

# The Biblical Examiner

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

## SIN OF POLITICAL HOPE

### Exodus 2:23

Like many of you know, at the request of a visitor to our WV church, I started sending out my Sunday morning messages, which were in Hebrews. At the request of three of our daughters who wanted grandparents close at hand, we resigned and moved to Ohio. However, we continued our Sunday morning messages as much as we have time; we are now in Exodus. Here is a lesson that deals with the “Christian Humanism” that has replaced Grace through Faith alone in Christ alone, based on His Word alone. If you would like to be added to that mailing, let me know.

Like you, I am certainly thankful that despite all the efforts by the Obama DOJ establishment, the Clintons are not in office. I am thankful that Trump and Mike Pence are trying to deal with the serious corruption in the DC establishment at all levels. (Pence has excited much female hatred against him because he refuses to be alone in a room with a woman who is not his wife.)

However, Trump seems to remain “politically” safe, as he has appointed some open Sodomites to places of power in his administration because of their qualifications. However, to his credit, there are Bible studies available for his cabinet in the White House, which has terribly upset the pagans:

### **Atheists Sue Over Trump Administration’s “Secretive” White House Bible Study**

Billy Hallowell : Jan 22, 2018 : Faithwire.com

“The pious affair is apparently co-sponsored by Vice President Mike Pence. The list of Bible study attendees includes officials whose appointments FFRF objected to because of their inability to keep their personal religion separate from their public office...

Freedom from Religion Foundation press release, [http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display\\_art.html?ID=23491](http://www.breakingchristiannews.com/articles/display_art.html?ID=23491)

### **Comment**

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**First**, the Bible Study “secretive”; it is not being done in a corner, as Paul told King Agrippa Acts 26:26.

**Second**, this nation was founded and existed for many years with Christianity being a requirement for public office. It is impossible to live separate from one’s religion: the religion of Biblical Christianity or the religion of man-centered Humanism.

There are many who practice Christian Humanism, being neither hot nor cold. They do not have a pleasant future ahead unless they repent. (Rev. 3:14ff.) Actually, Christian Humanism is the prevailing religion of the US, with “Humanism” now being promoted as “Christianity.” The theology of “follow your heart” and “self-esteem” emanate from every corner of society to replace faith in Christ Alone. The weak Christianity of our day has no firm foundation that is required to remain steadfast in the face of the continual Humanist onslaught.

### **“Atheists ‘appalled’ by White House Bible study**

For months, secular organizations say they have unsuccessfully lobbied the president to make an effort to reach out to America’s nonreligious community. Now, revelations of a weekly Bible study group in the Trump White House, regularly attended by high-ranking Cabinet mem-

bers, has free thinkers up in arms.

The Freedom From Religion Foundation is calling the Bible study group disturbing, scary and maybe even an illegal use of taxpayer funds.

“If those officials want privacy, the solution is pretty damn simple: Study the Bible in your private capacity, not in your official capacity and at your government desk,” the secular group said in a statement Thursday. “Do it on your time, not the taxpayers’. In short, get off your knees and get to work.”

The Bible study group was started by Ralph Drollinger, founder of Capitol Ministries, which aims to spread the Gospel at the seats of power. Mr. Drollinger has established similar programs in the House and Senate, and 40 state capitals and 24 foreign countries.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and CIA Director Mike Pompeo are reportedly among the regulars at the White House group.

President Trump has not attended but is invited to every week, and Vice President Mike Pence plans to stop by as his schedule permits.

Mr. Drollinger told CBN News, which first reported the White House study group, that he can see the fruits of his labor in the administration’s behavior.

He said Mr. Sessions will “go out the same day I teach him something, and I’ll see him do it on camera, and I just think, ‘Wow, these guys are faithful, available and teachable, and they’re at Bible study every week they’re in town.’”

News of the Bible study comes after a coalition of atheist organizations petitioned the president to reach out to nonbelieving Americans.

(<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/aug/3/atheists-appalled-white-house-bible-study/>)

## Comments

**First**, we should not be surprised that the Atheists are appalled by a Bible Study, especially in the highest reaches of our government. “Separation of Church and State” is the cry of the enemy of all righteousness. What is surprising is the many Christians who are appalled that Christians might take their Christianity into their government responsibilities; they issue the same anti-Christian cry as do the Atheists. They are “Christian Atheists.” (The same Christians may complain about the ungodly actions of the civil government, yet claim “Separation of Church and State.” What do they expect when Christ is separated from the State?)

**Second**, regardless of what one thinks of Trump, he must be commended for cabinet members who will at-

tend the Bible study.

**Third**, O that Christians would be faithful, available and teachable, and take what they learn into the public arena.

**Fourth**, are the atheist organizations asking the president to reach out to the nonbelieving Americans by promoting a Bible Study for them? I am certain Pence or Drollinger would be happy to oblige.

**Fifth**, what a wonderful assurance for the Elect in knowing that His Word will not return void: It shall do that for which it is intended, even when a resistant sinner sits in its hearing.

## Ben Carson Attacked For WH Bible Study — Defiantly Declares ‘I Will Not Stop Being A Christian’

(<http://dailycaller.com/2018/01/25/ben-carson-facebook-response-white-house-bible-study/>)

How many Christians do we know who would make this kind of public commitment and comment? At what point do we “Stop Being A Christian”?

### Now to our first text

**Exodus 2:23** *And it came to pass in process of time, that the king of Egypt died: and the children of Israel sighed by reason of the bondage, and they cried, and their cry came up unto God by reason of the bondage.<sup>24</sup> And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.<sup>25</sup> And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.*

Two warnings are before us: 1) false political hope of Israel in Egypt. 2) faithless prayer.

### First, political hope.

In v. 23, the king who sought Moses’ life dies, and, strangely enough, we now have the first record in the Book of Exodus of the people of God crying out to their God. Up to this point, we have the record of their extremely bitter bondage (1:14; 2:11) in Egypt, including the command to kill all of the Hebrew’s male babies from which Moses was spared by Divine Providence. The minimum amount of time between the command to kill the babies and Moses’ efforts to free Israel (2:11) is 40 years.

Our attention is on the fact that Israel did not cry out to God over the State mandated murder, abortion, during the 40 year period. At the least, the murder of their babies by Egypt should have caused them to groan and cry out to God, but it did not.

**Note:** The State mandates, through their compulsive

education laws, that all children must be delivered, sacrificed, to the State to be trained in the ways of the world of Humanism, drugs, vaccines, (which have been and are being proved deadly) and trained that sodomy is just another and acceptable life-style, and in sexual orientation. If they are confused, they need to look in their shorts to determine their “sexual orientation.” Christians are delivering their children to “higher education” for training in all the aspects of the anti-Christian, Humanistic religious faith, as well as being indoctrinated into Socialism. Where is the groaning by reason of the bondage to the ungodly demand of sacrifice of our children to the state? Where is the groaning over the many things with which we are bound? (See Moloch Worship below.)

We find a clue as to the reason why Israel refused to turn to God earlier than they did in Keil’s observation about the events in 2:23:

This allusion to the complaints of the Israelites, in connection with the notice of the king’s death, seems to imply that they hoped from some amelioration of their lot from the change of government; and that when they were disappointed, and groaned the more bitterly in consequence, they cried to God for help and deliverance. This is evident from the remark, “Their cry came up unto God,” and is stated distinctly in Deut. xxvi. 7.

Thus, according to Keil, the oppressed people had hoped that a change of government would ease their lot, e.g., Trump over Hillary. When their political hope did not materialize, they turned to the Lord, and God was reminded of His covenant with their fathers.

**Observe:**

1.) Although we see a dim spark of the true faith in the Sovereign God of the covenant in the midwives and in Moses’ parents, as a whole, Israel had lost his faith and absorbed Egypt’s religion. Example: the willingness to build the golden calf under Aaron: Aaron had been in Egypt for the 40 years while Moses had been in the wilderness having his humanistic Egyptian faith removed. Israel’s faith was paganized by Egypt, and Israel had assumed the pagan’s political hope in the State.

Faithlessness says, “If we can only get the state to return to godly principles [the Constitution!], we will be saved.” The pagans spell relief, P-O-L-I-T-I-C-A-L. Fallen man will grasp at any hope for a workable social structure apart from a total commitment to the law-word of God; he desires to be responsible to any author-

ity except God’s. He especially desires his own authority. Therefore, God’s faithless people in Egypt tolerated a great deal of oppression because of their false faith in the state, a state that gave them cradle to grave security.

2.) Faithless people foolishly look to the state for relief from their oppression, expecting impossible reform from the top down.

Biblical faith demands that true reform must be religious, i.e., from the inside out, not political or social, from the outside in. Any child of God looking for relief from oppression through any means other than a godly faith shift from within the people will be sadly disappointed, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Proverbs 24:12ff. In other words, godly civil government, no matter what form it takes, (constitutional republic, democracy, theocracy, monarchy, oligarchy, &c.) requires Biblical faith in the subject people, upon which this nation was founded. Without Biblical faith, every form of civil government, even a constitutional republic, will simply be another means of oppression, which we are seeing as our Constitution is becoming little more than a document of oppression.

**Note:** The anti-abortion movement, as a whole, is not crying out for a Godly reformation in the people; rather, it is crying out for a political shift. Was it a political hope in God’s people that prevented them from crying out to God when Egypt started killing the Hebrew babies?

It is readily apparent that any kind of political hope that replaces a theological hope is service to the false gods of Egypt. Political hope is the religion of Humanism being worked out in society, for it replaces faith in the Christian God through Christ Jesus our Lord with faith in fallen, corrupt man. (We define theological as one’s view of God: Biblical or Humanistic. The present theological view of God is very man-centered, Humanistic, and it must be replaced with Biblical view.)

3.) Only when Israel realized that their hope in a change of circumstances to ease their burdens was groundless did they cry out to their Lord. According to Keil, it was when their faith in the pagan gods of Egypt failed, that their faith in the God of the Covenant was renewed; they cried out to the living God to deliver them. Notice 2:25; it was after they lost their faith in the pagan gods of Egypt and cried out to the God of the covenant that He knew them (margin & Trapp).

