

The Biblical Examiner

Seeking first the Kingdom of God and its Advancement

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Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

What is Truth?

As we see the wicked prospering more and more, a serious question must be addressed: Is “truth-telling” required at all times, as the “purists” insist? Considering the degenerate, unholy and greedy generation in which we live, we must understand “What is truth”.

“Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.”

All Scripture is given “for instruction in righteousness”, so any particular Scripture must be understood in the light of all Scripture. Sound doctrine requires “all Scripture”. (2 Tim 3:16. Note Peter’s warning against those who “wrest” Scripture out of its context. 2 Pet 3:16. See <http://www.biblicalexaminer.org/Com/NT/Galatians%205.html#Wrest>)

“Lying”. That is, intentional falsehood.

“With his neighbour”. Paul is speaking in the context of unity within the body of believers, so “the neighbour is the fellow Christian”. (Rom 15:2, Eph 4:25, Jas 4:12. TDNT) Truth and honesty are required for unity within the body of believers.

But is “truth” required toward those who are determined to destroy Christianity. Is “truth” required toward those intent on destroying life, liberty and property? How are we to respond as the “powers” become more aggressive in their oppression against righteousness and justice?

Paul, in Ephesians 4, brings forward many practical applications of the commandments given to us by Moses:

V. 22, Seventh Commandment: “Exodus 20:14 *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*”

V. 25, Ninth Commandment: “Exodus 20:16 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*”

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V. 26, Fifth Commandment: “Exodus 20:13 *Thou shalt not kill.*”

V. 27, Eighth Commandment: “Exodus 20:15 *Thou shalt not steal.*” And “Exodus 20:17 *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour’s wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that [is] thy neighbour’s.*”
“Put away lying”

“Wisdom condemns lying on the ground that it is folly,

{Pr 17:7 } but it allows lies of necessity. {cf. Ge 12:13 Jer 38:24ff. }” (TDNT, 852)

Those who demand truth at all cost, the “purists”, must explain away the lies and deceits used by God’s faithful people in the Old Testament. “Lying” and “truth” must be understood according to the already established law of God: “Exodus 20:16 *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*” The “false witness” is one who lies, or perjures himself with the intent to harm the innocent.

One of the most well-known lies that people try to justify with human reasoning is found in Exodus 1:19-21 where the midwives lied to Pharaoh, who was considered the living Egyptian god.

The midwives were not abortionists. They refused to kill the baby boys as they had been ordered by the king. And then they deceived the king. No doubt the women warned the Hebrews of Pharaoh’s plans to destroy Israel by killing the baby boys. The girls were to be kept alive to be added to the harems of Egypt, and their children would add to the pagan Egyptian population. Christian parents who send their girls to be trained up in the ways of the heathen – the pagan education institutions of our

day – also send them into the pagan harems of our day.

Theologians down through the centuries have sought to deal with this in a way which would justify compromise and deceit by those who profess the Biblical faith. They also seek to say that the midwives sinned in their deceit, but because of the good which resulted God blessed them. This is not a tenable argument.

The Ninth Commandment says “*Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*” It clearly condemns evil actions toward our neighbour, telling us that we must not use words to deprive him of his life, property, or freedom. It also is commonly understood to forbid all deceit in any way, but is this what is actually said?

Although many have sought to explain it away, there is no way around the fact that God rewarded the midwives for deceiving Pharaoh. Edersheim, in dealing with this situation, quotes St. Augustine, “God forgave the evil [lying to Pharaoh] on account of the good, and rewarded their piety, though not their deceit.” (Old Testament Bible History, p. 34.) As we know, Augustine is one of the foundational thinkers for Romanism. St. Augustine, who is pointed to by the papists as one of their founding fathers:

“But, as for that which is written, that God did good to the Hebrew midwives, and to Rahab the harlot of Jericho, this was not because they lied, but because they were merciful to God’s people. That therefore which was rewarded in them was, not their deceit, but their benevolence; benignity of mind, not iniquity of lying. For, as it would not be marvelous and absurd if God on account of good works after done by them should be willing to forgive some evil works at another time before committed, so it is not to be marveled at that God beholding at one time, in one cause, both these, that is, the thing done of mercy and the thing done of deceit, did both reward the good, and for the sake of this good forgive that evil. For if sins which are done of carnal concupiscence, not of mercy, are for the sake of after works of mercy remitted, why are not those through merit of mercy remitted which of mercy itself are committed? For more grievous is a sin which with purpose of hurting, than that which with purpose of helping, is wrought. And consequently if that is blotted out by a work of mercy thereafter following, why is this, which is less heinous, not blotted out by the mercy itself of the man, both going before that he may sin, and going along with him while he sins? So indeed it may seem: but in truth it is one thing to say, “I ought not to have sinned, but I will do works of mercy whereby I may blot out the sin which I did before;” and another to say, “I ought to sin because I cannot else show mercy.” It is, I say, one thing to say, “Because we have already sinned, let

us do good, because we have done evil:” but here, “Let us do evil that good may come.” And, consequently, there we have to drain off the sink of sin, here to beware of a doctrine which teacheth to sin.” He goes on to say that the midwives and Rahab should have told the truth, died a righteous death, and left the results in the hands of God.” [1872 translation of St. Augustine’s 420 AD treatise “Against Lying”. *The Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, First Series, vol. III, pg495, 6. Eerdmans publishing.*] End of End Note.

Augustine argues from a presupposition that God remits, blots out, or overlooks evil if enough good follows that evil. He draws a fine line between saying, “Let us do evil that good may come”, (which he defines as bad) and, “Because we have done evil, let us do good to blot it out” (which he defines as good); consequently, in his mind, he does not conflict with Romans 2 & 3. He says that if the good for the kingdom of God is great enough, then the evil which brought about that good is overlooked and even blessed by God.

This means that judgment by the Lord is based upon comparing our good with our evil, and if the resulting good outweighs the bad it took to accomplish that good, then we are rewarded. That is to say, “The end justifies the means.”

This doctrine cannot be defended from the word of God. It flies in the face of the total of Scripture. Either their disobedience to an ungodly command of an evil king and then their lying to him was pleasing to God, or it was not. We must not avoid this issue. It must be confronted and dealt with in order to know how to respond in the evil days that are upon us.

Here is what we imply if we try to justify the midwives’ deceit of Pharaoh by saying they did wrong, yet the result of their wrong pleased God enough that he made them houses:

First, those who fear God must obey unrighteous, anti-Christ laws.

However, man’s laws must be viewed in relationship to the law of God. Lawlessness is against the “*one lawgiver who [alone] is able to save and destroy.*” He is our Judge and King, not man. (Ja 4:12, Isa 33:22.) Paul deals with this in Romans 2.

Second, it is sin to deceive the ones who demand that we disobey our one lawgiver, God, and become lawbreakers.

Third, it is a greater sin to incur the wrath of an earthly ruler than it is to incur the wrath of the Heavenly King.

“*Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*”

Fourth, that our first and primary fear is to be of man:

“Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this [is] the whole [duty] of man.”

God clearly tells us here that He was pleased with the midwives’ disobedience to the lawless command of the evil ruler. He was pleased with their deceit which was used to protect the lives of His new born babies.

If we do not say that God was pleased, then we must hold to Augustine’s position. One cannot “straddle the fence”. Augustine’s defense of midwives’ action permits the church (& Christian) to do whatever is necessary (sin), as long as their motives are to see the cause of Christ advanced. And if they do enough good, their sin will be blotted out. This thinking requires submission to lawless rulers who command that we act contrary to the principles contained in the word of God. The implications of Augustine’s thinking are limitless, and will justify doing whatever is necessary to obtain what we consider to be a godly goal.

I have talked with godly people who hold strongly to Augustine’s position concerning the midwives, yet his position is untenable when the many other similar instances are considered. As we read through the Scriptures, it is amazing how many times deceit is used by the righteous to protect themselves and others from the evil intentions of the ungodly.

