

The Biblical Examiner

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

The Biblical Examiner, 5130 Danville Rd, Lynchburg, OH 45142
540.255.2243 ; Bro. Need, 740.637.4191 **Note change:** facebook.com/ovidjr
www.biblicalexaminer.org ; ovid.need@gmail.com

Sermonaudio.com/providence

Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

Nimrod's Legacy Active TODAY

AS SEEN IN OUR PRESENT "CRISIS."

Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger. (Isa 13:13)

For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts. (Hag 2:6, 7)

Quoting Haggai, Hebrews brings forward the Old Testament meaning of the word *shake*:

Hebrews 12:26-28, Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Shaking represents the removal of all things contrary to God's word; it represents the overthrow of all powers and authorities that oppose the Kingdom of God; it describes the falling of all things that are built upon the sands of human wisdom and understanding. We are told that *the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. (Lk 6:47, 48, Rom 1:18 & ch. 2, Ps. 2)*



Contents

Nimrod's Legacy...1 ; Babylon and Nimrod...1 ; Nimrod and the spirit of Babylon...2 ; Homeschooling Interest Climbs as Schools Weigh Closures Due to Coronavirus...8 ; Our God is as a Man of War...1 ; A DYNAMITE DEAL...14 ; A Game of Graft, Greed and Grief...14 ; Wisdom from Training Manuals...16 ; **The upcoming Jewish Passover...16**, Demonic Christianity, A Satanic Ritual, Talmudic Judaism, the Exodus and the Passover, A Perpetual Lie ; Personal...19 ; Who Really Owns the Land?...20 ; Making Every Act Conform to God's Law...22 ; 'I was a teacher for 17 years, but I couldn't read or write'...24

God judges *the transgression of the law*, causing the works of men to crumble, *i.e.*, *shaking*. Though it includes a physical shaking, it primarily speaks of the fall of governments, nations, societies, powers and authorities that are against the Lord and his Christ. History shows a correlation between literal earthquakes and natural disasters of all kinds and the collapse of the powers that are in rebellion against God. (Eph 1:21, 1 Jn 3:4, 1 Sam 14:15.)

In Isaiah 13:13, the people were being warned of the impending judgment and destruction of Babylon. The fall would be an amazing fall for all who would see and hear of it. The fall, resulting from God's wrath against Babylon, would be so terrible that it was compared to the heavens and earth being overthrown. But in the midst of all the destruction, **Isaiah assures God's people that the Lord is in total control**, and he would be working his plan and purpose, as he overthrows all opposition to the Son and his Kingdom on earth. His wrath against sin would be terrible as he casts down the mighty Babylon.

BABYLON AND NIMROD

Though Babylon fell, the spirit of Babylon did not die. It is alive and well even though it has faced the wrath of God many times; for his own good pleasure and purpose, he allows it to continue. Revelation 18 identifies the city that

put Christ to death, *i.e.*, Jerusalem, as the end-time Babylon. God also overthrew it with a mighty hand. Though Isaiah spoke of the overthrow of the ancient Babylon as a great shaking, the prophets continually use *shaking* to describe God's judgment against sin throughout history until all things are subdued to the Son, Ps 110:10, Heb 12:25ff.

Isaiah 13:14. Clearly, vv. 1-13 have been fulfilled. All we have to do is look less than 50 miles south of Baghdad and see the ruins of this once mighty city of Babylon. But the principle still holds, and will continue until Babylon's spirit is placed completely under the feet of our Lord. (1 Cor. 15:24-28. Orthodox Judaism's law is the Babylonian Talmud.) Babylon is referred to many times in the New Testament, especially in the Book of the Revelation, as God devotes many words and verses to the overthrow of the kingdom of Babylon. There is far more to Babylon than just the overthrow of a literal city and kingdom named Babylon.

NIMROD AND THE SPIRIT OF BABYLON

The spirit of Babylon is pride, rebellion and independence from God. It involves mankind uniting under a common system in order to break the bands and cords of God's binding law. It includes the attempt to be like God, which Isaiah gives in chapter 14. The foundation of Babylon's spirit was established when sin was found in Satan (1 Jn 3:8); it spread to man in the Garden when Satan offered him the chance to be like god; it is identified after the flood in Nimrod when he called his city Babel. (Emp. added. Genesis 10:11. *Babel, i.e.*, "gate of the god." *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, ISBE.*)

Edersheim:

Most strangely have the Assyrian tablets of the royal successors of Nimrod been made to furnish an explanation of his description as "a mighty hunter" — for this is the title given in them to the great conquering warrior-monarchs, as "hunting the people." Thus we gather the full meaning of the expression, "he began to be a mighty one in the earth." (Edersheim, *Old Testament Bible History, The World Before the Flood.* Chapter 8, p. 59. Eerdmans Publishing Company. First Printing, One-Volume edition, August 1972.)

Keil-Delitzsch:

Nimrod "*began to be a mighty one in the earth.*" ... used here, as in chap. [Gen] vi. 4, to denote a man who makes himself renowned for bold and daring deeds. Nimrod was mighty in hunting, and that in opposition to Jehovah; not

before Jehovah in the sense of, according to the purpose and will of Jehovah... The name itself, *Nimrod* .. "we will revolt," points to some violent resistance to God. It is so characteristic that it can only have been given by his contemporaries, and thus have become a proper name... (Keil-Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament, First Book of Moses*, p. 165.)

That is, Nimrod's bold and daring deeds were against or in spite of the God who sent the flood. *A mighty hunter* meant that he trapped men by "by stratagem and force." He became a tyrant over men, "establishing his imperial kingdom by tyranny and power." (op. cit.)

The implication is that the **mighty deeds** of the pre-flood *men of renown* of Genesis 6:4 were deeds against the God of heaven; that is, such openly rebellious and violent **deeds against God that they attracted everyone's attention**, including God's.

Josephus:

Nimrod was angry at God for the Flood, and sought revenge against God for "destroying their forefathers... Now it was Nimrod who excited them to such an affront and contempt of God." Nimrod **1**) caused them to "believe that it was their own courage which procured that happiness..." **2**) "gradually changed the government into tyranny, seeing no other way of turning men from the fear of God, but to bring them into a constant dependence upon his power..." **3**) he caused them "to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God..." (Emp. added. *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book I, Chap. IV. Sec. 1-3. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, NY.)

When one cannot ascend into heaven to pull God down, what better way to get revenge against God than to undermine his authority on earth and cause people to rebel against him?

Edersheim:

It was the Divine will, that after the flood the whole earth should be repopled by the descendants of Noah. For this purpose they must, of course, have separated and spread, so as to form the different nations and tribes among whom the world should be apportioned. Any attempted unity on their part would not only be contrary to Divine purpose, but also, considering the universal sinfulness of man, prove dangerous to themselves, and even be untrue, since their inward separation had already appeared in the different characters and tendencies of Ham and his brothers. (Edersheim, *Old Testament Bible History, The World Before the Flood*, Chapter VIII, pp. 57, 58.)

Edersheim further points out that Nimrod's name is listed by ancient history in the line of kings of Egypt.

The goal of the builders of the Tower of Babel was to *reach unto heaven*, "...whose top should be in heaven, *i.e.*, reach to the sky, **to make themselves a name**, that they might not be scattered over the whole earth." The "divine purpose was for man to fill the earth, *i.e.*, to spread over the whole earth, not indeed to separate, but to maintain their inward unity notwithstanding their dispersion..." (Emp. added. Kiel, op. cit. Emp. added. Gen 11:3)

God's goal was unity — unity in a common faith in the God who sent the Flood no matter where in the earth they went. **Man's goal was unity** — unity in a common effort to rebel against and overthrow God.

The building of Babel was a united effort to rebel against the command and purpose of God. It was an effort to unite together "all material forces into one common centre" and would have "led to universal despotism and to universal idolatry, --- in short, to the full development of what as anti-Christ is reserved for the judgment of the last days." (Edersheim, op. cit., p. 61.)

That is, if God had not stopped Nimrod's efforts, the full spirit of the anti-Christ would have developed. But the final judgment of that spirit is reserved for the last days.

Evidently, all three tribes were involved in Nimrod's effort. The three tribes were not separated until God scattered them by language groups. God's eternal plan was to use Shem's tribe to bring into the world his salvation.

[We read, that] Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower," that is, using our human modes of expression, to take judicial cognizance of man's undertaking. In allusion to the boastful language in which the builders of Babel and of its tower had in their self-confidence stated their purpose: "**Go to, let us make brick,**" etc. (ver. 3), Jehovah expressed His purpose of defeating their folly, using the same words: "**Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language.**" And by this simple means, without any outward visible interference, did the Lord arrest the grandest attempt of man's rebellion, and by confounding their language, "scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth." "Therefore is the name of it called Babel, or confusion." What a commentary does this history afford to the majestic declarations of the second Psalm! (*Ibid.* Emp. added.)

God came down twice to personally check out the wickedness of men, and establish the righteous cause for his judgment, Genesis chapters 10 & 18.

Leupold:

... So this inciter to revolt (Nimrod) came to be the first tyrant upon the earth, oppressing others and using them for the furtherance of his own interests... (*A mighty hunter before the Lord*, ed.) What the phrase then means in this connection is that the gross violation of men's rights, that this mighty hunter of men became guilty of, did not elude the watchful eye of Him, who in mercy regards the welfare of men, Yahweh, but the fact was openly before Him, even if He did not at once proceed to take vengeance upon the despot. (H.C. Leupold, *Exposition of Genesis*, Chapter 10, p. 211. <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/l/leupold/genesis/cache/genesis.pdf>)

Nimrod, the inciter to revolt against God, did not escape God's notice, nor do the inciters of revolt today escape God's notice.

Nimrod's mighty feats, accordingly, were not necessarily mighty feats as commonly supposed, *e.g.*, killing lions or lifting great weights. His mighty acts were acts against God; those acts caused others to admire him and gave courage to follow him in his rebellion. Nimrod was within 100 years after the flood, so the ones who came through the flood were still alive. The ark that bore them through God's judgment was still visible. Think of the awe, respect and following Nimrod gained doing mighty rebellious feats against the God who sent the Flood, especially when everyone knew the terrible judgment of God against such acts of sin and rebellion.

In his rebellion against the Lord and against his Anointed, Nimrod established a kingdom named Babel. Those who joined him were persuaded maybe by his personality, boldness and no doubt his threats of violence if they did not join in his rebellion. We know that he was the first expert after the flood at getting men to follow someone away from God. (Gen. 10:9) All the people united, for whatever reason, behind his desire to thwart the purpose and plan of God to subdue the entire earth for the Glory of God.

Note that the mind of man in Nimrod's day was far superior than it is today or ever will be again. Even with our high technology, supercomputers and 4,000 years' experience, *The Great Pyramid* is still beyond man's abilities without expensive high-tech equipment. We will not even know how it was built until we get into

eternity. Nimrod knew what he was doing as he established the foundation of the ages for man's rebellion against God.

I. Nimrod sought to persuade men that their happiness and prosperity was a result of their own *courage*, strength and efforts, in which God had no part.