**Second, faithless prayer.**

The people prayed in Exodus 2:23 & 3:7-9. Israel's request centered on their suffering and desire to be released from that suffering, which was proved by their attitude toward God and Moses in the wilderness. How many times did they longingly remember the plenty of Egypt? They expected a supernatural God to supply all their needs apart from self-disciplined obedience to the Word of God, and hard work. It took a new generation to actually desire true freedom under God and to have the courage and ability to claim that freedom.

While in Egypt, Israel simply wanted relief from their burdens. It was the terror of the taskmasters, not the desire to leave Egypt that caused Israel to cry out to God. In response to their cry, the Lord sent Moses to deliver them from Egypt, which would include deliverance from their burdens. There is no record of distressful crying out before God over the State's demanded abortion, or the killing of babies. What a sad commentary on God's people!

### **Observe**

**First:** Prayer that seeks to influence God to our way of thinking or to do what we desire Him to do is not only presumption, but it is sin. There are more than a few Scriptures which seem to indicate that man can have great influence over God through prayer, e.g.:

*Jeremiah 33:3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. But such thinking is no more than witchcraft that seeks to control one's god.*

How many professions of faith are made hoping for relief from the terrible taskmasters that are troubling the soul, but with no desire for deliverance from Egypt and all it has to offer? Easy Believeism?

**Second:** Most assuredly, proper prayer reminds God of His promises, but prayer must also include the request for His Spirit to enable one to meet His conditions. In the case with the Egyptian faith in the hearts of Israel, that corrupt faith had to die. Their prayer moved God to fulfill His promises to their father, but the Egyptian faith had to die, which it did when the Egyptian generation perished in the Wilderness.

**Third:** Proper prayer emphasises God's will being done around, in and through us. If God moves in response to prayer, prayer must be in response to God.

Evidently up until this time, Israel was content in

Egypt learning how to work with their hands and build. God's training of His people in all manners of building is complete; Moses' training is complete; the iniquity of the Canaanites is full, so it is time for them to go in the land that had been promised to their father Abraham. Israel had to be transformed from a nation of shepherds into a nation with all the required skills to build a mighty nation.

What method does God use to get things moving? Prayer! In other words, the people in Egypt prayed because of the harsh treatment of the taskmasters. God moved in response to their prayer; therefore, God is the One Who raised up the harsh taskmasters causing Israel to pray. Prayer is not to change the plan, purpose, and/or will of God. Prayer is for God to fulfill His plan and empower man to fulfill the purpose of God for him: "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done." Only God can know how His hidden Divine Providence works, and man is forbidden to look into His secret things. (Deut 29:29). When we try to reduce Providence to our level of understanding, we are saying we know the mind of God; thus, we believe we are "as God."

We must not underestimate the fact that Israel had been in Egypt for several hundreds of years, and had absorbed Egypt in many ways. The harshness of the taskmasters that caused the sorrows required to separate Egypt from Israel and Israel from Egypt is beyond our comprehension.

A lesson here for us is what kind of bondage and taskmasters are needed to separate us from the desires of Egypt? The more Egyptianized we are, the more harsh treatment is needed. The glorious thing with Israel is that the sorrows which they had to endure for a season finally forced them to cry out to their God for deliverance. The result of their cry was the destruction of the world power (Egypt), their release from and their spoiling of Egypt, and their inheritance of the Promised Land.

It is distressing to see the terror the average Christian and pastor has of the secular Egyptian gods of this world. They certainly fear man more than God, and they are bound by terror of the Egyptian gods. The words of their mouth condemn them. (Mt 12:33).

The attachment to the king of Egypt assures of bitter bondage, affliction, oppression, persecution, and sorrow ahead for God's people. God will permit no other

gods before Him, especially in His churches who are committed to serving the king of Egypt. God's judgment against Egypt's false gods must begin in the house of the Lord, so God's people had better flee from the wrath to come, 1 Peter 4:17; Matthew 3:7.

But the result of the bitter bondage and of the resulting prayer will be the fulfilling of the Lord's promise: And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do [this], saith the LORD of hosts (Mal 4:3), & Blessed [are] the meek: for they shall inherit the earth (Mat 5:5). The separation of Israel from Egypt and their claiming of Canaan provide outlines for all generations to follow to claim our promised inheritance in the Lord.

I feel sorry for the professed Christians who have not a victorious hope in the God of the Covenant. Do not the faithless serve a god who is unable to overcome the gods and powers of this world's gods that can only leave them in bitter bondage and sorrows? But, the bondage, taskmasters and sorrows will force them to cry out to the Lord Who will move to fulfill His Covenant made to the saints of old in Malachi and in Matthew.

Exodus 3:7-9: 1) The Lord saw their affliction; 2) He heard their cry because of the taskmasters; 3) He knew their sorrows; 4) He came down to deliver them, and sent Moses as His visible representative to deliver them (God uses people); 5) He shall deliver them to their promised place in Canaan. He shall deliver them

**Note,** *I will send thee back...*, the Lord is not asking Moses to go back on his own. The Lord also sends Moses to do a job, *i.e.*, bring forth my people. Furthermore, they were God's people, not Moses'. The Lord did not speak to send Moses back until God was ready to deliver them, and they were stripped of all hope outside of the faith of Abraham.

**Conclusion:** I am fearful that a great many professed Christians are seeking relief in our time from the top down. "If only we can get the civil government to change, all will be OK." The situation with the Children of Israel in Egypt shows us that a "top down, political change" is an impossible dream. Even more severe; it is worshiping the false gods of the Egyptians which begs for God's judgment on both God's faithless people and

on the pagan Egyptians.

Any change other than a religious, or theological change in the people will only make matters worse, because the cry must be to the Lord. (Deut 24:15, James 5:4.) Any attempted change in any area other than a genuine religious, theological change in the hearts of the people, will only bring more oppression; the godly purpose of oppression is to bring about religious change in the people. Furthermore, though we must work for a change in every area, our primary effort must be for the theological change in the covenant people. Release from bondage came when the covenant people cried out to the Lord, not when the king of Egypt got right with God.

Where do we look for release from bondage and oppression? the kings and rulers of this world, or to the Lord of the saboth (James 4)? Do we see our hope in the princes of this world getting right with God or is our hope in His people getting right with God? Which option is according to the Word of God?

Exodus 2:23, the people only cried unto the Lord when all else failed. What will have to fail today before the people will turn from the king of Egypt and genuinely cry out unto the Lord?

Looming over us daily is the prospect of a total collapse of Egypt's false gods. Will it require that collapse to call God's people back to Himself?

V. 24, "*God heard their groaning, and God remembered*" takes place while Moses is in the desert. Their oppression causes them to cry out to the Lord, and He remembered His covenant promise. The Lord hears their cry and remembers what He had promised many years previously. According to the reading of this passage, He did not hear nor remember them until they cried out to Him by reason of the bondage.

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## THE STATE AS KING

### MOLOCH OR MOLECH, I.E., KING, WORSHIP.

R.J. Rushdoony shows that Moloch worship is sacrificing our children to the state's education system. (*Institutes* vol. I. Pp. 30-40. Ross House.)

R.L. Dabney gives an excellent explanation of how this nation turned to Moloch worship. (Dabney, *Discussions*, vol IV. Sprinkle Publications. Dabney was the chaplain,

chief of staff, and biographer to Stonewall Jackson.)

*Discussions* contains several 1876 letters by Dabney to the Virginia Superintendent of State Schools concerning THE STATE FREE SCHOOL SYSTEM. Dabney's warning have proved more than true.

Dabney tells us that the North passed off the lie that education would lead to knowledge and morality, yet as education increased, so did stupidity and the North's prison population. The 1800s education system in the North was politically correct State anti-Christian education without God, as must be presented in the State School System today. (P. 202.)

As a result of Lincoln's war (brought about by his invasion of Virginia), the North's education system was forced, at the points of bayonets, upon the South, giving the South the huge increase in stupidity and prison population.

Thus, the North gained the spoils of war—control of the educational system. The North forced the South to indoctrinate its children with the North's constitutional heresies, its hatred for Christianity, its lying creed of Radicalism which was a gospel of hate, murder and the utter falsification of history and fact and falsification of constitutional law. It is obvious that the Federal Government is only against slavery that does not serve its purpose. (The "Rule of Law" only applies when it can be used to silence those who oppose evil in high places. It does not apply to those in high places as they justify their disregard of law.)

Dabney points out that as there cannot be in any soul a non-Christian state which is not anti-Christian, it follows that any training which attempts to be non-Christian is therefore anti-Christian. (p. 221.) This means that non-Christian education, such as found in the government education system, is a violation of the total of Scripture.

The public has been indoctrinated by the state education system to believe and live by constitutional heresies, and its gospel of hate, murder and utter falsification of history. Public education has changed the public mood regarding all kinds of Antichrist ideas: fornication, adultery, sodomy, and self protection. And Christians allow that indoctrination of their children in state schools.

The small minority of sodomites has worked hard

through the education system to train up a generation young people who see nothing wrong with sodomy, sex change, &c., and all with Christian parents approval!

The result of parent's acceptance of "public education" is shown in a graph in the Apl. 20 World magazine.

Born 1928-1845. In 2003 only 17% supported same-sex marriage. By 2013, that had grown to 31%

Born 1946-1964. In 2003 only 33% supported same-sex marriage. By 2013, that had grown to 38%

Born 1964-1980. In 2003 only 41% supported same-sex marriage. By 2013, that had grown to 49%

Born after 1980. In 2003 only 51% supported same-sex marriage. By 2013, that had grown to an astounding 70%

Today, public education has trained our children to desire same-sex-marriage. Such marriages do solve their fear of overpopulation.

There is a violent war being waged for the hearts and souls of the upcoming generation, and Christians have refused to face the fact that the primary battle ground is the war for the mind being waged in the education system and in the entertainment system.

Entire school curriculum to push 'gay' lifestyle?

A "gay" activist group in the United Kingdom has released a plan to advance its agenda through every subject taught in government-sponsored schools.