Let us consider some Old Testament passages which must be used to develop the doctrine of “What is Truth”. The common thread throughout will be obvious.

First, when there is no other means of protection, deceit is used to protect the godly from the evil desires of the ungodly. There is usually a life or death situation involved somewhere in the issue when the wicked have the power to enforce their desires.

Second, the greatest of the Old Testament saints used deceit.

Third, there is lack of God’s condemnation for the deceivers.

Fourth, the purpose of God’s law is to protect life, according to the Ninth Commandment.

Fifth, the use of deceit for personal gain was soundly condemned and judged by God.

• **CONSIDER THESE ACTIONS OF DECEIT, OR LIES.**

1. Abraham, the father of the faithful. Genesis 12:10-20 (vv. 11, 12), and he did it again in Genesis 20 (v. 11). He twice lied to the civil authority of the nations in which he found himself, fearing that he would be

killed and his wife taken.

Evidently it was a common practice in antiquity that if a person of influence and power saw a woman he desired, he would take her. (Such killings were not uncommon in Christ’s day.) If there was any objection from anyone, husband, father, brother, & c, that objection was dealt with by killing the objector. Even though Abraham was a mighty prince, the nations in which he found himself were stronger; therefore, Abraham feared that if he objected to the king taking his wife, he would be killed. Accordingly, the only means which Abraham had of protecting himself and his family was deceit, which he used. God protected him and his wife.

(“There is in the British Museum an ancient Egyptian “papyrus,” which, although of somewhat later date than that of Abram, proves that his fears, on entering Egypt, were at least not groundless. It relates how a Pharaoh, on the advice of his counselors, sent armies to take away a man’s wife by force, and then to murder her husband.” Footnote, Edersheim, vol. I, p. 79. A more complete treatment of this is given in vol. II, p. 11, 12.)

• **OBSERVE:**

a. Abraham used deceit to protect himself and his family from what he perceived to be an evil civil authority which had the power to kill him and destroy his family.

b. God did not rebuke Abraham; but God did rebuke both kings for permitting a lawless society which forced Abraham to use deceit for his protection.

c. God required both kings to give restitution to Abraham for the anguish which their evil society caused him.

Abraham illustrates that violation of Eighth Commandment is in terms of the principles of God’s word, the Ninth Commandment; it is not in terms of man’s word. Therefore, deceit is a legitimate means of self-protection from the evil desires of wicked men in authority in an evil society. And rather than God holding the one who had to use deceit responsible, He holds the evil society and its leaders responsible. The purpose of civil government is to provide conditions where good is protected and evil repressed. (Rom 13:1-5.) God’s judgment is against the society which does not provide the required protection for good. His judgment is not against the ones who are trying to do good in such a society. Truth is according to God’s definition of justice, *i.e.*, protection of the godly.

2. Tamar deceived her father-in-law because he

did not keep his promise to her. Judah, her father-in-law, was held at fault in the matter, and Tamar is placed in the lineage of Christ, Genesis 38.

3. Joseph deceived his brothers when they stood before him, Genesis chps. 42, 43, & 44. Joseph's story is so well known that there is no need to develop it here. All we can say about that deception by Joseph is that it was in order that he might work out God's plan and purpose, 45:7. We will also point out that what Joseph instructed his family to tell Pharaoh was not according to the whole truth, 46:32-34. Although I know of no good explanation for Joseph's actions on chapter 46, we can be confident that he acted according to the perfect will of God in the situation.

4. The midwives deceived the evil king of Egypt, Exodus 1. Because of the implications this text contains, no doubt it is the most abused of all text concerning deceit. We developed the implications above.

5. The Book of Joshua contains several places where deceit is used. Rahab deceived the men of the city who were seeking to kill the spies which Joshua had sent to the city, 2:4, 5. She told the men that the spies had already fled, and if the men would hurry they would overtake the spies. Her reward for placing her life in danger when she deceived the men? She and all her household were spared, and she is placed in the lineage of Christ.

• **1 SAMUEL**

6. 1 Samuel 19:14-17. David's wife, Michal, deceived her father, Saul, as he tried to kill David. I have been told by Christian men that rather than "lie", they would tell where their wives and children were, and then depend on God to protect and bless them.

7. 20:5-8, knowing that king Saul would ask, David and Jonathan agreed together to deceive him about David's whereabouts. David considered this agreement to deceive the king who desired to kill him as a covenant of the Lord, v.8. V. 28, 29. The deception is carried out against the wicked power, Saul. The "purists" would sacrifice David on the altar of "truth".

8. 21:1-9, David deceives the priest in order to get the show bread to eat. This reference is interesting in that the Lord uses this as an illustration that the law is for man's benefit, and man is not for the law's benefit, Matthew 12:1-4. In this, the Lord makes not even a passing reference to the fact that David used lies, or used deceit to get the bread. In fact, He places His approval on David taking the bread.

The point that the Lord made with this action by

David when he deceived the priest, is the very point that the 'pious' forget; the law is for the protection of the righteous, not to lay them open for destruction by the wicked. When the wicked try to use the law, which is meant for good, against those who are trying to be good (righteous), the wicked lose all right to the 'truth,' as we think of it. Also, the righteous do not owe the 'truth' to those who desire to use it against them. Truth is in terms of the righteousness and justice of God.

In other words, Abraham did not owe the 'truth' to the evil rulers who would use that 'truth' to kill him. (See the Fifth Amendment to our Constitution.)

9. 21:13, David deceives Achish the king of Gath out of fear. Many would, no doubt, say, David didn't trust the Lord to take care of him. Again, in Matthew 12, Christ pulls the illustration He used above right out of the middle of this chapter to illustrate that truth is in terms of God's law. The law was given to preserve the life of the righteous, not take it.

10. 22:9, 10, Doeg lies to Saul, saying that Ahimelech the priest inquired of the Lord for David. But he tells the truth concerning the bread and sword. (1 Sam 21.) David considers him an evil, wicked liar. (Ps 52.)

11. 27:10-12, while David was living in the land of the Philistines where Achish was king, he went in raids against the enemies of Israel. In order to protect himself, he deceived Achish about where he went on these raids; David left no one alive to dispute his story.

12. 29:6-11, David had carried out his deception very well. The Philistines gathered together to fight against Israel, and David goes with Achish to join with the united Philistine army against Israel. As the many different Philistine armies 'passed in review,' the princes of the Philistines recognized David with Achish. They called Achish before them, and asked him what he thought he was doing by bringing David with him in battle against David's own people. Achish defended David as a man who had been faithful to him (a Philistine king) even against his own people, Israel. The Philistines would not buy the story and made him send David back home.

Achish calls David before him and tells him what the princes' had said. David plays the part of a faithful servant to the 'hilt,' swearing undying allegiance to Achish. Achish again believes him, but yields to the demands of the princes and sends him home.

The point? David lived a deception before Achish for over a year, yet we have no record of God's condemnation of this action. In fact, it appears that

God prospered him as he defended Israel while he was living his deception. God even protected him by His providence so that he did not have to go into battle with the Philistines against Israel. David makes a ‘big deal’ of the lack of trust on the part of the Philistine princes.

• **2 SAMUEL**

13. 2 Samuel 15:34, David is fleeing from his rebellious son, Absalom, who has usurped the throne. One of his faithful advisers desires to go with David, but David tells him to return to the king, now Absalom, in Jerusalem. He is to deceive Absalom into thinking that he has the same loyalty to him as he had to his father, David. The purpose was to gain Absalom’s confidence, and give him bad information in David’s favor. 16:18, Hushai, the man David sent back, deceives Absalom.

The obvious point here is that the wicked, as they work their wickedness, have no right to the truth which will help them accomplish their wicked devices. Truth is always in terms of God’s righteousness and justice.

17:14. Ahithophel’s good counsel to Absalom was rejected for Hushai’s bad counsel. Hushai deceived Absalom and Absalom took the bad advice; it was of God that he follow the wrong counsel.