II. Nimrod sought to turn men from the Lord to himself. He understood that the best way to do this was to make them constantly dependent upon himself. This he accomplished by a gradual installation of his imperial kingdom by fear, strategy, deceit, tyranny and power. Though we have a record of the evils of individuals on Adam's side of the flood (6:4), in Nimrod, we have the founding of the all-powerful tyrannical state that seeks to usurp the place of God. This usurpation was accomplished by deceitful strategy, **slowly making the people dependent** upon his state instead of the God who sent the Flood. Nimrod's methods are still the most effective means for turning the hearts of men from the Lord. The tyrannical state establishes itself as god by increasing, even forcing people's dependence on the state.

The tyranny of a centralized government not only refers to civil government, but it includes church government, as well as the other 5 areas of government. Godly government must work at making individuals self-governing under God. (Self, family, church, school and civil governments. [Gary DeMar, *God and Government*, I. 3.] To this list of 5 we must add vocational.) Note that the **first thing God ordained** after the flood was the state, giving it the power of the *sword*, i.e., life and death. The **first thing usurped** after the flood to be used against God was the state.

If Nimrod could not entice others to join with him in taking vengeance on God, he used fear and tyranny. Behind him was the united power of his state which had the power of the sword. And let us not underestimate his mighty deeds against God, deeds which could have easily been used to persuade others that the Lord was afraid of him. We can be assured that he learned to use fear to his fullest advantage.

Nimrod's actions were against the very foundation of the Lord's formation of civil government to keep the sinful nature in check. Nimrod, being the *mighty hunter* that he was (implying that he was the most deceitful man alive), used God's ordination of the state and its power of the *sword* for his own sinful purpose against God. Implied from the account of his activity and the

Lord's anger against what he did, is that Nimrod misused the doctrine of the state and the godly power of the sword just as it is misused by evil men today. The corruption of the godly instructions of Romans 13 is not recent — fallen nature developed the corruption of the proper use of the sword as soon as the *sword* was given. (Gen 9:5, 6.) However, though God gave the power of the sword to the state, he did not give the state power to make its own anti-Christ laws, and enforce those laws with the power of the sword:

For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us. (Isa 33:22)

There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another? (Jam 4:12)

III. He sought to free mankind from the fear of the Lord, which would have been no small feat considering how soon this was after the flood. Thus, Nimrod had to use the fear of the sword (as authorized to the civil government) to enforce his plan against the Lord God of heaven. This was, no doubt, much like we have today as lawless civil governments threaten (and use) the sword against all who rebel against their corrupt wishes, desires and laws. Man will fear something, so the state replaces the fear of the Lord with the fear of the tyrannical state. The threat of the *sword* plays a big part in changing the fear of the Lord to the fear of the tyrannical state.

The principle of fear is one of the easier principles to trace. (It is significant that *fear* is not mentioned in Scripture until after the flood, Gen. 9:2. See Heb. 11:7. *No fear of God* was the reason that sin was so rampant before the flood. Cf. Ecc.12:13.) Nimrod replaced the proper fear of the Lord with fear of what the tyrannical state could and would do to the body.

Fear is the major command of the law. Fear of the Lord causes men to hate evil, and depart from it. The fear of the Lord is the fountain of life, protection, provision, wisdom, strength, blessing and boldness. In fact, *O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.* (Deut 10:12, 31:21, Pr 8:13, 16:6, 14:27, Ps 60:4, 34:9, 111:5, 115:13, 14:26, 27:1, 34, Pr 28:1, Ps. 34:9.)

On the other hand, there is no fear of God on the part of the wicked. The fear of man is a snare, preventing men from fearing God and departing from evil. (Ps 36:1, Pr 29:25.) When the fear of the Lord is lost, fear of man takes its place. Nimrod sought to remove the

fear of the Lord, no easy task considering how soon this was after the flood. We probably cannot imagine the means he used to accomplish his statist goal. Whatever he used, it invoked the anger and judgment of the Lord.

As we follow the idea of *fear* into the New Testament, Paul's words about fear are clear. The ungodly have no fear of God; the spirit of fear is the spirit of bondage; fear of the Lord is contrasted with pride; and we are commanded to give *fear to whom fear is due*. (Rom 3:18, 8:15, 11:20, 13:7.) In light of the Old Testament, the fear of man or civil government (the state) that causes us to violate God's word is clearly sin. The use of fear by the state, with the misuse of God's word to enforce that fear, is the spirit of Nimrod at work. It is the spirit of Babylon, which is under the curse of God.

The state had no power over Paul because he feared God. Fear of the Lord allows us to love one another, serve the Lord, and have boldness to speak the word of God. (Acts 27:24, Eph 5:21, 6:15, Philip 1:14)

God's judgment is against the spirit of Nimrod/Babylon; that spirit was judged and broken on the cross of Christ. It is the spirit of fear that keeps one in bondage. That spirit of fear is to be conquered by the fear of God, for fear of man is not of God. (Ps.76:12, Heb. 2:15, 2 Tim. 1:7, 1 Jn. 4:18. Nimrod used fear to accomplish his evil ends; that is, to turn men away from God.)

Nimrod certainly had the fear of the all-powerful state well perfected, for the Lord himself called him a *mighty hunter*. The Lord said that there would be nothing restrained from their united effort against himself. (Gen. 11:6) Implied is that we are only now rediscovering what was lost not only through the flood, but also through the confusion of the languages. The Great Pyramid has been attributed to Nimrod — called Nimrod's Tower; the Masons also use the symbols contained in it to represent Nimrod. These things could easily be grounded in some truth.

IV. He sought the first Divine State, *i.e.*, god on earth. He assumed and enforced the power to make men dependent on himself (his kingdom) instead of on God.

V. He sought to use consolidation effectively in his rebellion.

“These early kingdoms or empires (listed in Gen 10:10-13, ed.) are, therefore, not to be regarded as useful institutions, guaranteeing law and order in a troubled world, but rather as the achievements of a lawless fellow who taught men to revolt against duly constituted authority.” (H. C. Leupold, *op. cit.*, Chapter 9, p. 212.)

Nimrod's cities were cities of pride, magnificence and wickedness. The purpose of Nimrod's cities was to strengthen his monarchy and centralize his control over people, for it is much easier to control many thousands of families in a city than in the country. In the city, also, the individual loses his voice in matters. It was in God's mercy that he confused the language at Babel, for if he had not, Nimrod would have continued to oppress all the people of the world. (Keil estimates the world's population as about 30,000 by this time.) The spirit of Nimrod today is working hard to subdue all dissenting voices against his effort to overthrow God. This computer generation fits well into man's dream of breaking God's bands and cords of God from himself by uniting all rebels with one language – computer language.

In other words, consolidation is not useful for anything but to increase the authority of a few over the many.

In the Spirit of Nimrod/Babylon, *we will rebel*, **cities**, and **consolidated Schools** have been used very effectively. Consolidation makes it easier to lead great masses of people, especially the children, in rebellion against God. The statist education system instills the philosophies of humanism and tyranny into the young people, which will normally cause them to willingly submit to tyranny as they pass on into society. Christians pay to have their children indoctrinated into the antichrist Greek culture. Statist education follows the Greek pattern very closely with its requirement of education in humanism and sports in order to have a complete education. 60% of my property tax goes to the antichrist Greek education system which requires huge, expensive sports facilities.

In the Spirit of Nimrod, *we will rebel*, cities were built where rebellion was easy to instill and control. We must also consider Nimrod's spirit in the consolidation of schools, for it is easier to instill the spirit of rebellion against God in one school than in many schools scattered throughout the county or state. In the consolidated schools, local parental control is lost, and the tyrannical state is able to enforce the indoctrination of the youth with Nimrod's dream.

Example: The tyranny of Nimrod's “divine state” is seen in “The Great Textbook War” as presented by West Virginia Public Broadcasting:

Oct 17, 2013 Charleston native Trey Kay examines the 1974 textbook controversy in the radio documen-

tary, “The Great Textbook War.” In 1974, Kanawha County was the first battleground in the American culture wars. Controversy erupted over newly-adopted school textbooks. The tyrannical Federal Government won the war by using the force of arms.
www.wvpublic.org/post/great-textbook-war

VI. He sought a plan to avoid God’s chastening hand against sin. In fact, he was determined to seek revenge upon God if God sought to judge his rebellion. To this end he built his tower. Nimrod’s precaution against another earth-covering flood was in rebellion against God’s word, for God had said he would not again destroy the world by water. But, on the other hand, he may have used God’s promise for his own purpose, as have sinful men of all ages.

The Nimrods of our day hope to avoid the chastening hand of God through technology and through *science falsely so called*. They seek to overthrow God as they corrupt every discipline of life in their foolish hope that they can void God’s righteous judgment.

VII. He sought to lead in man’s effort to preserve a name for himself. This united effort was for the glory of man, which was just the opposite of the plan and purpose of God, 1 Corinthians 10:31. As needed and probably through fear of the state, Nimrod extracted the money to enter into this great public works program. The great building by the state, the Tower, was for the glory of man. The great Towers that are built for the glory of man are easily brought down by the same finger of God that lifted up the majestic mountains. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are very effective at destroying those things which are proudly built for the glory of man.

VIII. He sought to imitate everything the Lord had commanded and offered to man: unity, peace, cradle to grave security, prosperity, happiness, &c. His tyrannical state was established to accomplish what God offered man through obedience to his word.

IX. He sought words to use as weapons of warfare against God. The words were not necessarily openly rebellious words, but they were words intended to lead men astray from the path ordained for them by God. The wicked of all ages see words simply as weapons to conquer the world. Lies and deceits are the true Spirit of Nimrod/Babylon in action. When the lawless do not recognize the validity of truth according to God’s word, they cannot be expected to recognize the validity

of men’s words to man. The lawless are not bound by truth in their words, for words to them are no more than a means to accomplish their own ends.

(*There is no fear before their eyes*, so the wicked have no fear in their rebellion. Note our Lord’s words in Matthew 7:20, and chapter 12.)

X. Nimrod’s mighty acts of rebellion against God caused others to be attracted to him and follow him in his rebellion. Their united goal was to rebel against God’s word with immunity (the Tower). Nimrod led in the effort, and founded a state to unite all men in his goal of vengeance against God. He sought to unite all people and areas of government under his (the state’s) authority.

Keil points out that Babylon “...from the time of Nimrod downward has been the **symbol of the power of the world in its hostility to God.**” Any effort toward “world peace” apart from the Prince of Peace is anti-Christ rebellion against God. (*op. cit.*) Right before our eyes in the sands of Nimrod’s old Babylon, the spirit of Nimrod is very much alive — Babylon is risen from the sand in the form of sinful rebellious man once again attempting a united world order without Christ, *e.g.*, the UN, and what Bush defined as a “New World Order.” (The present virus scare is in the ideal opportunity to advance the “New World Order.”)