<http://www.wnd.com/2018/02/entire-school-curriculum-to-push-gay-lifestyle/>

Don't be deceived! The gay agenda is here also, and the parents are letting it happen. However, the school boards can stop it, but they hire superintendents according to the person's education level, not according to how much they conform to Biblical values. (Christians must run for the school board. However, what happened the the WV "Great Text Book Wars" shows the Government's curriculum will be taught to your children in the government education system, even at the point of a gun. [http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/textbooks/books\\_and\\_beliefs.html](http://americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/textbooks/books_and_beliefs.html))

Christian parents are hiring anti-Christ teachers to train their children in the ways of the world, and "we" are surprised that once Christian young people are now serving the pagan gods of this world. They are putting into practice what they are being taught as they protest and work for an open Socialistic, Humanistic form of government. The curses of the Second Commandment

are upon us. (Read Exodus 20:4-6.)

God's hand is against this nation because Christians have sacrificed their children to Moloch. They are worshipping the gods of the pagans, and think nothing of it. We must raise our voice and work at every opportunity against the pagan system.

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## REBUILDING

The following is an old (2006) interview by John Lofton with Rev. Joe Morecraft III. In this interview, he discussed the usefulness (or not) of political parties to rebuild the Christian foundations of our country. Here is an edited version of that discussion featuring only his comments:

(I think a political platform should be so Christian and so Biblical that no Mormon would want to join that party.)

I think that political parties have a limited function. They, in my opinion, have as their purpose the gathering of people who share a common political platform in an attempt to elect people to office who believe that platform. If a political party tries to do anything else, it's going to be a failure in my opinion as a political party. If it tries to act like a school and teach and instruct people, it's not going to get people elected. If it tries to act like a church or a state, it usurps authority it wasn't given.

And what I mean by all that is — I understand, and I've been involved in third party political parties for a long time — I understand the desire and the need to educate in order to get our people elected. But I don't think political parties can do it effectively. I think we have to Christianize Christians and their political understanding of life both through the church and through the school. That is what I've spent my life trying to do, along with evangelism, of saving the lost, and Christianizing Christians and the latter is the hardest of the two in this culture.

So, I think — now if political parties, and I think that they have to instruct, but that's what makes them weak, I think. My opinion, after thinking a lot about it, is that I think they can have an important and limited role in trying — combining our forces to try and get people elected who represent a Christian platform. Besides that, if they — I believe that the civil government requiring parties to register and all that is usurpation of

authority.

But anyway — so, I think there has to be some kind of organization, [and I say this] after having run for Congress, is that there has to be some kind of local grassroots organization that does the footwork and all the various things that have to be done to elect the candidate. And if the focus is on a national election you still have to have some kind of local and national organization to be as effective as you can in putting it all this together to get your candidate as many votes as you can get him.

The only kind of political party I want to be involved in is one that has a distinctively Christian and Biblical platform. Because that's the — the Bible is our standard — we [must] allow the Bible and submit to the Bible so that it will determine our perspective and commitment on every political issue. And that was [what I believed] when I ran for Congress in 1986. What so impressed me about the Bible [was] that no matter what the issue is the Bible has some direction to give, directly or indirectly...because It is the Word of God.

And I think that a party must be overtly Christian in its platform. I think the platform is everything, unlike the Republican Party. And why Christians try to get involved and write a platform for the Republican Party, I don't know. Because the political candidates, and particularly the Presidential candidate will not support something that Christians write. The Christians are the 'water boys.' Whenever the Republicans need votes they say "pro- life, pro-life, pro-life" and all the little Christians will be in line and up and vote Republican.

And every time the Democrats need votes they say to the lower end of the economic scale "welfare, welfare, welfare" and they line up obediently and vote. I'm nobody's water boy and that's it. And I think leadership in this culture means Christians quit being water boys and take positions of leadership that we serve people and ... we try to help people and we try to lead.

One of the traits of leadership is not following the consensus concerning what the basic issues and answers are, but defining the issue our selves [and asking] what are the most important issues? What does the Bible say about those issues?

I don't think we care who votes for us. When I ran for Congress there was an atheist woman — I mean a confessed atheist — and she gave out my brochures and all that stuff and I asked her once — I said "Miss so and

so – I’m a Christian, you’re an atheist – I believe you are going to hell – I appreciate your help, but why do you want me, a Christian in public office?” And she said, “Because the liberals are robbing me blind, and I know that you’ll preserve my wealth.”

So, we don’t care, we want anybody and everybody to vote for us, of course. But it is working for a particular platform and candidates who reflect that platform. Now, I don’t believe a platform is a confession of faith, or a doctrinal statement. I mean in a church you have a platform, a doctrinal statement, and you must dot all the “I’s” and cross all the “t’s.”

I, for instance, have been involved with the Constitution Party from its beginning and never agreed with its [views on] protectionism and international trade. There are some elements with which we can differ, but there are other elements that are so critically important in our culture that any disagreement with those is a destruction of everything we stand for.

For instance, abortion. If a Christian party has a platform with a weak view of abortion for rape, incest, fetal deformity etc., as far as I’m concerned it’s over. It’s not something that is Christian. I think a political platform should be so Christian and so Biblical that no Mormon would want to join that party.

From our church we have two men in the state legislature of Georgia. They ran in the Republican Party. There was no way, humanly speaking, they could get elected otherwise. And one of them particularly is very effective, so I think that it’s not sinful to vote Republican. I don’t think it’s sinful to be a member of the Republican Party. I don’t even know that it’s sinful to be a member of the Democratic Party [though] I am rather squeamish on that. But Larry McDonald, remember, was a Democrat.

I think the goal (of the two parties) is the same – get and keep power – whatever you have to do or say. I think “joining a political party” is an interesting phrase. I think participating in trying to reach the goals of the organization of the political party is a better way of looking at it.

Now, I don’t expect many people to get elected any time soon on a [Christian/Biblical] platform because most Americans – the overwhelming majority of Americans — do not want a Christian, political party or a political Christian candidate. They might want what they

might call a conservative, but they don’t want a Christian candidate.

[Here locally we have a] talk show host, Neal Bortz, who’s a radical Libertarian. He told me one time “Joe, I’d rather have a communist dictator than you Christians in places of power.” So, I don’t expect many of our people to get elected – if they’re distinctively Christian in character and policy.

But I don’t despise the days of small beginnings. We’ve got to be pioneers, is the point. We’ve got to cut the trails, politically, show them how to do it, how not to do it, for future generations to build on what we’ve done.

I ran for Congress in 1986 as an overt Christian, obviously, self-consciously aware that I was a pioneer, praying that people would build on that. If we have political parties now that are overtly Christian it is a great training program for future days. And I think the other side of the coin is active involvement, you’ve got to have an organization – to get money, to give out brochures – to get – I mean there has to be that side too.

It’s interesting, you know, Alexander Hamilton — the Constitution doesn’t say anything about political parties. They started very quickly, when you had people like Hamilton started finding himself in opposition to the registration and regulation of the government. I mean he didn’t like the excise on whiskey, he didn’t like various other things and so he developed that [Christian Constitution Society] to get like-minded people together, to get somebody else in office, that didn’t hold those views.

And I think there’s another purpose for a political party, too, rather than running its own candidates, sort of like, you remember the old, [William] Buckley Conservative Party in New York, years ago? It was a restraint, for a while, on other political parties, and I think that if a Christian political party became strong enough – even though it couldn’t run a candidate, or elect a candidate in a certain area, it can begin by being a clear restraint on candidates, who maybe wouldn’t run on their platform.

<http://archive.theamericanview.com/index.php?id=658>

Remember Roy Moore. There is no limit to what the ungodly will do to prevent an openly Christian from being seated in the Parthenon, i.e., Congress.

## FOLLOW THE MONEY

### Large Banks Are Failing To Profit In This Low Volatility Environment

Volatility means profits for the banks in fees of every description. Low volatility means low profits. And guess from where those profits must come; it will not be from the money manipulators, for they are the ones profiting. We must conclude that the FED and the banks are behind the volatility, for volatility means profit.

<http://www.paceinvestmentclub.com/2017/05/31/large-banks-are-failing-to-profit-in-this-low-volatility-environment/> ; <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-07-03/goldman-s-commodity-bet-tested-by-low-volatility-high-scrutiny>

### Banks Cheer Return of Wild Markets

Placid markets led to weak returns. Now banks hope for a fee boost as volatility makes a comeback

Banks have blamed placid markets for lackluster returns in their big trading operations. This week they're cheering the big market swings, seeing hope for a boost in fees that dropped off a cliff last year.

"Anything that brings back volatility would be good," said Peter Tchir, macroinvesting strategist at New York-based Academy Securities LLC.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/banks-cheer-return-of-wild-markets-1517930991>?<https://www.wsj.com/articles/banks-cheer-return-of-wild-markets-1517930991>

### How Wall Street's 'fear gauge' is being rigged, according to one whistleblower

One of the most popular measures of volatility is being manipulated, charges one individual who submitted a letter anonymously to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/how-wall-streets-fear-gauge-is-being-rigged-according-to-one-whistleblower-2018-02-13>

In addition, the establishment will stop at nothing to overturn Trump in the next election, including confiscating the wealth of the American people who must pay for the bank fees and bank losses. There is a concerted effort to hang a stock market crash around Trump's neck before the next election.

Get out of paper.

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## A REAL MAN

GOD, give us men! A time like this demands  
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands;

Men whom the lust of office does not kill;  
Men whom the spoils of office can not buy;  
Men who possess opinions and a will;  
Men who have honor; men who will not lie;  
Men who can stand before a demagogue  
And damn his treacherous flatteries without winking!  
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog  
In public duty, and in private thinking;  
For while the rabble, with their thumb-worn creeds,  
Their large professions and their little deeds,  
Mingle in selfish strife, lo! Freedom weeps,  
Wrong rules the land and waiting Justice sleeps.  
Anonymous

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## PERSONAL

Again, the past couple of months have been filled with medical events that took up a great amount of time. So this mailing is later than I had planned. A normal trip to a dentist or doctor takes at the minimum 4 hours depending on there the doctor is located, and obviously a hospital visit is at the least a day and one night, but usually several days.

