emphasis added] entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the cause which impel them to the separation.

"We hold these truths to be SELF-EVIDENT [emphasis added], that all men are CREATED [emphasis added] equal, that they are endowed BY THEIR CREATOR [emphasis added] with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

TW: The generic "nature's god" and "creator" of the Masons and Enlightenment boys was *not* the God of the Bible, and to embrace that god is to reject Yahweh. Thomas Jefferson, who cut the virgin birth, miracles, resurrection, and ascension of Christ (what he described as a "dunghill" ¹⁷) out of his cut-and-paste New Testament, was the chief architect of the Declaration. Be *very careful* who and what you endorse:

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your [personal, State, White, Senate, or the] house [of Representatives], neither

bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. (2 John 1:7-11)

CB: As Thomas Jefferson quickly penned the Declaration (and he did write it rather quickly), he was borrowing heavily from John Locke and the commonly understood principles of Natural Law. Though the founders were dissimilar in regards to their understanding of Biblical teaching, to a man, they understood and agreed with the "self-evident" principles of Natural Law, or "the Laws of Nature."

TW: This speaks volumes to the Enlightenment influence upon the founders:

The framers nowhere attributed the inspiration for any specific article or amendment in the Constitution to the Bible or the laws of Yahweh. After reviewing over 2,200 political writings published between 1760 and 1805, David S. Lutz and Charles S. Hyneman came to some very interesting conclusions regarding the Bible's influence upon the constitutional framers and others of that period. Lutz admitted that while the "book ... most frequently cited by Americans during the founding era [was] ... the Book of Deuteronomy, ... the Bible's prominence disappears [during the Federalist/Anti-Federalist debate over the Constitution]," and "the Federalists' inclination to Enlightenment rationalism is most evident here in their failure to consider the Bible relevant."¹⁸ Between the 1770s and '80s, Biblical quotations decreased among both Federalists and Anti-Federalists, while Enlightenment and Whig citations increased.¹⁹

CB: Furthermore, virtually every "right" enumerated in the Bill of Rights can be traced directly to commonly understood principles contained in Natural and Revealed Law. That fact is unassailable.

TW: America was sold down the river when the late 1700s founders replaced God-expected Biblical *responsibilities* with optional Enlightenment *rights*, which are easily controlled by whatever government happens to be in power. One need look no further than the Amendment with the wording "shall not be infringed." The Second Amendment is the *most* infringed, licensed, and limited Amendment of the entire twenty-seven. Furthermore, a future generation of our posterity are likely to see the Second Amendment completely whittled away or repealed altogether. This is the inherent nature and danger of optional rights.

Although the Second Amendment is the closest thing to being Biblical in the Constitution, the framers robbed it of its potency when they made bearing arms in defense of ourselves, our families, and neighbors an optional right rather than a God-expected responsibility:

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those

of his own house [beginning with spiritual and physical protection], he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. (1 Timothy 5:8)²⁰

CB: In addition to our common Christian heritage, America was united with a common language, along with a common culture and history. The loss of our Christian heritage, our common language, along with our common culture and history would certainly transform America into something other than America.

TW: This is precisely what has come of the late 18th-century founders' capricious Enlightenment ideas codified in the Constitution.

CB: Unfortunately, however, there are those who share our common faith and history who are also contributing mightily to the destruction of America. I am talking about those who would identify themselves as Christians and/or conservatives. Of course, to hear these people talk, America's problems are all caused by "liberals," or Democrats....

There is absolutely no question that a national breakdown of morality is seriously problematic to the survival of a free republic. No doubt about it! My only contention on this point is that the groups mentioned above are not the true problem; they are only symptomatic of the true problem. The real problem is the CHURCH. A soft, uncommitted, carnal, materialistic, lazy, self-righteous church is the root cause of ALL of America's problems, including the ones mentioned above....

TW: I agree. This includes Christians who ironically and tragically promote the biblically seditious Constitution as any part of the supreme law of the land.²¹

CB: Phariseeism is a major problem today.... The spirit of Phariseeism is so prevalent among the Church today that is no wonder why so many unbelievers refuse to darken the doors of a church. Many of today's Christians are as enslaved to the traditions and doctrines of men as any slave anywhere...

TW: This hits the proverbial nail on the head:

...The framers were fully cognizant of the word "supreme" and its meaning when they declared the supremacy of the Constitution. In so doing, they made the law of Yahweh subservient to the law of WE THE PEOPLE.

Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of

men. (Matthew 15:6-9)

The framers, and today's political leaders and Constitutionalists pay homage to the traditions and commandments of men as the supreme law of the land. Even the Pharisees of Jesus' day weren't so brazen as to call their man-made traditions supreme....²¹

CB: Some of the most enslaved people on the planet are professing Christians. Many of our churches, Christian schools, colleges, seminaries, etc. are filled with the "servants of men."....

TW: Many of whom are slaves of the late 1700s Enlightenment and Masonic founders and their secular Constitution, thanks to pastors and ministry leaders who are at the forefront in beguiling their adherents into believing the Constitution is a biblically compatible document.

CB: The assault against the United States is massive. We are fast losing our Christian heritage and culture—and Christians are as much to blame as anyone....

TW: I couldn't agree more. This is predominantly being accomplished by those who are trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear—that is, the biblically seditious Constitution into a Christian document. Instead, it is the principle reason America has lost her Christian heritage on a national scale.

CB: We have lost our understanding of, and appreciation for, Natural Law. Even most pastors cannot articulate the fundamental principles of Natural Law, even though this is the Law upon which America was founded....

TW: Pastor Baldwin is correct. The Constitutional Republic was *not* founded on the *revealed* law of God's Word but on some diversely construed *undefined* natural law.²²

CB: We cheer as our country has turned into a "Warfare State." We applaud as our nation has turned into an Orwellian surveillance society. We are losing our common language, our common history and heritage, and our common faith. Christianity in 2014-15 is not even comparable to Christianity in 1775-76....

TW: And far less to our true 1600s Christian forbears' Christianity.²³

CB: Yes, the very people who claim to love America the most and who claim to be interested in her blessing and prosperity are too often the very ones who are helping to destroy her.

TW: *Indeed!*

The link to the above article was forwarded to my by Robert McCurry, 605 Moore Rd, Newnan, GA 30263 or herbap@aol.com

• **EDITOR'S NOTE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

The Mayflower Compact reads:

“In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the Grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, e&. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia; do by these presents, solemnly and mutually in the Presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid; And by Virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions and Offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the General good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In Witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini, 1620.”