In its subtlety, Nimrod/Babylonian’s spirit has managed to draw even good people into its goal of peace and unity without the required heart change of the Prince of Peace; all such efforts are not only vain, but are sin. Note that the anti-Christ crowd has the nerve to ask the world to pray that they will succeed in their world-wide peace keeping efforts (with force of arms if needed) though they openly and violently reject the Prince of Peace. Our desire and prayer for peace must be for the success of the Gospel of Peace to subdue the rebellious to the Prince of Peace.

In Nimrod, the Lord shows exactly what he thinks of all such efforts for peace and unity apart from the Prince of Peace — he confused the language, and scattered the people abroad. In his act of confusion, we see that God’s plan and purpose will be accomplished no matter how many rebell against it.

From Genesis 10 on, Nimrod/Babylon is used in the sense of united rebellion against God. Nimrod’s Babylon may be personified in a literal nation or in a spiritual sense. Regardless, the purpose of Nimrod’s

Babylon was to rebel against God and to unite others in its rebellion against God's will and purpose, and to accomplish vengeance for the forefathers who died in the flood. Nimrod's spirit that was the foundation of the city of Babylon is not in a location nor person; rather, it is a spirit of rebellion against the command-word of God. Humanism is the personification of the Nimrod/Babylon's rebellion.

Nimrod is a spirit of rebellion grounded in Satan himself. It unites others by any means possible (words, deceit and force if necessary) in its vain attempt to throw off the bands and cords that God has placed upon mankind. It includes efforts of unity apart from God's word.

A point easily overlooked is found in Psalms 76. God's purpose is to *cut off the spirit of princes*. God's war is against the Nimrod/Babylonian spirit of rebellion. God's war extends against all who harbor the rebellious spirit against the Lord and against his law-word. The word of God records Nimrod/Babylon's spirit in action against the Kingdom of God, with the final conclusion of the war being the total and complete destruction of Babylon as described by the prophets, including the Revelation.

Conclusion

Nimrod: **I. He sought** to persuade men that their happiness and prosperity was a result of their own *courage*, strength and efforts, in which God had no part. **II. He sought** to turn men from the Lord to himself. **III. He sought** to free mankind from the fear of the Lord with the terror of his tyrannical state. **IV. He sought** to establish the first Divine State. **V. He sought** consolidation to control people. **VI. He sought** a plan to avoid God's chastening hand against sin. **VII. He sought** to preserve a name for himself. **VIII. He sought** to imitate everything the Lord had commanded and offered to man: **IX. He sought** words as an effective weapon of warfare. **X. He sought** mighty acts to attract and attach others to himself.

Finally, Nimrod lives in the spirit of fear: His fear is being used to increase the power of the tyrannical state, *e.g.*, the fear of the coronavirus is being used to its fullest advantage to increase the power of the godless state as people accept what they would never accept otherwise. Today, the spreading wildfire of fear is being "fanned" from every source, yet the coronavirus is not in any way as deadly as the viruses of the past couple of generations that were ignored by everyone. I find it

highly suspicious that today's fear is so well suited to increase the power of governments around the world. Today, fear is being used to drive people into the waving arms of a tyrannical government and to drive this nation into financial ruin.

Nimrod/Babylon represents the very pinnacle of worldly power, splendor, wisdom, pride, unity, achievement, might and anything else that can be sought apart from God. Babylon represents everything that is opposed to the Kingdom of God. It is the pinnacle of all of man's dreams and efforts apart from obedience to the *word of the Lord*. Though the spirit of Nimrod/Babylon is at war with the Kingdom of God, the Old Testament prophets show us Babylon being used by God for his own sovereign purpose. When the Lord was finished with Babylon of the Chaldees, he brought it down with a crash to the amazement of all who saw the destruction. (Isa 13:19) God shows us that the spirit of Nimrod/Babylon will continue to operate until the Lord puts it down in the final day of judgment. Since the fall, man's goal has been to *be like the most High* and able to exist by his own wisdom, might and knowledge. Fallen man continually seeks to prove that he does not need *the most high* God for anything. (Follow the thought through in Isaiah 14; we must give up the idea that Isa 14 and Ez 28 record Satan's fall.)

Abraham, by faith, obeyed God's call out of the Chaldees---Nimrod's Babylonian spirit and location. The result was that he received the covenant, which included the promise of the Messiah who would defeat the spirit of Nimrod. Thus, all who have the *faith of Abraham*, are heirs of the city for which Abraham sought when he left the Babylonian Chaldees. (Rom 4:16, Heb 11)

Babel was founded in rebellion against God. The spirit of rebellion against God and under which we all live will continue its war against the *Lord and his Christ* until the Lord God decides it is time to subdue all nations under the footstool of King Jesus. This spirit of Babylon was put down in the Revelation (read the first 17 chapters) with the same description as found in Isaiah 13:10, 13.

A Short History

History is simply a record of Jehovah God allowing the spirit of Nimrod, Babylon or Satan, to exalt itself through ungodly men and nations to accomplish his purpose. Even when it seems that the enemy is at his very worst, he is accomplishing the Lord's purpose. No

matter what takes place, the Lord is in complete control and he allows it for his purpose. Our job is to be faithful to his calling no matter what.

Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. (Ps 76:10)

The Prophet Isaiah (13:14) looks ahead to give a vivid description of what was going to take place in Babylon's judgment. Judah is still in her land; Ahaz makes a deal with Assyria, along with serving her gods. Babylon overtakes Assyria as God's instrument of judgment against Assyria's sins, and then moves in judgment against Judah. Isaiah is speaking before it happened, warning the people. The coming judgment against them, executed by God's servant Babylon, will be beyond anything they can imagine. (Babylon is not any kind of a threat to them at this point in time. The threat is Assyria. Therefore, as Isaiah looks ahead to Babylon's exaltation, his threats seem foolish.)

Isaiah calls God's people to look past the Lord's judgment when it comes, and not give up hope. It includes the promise that they will not be completely destroyed from off the face of the earth, as it will seem when Babylon moves against them.

The key account of the terrible judgment is given in Jeremiah 50:15 — *Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it is the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her.* (Note Matt 27:25, Rev 16:6, 17:6, **18:6**, 24, 19:2)

Jeremiah describes Babylon at her fall. She fell for what she did to the covenant-people when she went into Judea as the Lord's rod of chastisement. (Cf. Jer. 51. Assyria is also called the "land of Nimrod, Mic 5:6, and Assyria is also called *the rod of mine anger, i.e.,* God's indignation against his people, Isa 10:5. Isa 10 describes the same threats against Assyria as are given against Babylon in Jer 51.) We see that even the pagan nations will be and are held accountable to the basic law of God. He exalts them for a purpose, and they must execute his purpose according to his word because they will receive back upon themselves as they did to others.

Notice Revelation 18:6 — the wrath against Babylon (Jerusalem) was to *reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.* The comparison between the two Babylons is

amazing. Those to whom Revelation was written easily and readily made the connection. The similarity between the destruction of Babylon of the Chaldees and the Babylon of the Jews is striking.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. (Isa 35:4)

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)

Coronavirus, a blessing in disguise

Homeschooling Interest Climbs as Schools Weigh Closures Due to Coronavirus

Dr. Susan Berry

Education observers say a rise in interest in homeschooling as more schools close due to the coronavirus could be the start of a new way to think about educating children in the United States.

Education Week reported that, as of Wednesday afternoon, over 1,500 schools in the United States have closed or are scheduled to close for reasons related to the novel coronavirus – whether for actual exposures to the virus, extensive cleaning of the schools, or plans for extended closures.

Yet, as Breitbart News reported Monday, many school districts are ill-prepared to move to fully online learning models should the virus's spread warrant extended closures.

The director of global outreach for a national homeschooling association said his organization is seeing an uptick in curiosity on its social media, with parents asking more questions about homeschooling as they anticipate potential school closings.

With no certainty of the extent of the coronavirus's spread, Michael Donnelly, staff attorney at the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), told Breitbart News the situation still lends itself to a conversation about how children are educated.

"I think people are going to be confronted with a question, because education in a school may have to stop just because of the coronavirus," he said.

Donnelly observed that, regardless of the current crisis, homeschooling has been the mode of educating many children for decades.

“It’s a great way for children to learn, to receive an education that’s tailored to their individual learning needs, and that provides a very safe, flexible environment that’s nurturing and supportive,” he explained.

HSLDA has provided a “quick start” guide and an accompanying video with seven steps to help parents who may be faced with the prospect of a school closure and may consider this crisis situation a time to explore homeschooling as a regular education option for their children.

Donnelly explained further that parents who may be pressed into somewhat of a homeschooling situation now because of the coronavirus crisis may actually be surprised by its benefits:

We don’t know what this pandemic is going to look like. But it may end up changing people’s behavior, and as people have the opportunity to figure out education with their children, in a homeschooling context, some people, I think, are going to say, “You know this isn’t so bad; in fact, this is kind of good and I think we’re going to keep doing this.”

And I fully expect that there are going to be a lot of people who are going to point back to the coronavirus pandemic as the time when they started homeschooling and they started their homeschooling journey.

Considering this time of the coronavirus threat, Neal McCluskey, director of Cato Institute’s Center for Educational Freedom, acknowledges, “It’s pretty well established that lots of change happens in a crisis.”

McCluskey told Breitbart News that should a school close abruptly due to the changing situation of the virus, the kind of at-home learning that begins “may not be the sort of homeschooling where the parents are driving the curriculum,” as in traditional homeschooling.

“I think it’s going to be a lot more of online public education – and maybe online education assembled on the fly,” he explained. “Because it looks like, for many school districts and other brick and mortar schools, their contingency plan is, ‘Well, we may have to close but we’re going to try and deliver curriculum, some way, online.’”

“We could very well see that lots of people are suddenly having to do education online,” McCluskey continued, adding that the first days after a school closure “will be extremely difficult and disruptive for all sorts of people because it will be new.”

Like Donnelly, however, he sees the potential for a

shift in perspective:

But, it will give us a chance to expand online delivery that already exists to test out new kinds of online delivery. And I wouldn’t be surprised if, after lots of initial difficulties, you start to see people say, “You know what? There’s actually a lot of benefits to receiving education in the home.”

Then you may see not just an expansion of online public schooling, which again is what most of this will be, but people seeking more homeschooling that is separated from their public school. And so, it could be the sort of disruption that introduces people to a way of receiving education that they hadn’t really thought of before, they thought was just too weird. And it may make it more mainstream.

McCluskey’s distinction between emergency online school learning, done at home, and parent-directed homeschooling is echoed by veteran Wisconsin homeschooler Tina Hollenbeck.

The owner The Homeschool Resource Roadmap and The Christian Homeschool Oasis, Hollenbeck told Breitbart News she has noticed an increase in current homeschoolers recommending home education “as a viable way of avoiding uncertainty about whether or not schools will close, and as a way for parents to have a greater chance of protecting their kids from getting coronavirus.”