For about 3 or 4 weeks, I had been getting short of breath, which for me is typical of heart problems. I had hoped that it was just stress as has been typical so many times previous, but the shortness continued to worsen. It got bad enough that I went to the ER in Hillsboro January 2. I knew it would not do any good to go before that on a weekend, and just lay in a very uncomfortable emergency room bed.

After doing some tests to rule out a heart attack, and determining there was nothing they could do in Hillsboro, they transferred me to Bethesda North, the same place that did my pacemaker about 15 months ago. Bethesda North did an angiogram that showed two areas that were about 75% blocked. They put in two small stents to open the areas up. The procedure is now done through an artery in the wrist, which makes recovery very quick. In the past they have gone through the groin area, which required lying still for several hours.

Rather than having to lie still, they dress the area, and put a board on the wrist so you cannot use it. The board and dressing comes off after 24 hours, and one regains the normal use of his wrist. Still, no heavy lifting for

several days. Thank the Lord that in His mercy He provided the V.A health care, which paid for the procedure.

I am now on Plavix, which thins the blood, making it at least 6 months before I can get the Spinal Cord Stimulator for my lower back pain. One of the surgeons told me after the procedure that if they had put in an uncoated stent, I could have had the stimulator in a month. I failed to mention an upcoming surgery to the one who put in the stents when he said he was using coated stents. All I could remember was that my first stents in 1999 were uncoated, and I had to return in a few months for a “rotor rooter” to clean out the scar tissue.

I learned two interesting things while in the hospital.

**First**, all the area hospitals were full of flu patients, so they had a difficult time finding an empty bed for me. I asked the nurses and even doctors why everybody had the flu because the flu shot was supposed to take care of that. Quietly, **all** the nurses and doctors said that flu shots are useless. All said that the Tamiflu shot was dangerous. Only those threatened with their jobs take the shot.

**Second**, one of the heart doctors asked me if I had high blood pressure. I responded, “Doesn’t everyone?” He then said that the pill-makers keep lowering the standards in order to sell more pills, and the same goes for the cholesterol numbers that are continually being lowered.

### **Let me close on a high note!**

A nurse I met when I was in for my pacemaker October 31, 2016 was on duty when I went in this time. She was the nurse in charge that night, and she came in with the rest of the nurses and gave me a hug. She was able to meet Bettie this time. She is a Christian, and had asked to be on the Examiner mailing list the last time I was at that hospital. She thanked me for putting her on the mailing list, and said she looks forward to receiving and reading the Examiner. She and her husband have both moved to the “reformed faith.” She asked for prayer for their oldest daughter who has turned against the Christian faith. They had let the girl go to a secular college. I told her that that was where the problem started. Their other children are going to Cedarville College, and are continuing in the Christian faith. Please join us in prayer for the young lady named Ashley.

### **Another**

Back in January, I received this e mail from a lady in Los Angeles:

I read the article about asking Jesus into your heart, it brought me to tears. Because, I too am a person who asked Jesus into my heart. But recently heard a message about this same topic. I googled out Ann’s [sic] happened upon your article awhile back. But for some reason took the time to read it this evening. I want to trust in Jesus alone. Please help

Our correspondence continues.

“You wrote in your last letter Spirit has put a desire in my heart to know him. I hope and pray that that is true but to be honest with you I feel sometimes it’s the fear of what happened to my soul and The Souls of others. I do believe there is a hell. There was a point in my life about 5 years ago or more where I delighted and reading God’s word and read as often as I could and with time I felt such a joy and peace Within Me. But then I met someone and married and what time I just drifted away from God’s word church attendance prayer the whole nine yards. Before I met this man I came to a scripture that talked about divorced people who cannot remarry or should not remarry because it’s considered adultery. And I asked the Lord to help me accept that and that I would have to live by that. But I’m meeting this man I forgot about my word to the Lord and married this man anyway. It was a very difficult marriage and I was not happy or found the Fulfillment that I thought I would find in this marriage. I later realized my fulfillment came from Christ and not from man. After separation I would cry out to the Lord asking for forgiveness because I sinned against him, but even those have dwindled. I feel very empty and lost and far from God. When I read or listen to the Epistles of Paul, he was so devoted to the Lord. I wonder if I could ever surrender myself completely in that way to Jesus who gave everything up for me. I’m sorry for venting. Thank you for responding to my email and sending the information that you sent. God bless you.”

Pray for the grace of God to give her understanding concerning Christ.

Bettie also had to go to the ER with blood pressure so high that the home pressure cuff would not read it. Evidently, this was the second time she has forgotten to

take her blood pressure meds.

I have continued with shots in my left eye. My next visit is for pictures to see what is happening in that eye.

We had the privilege of going to a pastor friend's daughter's wedding in Canton OH. The welcome we receive there is more than any old man and his wife could ask for.

We cannot praise the Lord enough for His merciful goodness to us who are in the land of the living.

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## Natural Disasters

### **WHO IS TO BLAME**

By Thomas Williamson

The year was 1755, and on Sunday morning, November 1, a massive earthquake struck the city of Lisbon, Portugal, destroying and leveling the city at a time when its churches were filled with worshippers.

It was impossible to count the total number of dead. Some estimates of the dead in Lisbon were as high as 70,000 or higher. There were high casualties also in Morocco, as well as from tidal waves that swept the shores of the Atlantic Ocean. The quake was felt all over Europe, and it made a tremendous impression on thoughtful people everywhere, inspiring the French philosopher Voltaire to write his famous novel "Candide," and giving Immanuel Kant the impetus to conduct scientific study of earthquakes.

In the European thought patterns of the age, no one was willing to accept the Lisbon earthquake as a merely natural phenomenon. God must have caused it, and He must have done so for a specific reason. And so, the blame game began.

There was nothing new about the policy of seeking to pin the blame for natural disasters on disliked elements of society. The Church Father Tertullian, about 200 AD, complained that the pagan Romans blamed their natural disasters on the Christians: "If the Tiber rises, if the Nile does not rise, if the heavens give no rain, if there is an earthquake, famine, or pestilence, straightway the cry is 'The Christians to the lion!'"

After the Lisbon quake, philosophers and preachers all over Europe debated the ultimate cause of the quake. Predictably, the speculations of those who opined on the reasons for the quake were colored and determined by their own preconceived notions of right and wrong.

For instance, the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who advocated a "back to nature" movement, expressed the opinion that "nature did not construct 20,000 houses of 6 to 7 stories there, and that if the inhabitants of this great city had been more equally spread out and more lightly lodged, the damage would have been much less and perhaps of no account." In reality, no such 6 or 7 story apartment buildings existed in Lisbon, and many of the victims were crushed to death in much smaller houses.

Roman Catholic clergy in Portugal blamed the earthquake on God's displeasure on the land for its laxity in persecuting Protestants. Nicholas Shrady, in his book "The Last Day: Wrath, Ruin and Reason in the Great Lisbon Earthquake of 1755," states, "Before the tremors had even subsided, priests were exhorting the panic-stricken crowds to repent and were admonishing the survivors for a litany of sins, including avarice, loose morals, sloth, corruption, and a tepid faith that submitted to heretics, that is to say Protestants, in their midst! ...

"The Catholic Church and the Portuguese faithful attributed the error of the Inquisition not to its murderous excesses; quite the contrary. The Santo Officio, they insisted, had been too lax with offenders of the faith and not relentless enough in rooting out dissenters, Judaizers, and heretics."

Roman Catholics tended to believe that the earthquake was God's judgment on Portugal for its failure to burn more Protestants and Jews at the stake. Naturally, Protestants were of the opposite opinion, that Lisbon was being punished precisely because of its persecution of non-Catholics.

For instance, Methodist preacher John Wesley commented, "And what shall we say of the late accounts from Portugal? That several thousand houses, and many thousand persons are no more. That a fair city is now in ruinous heaps? Is there indeed a God that judges the world? And is he now making inquisition for blood? If so, it is not surprising, he should begin there, where so much blood has been poured on the ground like water, where so many brave men have been murdered in the most base and cowardly as well as barbarous manner, almost every day, as well as every night, While none regarded or laid it to heart..

"How long has their blood been crying from the

earth? Yea, how long has the bloody House of Mercy, the title which the Inquisition in Portugal takes to itself, the scandal not only of all religions, but even of human nature, stood to insult both Heaven and Earth! And shall I not visit for these things, saith the Lord? Shall not my soul be avenged on such a city as this?"

So we see that the Lisbon earthquake, like other such disasters before and since, operated as a sort of Rorschach test, in which observers would place blame based on their own ideologies. Protestants blamed the quake on the cruel persecution of "heretics" by the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics blamed it on insufficient zeal in persecuting Protestants.

We see the same patterns today - whenever there is a weather-based natural disaster, liberals will blame it on alleged man-made global warming, while conservatives will blame it on our tolerance for abortion and homosexuality.

Perhaps the most famous example of blame-setting for a disaster in modern times was that issued by Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson immediately after the disastrous terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon, on September 11, 2001.

Falwell stated, "The abortionists have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans, and the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU, People for the American Way, all of them who have tried to secularize America, I point the finger in their face and say, 'You helped this happen.'"

Pat Robertson stated, "I totally concur" and followed up with a statement blaming 9-11 on materialism, Internet pornography and lack of prayer. Another televangelist, James Robison, blamed the attack on our sins of arrogance toward Third World countries, our plundering of them for resources while supporting their tyrants, and indifference to their poverty.

Here, as at the time of the 1755 Lisbon quake, observers were quick to claim to know the mind of God in allowing the disaster, and to read into it their own convictions as to what sins the survivors needed to repent of.

The Hurricane Katrina Disaster - Who Was To Blame?  
Front our consideration of the 1755 Lisbon earth-

quake, we move forward exactly 250 years to the terrible hurricane Katrina which devastated coastal regions of Louisiana and Mississippi in the summer of 2005. As usual, blame-game enthusiasts had a field day as they determined who was at fault.

Liberals, of course, blamed the whole Katrina fiasco on President George W. Bush and on global warming. Never mind that scientists say that the world has been coming out of the Ice Age for 11,000 years - it was all Bush's fault.