• **MAYFLOWER COMPACT ? WHO SIGNED IT AND WHY?**

One of the first lists of the Mayflower Compact’s signers was provided by William Bradford’s nephew, Nathaniel Morton. The names are published in his 1669 New England’s Memorial. They are also posted by the Avalon Project of Yale University. Some of the more familiar names includes are those such as: John Carver, William Bradford, Edward Winslow, William Brewster, Isaac Allerton, Myles Standish, and John Alden.

When creating the Mayflower Compact, the signers believed that covenants were not only to be honored between God and man, but also between each other. They had always honored covenants as part of their righteous integrity and agreed to be bound by this same principle with the Compact. John Adams and many historians have referred to the Mayflower Compact as the foundation of the U.S. Constitution written more than 150 years later.

America was indeed begun by men who honored God and set their founding principles by the words of the Bible. They lived their lives with honesty, reliability, and fairness toward establishing this country “for the sake of its survival.” A great many of America’s Founding Fathers have been quoted in regard to living by Biblical values. ...

From <http://www.allabouthistory.org/mayflower-compact.htm>

The original settlers of this nation who signed the Compact signed it as a Binding Covenant between God and the nation they were about to establish. It was a

Covenant “for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith.” That 1620 Covenant between the first settlers of this nation and God has been violated, and we are living in the final death throws of that nation which was conceived “for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith.” Just as sure as the children of those who made the covenant with God at the Mount were destroyed for breaking that Covenant with the Eternal God that changes not, this nation is being destroyed for breaking that “Mayflower” Covenant. We are not being destroyed because we have turned our back on the “Constitution”, but because we have abandoned the 1620 founding Covenant.

Hebrews 10:29 “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?”

A great many of the most sincere Christians consider the law of the Covenant a useless law done away with in the “Age of Grace”. They have rejected King Jesus and His Everlasting Law. The Everlasting Law of the Covenant is a witness against “lawless Christians”. (Deuteronomy 31:26, 1 Chronicles 16:17. We have dealt with the “law, grace” issue in the past, so we will not here.)

Psalms 78:10 “They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;”. The trumpet has sounded to call the eagles together to pick the bones of what was once a mighty nation founded “for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith”. “[B]ecause they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.” Hosea 8:1.

Weiland’s article cannot be ignored nor dismissed as unbiblical. We clearly see that America is finished, unless America “believes God”, which would take a “Jonah like” reformation. (It is a serious error to identify the Anglo-Saxon race as a lost tribe of Old Testament Israel, as Weiland seeks to do. The redeemed who make up the Gospel Church are the Israel of God since Christ.)

• **LOOK AROUND. HAS NOT THE FOLLOWING BEEN WRITTEN OVER AMERICA?**

Daniel 5:25 “And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. 26 This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. 27 TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. 28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.”

• **JUST A FEW OF THE THINGS NOW TAKING PLACE:**

* **Jade Helm: Troops to “Operate Undetected Amongst Civilian Population”**

Role players to practice infiltrating towns during controversial exercise

by Paul Joseph Watson, March 26, 2015

A key component of the controversial Jade Helm military exercise set to take part in nine U.S. states this summer will involve soldiers operating “undetected amongst civilian populations,” to see if they can infiltrate without being noticed.

A leaked 2012 US Army Military Police training manual, entitled “Civil Disturbance Operations,” described how soldiers would be ordered to confiscate firearms and kill American “dissidents.” The manual also revealed that prisoners would be detained in temporary internment camps and “re-educated” to gain a new appreciation of “U.S. policies,” in accordance with U.S. Army FM 3-19.40 Internment/Resettlement Operations.

Jade Helm has also drawn comparisons to a 2012 scenario outlined by retired Army colonel Kevin Benson, in which the U.S. Military is used to crush an insurgent rebellion overseen by Tea Party militia members who take over the city of Darlington, South Carolina.

<http://www.infowars.com/jade-helm-troops-to-operate-undetected-amongst-civilian-population/>

* **Isn’t it obvious?** If Operation Jade Helm were happening in any other country, it would be immediately labeled a military drill for martial law

...Martial law training already underway on the streets of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida...

(Natural News is the best documented. http://www.naturalnews.com/049180_Operation_Jade_Helm_military_drill_martial_law.html)

* **Military and Police in Florida Practice Detaining Citizens.**

http://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/constitution/item/20550-military-and-police-in-florida-practice-detaining-citizens?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_campaign=d92605bd38-The_Editors_Top_Picks_3_12_143_12_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8ca494f2d2-d92605bd38-288838389

* **THE JADE HELM 15 DRILL IS A MARTIAL LAW, CIVIL**

WAR and “RED LIST” EXTRACTION DRILL (<http://www.thecommonsenseshow.com/2015/03/18/the-jade-helm-15-drill-is-a-martial-law-civil-war-and-red-list-extraction-drill/>)

* **For Whom The Bell Tolls Jade Helm 15 Is NOT A DRILL**

Russia To Start A Civil War Within The Borders of The USA (<https://freedomfighterreports.com/2015/03/26/jade-helm-15-is-not-a-drill-russia-to-start-a-civil-war/>)

* **Obama’s Foreign Troop Martial Law Occupation Forces Are Already Here**

(<http://www.thecommonsenseshow.com/2015/01/31/obamas-foreign-troop-martial-law-occupation-forces-already/>)

* **After speaking to several former and active duty soldiers,** The Fifth Column can say with almost certainty that Jade Helm is a massive Field Training Exercise (FTX) to enhance the SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape) capabilities of American special operations troops....

(<http://www.mintpressnews.com/the-truth-behind-jade-helm-15/203807/>)

Note: Why in the US where use of Military troops for civilian law enforcement is forbidden. Also, “almost certainty” leaves a lot of “wiggle room”.

* **Rabbi Warns of Civil War in the United States**

(http://joemiller.us/2015/03/rabbi-warns-of-civil-war-in-the-united-states/?utm_source=JoeMiller.US+List&utm_campaign=86f119cfb5-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_065b6c381c-86f119cfb5-230980933)

Psalms 78:10 “They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law;” which results in the trumpet being sounded and the eagles being gathered to pick the bones of a once mighty nation for God, “because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law.” Hosea 8:1.

OUR MANDATE TO STAND WITH ISRAEL

By Thomas Williamson

From time to time, we hear exhortations to “Support Israel” or “Stand With Israel,” but these mottos are rather vague and provide us with little guidance as to just what we are to be doing on behalf of the modern state of Israel.

To provide us with specific guidance as to just what is expected of us when we Stand With Israel, the Voice of the Wilderness, an Independent Baptist paper published in Rosedale, West Virginia, has published an article entitled “What Does It Mean to Stand With Israel?” in its July 10, 2014 issue.