“So, homeschoolers are, in a sense, ‘mobilizing’ to help others begin to homeschool if interest does increase,” she explained, adding, however, the concerns most homeschooling parents always carry with them:

We insist that the clear delineation between actual, independent homeschooling on the one hand and any iteration of public-school-at-home on the other be strictly maintained. Those who are considering homeschooling in response to this health concern – or for any other reason – need to be clear that real homeschooling is its own distinct legal entity under state law and that it does not involve getting “free” resources or “stipends” from the government. Families must know that if they sign up for any sort of “free,” government-sponsored program, it is not homeschooling; it is simply exchanging brick-and-mortar public school for virtual public school. Some parents will choose that route and that’s their right; they must not be led to believe, though, that using virtual public school is homeschooling. It is not. We must be very vigilant to insist that the legal distinc-

tions are not blurred so that bureaucrats do not use this situation to try justifying added regulation on actual homeschoolers.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of U.S. homeschoolers more than doubled between 1999 and 2012, from 850,000, or 1.7 percent of K-12 students, to 1.8 million children, or 3.4 percent of school-aged children.

Writing at the Cato Institute in September, Kerry McDonald observed current demographics of homeschooling families in the United States:

Homeschoolers have become more urban, secular, and socioeconomically diverse, and more single parents and dual-working parents have taken to homeschooling. But perhaps the most significant recent shift in the homeschooling population is its growing racial and ethnic diversity that is now more reflective of American society. Between 2007 and 2012, the percentage of black homeschoolers doubled to 8 percent of all homeschoolers, and the percentage of Hispanic homeschoolers continued to mirror the overall K-12 distribution of Hispanic children, at around one-quarter of all students.

Addressing some practical concerns, Donnelly said parents who are thrust into a home learning situation due to a school closing may panic at first, until they realize their children can experience a flexible approach to education on a regular basis.

“They can put together a variety of different resources to be able to address their individual child’s learning needs,” he said, acknowledging that perhaps child care, for working parents, is an immediate concern:

With older kids, they may be able to just stay home on their own and supervise themselves. That’s something parents can decide for themselves ... and obviously people need to use common sense and good judgment. But, there are lots of learning platforms both online and offline that parents can put together to create a learning environment for their older children. And maybe they have older children who can look after the younger children, or they need to look at possibly involving some of their close family. Grandparents, uncles, aunts, and others may have the flexibility at least to provide adult supervision, while the parents put together a learning program that may eventually morph and evolve over time.

Donnelly cautions parents about being careful not to cram their child’s day from morning until 3:00, when

school would ordinarily be dismissed:

Actually, what people need to do is back up. Take a look at the situation and say, maybe we should look at the quality of the learning – is the child learning what he’s interested in, for example – and not worry so much whether he is busy all the time. There’s lots of things that kids can do that are learning experiences. Maybe they’ll read a lot more books than they could while attending school, and that will be a good thing.

I would encourage people to make the most of the opportunity to home educate, if they’re confronted with one of these school closings, and not feel like they have to replicate school at home.

U.S. Parents Involved in Education (USPIE) advocates for parents, rather than the government, to be in control of their children’s education.

In a statement sent to Breitbart News, the group that developed in response to the federally incentivized Common Core State Standards observed the coronavirus crisis is just the most recent issue that has led parents to evaluate how their children are educated and explore homeschooling:

Many parents have moved to, or are considering homeschooling due to concerns about Common Core’s weak academic standards, increased bullying of children, mandated, developmentally-inappropriate content, including pornography in Comprehensive Sexuality Education programs, LGBTQ+ policies that are confusing and detrimental to mental and physical health, mandated vaccines, and, now, with schools closing for weeks due to risk of coronavirus, we witness another incentive for parents to seriously consider home schooling.

While USPIE affirms the benefits and rewards of home education, the group advises parents to assess their goals both for children and the family as a whole before starting out.

The parents’ organization recommends joining a homeschool group or association for ideas about curriculum, extracurricular activities, museums, outdoor exploration, and sports.

“Parents will find there are more options than they could imagine, specifically tailored for homeschoolers,” USPIE noted, but, consistent with its motto of education freedom, also cautioned parents to avoid groups that accept state or federal funding.

“These groups shift their focus away from freedom

and real parent-child-focused advice to become marketing arms for government education,” USPIE warns.

The group stresses that homeschooling affords parents an opportunity to “reignite a child’s love of learning.”

“We’re excited to see the increasing trend of parents taking back control of educating their children,” USPIE states. “No one loves children as much as their own parents and family. We will continue our efforts to reduce government intrusion and increase parental control.”

In January 2018, Chris Weller wrote at Business Insider, “Homeschooling could be the smartest way to teach kids in the 21st century.”

It may be that the current crisis will inadvertently thrust parents into evaluating that statement for themselves.

<https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2020/03/12/homeschooling-interest-climbs-schools-weigh-closures-coronavirus/>

Our God is as a Man of War

Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

“The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies” (Isaiah 42:13).

God is angry with the wicked every day (Ps. 7:11). There is no holiday for wickedness with our God. Those who seek to destroy the history of His people will be forced into submission at some point in God’s timing. The enemies of His people are His enemies. Also, we must remember: “It is of the LORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not” (Lam. 3:22). Andrew Bonar said that he remembered on one occasion when he met his friend Robert M. M’Cheyne and was asked what text he had preached on last Lord’s Day and Bonar replied, “The wicked shall be turned into hell.” M’Cheyne asked him, “Were you able to preach it with tenderness?” “There but for the grace of God go I” must be our point of reality.

Jehovah will win the spiritual revolution that is underway. Those who reject His sacred revelation and His eternal Son must be held to account. For example in an article by Peter Jones in *World*, on “God Need Not Apply” for Feb. 10, 1996, vol. 10, no 85, 24-25, he explained:

In November, 1995, there was the joint annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion, and the So-

ciety of Biblical Literature. Eight thousand professors of religion, Bible scholars, and Christian theologians met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to declare feminist, homosexual, and other aberrant views to be acceptable and preferable to orthodox Christianity.

These, so called, religious teachers registered their betrayal of God and His infallible Word. They endorsed the depravity of man as their new norm. Remember! Eight thousand went on record as defying God and accepting depraved humanity as their authority. Non-Christian man and his culture are warring against God. They have accepted Satan’s word, and what word is that, “Ye shall be as gods, knowing [i.e., determining for yourselves] good and evil” (Gen. 3:5). These were his words to Eve. When men accept their fallen state as the norm then they accept sin as good as well as normal. Mark R. Rushdoony explained in his Foreword to Rousas John Rushdoony’s *To Be as God*:

By accepting the fallen realm of nature as normative, man accepts his own fallen nature as normative. Fallen man sees the fallen creation (and himself as part of it) and, playing god, declares, “It is good. Sin is normal. Sin is good.” Once the premise of naturalism works its way through man’s thinking, the only real evil is the claim of transcendent moral law. That which is natural is the norm, and is good. [4, 5]

Isaiah is saying that Jehovah will be victorious over His enemies. Today there are many enemies against our Lord and His truth. For example, John Dewey, one of the fathers of modern education, made the following declaration wrote R. J. Rushdoony in *The Politics of Pornography*:

John Dewey, however, objected strongly to orthodox Christianity because of its commitment to the ideas of right and wrong, heaven and hell, the saved and the lost, and he objected to it on the grounds that it fostered the idea of a “spiritual aristocracy.” “I cannot understand” said Dewey, “how any realization of the democratic ideal as a vital moral and spiritual ideal in human affairs is possible without surrender of the conception of the basic division to which supernatural Christianity is committed.” [140]

To him the democratic ideal was only possible by surrendering supernatural Christianity, so fake Christianity was acceptable because God is not in it! Thus to hold to a value system is considered anti-democratic and this included grading students’ performance. Prisons are

judgmental for they condemn evil actions, which are only evil because there is a value system. It is said, at most people just need rehabilitation. There needs to be, they say, total democracy and no condemnation. Total democracy is every man doing what is right in his own eyes—in other words anarchy (Judges 21:25).

Stephen Charnock gave us a good reminder prowess of our God:

Nothing is so weak, but His strength can make victories; nothing so small, but by his power He can accomplish His great ends by it; nothing so vile, but His might can conduct to His glory; and no nation so mighty, but He can waste and enfeeble by the meanest creatures.

Our God is as a Man of War and He uses his wisdom and power. “He brings princes to nothing, and makes the judges of the earth as vanity” (Isa. 40:23-24). He may make use of insignificant things: He may send a plague of locusts (Joel 1:6-7). He may send, as on Egypt, plagues of lice, frogs, locusts etc., He may send hornets to drive out the Canaanites (Ex. 23:28), He may send Samson with a jaw bone and slay a thousand Philistines. He may send an earth quake, disease, storms, etc. Franz Delitzsch gave a beautiful over view of the verse:

In ver. 13 there follows the reason for this summons, and the theme of the new song in honour of the God of Israel, namely His victory over His enemies, the enemies of His people. The description is anthropomorphically dazzling and bold, such as the self-assurance and vividness of the Israelitish idea of God permitted, without any danger of misunderstanding. Jehovah goes out into the conflict like a hero; and like a ‘man of war,’ *i.e.* like one who has already fought many battles, and is therefore ready for war, and well versed in warfare, He stirs up jealousy (see at ch. 9:6). His jealousy has lumbered as it were for a long time, as if smouldering under the ashes; but now He stirs it up, *i.e.* makes it burn up into a bright flame. [*The Prophecies of Isaiah*, Vol. II, 182-183]

1. Please note that Jehovah shall go forth “as a mighty man.” He is “as a mighty man” or He is compared to the acts of a mighty man, which is an anthropomorphism. The word translated “go forth” is a technical term for going forth to do battle (2 Sam. 11:1). This sets the stage: God is about to make one of His mighty exercises of power against His enemies. Thus Jehovah goes forth in battle array and who can withstand Him.

Remember Nebuchadnezzar who set up the image of himself and demanded that all fall down and worship and those who did not bow would be cast in a fiery furnace. Three young Hebrew lads would not bow and Jehovah saw to it that they would not burn. Jehovah went to war with Nebuchadnezzar and drove him from among men to act like a beast of the field by eating grass as an ox “until [he knew, or became sensible of or understand] that the most High ruleth [or is Master] in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will” (Dan. 4:32). He will eat grass until he comes to know who is the High Ruler and Master over men and it is not him. After a period of grazing and his hair growing like eagle feathers and his nails like bird claws, then he learned and came to confess—“at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion [or rule of Jehovah] is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation; And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou” (Dan. 4:34-35). Now Nebuchadnezzar knows who rules in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth. Jehovah as the mighty man of war conquered proud Nebuchadnezzar. C. H. Spurgeon said of this:

Thus humbly did the proud Nebuchadnezzar bow before the Lord, and confess before all men that the Lord alone is God. If he was not a converted man he certainly wrote like one. Let us shun his pride, and if we have been guilty of it, let us henceforth imitate his humility.

Jehovah is able to carry this out because He is “the mighty God” (Isa. 10:21). Also, please consider that the Hebrew word “mighty man” is another title for “warrior” or “the mighty God,” or “Godlike warrior” (Isa. 9:6-7).