Conservatives, as usual, saw in Katrina whatever they wanted to see. Pat Robertson, commenting on Katrina on his "700 Club" program on September 12, 2005, linked Katrina to legalized abortion in America: "You know, it's just amazing, though, that people say the litmus test for [Supreme Court nominee John G.] Roberts is whether or not he supports the wholesale slaughter of unborn children. We have killed over 40 million unborn babies in America ... But have we found we are unable somehow to defend ourselves against some of the attacks that are coming against us, either by terrorists or now by natural disaster? Could they be connected in some way?"

An organization called Columbia Christians For Life agreed that Katrina was a punishment for abortion. They put out an e-mail stating that "the image of the hurricane . . . looks like a fetus (unborn human baby) facing to the left (west) in the womb, in the early weeks of gestation (approx. 6 weeks).... Louisiana has 10 child-murder-by-abortion centers, and 5 are in New Orleans."

Charles Colson, on September 12, 2005, said that the reason for Katrina was to alert us to the urgent need to win the war on terror: "One lesson I learned from Katrina is that we had better win the war on terror and resolve to prevent another 9-11. Katrina exposed how easy it would be to take a city out. . . Katrina gave us a preview of what America would look like if we fail to fight the war on terror. 'Did God have anything to do with Katrina?', people ask. My answer is, He allowed it and perhaps He allowed it to get our attention so that we don't delude ourselves into thinking that all we have to do is put things back the way they were and life will be normal again."

Televangelist John Hagee proclaimed in 2006 that Katrina was a punishment of God against the gays in New Orleans: "I believe that New Orleans had a level of sin

that was offensive to God, and they were recipients of the judgment of God for that. The newspaper carried the story in our local area that was not carried nationally that there was to be a homosexual parade on the Monday that the Katrina came, and the promise of that parade was that it was going to reach a level of sexuality never demonstrated

before in any of the other Gay Pride parades.

“So I believe that the judgment of God is a very real thing. I know that there are people who demur from that, but I believe that the Bible teaches that when you violate the law of God, that God brings punishment sometimes before the day of judgment, and I believe that the Hurricane Katrina was, in fact, the judgment of God against the city of New Orleans.”

Michael Marcavage, director of Repent America, agreed that Katrina was all about the gays: “Just days before ‘Southern Decadence,’ an annual homosexual celebration attracting tens of thousands of people to the French Quarters section of New Orleans, an act of God destroys the city.

“‘Southern Decadence’ has a history of filling the French Quarters section of the city with drunken homosexuals engaging in sex acts in the public streets and bars. . . . However, Hurricane Katrina has put an end to the annual celebration of sin.”

It should be noted that in 2008 John Hagee recanted his statement that Katrina was a punishment for homosexual conduct: “As a believing Christian, I see the hand of God in everything that happens here on earth, both the blessings and the curses. But ultimately neither I nor any other person can know the mind of God concerning Hurricane Katrina. I should not have suggested otherwise.”

Rabbi Steven Morgen of Congregation Beth Yeshurun in Houston, Texas, contemplating the variety of explanations for Katrina, including the belief that it was a divine punishment for the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, made this comment:

“So, you can take your pick: the Hurricane is the sign of God’s wrath executed on a city that was about to host a major Homosexual Celebration, or because the city has 5 abortion clinics, or because the Bush Administration pressured Israel into abandoning the Gaza Strip. I am sure that others who claim to have a ‘red telephone’

to God have offered other explanations for this horrible disaster.

“And in my humble opinion they are all blasphemous, sacrilegious, and highly offensive.

“It does not take a ‘rocket scientist’ theologian to see how utterly ridiculous and repulsive these claims are. The mere fact that so many different interpretations of this event can be offered by supposedly pious people should already tell us that this is really a theological Rorschach test. You read into it what you want to find. You already know the point you want to make, and so you search for the ‘clues’ that ‘prove’ your case. Like painting the bull’s eye of a target around the arrow that has already been shot.”

Was Katrina a Punishment for Israel’s Withdrawal From the Gaza Strip?

Shortly after Katrina struck, Jewish Rabbi Ovadia Yosef stated that Katrina was God’s punishment against poor old President Bush, who was being blamed for just about everything. Allegedly Bush had pressured Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to withdraw Israeli troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip, and God was miffed about that.

On September 17, 2005, the World Net Daily web site picked up on that accusation in an article by David Dolan who suggested that God “might have been signaling unhappiness over the U.S. role in the forced Jewish uprootings” in the Gaza Strip. Never mind that the Israeli Army was carrying out the “forced uprootings” America was ultimately to blame.

Dolan did not claim to know for sure that God had sent Katrina to punish America for the Israeli actions in the Gaza Strip - he merely speculated that that might possibly be the reason.

Anyone who Googles “hurricane katrina gaza strip” will find a number of articles alleging a Katrina-Gaza connection. Some of the articles are noncommittal, speculating that maybe Katrina was related to Gaza or then again, maybe not.

Other authors state as a definite fact that Katrina was God’s punishment on America for allowing Israel to withdraw from Gaza. One frequently-quoted source was Kabbalist Rabbi David Batzri, who said, “Divine retribution is meted out according to the principle of ‘measure for measure,’ just as the Jews were forced out

of their homes as a result of U.S. pressure on Israel, so too are Americans being forced out of their homes.”

Batzri is a follower of Kabbalah, a medieval tradition of mystical Jewish interpretation that is followed by some Jews today, is rejected by other Jews as “pagan superstition,” and denounced by some as a form of occultism.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Josef’s speculations were harshly condemned by Jewish sources. The Israel office of the Anti-Defamation League called Yosef’s remarks “outrageous in the extreme.... It is disturbing that a man of faith would use human suffering and loss to advance a political agenda. . . . [Yosef] owes an apology to the United States and to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. We hope that religious leaders in Israel will condemn his words as insensitive and beyond the acceptable limit for a national dialogue.”

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism described Yosef’s statements as “despicable” and “substantially absurd. It was not President Bush but Prime Minister Sharon who launched and implemented” the Gaza withdrawal.

Rabbi Mordechai Greenwald of Jerusalem stated that those who blame Katrina on U.S. support of the Gaza withdrawal “do not speak for the majority of rabbis. We cannot say who is being punished for what. ... No rabbi can tell you why such a disaster struck.”

Rabbi Jack Segal of Houston, Texas protested, “I feel that all of Jewry should look upon the words of these rabbis who are linking Gaza to -Katrina as equally and non-Jewish. . . . That attitude can only result in a desecration of God’s name - because it does not express the traditional attitude of Judaism.”

Meanwhile, as we have seen, prominent Christian Zionist leaders such as Pat Robertson and John Hagee did not see any connection between Katrina and the Gaza withdrawal, choosing instead to blame Katrina on abortion and homosexuality. If it is so obvious that God was punishing America for allowing Israel to pull out of Gaza, how is it that Robertson and Hagee completely missed that connection?

Proponents of the Katrina-Gaza connection insist that America is to blame whenever the Israeli government makes any policy decisions that are politically incorrect, because America must have pressured Israel behind the

scenes to make those decisions.

This seems to be highly unlikely, considering the many complaints by American Presidents over the decades about how Israeli Prime Ministers would not cooperate with American wishes, and considering the habit of Israeli Prime Ministers to go over the heads of our Presidents and reach out to an appreciative U.S. Congress and American public to lobby us to do more for Israel.

America supports Israel more strongly, and gives more money to Israel, than any other country in the world, and yet we are told that it is not enough. Can anyone quantify the increased level of support that we should be giving to Israel, to avoid being zapped by God with all the hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and forest fires by which we are being punished for our inadequate support for Israel?

Did America Force Israel to Withdraw From Gaza?

Israeli Prime Minister Sharon first announced his plan to withdraw from Gaza on December 18, 2003, stating, “Settlements which will be relocated are those which will not be included in the territory of the State of Israel in the framework of any possible future permanent agreement. At the same time, in the framework of the Disengagement Plan, Israel will strengthen its control over those same areas in the Land of Israel which will constitute an inseparable part of the State of Israel in any future agreement.”

This began a national debate lasting almost two years over whether or not to withdraw from Gaza. Numerous votes were taken in the Knesset, or Israeli Parliament, which gave preliminary approval by a 67 to 45 vote on October 26, 2004 and final approval on February 16, 2005 by a 59 to 40 vote.

On August 15, 2005, Sharon stated that “It is out of strength and not weakness that we are taking this step.”

National Public Radio on July 29, 2005 reported, “Why is Israel pulling out of the Gaza Strip? . . . The stated rationale was that this would make it easier for Israel to hold onto territory in the West Bank, where the largest Jewish settlements are located.... Opinion polls have consistently shown that a majority of Israelis favor the evacuation of Gaza settlements at least in part because of the high cost of maintaining Israeli troops there to protect the settlers.”

The Washington Post reported on August 10, 2005 that “Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the withdrawal was to increase security of residents of Israel, relieve pressure on the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and reduce friction between Israelis and Palestinians.”

The Christian Science Monitor August 15, 2005, reported: “Sharon decided to promote disengagement as Israel’s best way of extricating itself from the conflict and decreasing its vulnerability to terrorism. Mr. Sharon endorsed a view Israel’s left-wing has argued for years. Being in some parts of the Occupied Territories was more of a security liability than an asset. And, for the first time ever, Sharon said in 2003 that he wanted to end the occupation. ‘It is not possible to continue holding 3,500,000 people under occupation,’ he told Likud members in May 2003. ‘You may not like the word, but what’s happening is occupation. This is a terrible thing for Israel, for the Palestinians, and for the Israeli economy.’”

The historical record indicates that the nation of Israel freely decided on its own accord, after a vigorous debate in a free, democratic society, that withdrawal from Gaza would be in the best interests of Israel and make Israel stronger.

There is no evidence that Israel withdrew from Gaza due to any behind-the-scenes pressure from Bush, Condoleezza Rice or any other baddies in the American government. It is true that Bush and Rice did express their approval of a decision freely made by the Israeli government. What is so bad about that?

How Can We Avoid Further Divine Punishments Like Katrina?