The article makes it clear that we as Americans and Christians must support all decisions and policies of the Israeli government, even those that are wrong or immoral:

“Some may say that we are not bound to Stand with them, because they might do something egregiously wrong or perhaps, immoral. If the news would reveal a new Israeli tactic or doctrine towards surrounding countries or states, we can debate the pros and cons of it, but must fall back on the foundational premise, that we cannot but continue to Stand with Israel. America cannot be divided on this. . . Irrelevant of ANY ungodly decisions they make, we are to MAKE SURE WE ARE THE FRIEND OF ISRAEL!”

Specifically, if Israel goes to war for the purpose of killing all the Muslims in the world, we must support that: “If the modern nation of Israel declared war on ALL surrounding Arab nations and declared their goal the COMPLETE ANNIHILATION of the Muslims, how would that be any different from the Old Testament? Would we DARE say anything different than ‘We as the United States STAND WITH THE JEWISH PEOPLE!’

“One of the hypothetical questions that could be come up with, is: What if any modern nation wanted to wipe out all of the Muslims in the world and began implementing that policy? Would I stand for that? I’ll admit, that would be a tough question if America were the one instigating such a vendetta, but if Israel started it? We’d have no choice but to Stand with Her!”

Thus, our duty to Stand With Israel places us in support of military actions that, by any standard of international law, would be regarded as war crimes. What if such a war pitted Israel against America? No problem - we would have to support Israel against our own country:

“I sure don’t want to be on the wrong side, if God uses Israel to judge a Heathen nation, even if that heathen nation was America.”

This article represents a shift in doctrine from what fundamentalists were taught in 2003, when President Bush invaded Iraq. We were told that it was our sacred Christian duty to support and lobby for the war in Iraq, without question, because it was the will of Bush and the American government.

Now, however, we are told that it is okay to “question” a war started by America, but it is our duty to support any war started by Israel without question, even if that war is directed against America.

Baptists Have Not Always Supported Israel Unconditionally

Fundamentalist Baptists have generally been supportive of the modern nation of Israel, but they have not always taken the position that it is our duty to support all actions of the Israeli government without exception.

For instance, in 2005, when Israel announced that it was ending its occupation of the Gaza Strip, Jim Vineyard, an Independent Baptist pastor in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, formed an organization called Yedidim of Israel for the purpose of lobbying not for, but **against**, the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Vineyard claimed to have 7600 Independent Fundamental Baptist churches (more than half of all IFB churches in America) as part of his coalition against official Israeli policy in Gaza. One church that was listed as part of his coalition was First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, which is regarded by many as the flagship church of the IFB movement in America.

When President George W. Bush supported Israel’s position on this issue, Vineyard stated that Bush should be cursed for doing so.

Some Baptists regarded Vineyard’s crusade as silly, even referring to his followers as “Yedidiots.” However, no Baptists, that I am aware of, objected to Vineyard’s position on the grounds that we are obligated to support all actions of Israel, without question.

What scriptural basis does the *Voice in the Wilderness* article give for our supporting actions by Israel that

are, by our own admission, “wrong,” “immoral” and “ungodly?” The article cites no Bible commands whatsoever for us to give unconditional support of Israel. There is a good reason for this - no such commands appear anywhere in the Bible.

The author cites a few Old Testament verses indicating God’s favor toward Israel as His chosen people. From this he extrapolates the notion that we are obligated to support anything that modern Israel does, which is quite a gigantic leap in logic.

By the same reasoning, when God says in Isaiah 19:25, “*Blessed be Egypt my people,*” this would require us as Christians to support all actions of the modern government of Egypt.

The author makes no mention of Israel’s funding of abortions of unborn Jewish children, or her recognition of gay marriage, but he states in general that “If Israel makes the WRONG decision today, it will NEVER be the right choice for America to desert them, or decide NOT TO STAND WITH THEM.”

Perhaps the author would allow for the possibility of expressing disagreement with Israel on such issues as abortion and gay marriage, but I was not able to find any evidence of this in his article: “We are going to have to let GOD judge Israel and her actions, not me.. . . Pray to God for wisdom, and stand with Israel come what may. Don’t pray that Israel will do this thing or that thing, just simply pray that God’s Will be done, and you’ll be on the right side.”

Did Old Testament Saints “Stand With Israel?”

Let’s look at the record: did Hebrew believers in Old Testament times render unconditional support to all actions of the government of Israel, based on their understanding that the Hebrews were God’s chosen people?

In 1 Samuel 22:17, Saul’s servants disobeyed a direct command by the King to kill the priests of Nob.

In 2 Samuel 20:17-20, the prophet Nathan rebuked King David for ordering the death of one of his soldiers, Uriah.

In 2 Samuel 24:3, Joab vociferously objected to the command of David to conduct a census which was not according to the law of Moses.

When King Rehoboam proposed war against Jeroboam’s breakaway kingdom, Shemaiah the man of God denounced that war and forced Rehoboam to cancel it, 1 Kings 12:23.

When King Jeroboam of Israel set up a government-approved altar for worship in Bethel, an unnamed

prophet publicly condemned him and his system of worship, 1 Kings 13:1-7.

Hanani the seer publicly opposed King Asa's alliance with Syria, 1 Kings 12:23.

Jehu the son of Hanani rebuked King Jehoshaphat for his alliance with Ahab, 2 Chronicles 19:2.

Elijah, 1 Kings 21:17-22, and Jehu, 2 Kings 9:26, denounced King Ahab for confiscating the field of Naboth the Jezreelite.

The prophet Zechariah condemned King Joash for his religious apostasy, 2 Chronicles 24:17-20, and likewise Azariah condemned King Uzziah, 2 Chronicles 26:16-20.

Isaiah rebuked the kings of Judah for their alliances with Egypt, Isaiah 30-31, and Babylon, Isaiah 39:2-8.

Jeremiah condemned the king for unjustly enslaving his subjects, Jeremiah 34:8-17, and for making an alliance with Edom, Moab, Tyre, Sidon and Ammon, Jeremiah 27:1:11.

Amos condemned the kings of Judah and Israel for human rights violations, Amos 2:1-8.

Micah condemned the princes of the house of Judah for their human rights violations, Micah 3:1-3, 10-11. Instead of encouraging Israel to do things that were wrong, immoral and ungodly, he encouraged Israel to "do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God," Micah 6:8. Shouldn't we also encourage Israel to do the same?

New Testament Policy on Standing With Israel

In Luke 13:31, Christ, when told that King Herod was plotting to have Him killed, contemptuously rejected Herod as a "fox." He told His disciples to beware of the leaven of Herod, Mark 8:15, and denounced the Herodians as hypocrites, Matthew 22:18, Mark 12:15.