2. “He shall stir up jealousy like a man of war” (Isa. 42:13). Delitzsch spoke of Jehovah’s “smouldering jealousy” waking and His stirring it till it burned “into a bright flame.” Jehovah can orchestrate perfect war against His enemies for in His almighty power and infinite wisdom He makes everything work out His perfect will. Jehovah is often represented as a man of

war—"The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name" (Ex. 15:3). "Man of war" means "A mighty warrior, a resistless conqueror; for all ... the Egyptian army were destroyed in one moment by his omnipotent arm," [Brown].

As a man of war He "will stir up jealousy." He is inflamed to jealousy by such things as idolatry—"They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation. For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains" (Deut. 32:21-22; Ezek. 8:3; 23:25). Wow! This is the God I serve! H. C. Leupold said that Jehovah "is said to work Himself up into a veritable passion (cf. 1 Sam. 17:20). When sufficiently aroused, 'he will raise the war cry,' challenging His foe to the conflict." Isaiah seems to be saying of Jehovah, "I am a jealous God" motivated by hot indignation when robbed of My honor—"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God" (Deut. 4:24). The Lord may deal "in the fire of [His] jealousy" (Ez. 36:5; Joel 2:18).

We must not rob our great and glorious God of the honor due unto Him for He is as a Man of War. Remember in Acts 12 where we see Herod dressed royally—"And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel" (v. 21a). He planned this ostentatious display. Herod "upon a set day," which refers to a fixed or appointed date with a personal purpose in mind. Herod presented himself as royalty for he was "arrayed in royal apparel," literally Herod having put on royal apparel and it was brilliant with silver ornament [Josephus]. I suppose his garment was covered, from historic description, in something like highly polished silver sequins. The rays of the sun beamed on this brilliant apparel making the wearer stand out as a light in the dark. The vast crowd in the open amphitheatre became excited as Herod began to speak. Herod climbed up and "sat upon his throne" (v. 21b). He assumed his throne or he "set on the judgment or bema seat." This was a raised throne to give prominence to the king's presence and authority. Then Herod made a speech—"and made or was making an oration unto them." He seems to have some charisma with the people, and they began to identify him as other than human. The deceived people

were worked up by the display—"And the people gave a shout" (v. 22a). At the conclusion of the oration came flattery. The people "gave a shout" or "were crying out" in their response. They could not remain silent. Then a dangerous thing occurred when the people compared Herod to a god—"It is the voice of a god, and not of a man" (v. 22b). The tense of the verb means that once they began they kept shouting, "the voice of a god, the voice of a god, the voice of a god." This was pleasing to Herod Agrippa's vanity. They declared this was "not the voice of a man, but the voice of a god." Sometimes things work out far differently than appears to be the case. These people did not think they were cursing the king, but that turns out to be the case. Sometimes as in this case praise is poison. The angel of the Lord was sent by Jehovah pictured as the Mighty Man of War to kill the imposter Herod—"and immediately the angel of the Lord smote him" (v. 23a). Herod had killed James and sought to kill Peter. But an angel delivered Peter from death. However, this angel will kill Herod and his pursuit of Peter will end in hell. Herod will never harm another Christian. As the elation and pride rose in Herod, God was dispatching him. "Immediately" or on the spot or at once this shows a rebuke of such sacrilege. This angel "smote him." Just as Nebuchadnezzar's pride went before a fall (Dan. 4:30) even so did Herod's. When Herod thought he had arrived at the apex of power he was destroyed. The reason Herod was smitten was "because he gave not God the glory" (v. 23b). God will not be robbed of His glory by some Christ-hating, God-imitating, or murdering monarch. What happened here? Herod allowed God's honor to be given to himself. Those who accept or consent to receive honors due only to God, or if they assume any of His prerogatives, this is viewed by God with peculiar abhorrence. Consider the terrible kind of death Herod died—"he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost" (v. 23c). He became infested with worms and they consumed him. This is the word used of the death of Antiochus Epiphanies and Herod the Great and other persecutors of God's people. Picture God as the Man of War. He certainly resists the proud. Herod "gave up the ghost or breathed out the soul" and it meant to breathe out, expire, or die (Acts 5:5, 10). His soul sprang out into eternity to suffer forever and ever in hell. All such men who received God's honor and glory shall be eaten of worms.

3. Jehovah “shall cry, yea, roar” in anger (Isa. 42:13). “Going forward to the attack, ‘He breaks out into a cry,’ ‘yea, a yelling cry’ (Zeph. 1:14)” [Delitzsch]. Again there is the picture of the warrior who enters the battle with a loud shout which stimulates one’s personal courage and strikes fear in the enemy. This could be illustrated in the Confederate yell which filled hearts with fear like the yells of their Scottish ancestors! Randolph H. McKim described that yell as “that strange fierce cry which heralded the Southern charge, rang high above the storm of battle.”

4. Jehovah “shall prevail against his enemies” (Isa. 42:13). “In the words, ‘He will show Himself as a hero upon His enemies,’ we see Him already engaged in the battle itself, in which He proves Himself to possess the strength and boldness of a hero. The overthrow which heathenism here suffers at the hand of Jehovah is, according to our prophet’s view, the final and decisive one” [Delitzsch, 183]. He shall excel or overthrow or be victorious over His enemies; yes by His omnipotent power and determination He always has the victory over every enemy. Yes, He shall rule over them with a rod of iron and smash them in pieces as a piece of pottery (Ps. 2:9).

James the Apostle asked, “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? ... Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:1, 4). No one can escape our Jehovah who is as a Man of War: the fallen angels did not escape—“For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (2 Pet. 2:4). Angels that rebelled against God faced the Warrior. The world of Noah’s day did not escape Him—“God spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly” (2 Pet. 2:5). That world rejected God’s servant thus rejecting God and were wiped out with a world-wide flood. Sodom and Gomorrha did not escape Him—God turned “the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly” (2 Pet. 2:6). Here you find out what God thinks of those who reject His moral code. Those justified by

grace have the righteousness of Christ imputed to them for Christ has suffered the wrath of God in their behalf. Peter reminded, “The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished” (2 Pet. 2:9). There is no escaping the omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient God. You cannot escape God for He is everywhere present (omnipresent), God cannot be defeated for he is all-powerful (omnipotent), and God cannot be fooled because He is all-knowing (omniscient). Your only hope is to confess your sins and bow to Him as Lord and Saviour for He is as a Mighty Man of War.

Note: Our God conquered Egypt with bugs and other small things. Moreover, when man wars against God, God’s creation wars against man. Ed.

A DYNAMITE DEAL

Is the lead headline on a mass mailing offer by the Ohio Lottery. “**CASH EXPLOSION.** Win up to \$5,000 instantly OR a chance at \$50,000 or more on the TV Game Show. Ohio Lottery.”

The mailing included one free \$2 Ohio Lottery Coupon. The obvious purpose for the mass mailing was to urge people to gamble.

The Gambling Gambit

A Game of Graft, Greed and Grief

By Charles Milton, Las Vegas, Nevada

I heard about a mother who was afraid that her young son would become a gambler like other members of their family. She prayed for him in his presence. She asked God that if he ever did gamble, please never let him win.

However, as the boy grew up, the lure of the gaming tables to which he had seen the others go was greater enticement than he could bear. But day after day, as he placed his bets, he was a consistent loser. He never one time won even so much as a penny.

After tasting the bitterness of defeat so often, the boy finally decided he would quit. He had been overwhelmed by the prayers of his godly mother. The voice of her earnest intercession seemed always to be audible in the quietness of his soul.

Gambling and Stealing Are Similar Sins!

Gambling and stealing spring from a similar mental-

ity. In both cases, there is a selfish desire to take something from someone else without labor or proper compensation.

Gambling in all its forms takes an undue advantage of human weakness. It is never right to profit from the vulnerability of another. The gambler, in his foolish lust, parts with his money in exchange for a reckless promise. The hope that lies within the heart of a gambler may have begun in innocence, but it will soon progress to desperation.

In normal business dealings, taking money while giving nothing in return constitutes fraud or outright stealing. Gambling is a type of fraud molded into a game complete with razzle-dazzle and plenty of hype.

But no amount of beautiful promotion and legal fast talk changes the real nature of what it is.

If a person is really concerned about the welfare of others, he will not steal from them. Whether it be a legal or an illegal ploy, a game which takes money from people without giving full measure in return is an illegitimate scam.

The temptation to gamble appeals to the selfishness and the greediness within a carnal heart.

It takes people to a lower echelon of living. There is yet to be any evidence that gambling takes people to a higher plane.

Gambling and Christians Are Not Compatible!

Sometimes Christians pray to win at some gambling game. What a terrible misuse of the privilege of prayer! Surely such praying borders on blasphemy.

A Christian should learn to trust God to provide for each of his needs. We should never sidestep God's plan for our lives. We should remember that work is a part of God's design for us. Idleness so often corrupts and greed is never satisfied.

Abundance of riches does not generate happiness nor usefulness. Money does not bring peace or blessing. God wants to do so many wonderful things for us, but He certainly will not use such a devious ploy as gambling.

In Ephesians 4:28 God tells us to work so we will have something to give. It seems that God wants His children to be givers rather than takers. He orders us to work six days and rest one.

There is no indication in the Bible that God is pleased

when a person sets out to earn money through a scheme in which there is no exchange of goods or services. God is not pleased when one person loses and another person goes away with a bag full of winnings simply because of a chance each of them took.

Give, but Don't Gamble!

If a charity is a worthy cause, you give to it and expect nothing in return. You should consider giving on the merits of whatever charity you wish to sponsor. Your giving should not be based on a greedy desire to win a prize.

Some people spend a lot of money at bingo, raffles and sweep-stakes. Often it is money they cannot afford to lose. Foreclosures and bankruptcy escalate where there is widespread gambling.

Families many times are deeply hurt because hard-earned money for basic necessities is lost on a foolish game. It is never right to jeopardize your family by wasting your substance in gambling.

"Oh," they say, "the jackpot is there and someone is going to win it!"

That may be true, but for every winner there are multiplied thousands, if not millions, who lose.

The Choice Is Best That Doesn't Take a Chance!

A Christian who thinks like a gambler is operating with a thief's mentality. Many of the state-operated gambling operations have been voted in by narrow margins. If Christians would vote with biblical convictions, those votes might have had different results.

Many members of my family have been hurt by gambling, but I am very thankful that at least one boy quit because of his mother's prayers.

You see, the boy of whom I spoke was my father. One of the kindest and greatest things my grandmother ever did for me was to pray that prayer for my daddy. (Sword of the Lord, 1/24/20)

Mr. Milton gave a good overview of the sin of gambling: covetousness.

LET ME ADD TO HIS ADMONITION.

"But if I win, I will give 50% to the Lord."

Deuteronomy 23:18 describes Sodomites as dogs:

Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the LORD thy God for any vow: for even both these [are] abomination unto the LORD thy God.

That is to say, the Lord rejects any wages of unrighteousness, or any ill-gotten gains, for use in his kingdom. Furthermore, the state has added curse upon curse upon its self with what were once known as “Sin Taxes.”