14. 17:20, this is one of the more obvious deceptions. Hushai sent word to David about Absalom’s plans. Absalom hears that some men have fled out of the city to David, so he sends after them. The two men are hidden in a well, a cover placed over it, and the woman who hid them deceives those seeking them in her word and deed.

The wicked have no right to the truth in order that they might destroy the righteous.

• **2 KINGS**

15. 2 Kings 6:19, the king of Syria warred against the king of Israel. Every time the king of Syria tried to make plans against Israel, Elisha told the king of Israel the plans. The king of Syria inquired, and found that Elisha was telling all, so he sent a great host by night to take Elisha. We all know the story.

When the army moved against Elisha, Elisha asked the Lord to smite the people with blindness, which He did. Elisha met the army in v. 19, and said unto them, “This is not the way, neither is this the city: follow me, and I will bring you to the man whom ye seek.” But he led them to Samaria.

No matter how we cut it, Elisha deceived the Syrian

army, and led them into a trap, and the trap was not in Jerusalem, but Samaria.

16. 10:19, Jehu deceived the worshipers of Baal so they would come together that he might kill them. V. 30, the Lord compliments Jehu.

Few Christians will admit that truth is always in terms of God’s word and His good pleasure.

• **NEGATIVE**

There are several negative uses of deceit which we should note in order to arrive at a just conclusion. The common point is that deceit was used to advance personal agendas.

1. Jacob, whose name meant deceiver, deceived his father to gain his personal desires, Genesis 27. Obviously, he was not blessed for that deceit, and he paid the price many times over for what he did; Laban deceived him several times.

2. The sons of Jacob, in response of Shechem’s defilement of their sister Dinah, deceived the men of the city of Shechem. Their purpose was to kill all the inhabitants and spoil their city, Genesis 34. The result was that the sons who led in this deceit were cursed by their father, 49:5-7.

3. Joseph’s brethren deceived their father about Joseph’s fate after they sold him into slavery, Genesis 37:32, 33. They paid the price for this deceit, 44:17.

Note that God’s purpose is accomplished regardless of men and their motives.

• **QUESTION**

There are a couple of questionable uses of deceit in the book of Joshua—can they be used to develop a Biblical doctrine of deceit?

1, Joshua used the deceit of war to take the city of Ai, 8:5, 6.

2, the Gibeonites used deceit for their protection against Israel, and Israel was held to the covenant which they were deceived into making, chapter 10.

As we look at the above passages, it is obvious why Augustine had to say what he did; we either must hold to Augustine’s position, or, 1) rightly say that deceit is a legitimate means of self-defense against the wicked who are in authority; 2) rightly say that deceit is a legitimate means of offence against the wicked in authority. David used deceit to destroy Israel’s enemies just as Joshua did to get into the city of Ai.

Paul said, “*Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members*

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

one of another." (Eph 4:25.) The term "lying" cannot stand alone according to man's natural understanding. It must be understood in the light of the law, prophets and psalms. The basic law is "Thou shalt not bear false witness..." Exodus 20:16, Matthew 19:18 and Romans 13:9.

The Ninth Commandment says "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour." Therefore, when deceit is used to advance personal goals at the expense of another's life, liberty, or property, it has God's wrath against it. When it is used because it is the only means of protection from the wicked who are in authority, and who are determined to destroy the righteous, it has God's blessing upon it.

The Jews placed great importance upon the sabbath law:

"Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: 28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath."

Man was not made for the benefit of the law, but the law was established for the benefit and protection of man.

• CONCLUDING THOUGHT

It is impossible to avoid the fact that the midwives believed God, and their belief resulted in works, and those works were contrary to the commands of the king. We are reminded of James testimony, "faith without works is dead", 2:26. Every Old Testament saint exhibited their faith by their works: Abel, Noah, Abraham, Ruth, Rahab, Daniel, and hundreds more.

Hebrews chapter 11, is considered the faith chapter of Holy Scriptures. Even though the midwives are not mentioned, they played a vital role in Israel's history. Consider chapter 11: Abel suffered at the hands of his brother Cain. Noah suffered at the hands of those around him as he built the ark. Joseph suffered at the hands of his brethren. Moses withstood the king of Egypt. Rahab withstood the men of the city. Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephtha, David, as well as the rest of the list (vv. 33-39), withstood the evil authority of their day.

The list in chapter 11, includes those who suffered for their faith. The majority suffered at the hands of the evil and oppressive civil and/or religious authority over them. That authority saw their faithfulness to the law of the Lord as a threat to their power.

Implied in Hebrews 11 is if one is unwilling to suffer at the hands of the authority over them for their faith, they have not the faith of the Old Testament saints of God. The major persecution against the saints of God

in both Old and New Testament came from those in religious and/or civil authority.

This means that those of our day who are unwilling to stand according to and upon godly principles of the Scriptures, in spite of threats from those in authority, have a faith without works; they have a dead faith. The implications of this tenet for our day are horrendous. Clearly, modern Christianity has a dead faith; a faith which is begging for God's judgment.

Is it any wonder that modernist Bible Scholars work so hard to dismissing or justifying what took place with the midwives before the king of Egypt? They do not want any Biblical understanding that requires those who profess to have the faith of Abraham to stand against the evil of those in authority. This is why 80% of the population of the US can claim Christianity while the nation self-destructs for a lack of implemented Christian principles.

The salt has lost His savor.

Brother Need

Brit detained in Israel

A British man was held for four days in Israel because he was helping to hold up a banner during an evangelistic crusade, VOM and Jews for Jesus reports. Barry Barnett was with a team of Israeli members of the "Behold Your God" campaign on November 20 when immigration officers seized the banner he was holding and arrested him. He was able to be in fellowship with other Christians while in prison and also gave English lessons to other prisoners. Israeli authorities have ordered Barnett deported but Jews for Jesus representatives said they would fight the order. Pray for more open hearts to the Gospel in the land of its birth and that Barnett would be able to return to Israel in the future to share the Good News.

Samaritan Ministries, February 2014 newsletter: Samaritanministries.org

We can thank the American Christians who support the Anti-Christ nation of Israel for keeping this pagan nation well funded so they can persecute Christians. The Christian Zionist will answer to God for financing the anti-Christ.

For your information

World War III Has Already Been Lost

AND THE CHINESE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OCCUPYING AMERIKA (PART 2)

Dave Hodges, Wednesday, May 7, 2014 6:05 May 6, 2014

THE COMMON SENSE SHOW

In order to keep its head above water for just one more day, the Federal Reserve has now permitted Chinese-controlled banks to take stakes in US banks. This is a nefarious invasion of the U.S. economy. Subsequently, we have witnessed a major shift in the percentage of the U.S. debt owned by Chinese vs. the Federal Reserve. This is the beginning of the end for the dollar, the U.S. economy, your standard of living, your assets, your freedoms and for many of you, your very lives.

China Owns the Federal Reserve and Here's How It Happened

At the end of January 2009, the month President Barack Obama was first inaugurated, Communist China owned \$744.2 billion in U.S. government debt and the Fed owned \$475.129 billion. In May of 2012, the Federal Reserve has approved applications by three big Chinese government-controlled banks to set up branches and take stakes in US banks after deciding they were adequately regulated in their home market.

The Chinese ownership of U.S. debt, compared to the Federal Reserve, appears to be unchanged in 2014. However, the Chinese are slowly but surely acquiring the Federal Reserve and thus, are acquiring a greater amount of U.S. government debt. Therefore, much of the debt owned by the Federal Reserve, is now owned by the Chinese and their new partners consisting of two large Spanish banks, a German bank and the Chinese. The complete Chinese takeover of our economy is silent but undeniably insidious. It would be appropriate to think of this development as the United States government doing a debt consolidation of all its treasury bonds because it can no longer pay or service the debt and the Chinese and their partners are acquiring the assets of America for pennies on the dollar. It will soon be announced that China is in the process of purchasing major Western banks (e.g. Bank of America, Wells Fargo) and physical assets. [That is, your mortgage and automobile, and all debt, ed.] These banks make up the majority owners of the Federal Reserve. By purchasing these banks as distressed properties, the Chinese, will in effect, have purchased the Federal Reserve because these banks own the Federal Reserve. For the naysayers that will write to me and say there is no way that this will ever take place, I will respond by telling you that you are a day late and a "distressed dollar" short with your anxiety over the future of the American economy.