Should not Christ have taught His followers that it was their duty to support and lobby in favor of wrong, ungodly and immoral policies of Herod?

There is no record of Christ teaching or preaching on the necessity of standing with Israel. He did the opposite: He predicted and decreed the destruction of the Israelite political entity of His time, Luke 13:6-9, 21:20-24, Matthew 21:18-20, 21:43, 23:37-38, 24:1-3.

In Acts 5:29 the Apostle Peter, faced with orders from the Jewish authorities to stop preaching, replied, "We ought to obey God rather than men."

The Apostle Paul spoke out in harsh terms against the Jewish policy of instigating persecution against Christians: "For ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews:

"Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men:

"Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost." (1 Thessalonians 2:14-16) This does not sound like an exhortation to support all actions of the Jews - not even close to it.

The consistent record of the Old and New Testaments is that God's people never lobbied in favor of wrong, ungodly or immoral acts by Israel - they always opposed and preached against such acts.

The teaching that we as American Christians should support all acts of Israel, even those that are regarded by the entire international community, and by ourselves, as wrong and immoral, should be rejected.

In place of that mistaken policy, I would suggest that we stand with Israel when Israel is right, but withhold support of Israel when Israel is wrong. Anyone who reads the Israeli press on the Internet knows that loyal Israeli Jewish citizens routinely and vociferously express disagreement with their government all the time.

I would also propose consideration of this resolution which was passed by the annual meeting of the Baptist Missionary Association of America in Mobile, Alabama in April, 2006:

"We affirm that Israel must always be held accountable to the same standards of national righteousness as any other nation, particularly in light of the Old Testament mandate that Israel maintain justice for the strangers and aliens in her midst (Exodus 22:21; Deuteronomy 10:19). We call on the Israeli and Palestinian people to pursue policies that promote genuine religious liberty and peace between themselves and their neighbors."

I realize that those who devoutly believe in unconditional support of all acts of the Israeli government, as their Prime Directive, will not be impressed by any citations I may make from the Bible, international law or associational resolutions. But I would like to pose a few questions.

First, if this principle of unconditional support of Israel is so important, why does the Bible say absolutely nothing about it, and why did the prophets and apostles in Bible times consistently disobey that principle?

Second, are we really helping Israel, and her standing before God and man, when we pledge our support for actions on her part which, by our own admission, are wrong, ungodly and immoral?

It seems strange that Israeli Jews have the privilege of disagreeing with policies and decisions of their government, but we as American Christians would not have the same liberty of conscience.

All Baptists can and should agree that Israel has a right to exist as a nation with secure boundaries, and that Israelis should be able to live in peace, free from the constant threat of attack by hostile neighbors. There will be honest disagreements as to how to achieve this desirable goal - these are political issues for which honest disagreement should be allowed.

PERSONAL

The older we get, the faster time flies.

Therapy, therapy exercises at home, hospital visits, visits with grandchildren and various other events have taken up our time. We missed the worse of the winter storms. They have gone either north or south of us. These mountains seem to split the storms. However, it has been quite cold and WINDY, which makes the house hard to heat. But we are fine.

Bettie tripped on an unseen object, and fell on her left shoulder. She has had surgery on both shoulders, and this fall did not do well. She is scheduled to see her surgeon again. Another shoulder surgery? And my left shoulder is not doing well. Maybe I “overworked” it with the right shoulder out of commission. We will see what the surgeon says.

Now my left shoulder is not doing well. I am scheduled for a MRI to see what damage is there. Surgery now on my left shoulder? My right one is just getting so I can use it properly.

Hab 3:18 *“Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”* Php 4:4 *“Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”*

As we see the weather “break”, we are reminded that it is close to garden time. It is getting more and more important to grow our own food. Those who know anything about Monsanto know that we are being poisoned by Monsanto with about everything we eat, including the meat that comes from GMO feed grain. (“Grain Fed” is not a good thing.) Unless something is labeled “Organic”, we can be assured it is GMO manufactured “ Frankenfood”. Those of my generation have seen health issues increase dramatically as our food moves more toward GMO. “All Natural” is a label designed by the food manufacturers to give a false impression of “Organic” to the uninformed. Remember, hydrogenated vegetable oil, which is in a

great many products, is “All Natural” though it is just one minuscule short of plastic. Plastic made from soy beans has been around for years.

Observation: For some years now, there has been a push for a “North American Union” with the border distinction between the US and Mexico removed. Though a physical fence still exists at the border, the gates are all open, and the dream of a “North American Union” is being fulfilled. That dream certainly did not start with Obama – he is only fulfilling that dream at the demands of the “powers that be”. The merging of the US and Mexico is taking place regardless of the voice of the voters. How foolish we are to think that the new Congress, which got elected with all kinds of promises, would do any differently than the old Congress. Nothing has changed, nor will anything change until the hearts of the people change.

Drugs: We have found from the experience of someone we personally know that though the civil government does all it can to “stop” the illegal drug traffic, it does all it can to get and keep people “hooked” on legal drugs that support big Pharma.

Collusion between the state and big pharma to prop up a system that is ruining lives?

See “Keeping Big Pharma in Seventh Heaven is Keeping Addicts in Hell — How the State of Massachusetts is Moving the Goalposts in Light of Dr. Kishore’s Successful Treatment of Addiction”, by Martin G. Selbrede.

http://chlcdnffaol.s3.amazonaws.com/FFAOL_Mar-Apr_15_Scribd.pdf

SODOMITES ADVANCING

By Robert McCurry

The sodomite invasion has far surpassed what I perceived and predicted it would be when I began my warnings forty+ years ago. Same-sex marriages? Sodomites requesting/demanding Christian pastors perform their same-sex marriage? Government requiring Christian pastors to perform same-sex marriages? Government sanctions on pastors for refusing to perform same-sex marriages? None of these questions were ever even thought about in bygone years. But we are faced with these realities in today’s real world. Stay tuned. There’s more to come.

The so-called “same-sex marriage” is now “the law of the land” in 37 states; the full fall-out of this debacle is yet to be seen when the SCOTUS issues its ruling in the near future.

Every pastor will not immediately be confronted with performing a “same-sex marriage”, but every

pastor will live under a menacing cloud of a possible confrontation to do so. As serious as these issues are, they must be recognized as ‘symptoms’ and not ‘causes’ of the problems if they are to be dealt with biblically and effectively. Here are some of the causes.

Pastors who perform a marriage ceremony with a State issued marriage license function as a State authorized/licensed agent of the State to facilitate a three-party contract between a groom, bride and the State.

license *n.* = “*The permission by competent authority to do an act which without such permission, would be illegal.*”

This is why sodomites are successfully demanding that anti-homosexual laws be expunged and replaced with pro-homosexual laws, including the “right” to obtain a “marriage license”; fifteen states now grant sodomites a “license to marry”; these “marriages” are recognized as legal by all fifty states; predictably all states will eventually pass pro sodomite marriage laws and issue pro “sodomite marriage licenses”.