There is a Baptist Church on the East side of Crawfordsville Indiana. While I was in Indiana, a member of the church won the lottery, and wanted to repave the parking lot for the church. The church split over the use of the winnings for the Lord’s work. I do not remember what the final outcome was, but the lot got repaved.

One of the major tools for pushing through the various gambling laws is that the funds will be used for such “wonderful” causes such as education. God’s law forbids the state using the “Sin Taxes” for purposes such “wonderful” causes. (I have read that only the ticket manufacturers and the ones who control the games are the only winners. The state promotes gambling as “gaming,” but after their “gaming” ads, they say, “Gambling problems? Call this number.”)

Wisdom from Training Manuals

- * ‘If the enemy is in range, so are you.’
- Infantry Journal -
- * ‘It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.’
- US.Air Force Manual -
- * ‘Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.’
- General MacArthur -
- * ‘Tracers work both ways.’
- Army Ordnance Manual-
- * ‘Five second fuses last about three seconds.’
- Infantry Journal -
- * ‘Any ship can be a minesweeper. Once.’
- Naval Ops Manual -
- * ‘Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.’
- Unknown Infantry Recruit-
- * ‘If you see a bomb technician running, try to keep up to him.’
- Infantry Journal-
- * ‘Yea, Though I Fly Through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I Shall Fear No Evil. For I am at 50,000 Feet and Climbing.’
- * - Sign over SR71 Wing Ops-
- ‘You’ve never been lost until you’ve been lost at Mach 3.’
- Paul F. Crickmore (SR71 test pilot)-

* ‘The only time you have too much fuel is when you’re on fire.’

- Unknown Author-

* ‘If the wings are traveling faster than the fuselage it has to be a helicopter -- and therefore, unsafe.’

- Fixed Wing Pilot-

* ‘When one engine fails on a twin-engine airplane, you always have enough power left to get you to the scene of the crash.’

-Multi-Engine Training Manual-

* ‘Without ammunition, the Air Force is just an expensive flying club.’

-Unknown Author-

* ‘If you hear me yell; “Eject, Eject, Eject!”, the last two will be echos.’

If you stop to ask “Why?”, you’ll be talking to yourself, because by then you’ll be the pilot.’

-Pre-flight Briefing from a Canadian F104 Pilot-

* ‘What is the similarity between air traffic controllers and pilots?’

If a pilot screws up, the pilot dies; but If ATC screws up, the pilot dies.’

-Sign over Control Tower Door-

* ‘Never trade luck for skill.’

* ‘Airspeed, altitude and brains. Two are always needed to successfully complete the flight.’

-Basic Flight Training Manual-

* ‘Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it...’

- Emergency Checklist-

* ‘The Piper Cub is the safest airplane in the world; it can just barely kill you.’

- Attributed to Max Stanley (Northrop test pilot) -

* ‘There is no reason to fly through a thunderstorm in peacetime.’

-Sign over Squadron Ops Desk at Davis-Montham AFB , AZ-

* ‘You know that your landing gear is up and locked when it takes full power to taxi to the terminal.’

- Lead-in Fighter Training Manual -

* The crash truck arrives as the test pilot climbs out of the experimental aircraft, having torn off the wings and tail in the crash landing.

The rescuer sees the bloodied pilot and asks, ‘What happened?’

The pilot’s reply: ‘I don’t know, I just got here myself!’

The Passover

“We are all capable of believing things which we know to be untrue, and then, when we are finally proved wrong, impudently twisting the facts so as to show that we were right.”

— George Orwell

Training Young Christians in Judeo-Christianity

Vision Video, which supplies “safe” videos for Christian families, introduced a video for Christians to use with their young children:

How Can I Celebrate Passover? A young Christian’s introduction to the Seder. Some of Digger’s friends celebrate a holiday he has never heard of before. Spend a night of celebration with Digger as he learns the significance of the ancient feast of Passover while helping his friend, Beth prepare the Seder meal.¹

Hebrews issues very strong warnings against Christians following any Talmudic practices. In Paul’s time, those old Hebrew religious practices were taking place in the Temple. God’s word makes it clear that any Christian connection with any Jewish practice is strictly forbidden. 2 Corinthians 6:14ff. forbids yoking together with any antichristian practice, as does all scripture. There can be no “Judeo-Christian” connection without denying the finished work of Jesus Christ.

If any one celebrates the passover along with the Jews, or receives the emblems of their feast, he is a partaker with those that killed the Lord and His apostles.²

DEMONIC CHRISTIANITY

Judaism has manufactured a connection between their Talmudic religion and the Christian faith, which is called *Judeo-Christianity*, or *Christian Zionism*. However, “Paul graphically sums up the contrast between Christ and Belial (Satan), the heads of the contending forces of good and evil.” In Paul’s words, ***Judeo-Christianity is actually Demonic-Christianity.***³

It is a disquieting sign of our times when we have to ask, “Why would Christian parents desire to have their children learn how Satan is worshiped in a Talmudic high holy day, when such exposure is so soundly condemned by the Christian God?”

Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, (Jer 10:2, Pro 22:6)

The manufactured connection between Christ and the antichrist has influenced many Christians to accept Talmudic Judaism as a legitimate root of the Christian faith.⁴

In other words, when Christians practice, honor or give any credence to Talmudic Judaism’s various rituals, they are entering into the realm of the antichrist.⁵

A SATANIC RITUAL

The Jewish Passover remembers the supposed date of the founding of the modern nation of Israel. On the Passover day, the story of the Children of Israel’s exodus from Egypt is reiterated, and applied to the *Children of Ashkenaz*, i.e., the *Ashkenazi Jews* who presently inhabit Palestine. It involves using various things, especially foods, for illustration and dramatization.⁶

TALMUDIC JUDAISM, THE EXODUS AND THE PASSOVER

According to Rabbi Kertzer, the Jewish theological message of the Exodus itself is that God’s plan for humanity is to set them free. The Passover celebration is the affirmation that God took the Jews out of bondage, and someday will set the whole world free. “The Rabbis discussed what the messianic age or world to come would be like. One of them said, ‘It will be just like this world, except that no one will be subjugated.’” Judaism emphasizes that human action is the way to save the world.⁷

The obvious intent with the Jew’s Passover celebration is to connect the *Children of Ashkenaz* with the *Children of Israel* who were redeemed by the blood of the lamb out of Egypt by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

First, Christians have no business celebrating ancient Israel’s deliverance from the bondage of Egypt. Certainly, the true church, made up of the redeemed of all ages, was among the Israelites who came out of Egypt, but the “passover” celebration for the redeemed is found in Christ, Who is our Passover.

Second, the Christian passover celebration is found in the Lord’s Table as the redeemed remember his death, burial and resurrection that alone delivers from bondage to the power of sin. Our passover, Jesus Christ the Righteous, is the one whom Judaism militates against in the Jewish passover.

Third, there is not a Scriptural hint anywhere that Christians are even permitted to recognize any of Judaism’s special days, let alone exalt those days in any way. In fact, Paul expresses his grave concern for the

salvation of those who are attracted to *the weak and beggarly elements* of Judaism.

Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods. But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain. (Gal 4:8-11)

A PERPETUAL LIE

Talmudic Judaism's celebration of a passover is needed in order to present, preserve and enforce their manufactured history.

31. The Rabbi: Undoubtedly without either vowels or accents, just as our scrolls are written. There was as little agreement possible among the people on this point, as on the unleavened bread, or Passover, or other laws which were given as a 'remembrance of the delivery from Egypt.' **These laws confirm in the minds of the Israelites the historical truth of the exodus from Egypt by means of the recurring ceremonies,** which could not possibly be the result of common agreement without causing contradiction. There is, therefore, no doubt that the Book was preserved in memory with all its vowels, divisions of syllables and accents: by the priests, because they required them for the Temple service, and in order to teach the people; by the kings, because they were commanded: 'And it shall be with him and he shall read therein all the days of his life' (Deuteronomy 17:19). The judges had to know it to enable them to give judgment; the members of the Sanhedrin, because they were warned: 'Keep therefore and do them, for this is your wisdom and understanding' (Deuteronomy 4:6); the pious, in order to receive reward; and, finally, the hypocrites, to acquire a good name. The seven vowels and accents were appointed as signs for forms which were regarded as Mosaic tradition. Now, how have we to judge those persons who first divided the text into verses, equipped it with vowel signs, accents, and masoretic signs, concerning full or defective orthography; and counted the letters with such accuracy that they found out that the gimel of gā ōn (Leviticus 11:42) stood right in the middle of the Tōrāh, and kept a record of all irregular vowels? Dost thou consider this work either superfluous or idle, or dutiful zeal?⁸

First, Talmudic Judaism's passover must deny the Biblical message of the true meaning of the passover.

Second, the Talmudic lie has been **practiced since 740 AD.** Because of its continual presentation as the truth, the lie has become a truth worth dying for.

Third, Talmudic Judaism, by constantly repeating its lie, has undermined the Word of God. By using various recurring Jewish ceremonies, laws and traditions, they have kept alive and have advanced their lie; their lie lives in the minds of not only the self-defined Jews, but reinforces itself in the mind of the world in general.

Fourth, "a remembrance of the delivery from Egypt." However, the *Ashkenazi Jews* were never in Egyptian bondage.

Fifth, the Exodus Passover was based upon the shedding of the blood of the lamb. Israel's deliverance was determined by one's faith in that shed blood. If Talmudic Judaism expects to unite Judaism with Christianity, the truth must be given a new meaning and application.

Though the following should be redundant to the Christian reader, we will say it anyway:

The Christian's passover celebration is about the establishment of the new Israel of God that is founded upon the shed blood of the Lamb of God. The eternal Son of God is the Chief Cornerstone, and it was laid in the beginning:

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 3:11)

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: (1 Cor 5:7)

1) Christians are sternly warned about the conflict between the satanic practices of Judaism and doctrines of Christ, so why are Christians so fascinated with anti-christian Jewish festivals?

2) How can professed Bible believing churches justify having anti-Christ, satanic Jewish rituals performed in their churches, *i.e.* a Jewish Passover?⁹ Is it for the edification of the people of God, or is it to better unite the children of God with *infidels*, the children of the devil?¹⁰

3) We cannot deny that allowing a Jewish ritual into a Christian home is no less than the practice of "Judeo-Christianity," and is an abomination to God.

The practice of Judeo-Christianity, or reverence for any Jewish ritual is strongly condemned by God in his letter to the Hebrews who were tempted to return to

Judaism after their profession of Christ.

Judaism has been and is being quietly promoted and united with Christianity. Any objection is shamed with very loud charges of anti-Semitism, and “remember the Holocaust under Hitler.”¹¹

Fear of charges of anti-Semitism from places like the ADL has silenced any criticism of Judaism, even by those who say they stand firm on the Word of God. Because of the silence about the antichrist and the demonic nature and goals of Talmudic Judaism, many Christians, not realizing what they are doing, now feel more comfortable doing Jewish things, e.g. going to Jewish services, or even visiting a Jewish Passover seder. In addition, Jews and Christians use many of the same words, yet the words have drastically different meanings in each religion. Though the Jews realize the different meanings, few Christians are able to make the various distinctions.