...

Please note that all the rising economies of the world

are tying their currencies to gold as Dr. Garrow astutely pointed out on my show. The United States is not one of these countries. He is correct as the China and India have been trading in gold, as opposed to the dollar, for several years. The present set of events represents the fulfillment of our demise which has been planned by the global elite for quite some time. If there is a silver lining, America will soon shed much of its sheep's wool and America will fight. Hence, the real reason behind Obama's push for gun confiscation and the fact that John Kerry signed the UN gun ban treaty last year. Now that you know that the Chinese own the very clothes on your back, it is time to take a look at how the Chinese will soon be exerting complete dictatorial control over the United States.

To date, we have largely been conquered by stealth. Soon, the specter of Chinese and Russian troops along with their DHS allies will be opposing Americans in the streets.

The entire unpleasant article is at <http://beforeitsnews.com/war-and-conflict/2014/05/world-war-iii-has-already-been-lost-and-the-chinese-are-in-the-process-of-occupying-amerika-part-2-2452032.html>

The above transfer of wealth "offshore", e.g., China, cannot be blamed on Obama. That transfer of wealth was accomplished by sending all manufacturing overseas with the various tax laws and "free trade" agreements. It has been going on for many years, permitted by our elected representatives. It has only speeded up under Obama. Those who hate God, the apostate State, cannot permit a prosperous "Christian" population.

Sinking in the swamp of faux-hurt

by Rob Slane

There seems to be a lot of "hurt" people out there at the moment, who are not really, genuinely hurt. Of course there are many people with genuinely hurts as well, but what I'm talking about is the swamp of faux-hurt we find ourselves sinking in—people claiming to be offended in order to create a climate where certain things are unsayable and certain thoughts unthinkable. Faux-hurt has become a strategic weapon in the culture wars of the 21st century.

Take the case of Brendan Eich and Mozilla. Mr. Eich, co-founder of the company and inventor of JavaScript, was recently forced to resign as Chief Executive of Mozilla less than a month after getting the job. For what? Embezzling funds? Lying to shareholders? Committing adultery? No, his great crime was to exercise his right to free speech by donating \$1,000 six years ago in

support of California Proposition 8. This heinous act was just too much for the advocates of tolerance and they demanded his head.

Recall that Proposition 8 was an amendment to the California constitution that sought to define marriage as between a man and a woman. After receiving the necessary petition signatures, it was put to a referendum and a majority of Californians, more than 7 million, approved it. It was challenged in the California Supreme Court and upheld in 2009.

But later Proposition 8 was overturned by a federal judge in San Francisco, and an appeals court upheld that ruling. The appeals court ruling seemed to be based on the judges' opinion that Proposition 8 "lessened that status and dignity" of homosexuals.

Supporters of Proposition 8 then petitioned for a review by the U.S. Supreme Court, but in the majority opinion Chief Justice Roberts said they had no standing because they "must have suffered an injury in fact, thus giving them concrete interest in the outcome of the issue in dispute." Whether someone was offended or hurt seemed to be more important than the issues and policies at stake.

Mozilla's executive chairwoman, Mitchell Baker, well aware that offense has become the key talking point, wrote the following on the company blog: "Mozilla prides itself on being held to a different standard and, this past week, we didn't live up to it. We know why people are hurt and angry, and they are right: it's because we haven't stayed true to ourselves. We didn't act like you'd expect Mozilla to act. We didn't move fast enough to engage with people once the controversy started. We're sorry. We must do better."

Didn't move fast enough? Taking less than a month to force someone to resign for expressing an opinion held by a majority of Californians seems to me to be pretty swift. I must be out of the loop because I don't understand just how ruthlessly these purges of dissidents must take place. You simply can't tolerate dawdling when the cause of tolerance is at stake, can you?

Mitchell Baker didn't explain what exactly these people were "hurt" about, much less whether they actually had any reason to be. They just were "hurt." Presumably, the appointment of a man with a different opinion than their own has that kind of effect on some folks. Notice also her subjective language about "staying true to ourselves" and the absence of any discussion of any kind of objective standard. Relativism reigns. We aren't even capable of discussing issues, let alone truth, as a measure of a statement's correspondence to reality.

This is not to say that there are no circumstances where it is not legitimate to take offense or be hurt. Of course there are. If Brendan Eich had been going around his office, yelling obscenities and being deliberately offensive to homosexuals—or anyone else for that matter—then certainly those people would be justified in feeling offended and even hurt. But outrage over your favorite internet browser company hiring a CEO who happens to support traditional marriage? Gone are the days when Americans took pride in the freedom to express their views and debate them openly.

Here's another example. As you are no doubt aware, World Vision recently changed their policy to allow the hiring of people in same-sex marriages. Then two days later, after being hit by a pang of Biblical conscience (or for the more cynical, being hit in the wallets as they saw their funding begin to collapse) they reversed their decision.

The reversal statement read, "We are brokenhearted over the pain and confusion we have caused many of our friends, who saw this decision as a reversal of our strong commitment to Biblical authority."

Others in the Christian community were also crying hurt. Rachel Held Evans, a popular writer who calls herself a Christian and skeptic, was somewhat caught up in a bubble of glee after the initial announcement, urging her readers to increase their donations to the organization. Then when the decision was reversed she lamented it, concluding, "This whole situation has left me feeling frustrated, heartbroken, and lost."

It is clear from these examples, and indeed many more, that taking offense and claiming to be hurt has become a tactic used by people to get their own way.

The same-sex marriage lobby in particular have turned this sort of whining into an art form, but Christians are also adopting the tactic, some naively, some shamefully.

The way it works has become all too predictable. Christians voice their commitment to Biblical marriage or dare to suggest that homosexuality is one of many Biblically defined sins. The same-sex marriage lobby responds by claiming to be "hurt" by the intolerance of the comments. This is supposed to make Christians feel guilty for offending them, and so they retract their statement, or retreat from their position. No further debate. Game over.

Yet the falseness of it all is seen in the ferocious reaction we are seeing towards people like Brendan Eich. People who are genuinely hurt do not tend to

want to ravage you and get you fired from your job.

My point in this article is not to point the finger at the same sex marriage lobby, although we should be aware of their tactics. So, I don't want them to feel hurt after all! Rather I'd like us to consider that the same tactics—albeit in a completely different context—are taking root in the Church. Person A expresses a perspective about something in reasonable terms, and Person B then appears to become very upset and claims to be hurt by what they have heard. Person A is made to feel guilty for offending them, and is forced to retract their statement, or retreat from their position. Debate is closed. Game over.

This is happening more and more in the Church. So much so, that you may know what I mean when I say that one of the most refreshing things in the Church is to find someone who disagrees with you on some things—perhaps some aspect of theology or how to practice our faith—but believes that some straightforward debate might be helpful.

Maybe both parties will learn something. Iron sharpens iron. Perhaps it will help us work toward maturity and unity. Perhaps it will help us get to the truth. And it can even happen without taking offence or claiming to be hurt during the course of the discussion!

It seems to me that one of the principal reasons that the Church is so fragmented at the moment is that we are generally incapable of having helpful debate. We have imbibed the worldly attitude that we have the right to feel “hurt” whenever someone says something that conflicts with our feelings. We haven't cultivated the Biblical virtues of humility and courage to deal with conflicts in a way that brings glory to God. We have also succumbed to the relativistic thinking of the world, having greater concern for how we might feel about a matter than the objective truth of the matter.