The problem of laws granting “sodomites” a “marriage license” is not *the* problem; *the problem is the marriage license itself.* Prior to the marriage license, marriage was a family and church matter – not a state matter.

Prior to the marriage license, the common practice used in the marriage process was known as ‘marriage banns’, also called the ‘banns of marriage’; this served as a formal announcement of intent to marry, usually three weeks before the marriage; the announcement was made by the pastor and posted on the church door. Marriage had to be approved both by the parents of the prospective couple and the church itself.

The banns indicated formal family and church approval of the marriage. They were also used to root out illegal marriages, such as those held between people who were too closely related or already married. The practice of reading and posting the banns ensured that anyone who objected to the marriage would have ample opportunity to do so before the actual day of the wedding. Banns is still included today during a public Christian wedding ceremony that include the words, “If anyone here can show just cause why this couple should not be joined together in marriage, let him now speak or forever hereafter hold his peace.”

Black’s Law Dictionary for Marriage License:

“A license or permission granted by public authority to persons who intend to intermarry, usually addressed

to the minister or magistrate who is to perform the ceremony, or, in general terms, to any one authorized to solemnize marriages. By statute in some jurisdictions, it is made an essential prerequisite to the lawful solemnization of the marriage.” (Emphasis added)

Black’s Law Dictionary, Revised Fourth Edition

The marriage license was created to legitimize interracial marriage.

Forty U.S. states once prohibited interracial marriage. Social prejudice accomplished much the same result in other states. In 1948, the California Supreme Court became the first state high court to declare a ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional. At that time, 38 states still forbade interracial marriage, and 6 did so by state constitutional provision.

Then, in 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the remaining interracial marriage laws nation-wide. A Virginia judge had upheld that state’s ban on interracial marriages, invoking God’s intention to separate the races.

The institution of marriage involves a covenant between a man, a woman, and God. Man and woman, by mutual consent, enter the arrangement. But the procedure, in order to be valid, must be consistent with God’s divine law.

Biblical teaching is unequivocal. Jehovah God created man and from his side fashioned his wife. The two were designed to “cleave” to one another (Gen 2:21-25). In a discussion with the Pharisees, Jesus cited this Old Testament evidence, and declared: “What therefore *God hath joined* together, let not man put asunder” (Matt 19:6).

This first marriage that God performed is clearly the Biblical pattern; the Biblical marriage relationship is the “cement” that binds society together.

Christian couples should not be marrying with a State marriage license, nor should ministers be marrying people with State marriage licenses. Some have said to me, “If someone is married without a State marriage license, then they aren’t really married.” Given the fact that government has now legalized sodomite same-sex marriages, we need to ask ourselves, “If sodomites marry with a State marriage license, and a man and woman marry without a State marriage license—who’s really married? Is it the sodomites with a State marriage license or the man and woman without a State marriage license?” In reality, this contention that one is not really married unless they obtain a State marriage license reveals how Statist we have become in our

thinking. We need to return to God's perfect law and live Biblically.

The marriage license is used today to accommodate/legitimize sodomites 'same-sex marriages.' Pastors who continue to use State marriages to perform wedding ceremonies will do so at their own peril; they will have no defense when sodomites with a State marriage license request them to perform their "wedding" ceremony.

Jehovah God has said:

"Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the Lord your God, which I command you this day: And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the Lord your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known" (Deut 11:26, 28).

Editor's Note: We have the Biblical arguments for and the "forms" to support a "Coverture" marriage. See License? Contract? Coverture? <http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/w199803.shtml#Coverture>

At the Movies

50 SHADES OF GREY

By Ed Welch, February 16, 2015

To comment about something one neither saw nor read, borders on foolishness. So I will try to be careful and brief. I avoided *50 Shades of Grey*. That is, I tried to avoid even reading anything about it. But recently I succumbed and read a review because it was in a popular newspaper and its headline made the review sound prudent and critical, which it was. And now the idea of the movie is temporarily lodged in my consciousness.

The movie will create a temporary backlash. When a movie portrays a relationship that is so far outside the boundaries of Scripture and God's created intent, most human beings will protest. Sadomasochism is, of course, a perversion that reflects a decrepit soul and abets the soul's destruction. We all know that.

But the movie will do more. When important people commit suicide, there are usually some imitators who follow. When smoking cigarettes appears more frequently on the big screen and is associated with cool people, there will be imitators. And when S&M is portrayed by attractive people, there will be imitators. The movie will infect imaginations and provoke analogous behavior.

Why are such things contagious? Why is something so obviously sinful, so virulent? We could list a number of reasons. The primary reason is that people still have

affection for evil. We might hate it, but we also like it. This reminds us that our growth in Christ can be described as a path in which sin, once an affection, becomes an affliction that we yearn to be fully rid of.

One more personal response. The review I read was certainly not prurient in any way. As such, I was surprised that just a few of the words opened a door in my mind. Was it curiosity? Lust? It felt more like I was walking along, someone else opened a door, I saw things that were shocking, though not really engaging, and the scene stayed in my mind longer than I wanted. In other words, scenes that are outside the boundaries of godliness—like sex and violence—are sticky. For example, when someone absorbs pornography, the images stick far longer than most memories.

The half-life of the image was about an hour, and then it faded, though I suspect it could sneak up when I don't suspect it. What do I do with all this? Though it once would sound prudish to say that I am trying to avoid being exposed to the dark details of the human soul, especially in the media, we are part of a few generations who have let their minds and actions go there, and the consequences have not been good.

Still, maybe prudishness *will* go mainstream, at least for a few weeks.

<http://www.ccef.org/resources/blog/movies-50-shades-grey>

MARINE HYMN

Why the Marine Hymn contains the verse "to the shores of Tripoli"

Muslim pirates of the past: Most Americans are unaware of (or have forgotten!) the fact that over two hundred years ago, the United States declared war on Islam, and Thomas Jefferson led the charge!

At the height of the eighteenth century, Muslim pirates were the terror of the Mediterranean and a large area of the North Atlantic. They attacked every ship in sight, and held the crews for exorbitant ransoms. Those taken hostage were subjected to barbaric treatment and wrote heart breaking letters home, begging their government and family members to pay whatever their Mohammedan captors demanded.

These extortionists of the high seas represented the Islamic nations of Tripoli, Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers – collectively referred to as the Barbary Coast – and presented a dangerous and unprovoked threat to the new American Republic.