According to Rabbi Kertzer:

Jews rejoice in the fact that Christians are observing their Jewish holy days. Yet while Christians are being encouraged, even by supposed Christian leaders, to unite with Jews wherever possible, Jews are forbidden to take part in any Christian activity, except where money is concerned.

Rabbi Kertzer points out that both Christians and Jews affirm the covenant at Sinai. Moreover, both can read Isaiah publicly, and still believe what Isaiah prophesied. Both can read how God chose the People of Israel, and brought them into the Promised Land. However, that is about as far as the common grounds can go. The Jews see these common things as literal promises to a literal nation with whom they have identified.

Do those who profess Christ actually believe, as Rabbi Kertzer says, that they study and practice many of the Jewish rituals in the hope that their own Christian faith will be strengthened as they rediscover and even relive their Jewish heritage?¹²

Christians looking toward the dead Jewish rituals to strengthen their faith! What an absurd, unbiblical, and even devilish thought. All Scripture is given by God to equip the saint for all work. Jewish rituals are not given by God that Believers might grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The days of *Judeo-Churchianity*, i.e., uniting Satanism with Christianity, are upon us, and the land grows darker and darker.

Let us rejoice that the Gospel Church is not only free from the old Jewish rituals and ordinances, but we are forbidden to even look on them with favor.

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: (1 Cor 5:7)

(Endnotes)

- 1 https://www.visionvideo.com/group/204/summer+clearanceSS?campaign_id=1202&utm_content=txt3&utm_source=Vision%20Video%20Consumers%20Feb%202019&utm_campaign=1965b99e56-1202_Summer_Clearance_2019_Mailing1_August_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e9af889f81-1965b99e56-79790289. Emp. added.
- 2 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Philippians*. The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume I, p. 119. We will see that Christians are being influenced to participate in various events identified with the Jewish Passover traditions. Paul’s circumcision of Timothy, Acts 16:3, “Timothy is circumcised, not simply for any necessity, but in respect of the time only, in order to win the Jews.” Geneva
- 3 2 Cor 6:15. *Robertson’s NT Word Pictures*.
- 4 By *Children of Ashkenaz* adopting the various rites, rituals and holy days as given to the *Children of Israel*, the onlooker naturally identifies the Ashkenazim with Old Testament Israel.
- 5 John 8:44ff., Rev 2:9, 13, 24, 3:9. See chapter, *Growing Prestige*.
- 6 Kertzer, *What is a Jew*, pp. 226, 279. 1
- 7 *Ibid.*, pp. 137, 138. This statement is quite contrary to what the Talmud says, but the Talmud is not for public consumption. The Talmud tells us that Judaism is based upon lies that can be told to non-Jews for the purpose of subjugating the world.
- 8 Judah Halevi, *The Kuzari*, Third Essay, Section 31. *Sefer Kuzari*, Hirschfeld’s translation, 1905. Emp. added. The wording of the above in 1140 AD document was radically changed in the 2009 translation, perhaps to make the lie about the various “holy days” not so obvious? The 2009 is used today for teaching the fundamentals of Talmudic Judaism. See the Bibliography for the important difference.
- 9 It has been some years ago, but it was an “in” thing to have a rabbi come and show how the Jewish passover was celebrated.
- 10 Christ called the Pharisees, the followers of the Talmud, children of the devil. Jn 8:44.
- 11 ADL is an international Jewish NGO that “fights anti-Semitism at and all forms of bigotry...” <https://www.adl.org/what-we-do/israel/israel-advocacy-education>. No doubt there was a Holocaust against both Christians and Jews. While the murder of tens of thousands of Christians has been forgotten by history, the Holocaust has been used to great advantage by the Jews. “Remember the Holocaust” has been effectively used by the Zionists to claim a homeland that was not theirs, and to wage war against the original inhabitants of Palestine, i.e., the Palestinians.
- 12 Kertzer, *What is a Jew*, p. 282.

Personal

* Bettie’s oldest granddaughter was preparing for her marriage. We were going over so Bettie could work on the wedding dress. About 20 minutes from the VA hospital in Chillicothe, I started experiencing symptoms of a stroke. So, we pulled into the ER at the VA hos-

pital, but it was shut down for Presidents' Day. They checked me in, but transferred me to Adena Hospital which is located about 15 minutes from the VA. There they ran many tests, blood work, MRI, &c. The only thing that showed up was a high calcium level which can produce stroke like symptoms and even death if not dealt with. My primary doctor at the VA had discussed a parathyroid problem with me which was not allowing the parathyroid to control my calcium. He prescribed vitamin D3 in hopes of trying to deal with the parathyroid. However, the D3 caused an elevated calcium level. The doctor at Adena determined that my calcium level was the problem, took me off the D3, kept me overnight, and flushed out the calcium, and after spending the night going to the restroom because of the IV fluid, I went home. I followed up with my primary care doctor this last week, and things are back to "normal," as normal is it can be for us old people.

I was reminded again that life is as a vapor, here one moment and gone the next.

* About a year ago, I noticed my hands shaking uncontrollably. It has grown worse to where it is hard to hold a plate with one hand without losing something off of it. The doctor said it was hereditary, but he is having a neurologist check it out. They did a scan on my brain to see if there might have been a problem there, but they found nothing. I have a follow-up appointment with a neurologist April 27.

* **A nation of slaves, Debt Slaves.** 1 in 3 consumers fear they will max out a credit card

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/10/1-in-3-consumers-fear-they-will-max-out-a-credit-card.html>

Who Really Owns the Land?

By Thomas Williamson

An article entitled "Who Owns the Land?" which appeared in the August 30, 2002 issue of the Sword of the Lord and in various associational papers, made this interesting statement: **"Meanwhile, the Jewish National Fund began to collect money to purchase land in Palestine for Jewish settlement, eventually purchasing 92% of present-day Israel."**

This 92% figure is quite different from the generally accepted and documented figures which indicate that by the time of Israel's independence in 1948, the Jews had purchased approximately 6% to 7% of modern-day Israel (pre-1967 boundaries).

I wrote twice to the author of "Who Owns the Land?" inviting him to straighten me out and provide documentation for his statement that Jews bought 92% of Israel. I received no reply.

Meanwhile, I checked out the official web site of the Jewish National Fund at www.unitedjerusalem.com, a Jewish, pro-Israel, pro-Zionist web site. This web site states that the Jewish National Fund purchased 375,000 acres of the land prior to the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. Based on a total of 7992 square miles in Israel (pre-1967 boundaries), this means that the Jews purchased a total of 7.33% of Palestine from its previous Arab owners, not 92%.

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND, THIS LAND IS MY LAND ... Other authorities agree that the amount of land rightfully purchased from the Arabs by the Jews was about 6-7%. The article "The Jewish National Fund Land Purchase Methods and Priorities, 1924-1939" by Kenneth W. Stein states that **"by May 1948 Jews acquired approximately 2,000,000 of Palestine's 26,000,000 dunams."** This is approximately 7.69% of the land, not 92%.

Jack Bernstein in "The Life of an American Jew in Racist-Marxist Israel" says that **"by 1920 Jews owned only 2% of Palestine. By 1948 when Israel declared itself a state, these invading Jews had increased their land ownership; but IT WAS STILL LESS THAN 6%."**

The booklet "Origin of the Palestine-Israel Conflict" by Jews for Justice in the Middle East states that **"in 1948, at the moment that Israel declared itself a state, it legally owned a little more than 6% of the land of Palestine."**

Robin Miller in **"The Expulsion of the Palestinians 1947-1948, says, "Before 1948, Jews owned only 1.5 million of the 26 million dunams of land in Palestine . . . After the eviction of the Palestinians, Israel controlled 20 million dunams, an increase from 6% to 77% of the total. They simply stole an entire country."**

It appears that many Christians are being encouraged to support Israeli land claims over those of the Palestinians, based on this unsubstantiated figure of 92% of the land having been purchased by the Jews. However, the Jewish National Fund's own figures indicate that they claim to have purchased only 7.33% of the land by 1948.

Any reader of this article who can document the 92% figure claimed in the article “Who Owns the Land?” is invited to write me at the above address, and submit documentation proving that the folks at the Jewish National Fund are mistaken when they say they purchased only 7.33% of the land.

... **BUT MOSTLY, THIS LAND IS MY LAND.** Some will say that it doesn’t matter how much of the land of Palestine was purchased by the Jews, since God has given the land to the Jews and therefore they have a right to take it from the Arab owners without paying for it.

There is no Scriptural basis for this supposition. Abraham and David, though they were Jews, paid fair market value for the land they bought from Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 23:16) and from Oman the Jebusite (2 Samuel 24:21-24, 1 Chronicles 21: 22-25).

Paul, when asked what advantage the Jews had, replied, “Much every way. chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God, “ Romans 3:2. Paul does not mention expropriation of other people’s land as an advantage of being Jewish; he says that the advantage that Jews have is that they were given God’s law, which includes the commandment “Thou shall not steal. “ There is no Scriptural basis for encouraging Jews or Israelis to disobey that commandment that God gave them.

WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN. Others will say that we are obligated to support modern Israel no matter what, based on Old Testament verses where God states His intention to bless the ancient theocratic state of Israel. Even preachers who say the Old Testament is not for today, and who militantly oppose those who believe in the Ten Commandments and tithing, will still go to the Old Testament to cite verses where God promises His blessing on national Israel. They cannot quote any New Testament commands for us to support national Israel, because no such teaching exists.

Can we properly interpret Old Testament statements of God’s intention to bless ancient Israel, to mean that God is commanding that we unconditionally support modern Israel? The answer is no, unless we are willing to follow the same logic with those verses where God promises His blessing on the Arab nations.

In Isaiah 19:25 the prophet says, “Whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people. “ Based on this verse, should we not be giving all-

out, unconditional financial and military support to the Egyptian government and people, just like we are doing for Israel?

Where are the brigades of “Christian Egyptianists” to travel to Egypt, to plant trees there and help run off all those pesky non-Egyptian “land squatters?”

In Genesis 21:18 God promised to make of Ishmael a great nation. Why are we not helping to fulfill that prophecy by supporting the Palestinians and all the other Arab nations that are descended from Ishmael? Why this selective obedience to the Word of God, that causes us to support Israel but not Egypt or Palestine?

The answer, of course, is that our foreign policy in the 21st Century AD is not necessarily determined by expressions of God’s good will toward ancient nations that no longer exist in anything resembling their ancient form.

THEY FOUGHT THE LAW, AND THE LAW WON. Modern Israel bears no resemblance to the ancient theocratic state of Israel, which was based on obedience to the Old Testament Law and expectation of the Messiah. Modern Israel not only rejects the Messiah but also rejects Old Testament Law.

For instance, Israel rejects the command to not oppress non-Jews living in its territory, Exodus 12:49, 22:21, 23:9, Leviticus 19:33-34, 25:35, Deuteronomy 10:18-19, 23:7, 24:17, 27:19, and the law against cutting down fruit-bearing trees, Deuteronomy 20:19-20. It is illogical to appeal to Old Testament Law in support of modern Israel and then turn around and say, “They don’t have to obey Old Testament Law.”