Left unchecked, this attitude ends up closing down debate, which right now is just about the last thing the Church needs. We need to learn to distinguish between when we are actually being personally attacked—to which we might well have the right to feel aggrieved and offended, and in which case we should go to our brother or sister to sort it out—and when the truth is at stake and our feelings are secondary.

We may have the right to feel righteous anger in certain circumstances where sin is involved—and then only for a short while (Ephesians 4:26)—but we don't have the right to feel hurt every time someone makes a strong argument, and much less when someone is merely expressing their opinions.

We also need to learn how to recognize this tactic when the world uses it. If we have personally offended someone and caused them hurt, we should apologize and seek their forgiveness. But if we have merely expressed a Biblical perspective—letting our speech be seasoned with salt and full of grace—only to be told that we have hurt them, we need to stand firm.

As I said at the start, faux-hurt has become a strategic weapon in the culture wars of the 21st century. Faux-hurt poisons the well of honest discussion and debate, and makes certain things unsayable and certain thoughts unthinkable. That is the whole point of the tactic. We should avoid it and seek out more Biblical ways of discussing things.

And if you don't agree with any of this, that's fine. Don't take offense, and I won't either. Let me know what you think. I'll bet we can have a fruitful discussion.

Rob Slane lives with his wife and five home-educated children in Salisbury, England. He is the author of *The God Reality: A Critique of Richard Dawkins' The God Delusion*, contributes to the Canadian magazine, *Reformed Perspective*, and blogs on cultural issues from a Biblical perspective at www.theblogmire.com.

“Christian HealthCare Newsletter. Samaritan Ministries, May 2014.

Are visits to Heaven for Real?

By John MacArthur

A pastor's book recounting his son's visit to heaven rose to the top of the bestseller list and became a major motion picture. Christians were quick to spread the word, but could such visits be for real?

In recent years, Christian booksellers have inundated the evangelical world with testimonies from people who say they visited heaven in near-death experiences. Their stories are full of specific details about what heaven is like, who is there, and what is happening in the celestial realm. But when we compare their claims with Scripture, it becomes clear that they are merely figments of the human imagination, not true visions of heaven as it is described in God's Word.

The best known of all these tales, “Heaven Is for Real,”¹ is to be a major motion picture, released in April 2014. It is the story of Colton Burpo, whose parents believe he visited heaven when he was just four—during surgery after a burst appendix nearly took his life. Colton's descriptions of heaven are full of fanciful features and peculiar details that bear all the earmarks of a child's vivid imagination. There's nothing transcendent or even particularly enlightening about Colton's heaven. It is completely devoid of the breathtaking glory featured

in every biblical description of the heavenly realm.

Stories like Colton's are as dangerous as they are seductive. Readers not only get a twisted, unbiblical picture of heaven; they also imbibe a subjective, superstitious, shallow brand of spirituality. Studying mystical accounts of supposed journeys into the afterlife yields nothing but confusion, contradiction, false hope, bad doctrine, and a host of similar evils.

We live in a narcissistic culture, and it shows in these accounts of people who claim they've been to heaven. They sound as if they viewed paradise in a mirror, keeping themselves in the foreground. They say comparatively little about God or His glory. But the glory of God is what the Bible says fills, illuminates, and defines heaven. Instead, the authors of these stories seem obsessed with details like how good they felt—how peaceful, how happy, how comforted they were; how they received privileges and accolades; how fun and enlightening their experience was; and how many things they think they now understand perfectly that could never be gleaned from Scripture alone. In short, they glorify self while barely noticing God's glory. They highlight everything but what's truly important about heaven.

It is quite true that heaven is a place of perfect bliss—devoid of all sorrow and sin, full of exultation and enjoyment—a place where grace and peace reign totally unchallenged. Heaven is where every true treasure and every eternal reward is laid up for the redeemed. Anyone whose destiny is heaven will certainly experience more joy and honor there than the fallen mind is capable of comprehending—ininitely more than any fallen creature deserves. But if you actually saw heaven and lived to tell about it, those things are not what would capture your heart and imagination.

You would be preoccupied instead with the majesty and grace of the One whose glory fills the place.

Sadly, undiscerning readers abound, and they take these postmodern accounts of heaven altogether seriously. The stratospheric sales figures and far-reaching influence of these books ought to be a matter of serious concern for anyone who truly loves the Word of God.

THE BIBLE ON NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES

There is simply no reason to believe anyone who claims to have gone to heaven and returned. John 3:13 says, "No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man." And John 1:18 says, "No one has seen God at any time."

Four biblical authors had visions of heaven—not near-death experiences. Isaiah and Ezekiel (Old Testament prophets) and Paul and John (New Testament apostles) all had such visions. Two other biblical figures—Micaiah and Stephen—got glimpses of heaven, but what they saw is merely mentioned, not described (2 Chronicles 18:18; Acts 7:55).

Only three of these men later wrote about what they saw—and the details they gave were comparatively sparse (Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1 and 10; Revelation 4-6). All of them focused properly on God's glory. They also mentioned their own fear and shame in the presence of such glory. They had nothing to say about the mundane features that are so prominent in modern tales about heaven (things like picnics, games, juvenile attractions, familiar faces, odd conversations, and so on). Paul gave no actual description of heaven but simply said what he saw would be unlawful to utter. In short, the biblical descriptions of heaven could hardly be any more different from today's fanciful stories about heaven.

Lazarus of Bethany fell ill and died, and his body lay decaying in a tomb for four days until Jesus raised him (John 11:17). A whole chapter in John's Gospel is devoted to the story of how Jesus brought him back from the dead. But there's not a hint or a whisper anywhere in Scripture about what happened to Lazarus's soul in that four-day interim. The same thing is true of every person in Scripture who was ever brought back from the dead, beginning with the widow's son whom Elijah raised in 1 Kings 17:17-24 and culminating with Eutychus, who was healed by Paul in Acts 20:9-12. Not one biblical person ever gave any recorded account of his or her postmortem experience in the realm of departed souls.

CROSSING THE BOUNDARIES

Far too much of the present interest in heaven, angels, and the afterlife stems from carnal curiosity. It is not a trend biblical Christians should encourage or celebrate. Any pursuit that diminishes people's reliance on the Bible is fraught with grave spiritual dangers—especially if it is something that leads gullible souls into superstition, gnosticism, occultism, New Age philosophies, or any kind of spiritual confusion. Those are undeniably the roads most traveled by people who feed a morbid craving for detailed information about the afterlife, devouring stories of people who claim to have gone to the realm of the dead and returned.

Scripture never indulges that desire. In the Old Testament era, every attempt to communicate with the

dead was deemed a sin on par with sacrificing infants to false gods (Deuteronomy 18:10-12). The Hebrew Scriptures say comparatively little about the disposition of souls after death, and the people of God were strictly forbidden to inquire further on their own. Necromancy was a major feature of Egyptian religion. It also dominated every religion known among the Canaanites. But under Moses's law it was a sin punishable by death (Leviticus 20:27).

The New Testament adds much to our understanding of heaven (and hell), but we are still not permitted to add our own subjective ideas and experience-based conclusions to what God has specifically revealed through His inerrant Word. Indeed, we are forbidden in all spiritual matters to go beyond what is written (1 Corinthians 4:6).

Those who demand to know more than Scripture tells us about heaven are sinning: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever" (Deuteronomy 29:29). The limits of our curiosity are thus established by the boundary of biblical revelation. In the words of Charles Spurgeon,

"It's a little heaven below, to imagine sweet things. But never think that imagination can picture heaven. When it is most sublime, when it is freest from the dust of earth, when it is carried up by the greatest knowledge, and kept steady by the most extreme caution, imagination cannot picture heaven. "It hath not entered the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." Imagination is good, but not to picture to us heaven. Your imaginary heaven you will find by-and-by to be all a mistake; though you may have piled up fine castles, you will find them to be castles in the air, and they will vanish like thin clouds before the gale. For imagination cannot make a heaven. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered the heart of man to conceive" it.²

What God has revealed in Scripture is the only legitimate place to get a clear understanding of the heavenly kingdom. God's written Word does in fact give us a remarkably full and clear picture of heaven and the spiritual realm. But the Bible still leaves many questions unanswered.