Before the Revolutionary War, U.S. merchant ships had been under the protection of Great Britain. When

the U.S. declared its independence and entered into war, the ships of the United States were protected by France. However, once the war was won, America had to protect its own fleets. Thus, the birth of the U.S. Navy.

Beginning in 1784, seventeen years before he would become president, Thomas Jefferson became America's Minister to France. That same year, the U.S. Congress sought to appease its Muslim adversaries by following in the footsteps of European nations who paid bribes to the Barbary States, rather than engaging them in war.

In July of 1785, Algerian pirates captured American ships, and the Dye of Algiers demanded an unheard-of ransom of \$60,000. It was a plain and simple case of extortion, and Thomas Jefferson was vehemently opposed to any further payments. Instead, he proposed to Congress the formation of a coalition of allied nations who together could force the Islamic states into peace. A disinterested Congress decided to pay the ransom.

In 1786, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams met with Tripoli's ambassador to Great Britain to ask by what right his nation attacked American ships and enslaved American citizens, and why Muslims held so much hostility towards America, a nation with which they had no previous contacts. The two future presidents reported that Ambassador Sidi Haji Abdul Rahman Adja had answered that Islam "was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Quran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman (Muslim) who should be slain in Battle was sure to go to Paradise."

Despite this stunning admission of premeditated violence on non-Muslim nations, as well as the objections of many notable American leaders, including George Washington, who warned that caving in was both wrong and would only further embolden the enemy, for the following fifteen years, the American government paid the Muslims millions of dollars for the safe passage of American ships or the return of American hostages. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to over twenty percent of the United States government annual revenues in 1800.

Jefferson was disgusted. Shortly after his being sworn in as the third President of the United States in 1801, the Pasha of Tripoli sent him a note demanding the immediate payment of \$225,000 plus \$25,000 a year for every year forthcoming. That changed everything.

Jefferson let the Pasha know, in no uncertain terms, what he could do with his demand. The Pasha responded by cutting down the flagpole at the American consulate and declared war on the United States. Tunis, Morocco, and Algiers immediately followed suit. Jefferson, until now, had been against America raising a naval force for anything beyond coastal defense, but having watched his nation be cowed by Islamic thuggery for long enough, decided that it was finally time to meet force with force.

He dispatched a squadron of frigates to the Mediterranean and taught the Muslim nations of the Barbary Coast a lesson he hoped they would never forget. Congress authorized Jefferson to empower U.S. ships to seize all vessels and goods of the Pasha of Tripoli and to "cause to be done all other acts of precaution or hostility as the state of war would justify".

When Algiers and Tunis, who were both accustomed to American cowardice and acquiescence, saw the newly independent United States had both the will and the might to strike back, they quickly abandoned their allegiance to Tripoli. The war with Tripoli lasted for four more years, and raged up again in 1815. The bravery of the U.S. Marine Corps in these wars led to the line "to the shores of Tripoli" in the Marine Hymn, and they would forever be known as "leathernecks" for the leather collars of their uniforms, designed to prevent their heads from being cut off by the Muslim scimitars when boarding enemy ships.

Islam, and what its Barbary followers justified doing in the name of their prophet and their god, disturbed Jefferson quite deeply. America had a tradition of religious tolerance, the fact that Jefferson, himself, had co-authored the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, but fundamentalist Islam was like no other religion the world had ever seen. A religion based on supremacism, whose holy book not only condoned but mandated violence against unbelievers was unacceptable to him. His greatest fear was that someday this brand of Islam would return and pose an even greater threat to the United States.

This should bother every American. That Muslims have brought about women-only classes and swimming times at taxpayer-funded universities and public pools; that Christians, Jews, and Hindus have been banned from serving on juries where Muslim defendants are being judged, Piggy banks and Porky Pig tissue dispensers have been banned from workplaces because they offend Islamist sensibilities.

Ice cream has been discontinued at certain Burger

King locations because the picture on the wrapper looks similar to the Arabic script for Allah, public schools are pulling pork from their menus, on and on in the newspapers....

It's death by a thousand cuts, or inch-by-inch as some refer to it, and most Americans have no idea that this battle is being waged every day across America. By not fighting back, by allowing groups to obfuscate what is really happening, and not insisting that the Islamists adapt to our own culture, the United States is cutting its own throat with a politically correct knife, and helping to further the Islamists agenda. Sadly, it appears that today's America would rather be politically correct than victorious.

Any doubts, just Google Thomas Jefferson vs the Muslim World.

(Copied)

From "Chaplains' Corps Chronicles of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, 3/2015

SECRETS OF SUCCESS

Ray L. Parker, Chaplain-in-Chief.

There are historians who question the political success of Southern secession and the military success of the Southern struggle for independence in the 1861-65 conflict. If one defines success as "victory in the military struggle," these historians *could perhaps* have a point. Yet, even this view of success lacks depth. The path of success can veer into diverse directions. It is true that Southern secession was halted by force of arms -- but does that mean that the desire for freedom, independence, liberty, and self-determination is an unworthy goal? Does it mean that a people should not have the right to refuse submission to unconstitutional demands? Does it mean that the government must be "all powerful" with ultimate control of all aspects of personal life and state sovereignty? In this light, it seems that military might and military victory may be only that -- victory but not really success. The Southern spirit still yearns for liberty and self-determination. Southern consciousness is still attuned to the powerful reality of God's great gift of freedom.

While debates continue regarding Southern secession and military tactics, there can be little debate of "spiritual success" in our Southern armies. A mighty move of God brought thousands of Southern soldiers to faith in Jesus Christ. On these spiritual battlefields great victories were won. Thus, the years of 1861-65

were powerful years of success (good success) in the struggle for the hearts of men. We view this success and our prayer is, "O Lord, do it again! Send spiritual success!"

In the Old Testament, Joshua received "secrets of success" from the Lord Himself (Joshua 1:8). It is wise in our current culture to consider these secrets. The Lord told Joshua, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

• PRINCIPLES OF SUCCESS

Spiritual success begins with the Word of God. The Lord spoke to Joshua regarding "this book of the law" (Joshua 1:8). It is impossible to have spiritual success if the Word of God is ignored. In the Scriptures God has revealed the principles of life. As we understand and apply these principles we can respond to the challenges, problems, and temptations that life will bring. If we violate the principles of life established by God and revealed in His Word, there are unpleasant consequences.

The Lord instructed Joshua that "this book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth" (Joshua 1:8). The Word of God must reside in our heart -- it must be at home in our inner most being. David stated this principle with these words, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Psalm 119:11). Here we have a good thing (the Word of God), in a good place (my heart), for a good purpose (that I might not sin).