Modern Israel is known for its sex industry and brothels, for its gay pride parades in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and its government-funded abortions. According to the Jewish Virtual Library, there were 18,785 legal and 16,000 illegal abortions in Israel in 1999. Israeli critics of abortion have estimated that 1,000,000 Jewish infants were aborted from 1948 to 1992 and have likened this to the Holocaust. **Christian Zionists who send money to Israel, and lobby for American governmental subsidies to Israel, are helping to pay for this mass slaughter of pre-born Jewish children.**

As Christians, we ought not to harshly judge or condemn Israel for faults which are found equally in all the Gentile nations of the world. Nor should we go to the opposite extreme of glorifying the Israeli government and people as being worthy of our uncritical and uncon-

ditional support.

Nothing has changed since 1957 when Noel Smith, a leader in the Baptist Bible Fellowship movement, wrote these words in the Baptist Bible Tribune: **“Zionism rejects the God of Israel, the God of the Prophets, the God of the Land. Zionism does not base its claim to Palestine on the covenant God made with Abraham. Zionism refuses to admit that the dispersion of the Jews was an act of God because of the sin of the Jews in rejecting their own Messiah. Zionism has no consciousness of sin and therefore feels no need of a personal Messiah to atone for sin. Zionism is atheistic, secular, political.**

“Zionism, rejecting the God who gave Israel the Land, rejecting the grace which was responsible for the gift, has no valid claims to Palestine - none more than the Arabs.”

It is one of the mysteries of life that some modern evangelical Christians devote so much time, money and effort in support of this anti-God movement called Zionism.

THE LORD GAVE, AND THE LORD HATH TAKEN AWAY. God gave Palestine to the Jews in Old Testament times, but this did not abrogate the rights of non-Jews to own land in Israel, as we have seen from the examples of Ephron and Oman. (See also Numbers 9:14 - one ordinance for both the stranger and the native-born Hebrew).

The divine title deed to Palestine no longer belongs to the Jews: it was conditional on their obedience to God (see Genesis 17:9

14, Exodus 19:5-6, Deuteronomy 7:12, Joshua 23:15-16, 1 Kings 9:6-9, 2 Chronicles 7:19-22, Ezekiel 33:24-27). God finally used the Romans to expel the Jews from the land in 70 AD as a punishment for their crowning example of disobedience of the Law: the rejection and crucifixion of their Messiah (Matthew 21:33-43, 23:38).

Of course, any Jew in Israel today who has paid for his land has a right to that land. As Christians, we should uphold that sacred property right for all Jews, and we should do the same for all Palestinians who have lawful title to their land. We are not Communists - we do not believe in the confiscation, without payment, of anyone's land. Nor are we racists - we do not advocate that anyone be kicked off his land just because he is of the “wrong” ethnic group.

WHEN I CAN READ MY TITLE CLEAR.

Do you really want to know who owns any particular parcel of land in Israel? Then do the same thing you would do in America - find out who has the title deed and who has paid for the land. Forget all the silly debates about whose ancestors were there first, or which ethnic group is more in favor with the Almighty.

Isaiah prophesied of a time when Jews and Arabs would be regarded as equals in the sight of God. *“In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: Whom the LORD shall bless, saying, Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance.”* Isaiah 19:25-26.

We are living in that day now. The New Testament tells us that there is no difference between the Jew and Gentile (Acts 15:9, Romans 10:12, Galatians 3:28). The Jews no longer have any advantage by being literal children of Abraham (John 8:39). The true Israel and the true children of Abraham are those who are born again Christians, Romans 2:28-29, Galatians 3:7.

The true Israel that we are to support is the Family of God or Israel of God (Galatians 6:15-16) composed of born-again Gentiles, Jews, Whites, Blacks, Asians, Hispanics, Palestinians, Patagonians and Hottentots - not some nation of Christ-rejecting people in the Middle East.

The Bible teaches us that all men, Jews and Gentiles, are of one blood (Acts 17:26) and are equal before God. That includes Jews and Palestinians. We need to seek justice for all Jewish and Arab property holders in the Middle East, and avoid giving the false impression that God has given any one ethnic group a license to rip off any other group.

Making Every Act Conform to God's Law

by Stephen Huffman

In many ways, Elisha F. Paxton exemplified the Confederacy whose uniform he wore. He had a typical Southern background. His family was Scots-Irish, and had fought the Stuart monarchs in the 17th century. After immigrating to the American colonies, his ancestors had settled on the Virginia frontier and espoused the Patriot cause in the War for Independence. His domestic life was typical of the Southern gentleman farmer.

Although he had aspired to military service, poor eyesight prevented him from attending West Point. Instead, he studied law, but when he became completely blind in one eye, he took up farming.

Paxton had strongly Southern political views. Devoted to constitutional liberty, he advocated secession long before most Virginia moderates were willing to take that step. After the war began, he had a successful military career. He was noted for gallantry at First Manassas and had gained the trust of Stonewall Jackson, who appointed him his Chief of Staff. Later, Jackson promoted him directly from the rank of Major to Brigadier General (bypassing all the colonels) and placed him in command of the Stonewall Brigade.

At home and on the battlefield, Paxton exemplified Southern chivalry. Although he was a fierce fighter on the battlefield, he was very tender to his three small children and to his wife, to whom he wrote every week. Moreover, he had a great respect for Christianity. When at home in Lexington, Virginia, he attended the same Presbyterian church that Jackson attended, and he was very courteous to the chaplains in his brigade. But at the time he took command of the Stonewall Brigade, he had made no profession of faith, although admiring “religion” in others.

Perhaps it was in this that he most resembled the Confederacy. Throughout the formation of the Confederacy, Southern politicians made frequent appeals to God, and many were the assertions that the new Confederacy was to be a Christian republic. But the Confederacy failed to recognize the full ramifications of what it means to be “Christian.”

In 1861, when the Confederate Constitution was being drafted, James H. Thornwell proposed the following provision: “We, the people of these Confederate States, distinctly acknowledge our responsibility to God and the supremacy of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords; and hereby ordain that no law shall be passed by the Congress of these Confederate States inconsistent with the will of God, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.” Tragically, the churches of the South refused to support Thornwell’s proposal, and it never made it into the Constitution.

Thus, in spite of its many virtues, the Confederacy was destined for ultimate failure—not because it was wrong to resist federal tyranny, or because of inept military leadership in the west, or the lack of foreign rec-

ognition, or the industrial might of the North. Rather, the South’s defeat was due to its refusal to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.

Throughout the struggle, the South’s great theme was defending the liberty granted to them by their fathers. God had given liberty to the American people as a reward for the early intention of men such as William Bradford and John Winthrop to establish a godly society based solely on the law of God. Because they made God’s law their first priority, God granted them liberty from the tyranny of the Stuart monarchs, economic prosperity, relative security from the persecutions and wars of Europe. These blessings were not their aim, but because they sought first the kingdom of God, these things were added to them.

But the South ignored the requirement in pursuit of the reward. Instead of adopting Thornwell’s proposed preamble, the Confederacy adopted a preamble similar to that of the United States, listing as then purposes “justice,” “common defense,” “domestic tranquility,” and the “blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.” The Confederate preamble did invoke “the favor and blessing of Almighty God,” but without any mention of the law of God, this was men’s lip-service. “Southern rights” took priority over Christ’s kingly right to have his law enforced by his ministers in civil office. In a lecture on Stonewall Jackson, Robert L. Dabney commented:

How righteousness exalteth a people! Shall this judgment and righteousness be the stability of thy times, O Confederate, and strength of thy salvation? And these mighty deliverances, . . . were they not manifest overtures to us to have the God of Jackson and Lee for our God, and be saved? “Here is the path; walk ye in it.” And what said our people? Many honestly answered, “Yea, Lord, we will;” of whom the larger part walked whither Jackson did, and now lie with him in glory. But another part answered, “Nay,” and they live, on such terms as we see, even such as they elected. . . . But they would not be free on such terms. Nay; they preferred rather to walk after their own vanities. Verily they have their reward!

Until late 1862, Paxton, like most Southerners, was content to fight for freedom on his own terms. But shortly thereafter, he became a recipient of God’s saving grace. His conversion was not dramatic, but genuine, and it was soon evident that the commander of the

famous Stonewall Brigade was thoroughly changed. Some have traced much of the fruit of the subsequent revivals in the Army of Northern Virginia to the example of General Paxton's conversion.

But for Paxton, conversion did not only mean a home in heaven. It meant a change in everything he did, including the way he fought battles—and why. An extended quotation from his last letter home sums up his new views of life and of the Confederate cause.

“Our destiny is in the hands of God, infinite in his justice, goodness, and mercy; and I feel that in such time as he may appoint he will give us the blessings of independence and peace. We are a wicked people, and the chastisement which we have suffered has not humbled and improved us as it ought. We have a just cause, but we do not deserve success if those who are here spend this time in blasphemy and wickedness, and those who are at home devote their energies to avarice and ambition. Fasting and prayer by such people is blasphemy, and, if answered at all, will be by an infliction of God's wrath, not a dispensation of his mercy.

“Whenever God wills it that [my life] pass from me, I feel that I can say, Into thy hands I commend my spirit.” In this feeling I am prepared to go forward in the discharge of my duty, striving to make every act

and thought of my life conform to his law, and trusting with implicit faith in the salvation promised through Christ. How I wish that . . . every thought, act, and feeling of tomorrow would have its motive in love for God and its object in his glory!” On the morning of May 3, 1863, Paxton led his brigade into action at Chancellorsville. He was not involved in Jackson's night attack on the Union right flank. Rather, he had been detailed to guard the Orange Plank Road. But during the night, his fresh brigade was summoned to spearhead the morning assault on the reinforced Union position at Fairview. When the order to attack came, Paxton put his Bible in his pocket and led forward his brigade. Moments later,

biblicalexaminer.org
5130 Danville Rd
Lynchburg OH 45142

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

he fell, pierced through the heart by a Yankee mine-ball.

Jackson, who himself lay mortally wounded, wept when he heard of Paxton's fall, for perhaps, more than any other man, Paxton shared Jackson's whole-hearted devotion to Christ's kingdom.

As Dabney said, those who sought first God's kingdom and righteousness died as heroes. The South at large was condemned to reap the fruits of disobedience. The difference between Paxton and his Confederacy was in “striving to make every act and thought” conform to God's law.

Article written and submitted by Stephen Huffman, Drawn from Memoir and Memorials: Elisha Franklin Paxton edited by John Gallatin Paxton. *Mighty Men Herald*. cbcbelville@gmail.com



‘I was a teacher for 17 years, but I couldn't read or write’

John Corcoran grew up in New Mexico in the US during the 1940s and 50s. One of six siblings, he graduated from high school, went on to university, and became a teacher in the 1960s - a job he held for 17 years. But, as he explains here, he hid an extraordinary secret.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/stories-43700153>

All articles by Bro Need unless other wise noted.

- **PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR GIVING AND IN YOUR PRAYERS.**