We need to accept the boundaries God Himself has put on what He has revealed. It is sheer folly to speculate where Scripture is silent. It is sinfully wrong to try to investigate spiritual mysteries using occult means. And it is seriously dangerous to listen to anyone who claims to know more about God, heaven, angels,

or the afterlife than God Himself has revealed to us in Scripture.

THE GLORIES OF HEAVEN

It is, however, right and beneficial for Christians to fix their hearts on heaven. Scripture commands us to cultivate that perspective: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on earth" (Colossians 3:1-2). "While we do not look at the things which are seen but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Corinthians 4:18). "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Philippians 3:20).

Such a perspective is the very essence of true faith, according to Hebrews 11. Those with authentic, biblical faith acknowledge that they are strangers and pilgrims on this earth (v. 13). They are seeking a heavenly homeland (v. 14). They "desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them" (v. 16). The "city" that verse refers to is the heavenly Jerusalem, an unimaginable place—the very capital of heaven. It will be the eternal abode of the redeemed. No wonder Christians are intrigued with the subject.

But no matter how much they might obsess over what heaven is like, people who fill their heads with a lot of fantastic or delusional ideas from others' near-death experiences have not truly set their minds on things above. If the inerrant biblical truth God has given us is the only reliable knowledge about heaven we have access to (and it is), then that is what should grip our hearts and minds, not the dreams and speculations of human minds. •

NOTES

¹ Heaven Is for Real: A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back (Nashville: Nelson, 2010).

² Charles H. Spurgeon, *The New Park Street Pulpit*, 6 vols. (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1856), 2:18.

Answers (in *Genesis*) Magazine, April-June, 2014.

From Ron Rumburg:

Let the Lion Out

My brothers in the ministry turn loose the Lion of Scripture today. This quote is taken from a series I'm doing on The Lamb of God in the Book of Revelation

on 1:9. RR

Through all the years there have been overt and covert attempts to undermine or destroy the inspiration of God's eternal Word. In the late 1800's in England among the Baptists there was what was called the Down-Grade Controversy. Pastor Charles Haddon Spurgeon fought the undermining of the inspiration of God's word. He pulled out of the Baptist Union in protest. His brother James and other men, whom he had helped, remained in and even voted for the declaration which would compromise the integrity of the Scripture. Then they proceeded later to censure Spurgeon. He was betrayed and belittled by those who were not fit to untie his shoes. This led to Spurgeon declaring, "I feel heart-broken." He stated, "If an act of sin would increase my usefulness tenfold, I have no right to do it; and if an act of righteousness would appear likely to destroy all my apparent usefulness, I am yet to do it." The conflict began to tell on his health. Spurgeon left London on October 26, 1891 to go to Mentone, France for his health. His parting words to friends seeing him off were, "The fight is killing me." He died at Mentone on January 31, 1892.

What should we do knowing the world feels threatened by the Word of God? We should do just as John did and keep on preaching and practicing the Word of God. Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones declared, "The authority of the Scriptures is not a matter to be defended, so much as to be asserted". I am reminded of what the great Charles Haddon Spurgeon once said in this connection: "There is no need for you to defend a lion when he is being attacked. All you need to do is to open the gate and let him out." We need to remind ourselves frequently that it is the preaching and exposition of the Bible that really establish its truth and authority."

John and all believers hold that the sole authority of the Word of God is in the Lord. Trouble can be expected from those who want to take God's place. This is the present problem in our country. This is why men will come to believe a lie.

OP-ED: SATANISM TO BE INSTITUTIONALIZED BY OKLAHOMA GOV'T

A STATUE OF BAPHOMETH WITH CHILDREN IS BEING PREPARED TO BE PUT INSIDE THE OKLAHOMA STATEHOUSE. I verified the source and it is a well-established media outlet that is global. HBO is Satanic and are the owners behind this Satanic

proselytism. Remember Obama when he said: "The United States is no longer a Christian nation."

After reading the news report from VICE.com titled Here's the First Look at the New Satanic Monument Being Built for Oklahoma's Statehouse.. you will understand why. (Copied.)

<http://alexanderbackman.wordpress.com/2014/05/05/op-ed%E2%96%BA-satanism-to-be-institutionalized-by-oklahoma-govt/>

Personal

Sorry this is so late, but things have been quite busy here.

Some time ago, I started complaining with letters to the editor about what the county commissioners were doing at taxpayer expense. People started contacting me about what they could do. I told them to contact the attorney general, which they did. I started going to the bi-weekly commissioners' meetings, and making public what they were quietly doing. The local paper comes out 8 or 9 days after the meeting. (BTW, I now video tape the meetings for a the local radio station. Thanks to you taxpayers, we are getting fiber optics in our county, and the radio station has a channel on it.) To make a very long story short, a local lawyer got involved. We formed a committee and filed a petition to have two commissioners removed. The petition was heard by a three judge panel over three days. Politics prevailed over facts, and the commissioners were allowed to stay.

My wife and I are poll workers, and when it came time for the commissioners to approve the worker list, they saw my name. They said that because I was one of those suing the county, I could not be paid by the county. When I told them we were not suing the county, but were suing the two commissioners, one of the commissioners blurted out, "We are the County". The president of the commissioners then told the county attorney to investigate me for any wrong doing whatever. The only thing they found was that our home church meets in our home. Therefore, the church and parsonage must be on the property tax rolls. I think the county assessor and I have worked things out.

The owner of the local news paper has taken a very strong stand against what the commissioners have done and are doing against free speech.

The legal battle still rages over the second half of the petition. The sad thing is that though it is well known public knowledge that the commissioners are misusing tax money, and everyone gripes about that misuse, no pastor has been willing to step forward and to protect

“the widows and orphans” from the abusive overreach of our local government.

Sadly, the commissioner that let his anger get out of control and told the attorney to find anything on me, goes to one of the largest churches in the community. He puts on his religious robe for Sunday and folks compliment his religion. However, on Monday, his unrighteous greed is the talk of the county. He has nice religious prayers at the commissioner’s meetings, yet he is known for devouring everything he can from those who are helpless before him. (Matt 23:14.) Those on his end of the county have nothing good to say about him.

99% of those who have spoken to us about the issue have agreed with our stand, but no one is willing to stand publically against the obvious corruption they see going on.

Check one of my facebook pages: facebook/hardycountyinformed

All in all, since the first of the year, things have been crazy busy here.

- **NEW GRANDCHILDREN.**

Two new little girls are now here: Faith Anne, and Charlotte Claire, with one more girl on the way this fall. We will have to go to South Africa to see Charlotte Claire.

After a severe winter for us here in WV, it is garden time again. Those who have the space need to plan a garden this year.

The severe weather and snow forced the deer to eat our evergreens we had planted for a wind break. The trees were old enough to start providing a good wind break, but some may not survive from the deer and cold.

- **MEMORIAL DAY IN WV.**

We have two cemeteries about ½ mile west of us. The first one is next to the 1909 Methodist Church. In that cemetery I could count a dozen of so Confederate battle flags decorating the graves. The next on up the road is small, and had several Confederate flags in it. This area was Northern Virginia when the war started. Stonewall Jackson came from this area. Lincoln is the one who encouraged what is now WV to secede from the Confederate nation in 1863. (facebook.com/ovid.need)

- **“CREDIT SUISSE GUILTY PLEA HAS LITTLE IMMEDIATE IMPACT AS SHARES RISE”**

(Reuters) - Credit Suisse saw little immediate impact on Tuesday after it became the largest bank in decades to plead guilty to a U.S. criminal charge and will pay more

than \$2.5 billion in penalties for helping Americans evade taxes. ...