The Lord then told Joshua that he was to meditate on the Word of God day and night (Joshua 1:8). The word "meditate" means to ponder, to consider, to contemplate or to reflect upon. The Word of God "placed in the heart" by means of Bible reading, study, and memorization is to be "mulled over" consciously and continually. There is a valid principle here. What we put in (our hearts, minds) is what we think upon. What we think upon is what we become. How important therefore to "put righteous things in" and avoid those things of unrighteousness.

The Lord then directed Joshua to the application of reading and contemplating the Word of God. He challenged Joshua to do what was written therein (Joshua 1:8). The Lord did not give His Word for us to consider it. The Lord gave His Word for us to believe it and obey it. The Word of God is to be lived. We are to be

“living Bibles.” The Lord Jesus told His disciples, “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me” (John 14:21). Loving Jesus therefore is more than dogma, ritual, and litany. We can practice the “outward trappings” of religion without love for Christ. Love for Christ comes from the heart and is evident in following the example of Jesus in the living of life.

As one examines the historical record and writings of the Southern independence struggle, it becomes evident that the Spirit of God did this type of work in the hearts of Southern soldiers. The life and words of General Robert E. Lee, for example, reveal one whose love for Christ was evident in the actions and attitudes of his life. General Lee did read and mediate upon the Word of God. He did allow the teachings of Scripture to become alive in Him. His desire was that the reality of Christ in his life would influence others to come to the Savior. Lee, as President of Washington College following the war, said to the Rev. Dr. W. S. White of Lexington, “I shall be disappointed, sir, I shall fail in the leading object that brought me here, unless these young men become real Christians, and I wish you and others of your sacred calling to do all in your power to accomplish this.” Lee said to the Rev. Dr. Brown, one of the college trustees, “I dread the thought of any student going away from the college without becoming a sincere Christian.” Lee said to the Rev. Dr. Kirkpatrick, professor of moral philosophy, “Oh! Doctor, if I could only know that all of the young men in the college were good Christians, I should have nothing more to desire.”

The principles of success, therefore, involve the Word of God placed in the innermost being, meditated upon consistently, and lived out daily.

- **PROMISE OF SUCCESS**

As the Lord concluded this instruction to Joshua, He revealed the point of success. He told Joshua that if he would apply the principles of success “then” -- at that point -- he would be on the right path (Joshua 1:8). We can only reach this “then” when we allow the Word of God to be alive in us. At that point God can begin to do marvelous, wonderful things for us, in us, and through us.

The Lord said to Joshua, “Then thou shalt make thy way prosperous” (Joshua 1:8). This word “prosperous” means flourishing or thriving. The most rewarding life that anyone can live is the Christian life. There is no better approach to living. Would this world be better or worse if humankind took the teachings of Christ seriously? Would our country be better or worse if our citizens took the teachings of Christ seriously?

Would our families be better or worse if parents and children took the teachings of Christ seriously? Would our churches be better or worse if our congregations took the teachings of Christ seriously? The flourishing, thriving life is found in following Jesus. It can be found nowhere else. To ignore the love of Christ is to miss out on the marvelous things God desires for us to experience.

The Lord concluded this teaching to Joshua with these words, “Then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8). He did not promise mere success, He promised “good success.” It is possible to have success that is not good. It is possible to be successful in that which is harmful to ourselves or to others. Perhaps this was the type of success attained by the Federal invaders in the 1861-65 conflict. They had success, but it was not good success. Their success brought an end to a noble culture. Their success left cities in ruin and people destitute. Their success brought the horrors of so called Reconstruction. Their success bought down the noble Flag of freedom. They had success, but not good success.

The Southern army had good success (Joshua 1:8). Thousands came to faith in Christ. In this good success they learned of wisdom (Psalm 119:98), joy (Psalm 63:5), prosperity (Psalm 1:2,3), life (Proverbs 16:22), understanding (Psalm 119:99); faith (Romans 10:17), and peace (Psalm 119:165). We, Sons of Confederate Veterans, have opportunity to claim this good success personally. God promises good success for anyone who will meditate in His Word continually and live His Word consistently. The Word of God must be real in us and must be the guiding principle of living.

General Stonewall Jackson is an excellent example of one with ultimate faith in the Word of God. On one occasion, a friend of Jackson asked if he truly believed that that all things worked together for good to those who loved God (as Paul wrote in Romans 8:28). Jackson replied that he did. The friend pursued the topic: “If you were to lose your health, would you believe it then?” Jackson answered, “Yes! I think I should.” The friend asked, “If you would become entirely blind, would you believe it then?” Jackson responded, “I should still believe it.” The friend challenged, “But suppose, in addition to your loss of health and sight, you should become utterly dependent upon the cold charities of the world, would you believe it then?” Jackson answered with emphasis, “If it were the will of God to place me there, He would enable me to lie there peacefully a hundred years”

Let us hear the Word of the Lord to Joshua once again:

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success” (Joshua 1:8)

THE COMING EVANGELICAL COLLAPSE!!!

AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN CHAPTER IN WESTERN HISTORY IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. BUT OUT OF THE RUINS, A NEW VITALITY AND INTEGRITY WILL RISE.

By Michael Spencer, from the March 10, 2009 edition Christian Science Monitor

Oneida, Ky. - We are on the verge - within 10 years - of a major collapse of evangelical Christianity. This breakdown will follow the deterioration of the mainline Protestant world and it will fundamentally alter the religious and cultural environment in the West.

Within two generations, evangelicalism will be a house deserted of half its occupants. (Between 25 and 35 percent of Americans today are Evangelicals.) In the “Protestant” 20th century, Evangelicals flourished. But they will soon be living in a very secular and religiously antagonistic 21st century.

This collapse will herald the arrival of an anti-Christian chapter of the post-Christian West. Intolerance of Christianity will rise to levels many of us have not believed possible in our lifetimes, and public policy will become hostile toward evangelical Christianity, seeing it as the opponent of the common good.

Millions of Evangelicals will quit. Thousands of ministries will end. Christian media will be reduced, if not eliminated. Many Christian schools will go into rapid decline. I’m convinced the grace and mission of God will reach to the ends of the earth. But the end of evangelicalism as we know it is close.

Why is this going to happen?

1. Evangelicals have identified their movement with the culture war and with political conservatism. This will prove to be a very costly mistake. Evangelicals will increasingly be seen as a threat to cultural progress.

Public leaders will consider us bad for America, bad for education, bad for children, and bad for society.

The evangelical investment in moral, social, and political issues has depleted our resources and exposed

our weaknesses. Being against gay marriage and being rhetorically pro-life will not make up for the fact that massive majorities of Evangelicals can’t articulate the Gospel with any coherence. We fell for the trap of believing in a cause more than a faith.