The argument that Katrina was God’s punishment on America, for allowing and encouraging Israel’s withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, is extremely far-fetched. For many

years prior to that withdrawal, there was a feeling in Israel that the Gaza occupation was like a millstone around Israel’s neck and that Israel as a nation would be stronger if she pulled out of Gaza.

The decision on the part of Israel to withdraw from Gaza came at the end of a lengthy national debate in which many Israelis, including the Prime Minister, came to the conclusion that it was too costly to maintain the settler outpost in Gaza.

The Gaza withdrawal was never a clear “black and white” issue for Israelis - there were many pros and cons, and plenty of legitimate arguments both for staying and for leaving.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon never alleged that America was to blame for forcing his nation to leave Gaza. He insisted that he was doing the right thing for Israel, saying, “I am not prepared to accept the claim that leaving Gaza is the trampling of Zionism. It is in fact strengthening Zionism in areas that are much more important.”

Why would God be angry at America for allowing Israel to carry out a policy decision that the Israeli government had determined to be for Israel’s good? And how would we possibly know God’s will on this matter, without a new revelation from God?

If Katrina Was Divine Punishment For the Gaza Pull-out, What Are the Implications?

Let us assume however, for the sake of argument, that Katrina really was God’s punishment on America for supporting the Gaza withdrawal. Where do we go from here, and how do we avoid being smitten again as a nation for supporting politically incorrect policy decisions which affect Israel?

In order for God to stop smiting us for our erroneous policy decisions concerning Israel, we are going to have to have a reliable, infallible source of authority as to what are the correct policy decisions at all times.

That is easier said than done. In modern Israeli society and in the highest levels of Israeli government, military and intelligence, there are wide divergences of opinion as to how to deal with the Palestinian question and other vital issues.

There is loud and vigorous opposition among Israeli Jews to many of the policies of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Meanwhile, American Jewish and Christian Zionist supporters of Israel disagree among themselves as to just what Israel should do and what America should do to stand by Israel.

How can we sort out these divergent opinions, and know for certain the divine will concerning Israel? We need a final authority that we can rely on to tell us what to do. Can the office of Israeli Prime Minister provide us with that infallible final authority?

Based on the widespread rejection of Prime Minister

Sharon's authority to make the right decision concerning Gaza, the obvious answer is "No." Christian Zionists and Jewish rabbis are telling us that we were wrong to support Sharon's Gaza withdrawal, and that God punished us for that support by smiting us with Katrina.

This raises the grim possibility, even probability, that God will smite us again if we support a decision of a current or future Israeli Prime Minister that turns out to be contrary to God's will.

Christian Zionist leader Pat Robertson made it clear that he did not see Israeli Prime Ministers as a reliable authority for public policy regarding Israel, when in 2006 he declared that the severe stroke suffered by Prime Minister Sharon was a divine punishment for the Gaza withdrawal USA Today on January 6, 2006 reported that "Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson suggested Thursday that Israeli Prime Minister Arid Sharon's stroke was divine punishment for 'dividing God's land'...

"Sharon, who ordered Israel's withdrawal from Gaza last year, suffered a severe stroke on Wednesday....

"Robertson also referred to the 1995 assassination of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who had sought to achieve peace by giving land to the Palestinians. 'It was a terrible thing that happened, but nevertheless he was dead,' he said. "The Anti-Defamation League issued a statement urging Christian leaders to distance themselves from the remarks. Robertson made similar comments as the Gaza withdrawal occurred, it said.

"It is outrageous and shocking, but not surprising, that Pat Robertson once again has suggested that God will punish Israel's leaders for any decision to give up land to the Palestinians,' said Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the group, which fights anti-Semitism. 'His remarks are un-Christian and a perversion of religion. Unlike Robertson, we don't see God as cruel and vengeful.'"

As long as we take the position that Katrina was God's punishment on America for supporting the policy

decision of an Israeli Prime Minister, then the logic is inescapable. This means that Israeli Prime Ministers are not infallible, and that they are capable of making wrong decisions that, if we support them, could result in God zapping us again with a hurricane or other natural disaster..

What we need to do is establish a totally reliable and

infallible source of the divine will concerning policy decisions that affect Israel. Without that, we are wasting our time warning people that God will smite them with hurricanes, tornadoes, etc. if America supports the wrong policy decisions concerning Israel, since we have no way of being certain what the correct policies are.

Pat Robertson's simplistic warning against "dividing the land" is not sufficient to guide us in all policy decisions, since the prophet Ezekiel stated, in his vision of the ideal future for Israel, that the land should indeed be divided:

"So shall ye divide this land unto you according to the tribes of Israel.

"And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall beget children among you: and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

"And it shall come to pass, that in what tribe the stranger sojourneth, there shall ye give him his inheritance, saith the Lord GOD." (Ezekiel 47:21-23)

We Cannot Know the Reason For Disasters With Certainty

In reality, it is not possible for us to know why God allowed such disasters as the Lisbon earthquake, the Katrina hurricane, or the 9-11 terrorist attack.

Christ had an opportunity to explain the real reasons for such disasters as Pontius Pilate's massacre of Galileans and the fall of a tower in Siloam, but He chose not to make the reasons known:

"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

"And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

"Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem?

I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:1-5)

The only moral lesson that Jesus asked His hearers to draw from these disasters was that they should repent or else they would eventually suffer a similar fate. He could have given divinely inspired insight as to why these terrible events happened, but He chose not to do so. We don't need to know exactly why disasters happen, and without a new revelation from God, we have no way of knowing.

Instead of speculating and finger-pointing about such matters that we have no way of knowing about, perhaps we should examine our own spiritual condition, and repent.

## **PARAPROSDOKIANS**

Paraprostdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Winston Churchill loved them.)

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
4. If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
5. We never really grow up we only learn how to act in public.
6. War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
7. Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
8. To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
9. I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
10. In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify " I answered, "a doctor."
11. Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
12. You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
13. I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.
14. To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target
15. Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any

more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

16. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

17. I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now.

Spread the Laughter, Share the Cheer, Let's Be Happy, While We're here!

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## **NECESSITY OF A REGENERATE HEART**

By Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

All sound gospel believers are aware of the many dangers posed by a false view of the salvation of the soul. The danger of being wrong on salvation results in eternal damnation. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again" and that is what we call regeneration (John 3:7). Without the new birth Jesus said that no man can see or enter the kingdom of God (John 3:3, 5). Jesus asserted that regeneration or the new birth was a "must or necessity." "Must" means regeneration is compulsory if one is to have eternal life. Man by nature is totally depraved or spiritually dead and this means incapable of spiritual acts (Eph. 2:1). However, this is not the accepted view of modern man! How many are trying to "build ... a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and ... make ... a name" (Gen. 11:4). What happened? God came down and punctured that balloon and confounded them (Gen. 11:5 ff.)!

Modern man believes he can fix this problem in a hurry and this is especially true of many evangelicals. A number of years ago there was a fundamentalist preacher who asserted that a true believing Christian should be able to win a person to salvation in the length of time he was stopped at a red light and before that light turned green. That is an extreme view which ignores the Biblical doctrine of regeneration by the Holy Spirit, but then other modern views are equally bad. What that view really postulates is self-salvation (autosoterism, bootstrap religion) or salvation from within the self, an act man supposedly makes that makes the critical difference (a form of humanism). This is what Dr. Herman Bavinck called, "The principle of heathenism ... negatively, the denial of the true God, and of the gift of his grace; and, positively, the notion that salvation can be secured by man's own power and wisdom." These will stand in the judgment confounded—"Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congrega-

tion of the righteous” (Ps. 1:5).

Perhaps America can claim the right to many forms of what could be called “The ‘instant’ fix.” The longest it takes to fix a problem is supposed to be no greater than a thirty minute TV program. We have given the world instant cereals, instant drinks, instant grits, instant service, and instant Christianity, which is not real Christianity. Modern evangelicals have improved on that and can fix a spiritual problem almost in the blink of an eye. “And it cannot be denied that it was American Fundamentalism that brought instant Christianity to the gospel churches” [A. W. Tozer]. He went on to write, “Instant Christianity now serves the same purposes in religion. It disposes of the past, guarantees the future and sets the Christian free to follow the more refined lusts of the flesh in all good conscience and with a minimum of restraint.”

What are the results of this bogus salvation conjured up by human effort, which is minus the regenerating work of God the Holy Spirit? The results are churches with members who have no love for the Bible, no love for Christ, no love for the true worship of the only true and living God, no love for holy things, but look and act like the lost world. What are they? They are professing Christians without a regenerate heart; in other words they are still on the road to eternal damnation. Thus we have a world without virtue.

Jesus as we noted declared, “Ye must be born again” which reveals the necessity of regeneration (John 3:7). Paul noted, “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Eph. 2:1). Man is totally depraved and thus spiritually dead and must be “quickened or made alive” by an act of God who is the only giver of life. Thus man being spiritually dead needs to be made alive spiritually, and this divinely imparted kind of life can only be given by God. Regeneration is a word derived from human birth. Regeneration is called the new birth, being born anew, being birthed from heaven or spiritual quickening. Just as creation was an act of God even so a re-creation is an act of God. Jesus said the new birth had the enigma or mystery of the wind, you hear it but cannot tell of its origin or end “so is every one that is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8). To be “born of the Spirit” is another way of referring to a spiritually produced birth or regeneration. Thus the transforma-

tion of regeneration is a spiritual change performed by the Holy Spirit; because it took place in the spiritual nature of the subject; and because the fruit of the change is spiritual; because the live imparted is eternal.

Consider the following explanations of regeneration. “Neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature” (Gal. 6:15). “A new creature” means literally a new creation or new birth. The efficient cause of regeneration is not moral suasion but the direct working of the Spirit of God. The effectual working of the Holy Spirit was described by Augustine as “the delightful conqueror.”

“Regeneration is a radical change, effected in the heart of the sinner by the power of God” [Seth Williston]. Note what the Word of God says: “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2). “And be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (Eph. 4:23). This transformation is by God the Holy Spirit. “And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Eph. 4:24). “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Tit. 3:5). Here we have “the cleansing influence of regeneration by the Spirit in like manner as his renewing, which is spoken of in the immediate context and has no reference to baptism” [James P. Boyce]. We become ‘new’ by virtue of the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:24). “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Col. 3:10). The ‘new’ person is no longer conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2). “That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts” (Eph. 4:22). “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds” (Col. 3:9). This transformation was in knowledge and holiness of the truth created after the image of God (Eph. 4:24, Col. 3:10, Rom. 12:2).