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/20/us-creditsuisse-investigation-idUSBREA4I0E620140520>

Listening to NPR, May 20, 2014, I heard them talking about this fine. The bank was and is guilty of money laundering, yet no jail. The fine is just a drop in the bucket for the bank, and no jail for anyone. “Too big to fail; too big to jail.”

The problem is that though all the large banks are openly flaunting the laws, if the banks would be held to those laws and those responsible would go to jail, the entire world wide financial system would fail. It is built on lies and frauds.

Also, it was pointed out that 70% of the income of those huge banks come from swapping paper between each other. They produce no wealth, except for those doing the swapping. The “money” must come from somewhere, so they are robbing the “widow and orphan” – that is, those who are at the mercy of those with the power.

- **CHECK THIS OUT:**

Obama: “Ordinary men and women are too small minded to govern their own affairs.... Order and progress can only come when individuals surrender their rights to an all powerful sovereign”. Listen for yourself (20 seconds).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0K1IrDS4wdo&sns=em>

Oregon school district to offer condoms to students starting in 6th grade.

<http://news.yahoo.com/oregon-school-district-offer-condoms-students-starting-6th-002710449.html>

Sodomite Training for Christian Children

“GLBT” teachers conference in Boston reveals latest plans to push homosexuality even further into schools.

Well organized, fueled with taxpayer dollars. Exclusive report from MassResistance. Coming to your [Middle School] school soon.

<http://www.massresistance.org/>

What Has Your Faith Cost You?

April 10, 2014 · Coach Dave Daubenmire

Everybody wants to follow Jesus until they find out where He is going.

He is going to a cross. And He asks you to pick up yours and follow him. Daily. Luke 9:23-26

- **WHAT HAS YOUR FAITH COST YOU?**

Christianity American Style comes on the cheap. We

live in one of the few nations on the planet where you can serve a God who wants to “bless you.” American Style Christianity would not be able to be marketed in most places on the globe.

In fact, in many countries around the world Christianity is dangerous business. It is likely to cost you your life.

But should we be surprised? Isn't that what Jesus warned us? “For whosoever shall save his life shall lose it. But whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.” Lose your life? Are you kidding?

So much for “Your Best Life Now.” Only in America can that message be sold.

- **WHAT HAS YOUR FAITH COST YOU?**

I just googled Christian persecution around the world. Here is what I came up with. Spend some time searching these websites.

Those poor Christians around the world. If only they had been smart enough to be American none of this would have happened to them. They didn't understand that God had not appointed them unto wrath.

American Christianity is sweet...loving...prosperous. How could the rest of the world have gotten it so wrong?

I don't mean to bore you with Scripture, but for those who might be curious here are a few verses you might want to consider in regards to your own purpose driven life.

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair. Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. 2 Cor. 4:8-11

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. John 15:9

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Matt.

5:10-12

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Tim. 3:12

I know...I know...I wish they weren't in the Bible as well.

But here in the good ole U S of A we think persecution is when your co-worker says something mean to you... or when we can't put a manger scene on the courthouse lawn...or when they make you take down your picture of Jesus in your cubicle at work...or when your credit card is maxed out...or when Obama forces you to pay for birth control...

- **REALLY, NOW, WHAT HAS YOUR FAITH COST YOU?**

Give the book of Acts a good read. The New Testament Church was birthed out of conflict. The preaching of the Gospel was a costly venture. Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Testament...most of it from jail. The Gospel cost all of the Apostles their lives...except for John. He merely got boiled in oil. [Traditon says he is the only Apostle to die of natural causes, ed.]

- **WHAT IS YOUR FAITH COSTING YOU?**

All across America Christians are calling for God to intervene in this sinful nation. Unborn babies are being slaughtered. Pornography is the most lucrative business in the world. Marriage is under attack. The Gay Mafia is bullying their way to power. Jesus is thrown out of the schools. Chrislam is the new religion. The Federal Government is the most un-Christian corporation in America. “Conservatives” support the killing of the innocent in the name of “democracy.” Our dollar is worthless. Our President is the Son of Satan. Lies rule the day.

WWJD? In His day He took a whip and cleared the temple. He spoke out against the religious leaders. He died standing up for what He believed.

What did Paul do? Why he followed Jesus' example. He spoke the Truth. He rebuked the leadership. He loved not His own life. He became a bondservant of Christ. It cost him everything. He urged us to do likewise.

“Be ye followers of me even as I also am of Christ,” he exhorted us.

“Preach the Word. Be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.”

“Cry aloud, spare not, lift your voice like a trumpet and show my people their transgression...”

- **WWJD? HE WOULD SEND YOU.
What has your faith cost you?**

EZEKIEL 35:5

NOT A PROPHECY OF ENDLESS WAR BETWEEN JEWS AND ARABS

by Thomas Williamson

“Because thou hast had a perpetual hatred, and hast shed the blood of the children of Israel by the force of the sword in the time of their calamity, in the time that their iniquity had an end.”

This passage is part of Ezekiel’s prophecy against Mount Seir, another name for Edom. This verse is sometimes cited today as a proof-text for the belief that there will always be hatred between the Arabs and Israelis, and that there is nothing that can be done about it, no way for there to be peace between the Palestinian Arabs and the Jews, until Christ comes.

But where does this passage say anything at all about Arabs? Let’s look at the historical background with regard to the Edomites.

Edom, a nation consisting of the descendants of Esau, twin brother of Jacob and son of Isaac and Rebekah, was located to the southeast of Judah, in a rugged, mountainous region which is now the southwestern part of the kingdom of Jordan. Edom is sometimes referred to as Esau (Malachi 1:3), Idumea (Isaiah 34:5) and Mount Seir (Ezekiel 35:3). All of these names are interchangeable, referring to the same nation, Edom.

Genesis 36 describes the rapid growth of Edom. Deuteronomy 2:5 informs us that Edom’s territory was not part of the land promised to Israel and never would be: “Meddle not with them, for I will not give you of their land, no, not so much as a foot breadth; because I have given Mount Seir unto Esau for a possession.”

Throughout ancient history, the Edomites manifested their hatred against the Hebrews, as shown by their refusal to give Moses and his people permission to pass through Edomite territory in Numbers 20:14-22. However, in the time of Elisha, the Edomites joined in a military alliance with Israel and Judah, 2 Kings 3:9. Later, Judah defeated Edom in war, 2 Chronicles 25:5-12.

The major prophecies against Edom are found in Isaiah 34, Jeremiah 49:7-22, Ezekiel 25:12-14 and 35:1-15, and the book of Obadiah. Isaiah prophesied of God’s judgment against Edom about 700 BC, while Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Obadiah all delivered their prophecies of impending doom upon Edom around the

year 600 BC.

It would make sense to look for the fulfillment of these prophecies against Edom in that general time period of history. However, some have proposed that these prophecies against Edom are still unfulfilled, and that their fulfillment will take place in our generation, in the early 21st Century AD.

There are 2 big problems with this theory. 1. The Edomites no longer exist. It is impossible to punish a people who have already disappeared from the face of the earth many centuries ago. 2. The prophet Malachi, writing about 400 BC, speaks of God’s judgment of Edom as having already taken place. “And I hated Esau, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.” (Malachi 1:3).

History records that the Edomites were ravaged by the Babylonian armies in the early 6th Century BC, and that near the end of the 6th Century BC, the Nabateans attacked the Edomites, driving them from their mountain fortresses of Mount Seir, into the Negev Desert to the west.

The ancient prophecies against Edom were completely fulfilled, and there is no need to look for those prophecies to be fulfilled yet again today, especially since the Edomites no longer exist as an identifiable nation or ethnic group.

Some will say, “Are not the Arabs Edomites, and does not the ‘Curse of Esau’ rest upon modern Arabs?” Though the identification of Edom with the Arabs is a common traditional belief, there is absolutely no Scriptural or historical basis for this notion.