2. We Evangelicals have failed to pass on to our young people an orthodox form of faith that can take root and survive the secular onslaught. Ironically, the billions of dollars we’ve spent on youth ministers, Christian music, publishing, and media has produced a culture of young Christians who know next to nothing about their own faith except how they feel about it. Our young people have deep beliefs about the culture war, but do not know why they should obey scripture, the essentials of theology, or the experience of spiritual discipline and community. Coming generations of Christians are going to be monumentally ignorant and unprepared for culture-wide pressures.

3. There are three kinds of evangelical churches today: consumer-driven mega-churches, dying churches, and new churches whose future is fragile. Denominations will shrink, even vanish, while fewer and fewer evangelical churches will survive and thrive.

4. Despite some very successful developments in the past 25 years, Christian education has not produced a product that can withstand the rising tide of secularism. Evangelicalism has used its educational system primarily to staff its own needs and talk to itself.

5. The confrontation between cultural secularism and the faith at the core of evangelical efforts to “do good” is rapidly approaching. We will soon see that the good Evangelicals want to do will be viewed as bad by so many, and much of that work will not be done. Look for ministries to take on a less and less distinctively Christian face in order to survive.

6. Even in areas where Evangelicals imagine themselves strong (like the Bible Belt), we will find a great inability to pass on to our children a vital evangelical confidence in the Bible and the importance of the faith.

7. The money will dry up.

• **WHAT WILL BE LEFT?**

• Expect evangelicalism to look more like the pragmatic, therapeutic, church-growth oriented mega-churches that have defined success. Emphasis will shift from doctrine to relevance, motivation, and personal success - resulting in churches further compromised and weakened in their ability to pass on the faith.

• Two of the beneficiaries will be the Roman

Catholic and Orthodox communions. Evangelicals have been entering these churches in recent decades and that trend will continue, with more efforts aimed at the “conversion” of Evangelicals to the Catholic and Orthodox traditions.

- A small band will work hard to rescue the movement from its demise through theological renewal. This is an attractive, innovative, and tireless community with outstanding media, publishing, and leadership development. Nonetheless, I believe the coming evangelical collapse will not result in a second reformation, though it may result in benefits for many churches and the beginnings of new churches.

- The emerging church will largely vanish from the evangelical landscape, becoming part of the small segment of progressive mainline Protestants that remain true to the liberal vision.

- Aggressively evangelistic fundamentalist churches will begin to disappear.

- Charismatic-Pentecostal Christianity will become the majority report in evangelicalism. Can this community withstand heresy, relativism, and confusion? To do so, it must make a priority of biblical authority, responsible leadership, and a re-emergence of orthodoxy.

- Evangelicalism needs a “rescue mission” from the world Christian community. It is time for missionaries to come to America from Asia and Africa. Will they come? Will they be able to bring to our culture a more vital form of Christianity?

- Expect a fragmented response to the culture war. Some Evangelicals will work to create their own countercultures, rather than try to change the culture at large. Some will continue to see conservatism and Christianity through one lens and will engage the culture war much as before - a status quo the media will be all too happy to perpetuate. A significant number, however, may give up political engagement for a discipleship of deeper impact.

- **IS ALL OF THIS A BAD THING?**

Evangelicalism doesn't need a bailout. Much of it needs a funeral. But what about what remains?

Is it a good thing that denominations are going to become largely irrelevant? Only if the networks that replace them are able to marshal resources, training, and vision to the mission field and into the planting and equipping of churches.

Is it a good thing that many marginal believers will depart? Possibly, if churches begin and continue the work of renewing serious church membership. We

must change the conversation from the maintenance of traditional churches to developing new and culturally appropriate ones.

The ascendancy of Charismatic-Pentecostal-influenced worship around the world can be a major positive for the evangelical movement if reformation can reach those churches and if it is joined with the calling, training, and mentoring of leaders. If American churches come under more of the influence of the movement of the Holy Spirit in Africa and Asia, this will be a good thing.

Will the evangelicalizing of Catholic and Orthodox communions be a good development? One can hope for greater unity and appreciation, but the history of these developments seems to be much more about a renewed vigor to “evangelize” Protestantism in the name of unity.

Will the coming collapse get Evangelicals past the pragmatism and shallowness that has brought about the loss of substance and power? Probably not. The purveyors of the evangelical circus will be in fine form, selling their wares as the promised solution to every church's problems. I expect the landscape of megachurch vacuity to be around for a very long time.

Will it shake loose the prosperity Gospel from its parasitical place on the evangelical body of Christ? Evidence from similar periods is not encouraging. American Christians seldom seem to be able to separate their theology from an overall idea of personal affluence and success. The loss of their political clout may impel many Evangelicals to reconsider the wisdom of trying to create a “godly society.” That doesn't mean they'll focus solely on saving souls, but the increasing concern will be how to keep secularism out of church, not stop it altogether. The integrity of the church as a counter cultural movement with a message of “empire subversion” will increasingly replace a message of cultural and political entitlement.

Despite all of these challenges, it is impossible not to be hopeful. As one commenter has already said, “Christianity loves a crumbling empire.” We can rejoice that in the ruins, new forms of Christian vitality and ministry will be born. I expect to see a vital and growing house church movement. This cannot help but be good for an evangelicalism that has made buildings, numbers, and paid staff its drugs for half a century. We need new evangelicalism that learns from the past and listens more carefully to what God says about being His people in the midst of a powerful, idolatrous culture.

I'm not a prophet. My view of evangelicalism is

not authoritative or infallible. I am certainly wrong in some of these predictions. But is there anyone who is observing evangelicalism in these times who does not sense that the future of our movement holds many dangers and much potential? [He rightly foresaw the situation.]

•Michael Spencer is a writer and communicator living and working in a Christian community in Kentucky. He describes himself as “a post-evangelical reformation Christian in search of a Jesus-shaped spirituality.” This essay is adapted from a series on his blog, InternetMonk.com

Forwarded to me by Ronald Young Sr.

FLORIDA TOWN THREATENS TO SHUT DOWN CHURCHES WHO VIOLATE STRICT NEW CODE

Pastors and parishioners across Lake Worth, Fla., are up in arms following a recent city decision to begin forcing churches to secure permits or risk hefty fines and the possibility of being forced to close. ... Local authorities returned the following week, reports confirm, and informed Pastor Mike Olive that his congregation would have to leave the premises within a week, citing the absence of a permit as the cause.

Olive explained his church had been specifically targeted by one local legislator, Andy Amoroso, who reportedly spread allegations that his sermons express an anti-homosexual bias. ...

<http://www.westernjournalism.com/florida-town-threatens-shut-churches-violate-strict-new-code/>

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