Truly, every facet of man’s being is impacted in regeneration. “A new birth evidently implies a universal change. It must be of the whole man, not in some particulars, but in all without exception” [John Witherspoon]. Consider the following compact definition:

“So then, we define regeneration as the implanting of new life in the soul. That is it in its essence. If you like a definition which is a little more amplified, consider this: it is the act of God by which a principle of new life is implanted in a man or woman with the result that the governing disposition of the soul is made holy. And then the actual birth is that which gives evidence of the first exercise of this disposition” [Martin Lloyd-Jones].

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit cannot be the imparting of partial life but the instantaneous change from spiritual death to spiritual life. There is a difference between generation and being birthed. Generation is an instant act. “In other words, there are no intermediate stages in regeneration. Life is either implanted or it is not; it cannot be partly implanted. It is not gradual” [Lloyd-Jones]. Regeneration cannot be a gradual change. The three thousand Jews who were converted under the preaching of Peter in his first sermon preached at Pentecost were born anew instantly (Acts 2:38-41). Regeneration has to do with the immediate bestowal of eternal life. Do you have this eternal kind of life in Christ? The Apostle Paul wrote by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, “For the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost, which is given unto us. For when we were yet weak, according to the time: Christ died for us which were ungodly.... But God setteth out his love that he hath to us, seeing that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more than now (seeing we are justified in his blood) shall we be saved from wrath, through him” (Rom. 5:5, 6, 8, 9, Tyndale’s Translation).

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## MONEYCHANGER

Someone once said that Americans know the price of everything and the value of nothing. President Trump proved that last night in his State of the Onion message. He bragged that the mark of Trump-produced prosperity was a stock market worth \$7 trillion more than when he was elected.

Mercy! Might as well say that the reason France was prosperous in 1789 was that the nobility were so well dressed.

Stock market’s price says nothing about its value because it cometh not from corporations producing something real and profiting thereby. Rather, it arises out of skunky tricks of financial engineering like stock buy backs and balance sheet juggling. Even somebody

from New York ought to recognize that.

Vast swaths of the American middle class, whose jobs were exported overseas to fatten corporations and who are daily being indoctrinated by the same corporations that they will be further obsoleted by robots and AI, are succumbing to galloping drug addiction. Clearly while the corporate nobility are very well dressed, life ain’t so fat amongst the canaille. Maybe a New Yorker wouldn’t recognize that.

What a world, where we are forced choose between Hillary and Trump -- the devil & the deep blue vacuum. (1/31/18)

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## PRAYER AND WORKS

*Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Acts 12 has some good insight for us, particularly in light of our troubled times. Here we read that King Herod sought to vex certain of the church. Vex -- “To oppress, afflict, harm, maltreat.”

*1 Peter 3:12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm (same word) you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.*

The answer to fear over what the world might do to us is to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts, so we can properly answer those who challenge our Christianity.

“Certain,” not all of the church. Evidently Herod picked only a few of the individual church leaders to ‘vex’.

V. 2, vexing of the church was not just a “hassle”, but was serious enough to result in James’ death in fulfillment of our Lord’s words. (Matt. 20:23.) V.3 Herod was a good politician. He had bought peace with the rebellious Jews by rebuilding their Temple.

By all accounts, Herod’s temple was a glorious white Temple, and gave the appearance of having descended

from heaven. The “Wailing Wall” is from Herod’s temple, not Solomon’s. As one follows the time line, Christ appeared in Herod’s newly built Temple just before construction was finished. In other words, God prepared a Glorious Temple on earth for His Preacher; that temple was destroyed within 40 years. That is why people were so amazed when Christ spoke of the destruction of the temple and then rebuilding it in three days.

Caesar knew Herod was a very wicked man, yet he was left in power because he could keep peace among the very rebellious Jews.

“It pleased the people” was the basis of Herod’s rule. His rule was not based in truth, justice, law, nor on what was best for the people. It was based on what was best for him, so he could retain his power.

Herod sees public opinion on his side, so he takes Peter, the most conspicuous man in the church. “If killing James pleased them, then how much more will Peter’s death?”

Rule by justice, truth, mercy and godly principles went out many years ago. It is now “rule” by who or what can get the most votes. The heathen kings and rulers are working together day and night to get enough public support so they can do as Herod did to James and Peter. Hence, the taxpayer financed great influx of Muslims.

V. 3, After Easter, which coincided with the days of the unleavened bread. Evidently, Peter was to be publicly executed at that time. Unlike James, who was immediately put to death, Peter was held over until after the holy day.

V. 4, sixteen soldiers were assigned to keep him. Two with Peter, and two at the gate. Each standing a three hour watch for twelve hours.

V. 5, 6, prayer without ceasing leads us into the heart of the matter. Peter was sleeping the sleep of a righteous man even the night before his death. So sound was he sleeping that the angel had to “smote” him to wake him up. He was chained between the two soldiers, and two more were standing at the door. The four were under the death sentence if they were found sleeping at their post. Yet God delivers. All of the precautions that men can take are useless if God decides otherwise, for *Unless the Lord keeps the house the watchman waketh but in vain.*

Vv. 7-12, Peter, now on the outside, considers how

easily God can deliver those whom he desires to deliver. As Peter reflects back, it seemed too good too be true. As he thought about it, he went to John’s house.

#### **Observe:**

As “Herod” was ruling by popular opinion, he was able to vex the Christians with imprisonment and death. His efforts to “break” the new church were met with prayer, and his plan failed.

*2 Chronicles 14:11 And Asa cried unto the LORD his God, and said, LORD, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O LORD our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O LORD, thou art our God; let not man prevail against thee.*

I realize that all rulers and judges sit in authority “By me...” (Pro 8:15ff.) So where does prayer fit in? Man cannot even begin to comprehend the Divine and Sovereign Works of the God of Scripture, and is forbidden to try, so we will not waste our time here. (Deut 29:29)

Herod ruled by popular opinion. He was there because the people wanted him there. We are only fooling ourselves if we think the ungodly are in office for any other reason. They are there because the people want them, and those in power are working to protect their power; those out of power are working to take it away from those who have it. And that struggle for power is “Cage Fighting,” where anything goes, even murder.

The church is commanded to change public opinion by teaching all nations to “observe all things” commanded by the Word of God. As a college professor used to say, “We need our Wanter changed.” The Wanter can only be changed with the gospel of Christ. Only then will one’s outlook and motives be changed into His likeness.

We are not against political pressure, and I have used it several times to accomplish godly goals. But when pressure is used to replace prayer, it is wrong. We will have to admit, pressure is a lot easier to apply than holy, fervent prayer. The arm of the flesh always appeals much more than the power of God. We need to pray for God to direct circumstances according to His will and for His own glory, and for the good of His Church. (Ja 5:16, 1 Chron 29:18.)

Because we might see a certain amount of victory from the “pressure” we can apply, we can easily get caught in thinking politics is the answer, and forget that the gospel is the answer; the changed heart will bring a

change in leadership.

**Consider:** Might the enemy of our souls allow a certain amount of victory to get our attention off of prayer? The idea of deceptive victory can go into every area of life and thought, e.g., an individual, family, church. We can count on the flesh and the devil to use any means to get our attention off the power of the Gospel and prayer.

Herod's popularity was purchased with public funds, and the people loved it. He laid hold of Peter because it made him more popular, yet the Lord released Peter. In order to save face and his popularity, he had the four soldiers put to death publicly, and it worked. He remained very popular, vv. 20ff.

Ludwig tells us that Herod was an extremely ungodly man. ("Rulers of NT Times") God had allowed him to prosper up to v. 23, where we see that the Lord smote him because "he gave not God the glory." One cannot imagine that this wicked man would give any glory to God, but God killed him because he did not. Did he meet these worms because of the prayers back in v. 5?

We must not allow even a small victory, even to the point of getting men out of jail, cause us to think another answer other than prayer and obedience to God. God's curse is upon those who depend on man, and what the arm of flesh can do.

*Jeremiah 17:5 Thus saith the LORD; {g} Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.*

(g) The Jews were given to worldly policies and thought to make themselves strong by the friendship of the Egyptians, # Isa 31:3 and strangers and in the meantime did not depend on God, and therefore he denounces God's plagues against them, showing that they prefer corruptible man to God, who is immortal, # Isa 2:22, Jer 48:6,7. (Geneva. See Ps. 35:13, Ps. 69:10, Jn. 14:13, 14; Lk. 22:42.)

The new Israel of God is also inclined to worldly policies, hoping to make themselves strong. "But we must put feet to our prayers." Yes, but do we depend on "feet" rather than on prayer? Acts 12 had more prayer than feet. They did not depend on picketing neither the jail nor Herod's house, though the new church had several thousand members by this time. They had numbers enough to cause a tremendous turmoil and pressure to bring about social change through worldly policies. They could have made themselves strong in the flesh, and accomplished many things without prayer.

Scripture is not against applying the "pressure" to the ruling officials, but if we depend upon that pressure to do what prayer should be doing, what can we expect? We should notice that it was the pressure of the crowd that put Christ to death and got Peter jailed in the first place.

There are those who say, "We'll pray about it," but do nothing.

We must not lose our confidence in the power of prayer as we claim his promises in places like 2 Chronicles 7:1 & Proverbs 28:13ff. Solomon tells us that "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." We have a problem getting our seasons and times confused.

Political action? Certainly, especially in the system we have here in America. If only as good citizens, we are responsible to lift our voice against wickedness in high places. There is a place for picketing. There is a time for political pressure. There is the time to fight in the media. But the church of Acts 12 did none of these things, and the man who was facing sure death the next day was delivered the night before through prayer. Not only delivered, but the ungodly ruler who sought to kill him died in his place. (Various supernatural events were common up until the time of the total destruction of what was left of the old system, 70 A.D. Supernatural events still take place, but not as was common then.)

Prayer delivered the godly from destruction. Prayer delivered the ungodly to destruction, and the word of God grew and multiplied. How easy it is to substitute human, fleshly means to obtain what we think is the will of God. We are so entangled with the things of this world that it is easier to use the flesh than to unentangle ourselves. We don't even know everywhere we are entangled. In our entanglement, have we lost our power and authority in prayer that allows the Herods to remain in power?

The two are tied together: The freeing of Peter by prayer and the worms of Herod. God supernaturally intervened in both cases as a direct result of prayer. The devil knows the facts, so does he throw a bone to the Christians now and then to keep God's people from recommitting themselves to righteous living and to prayer? Does the devil realize Acts 12 prayer will pull down his strongholds, and render his weapons powerless? God promises that Acts 12 prayer and Matthew

28:19, 20 action will expand the kingdom of God over the whole earth.

PRAYER: God help us to see the balance. Help us to see the entanglement and sin that prevents our prevailing prayer. Help us to see the cause (within us) that allows Herod to stay in power. God, command your light to shine that we might see the truth in these areas. (2 Cor. 4:6) Does our enemy let us see just enough change in a person that we are concerned about to prevent our really being serious with God?

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## SPECIAL FOR MY FRINDS

A newlywed young man was sitting on the porch on a humid day, sipping ice tea with his father. As he talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, the father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look on his son.

“Never forget your friends,” he advised, “they will become more important as you get older.” “Regardless of how much you love your family, you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally (if possible), but keep in contact with them somehow.

“What strange advice!” thought the young man. “I just entered the married world. I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will be everything I need to make sense of my life”

Yet, he obeyed his father; kept in touch with his friends and annually increased their number. Over the years, he became aware that his father knew what he was talking about.

Inasmuch as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a person, friends are the bulwarks of our life. After 70+ years of life, here is what he, you and I will have learned:

Time passes.

Life goes on.

Children grow up. They cease to be children and become independent. And to the parents, it breaks their hearts but the children are separated from the parents because they begin their own families.

Jobs/careers come and go.

Illusions, desires, attraction, sex....weakens.

People can't do what they did physically when they were young.

Parents die, but you move on.

Colleagues forget the favors you did.

The race to achieve slows.

But, true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles away they are. A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, intervening in your favor, waiting for you with open arms or in some way blessing your life.

When we started this adventure called LIFE, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead. We did not know how much we would need from each other. Love your parents, take care of your family, but keep a group of good friends. Stay in touch with them but do not impose your criteria.

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**Comment:** We cannot thank God enough for the many friends on this mailing list who have been genuine friends over many years, some since the 1980s, and for new friends also. (Bro Need)

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## VIEW SENATORS AND PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY

When Edward Everette Hale was chaplain of the United States Senate, he was asked:

“Do you pray for the Senators, Dr. Hale?” “No, I look at the Senators and pray for the country.” Van Wyck Brooks, *New England: Indian Summer, 1865–1915*.

This would be very good advice for any religious person as our elected leaders seem to have lost their way. Hale's answer to the question gives hope to me, that America has, over the centuries, somehow survived our Representatives in Washington, and so must we, by the grace of God.

There's an old line in Theological circles that poses, “God gives a people the leadership they deserve.” The premise appears true if you pause and ponder while reading the Old Testament. The Roman heel upon the neck of the world seems to bear this out as the Romans were decadent beyond words in early NT times.

Despite the decadence of leadership, the early Christians were encouraged to live simple lives, finding contentment at home with the wife and children, all the while saying a humble prayer for the leaders. I find it unimaginably hard to even think about praying for Nero, who married a 12 year old boy, Sporus, whom he paraded around the Empire as his queen, to say nothing

of Pythagoras, also married, but as “husband” to Nero. If you can believe it, it gets worse, not to mention the atrocities that were committed upon Christians. Yet, Paul parades out Romans 13 to pray for such as the utter reprobates in Rome. Keep in mind that as horrible as things were, without the restraints of The Holy Spirit they would have been much worse.

The depraved Roman world provided a dark backdrop for God’s people!

Paine understated it when he wrote, “These are the times that try men’s souls.” Yet, those who have trusted Christ must be in serious prayer for God’s overruling hand in the political life of our country and world. Keep in mind that one day God will put “Hooks” into the jaws of Russia and drag the bear down to the Valley of Megiddo for destruction. So, He is ruling now in accordance with His design.

Philippians 2:15 “that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,” (NKJV).

Larry Lilly

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### Paying the Price of

## **KICKING GOD OUT OF THE SCHOOLS**

townhall.com Jerry Newcombe

Tragically, there have been more school shootings in America. Our prayers are with the survivors and with the families of the victims. Reports even indicate that one coach in the Parkland, Florida shooting used his own body to shield others. Jesus said, “Greater love has no man than that he lay down his life for his friends.”

Many people are clamoring for gun control as if that would solve the problem. Of course, there used to be guns at school---long before there were school shootings.

Rev. Paul Blair, a Baptist minister in Oklahoma of the organization Reclaiming America for Christ, wrote an article recently talking about guns in his own public school background.

Says Blair, “In the school parking lot, every fourth car was a pickup truck, most of which had a rifle rack in the back window, a deer rifle hung on the rack and the windows rolled down. We never heard of such a thing as a school shooting. We knew right from wrong. We

knew morality. Most of the students went to church as did most of our teachers.”

Of course, guns in the wrong hands can cause many problems. But the real issue gets back to the sinful heart of people.

I have interviewed Christian radio host and author Janet Parshall a few times through the years. One time, in a television interview for our program, “What If Jesus Had Never Been Born?” (based on the book I wrote with Dr. D. James Kennedy), Parshall made this insightful observation: “I can’t quite frankly imagine a world where there hasn’t been a Christian influence because one has to ask themselves the question, if we extrapolate out of the human experience Christianity, what’s left? Well, I think that the answer to that question has to be the basic sin nature of man.”

Dr. Kennedy and I wrote a follow-up book called, What If The Bible Had Never Been Written? In this 1998 book, we noted, “Many of the humanists’ goals have been realized in the public school arena. They have managed to throw the Bible out of the schools. But the result has not been what they imagined. By every conceivable criterion, our public schools are a mess, and the banishing of our rich Judeo-Christian heritage in the schools has everything to do with it.”

That was before the school shootings began, in the late 1990s.

Others have said we need heart control, as opposed to gun control. One man, E. Keith Easter, wrote: “Take the guns, planes, subways, knives, cars, trucks, hammers, axes and drugs away and unless we as a people have a heart change, more and more people will find something to use as a weapon.”

Dr. Erwin Lutzer, pastor emeritus of the Moody Memorial Church in Chicago, wrote Exploding the Myths That Could Destroy America. Note what he said on the absence of religion and its impact on morality: “An atheist’s logic tells him that he is of no more value than a baboon or a grain of sand, yet his life contradicts such a conclusion. He may provide for his wife and family, and if you were to steal his car he would want you to be punished---all this because he is created in the image of God.”

Then Lutzer makes a chilling prediction in this 1986 book: “We have not yet seen the full result of

humanism in the United States. We are still coasting on the values derived from our rich Judeo-Christian heritage." Unfortunately, more and more people are following that atheistic logic out to its conclusion—and we are seeing the tragic results.

William McGuffey, the 19th century author of the best-selling McGuffey Readers, predicted: "Erase all thought and fear of God from a community, and selfishness and sensuality would absorb the whole man....Virtue, duty, principle, would be mocked and spurned as unmeaning sounds. A sordid self-interest would supplant every other feeling; and man would become, in fact, what the theory of atheism declares him to be---a companion for brutes."

We hear the growing call for more and more laws, as though a thicker book of regulations could solve the problem. Yet we've seen that even the current laws and protocols are not properly enforced. John Adams noted that a free society must be a virtuous society, writing, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

We have a toxic stew in our society, where our schools have so often been turned into zones where Judeo-Christian morality is generally not allowed. I pray for a true national spiritual awakening. I believe it is America's only real hope. Meanwhile, we are reaping what we have sown by essentially disallowing God in the schools.

### Comments:

**First:** The stated purpose of the Government education system was to remove the Christian God from society. The State educational goal has always been to produce young people who will work to overthrow Christ. (Ps 2) Who can complain when their students follow what they have learned in the classroom? (*The Messianic Character of American Education*, R. J. Rushdoony. The Craig Press, 1979.)

**Second:** I violently disagree with the idea of any "Judeo-Christian" heritage. This nation was founded by and for faithful followers of Jesus Christ. A Jew

could not hold a public office for many years after our foundation, for he denies the Christian God Who can only be approached through the work of Christ. Why have we shared our once distinctly Christian heritage with the anti-Christ Jews, for they violently reject Christ, the true Messiah of the Covenant with Israel? Moreover, there were no Jews at the Mount, only Israelites. Bro Need

## NEW BOOKLET

"Jew vs. Jew; Israel vs. Isral" looks at the "secular" facts behind what we are being told about the "Jews" and about "Israel."

Since the middle 1940s, Americans have been convinced that they must support the Jews and their Nation of Israel, which the UN spoke into existence in the 1940s. Since then, the US taxpayers have given multiplied billions of dollars in cash and military equipment to provide the Jews with a homeland. Moreover, we are in a covenant to go to war to protect a "Jewish homeland."

The question this booklet seeks to address is "Who are the Jews. Who or what is national Israel? Who and what are we supporting?" 1) a Biblical nation and army as was in existence under King David? 2) a religion, as does Saudi-Arabia support Muslim causes? 3) an ally to preserve a proper "Balance of Power?" 4) a Biblically Christian nation?

Using "secular" sources, we find who the modern Jews actually are, and the source of modern Israel. I am sure the reader will be as surprised as was this writer as he looked past what we have been taught and are being told about the modern Jews and the nation of Israel.

Have we not been warned against profiting prophets who "prophesy" to accomplish a personal agenda?

This little booklet attempts to examine our current understanding of the Jews and National Israel from an honest historical and Biblical perspective. ("Jew vs. Jew — Israel vs. Israel." This is further research and an expansion of the articles in the December Examiner. Free upon request. Donation appreciated.)

All articles by Bro Need unless otherwise noted.