The Arabians are often mentioned in the Old Testament, as a nation totally distinct from the Edomites. For instance, the Chronicler mentions Edom in 2 Chronicles 8:17 and Arabia in 2 Chronicles 9:14. The Edomites were not Arabs - they were Edomites.

Obadiah prophesied that the house of Esau would be completely wiped out (v. 18). If he was talking about the Arabs, then Obadiah’s prophecy was false, since the Arabs are very much with us today. If Obadiah was talking about Edom, like he said that he was (v.8), then his prophecy has been fulfilled, since Edom has long since disappeared as a nation.

An examination of the standard reference works yields no hint nor evidence of any connection between Edomites and Arabs.

If the Edomites are not Arabs, then what did happen to them? We find the answer to that in the “Antiquities of the Jews” by the reliable ancient Jewish historian

Josephus, writing of Jewish conquests in the 2nd Century BC.

“Hyrcanus took also Dora and Marissa, cities of Idumea, and subdued all the Idumeans; and permitted them to stay in that country, if they would circumcise their genitals, and make use of the laws of the Jews; and they were so desirous of living in the country of their forefathers, that they submitted to the use of circumcision, and the rest of the Jewish ways of living; at which time therefore this befell them, that they were hereafter no other than Jews.” Chapter IX, (2).

William Whiston, translator of Josephus, adds this note: “This account of the Idumeans admitting circumcision, and the entire Jewish law, from this time, or from the days of Hyrcanus, is confirmed by their entire history afterwards. This, in the opinion of Josephus, made them proselytes of justice, or entire Jews.” Since that time, the Edomites have been part of the Jewish nation. Some believe that the Edomites are still identifiable today as Sephardic Jews, but this is speculation.

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary on Obadiah confirms that judgment came upon Edom in ancient times, starting with the Nabatean invasion soon after the time of Obadiah:

“Soon after this time, Edom was pushed out of her ancient home by the Nabateans, so that she had to move to the west side of the Dead Sea. Hebron was made the capital of her new home in south Judah. The Maccabees, especially John Hyrcanus (circa 125 BC), subdued and Judaized the Edomites. They were finally destroyed with the Jews in 70 AD by the Roman general Titus.” (According to the Catholic Encyclopedia, this conquest of the Edomites by John Hyrcanus took place in 109 BC).

Adam Clarke’s commentary, Matthew Henry, and Jamieson, Fausset and Brown all see the prophecies against Edom as being fulfilled partly by an invasion by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar in the early 6th Century BC, and partly by the Maccabees. Jeremiah 25:21 specifically predicts the humbling of Edom by Babylon, the same power that conquered Jerusalem 5 years before the destruction of Edom.

Some commentators believe that some of the early prophecies of judgment against Edom were fulfilled by the invasion of the Assyrian king Sennacherib, about 700 BC. There is no hint anywhere that any of these prophecies against Edom remain to be fulfilled in modern times, or that they can be applied to the current crises in the Middle East.

Some have thought that there will never be peace between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine, based on the statement of Ezekiel 35:5. However, we have seen that this passage concerning Edom has nothing whatsoever to do with the Arabs, whether ancient or modern. Scripture and secular history reveal no information about an inevitable hatred between Arabs and Jews over the centuries.

Through the years, Jews and Arabs have lived, for the most part, in harmony in the Middle East. On various occasions, Jews have fled to Arab and Muslim lands to escape persecution by the supposedly more enlightened European “Christians.” Many Jews fled to Morocco, Turkey and other Muslim lands to escape the persecution of the Spanish Inquisition in the 15th Century.

The current strife between Jews and Arabs in Palestine did not begin until the early 20th Century, with the rise of the modern Zionist movement, in which Jews laid claim to lands that had been occupied by Arabs for centuries. We have no way of knowing whether there will soon be peace between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine, but there is nothing in the Word of God to indicate that such a peace cannot take place.

The prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Obadiah against Edom should not be wrenched out of their proper historical context, and made to apply to modern peoples who have no connection with Edom.

The purpose of these prophecies was to assure the Hebrews, at the time that they were taken captive to Babylon in 586 BC, that Jehovah would not allow the covetous Edomites to occupy their land. God promised that the land of Judah would remain vacant, and that the nation of Israel would be restored on that land after 70 years (Jeremiah 25:11, 29:10, Daniel 9:2).

The application of those prophecies for today is that we should not be prideful as the Edomites were, believing that they were safe from God’s wrath and could never be overthrown in their mountain fortresses. Also, we should not be covetous as Edom was, nor rejoice when judgment and suffering come upon others.

The fate of Edom, and its complete disappearance from the family of nations, constitute a powerful reminder of God’s justice, His judgment, and the sure fulfillment of all that He has promised in His inspired Word.

Putin

On August 4, 2013, Vladimir Putin, Russian President,

gave this speech to the Russian Duma (parliament), and he got a five minute standing ovation when he finished.

“Any minority, from anywhere, if it wants to live in Russia; to work and eat in Russia, should speak Russian, and should respect Russian laws. If they prefer Sharia Law, and live the life of Muslims, then we advise them to go to those places where that’s the state law. Russia does not need Muslim minorities. Minorities need Russia, and we will not grant them special privileges, or try to change our laws to fit their desires, no matter how loud they yell, ‘discrimination.’ We will not tolerate disrespect of our Russian culture. We better learn from the suicides of America, England, Holland, and France, if we are to survive as a nation. The Muslims are taking over those countries, and they will not take over Russia. The Russian customs and traditions are not compatible, with the lack of culture or the primitive ways of Sharia Law and Muslims. When this honorable legislative body thinks of creating new laws, it should have in mind the Russian National interest first, observing that the Muslim Minorities are not Russians.”

(Copied)

Note that Putin hired an American public relations firm to advise him how to best appeal to the West. Thus, he is publically saying what Americans wish their own president would say.

It’s time to put the saturated fat theory to bed

by *Nina Teicholz*

“Saturated fat does not cause heart disease”—or so concluded a big study published in March in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine*. How could this be? The very cornerstone of dietary advice for generations has been that the saturated fats in butter, cheese, and red meat should be avoided because they clog our arteries. For many diet-conscious Americans, it is simply second nature to opt for chicken over sirloin, canola oil over butter.

The new study’s conclusion shouldn’t surprise anyone familiar with modern nutritional science, however. The fact is, there has never been solid evidence for the idea that these fats cause disease. We only believe this to be the case because nutrition policy has been derailed over the past half-century by a mixture of personal ambition, bad science, politics, and bias.

Our distrust of saturated fat can be traced back to the 1950s, to a man named Ancel Benjamin Keys, a scientist at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Keys was formidably persuasive and, through sheer force of will,

rose to the top of the nutrition world even gracing the cover of *Time* magazine—for relentlessly championing the idea that saturated fats raise cholesterol and, as a result, cause heart attacks.

This idea fell on receptive ears because, at the time, Americans faced a fast-growing epidemic. Heart disease, a rarity only three decades earlier, had quickly become the nation’s No. 1 killer. Even President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack in 1955. Researchers were desperate for answers.

As the director of the largest nutrition study to date, Dr. Keys was in an excellent position to promote his idea. The “Seven Countries” study that he conducted on nearly 13,000 men in the U.S., Japan, and Europe ostensibly demonstrated that heart disease wasn’t the inevitable result of aging but could be linked to poor nutrition.

Critics have pointed out that Dr. Keys violated several basic scientific norms in his study. For one, he didn’t choose countries randomly but instead selected only those likely to prove his beliefs, including Yugoslavia, Finland, and Italy. Excluded were France, land of the famously healthy omelet eater, as well as other countries where people consumed a lot of fat yet didn’t suffer from high rates of heart disease, such as Switzerland, Sweden, and West Germany. The study’s star subjects—upon whom much of our current understanding of the Mediterranean diet is based—were peasants from Crete, islanders who tilled their fields well into old age and who appeared to eat very little meat or cheese.

As it turns out, Dr. Keys visited Crete during an unrepresentative period of extreme hardship after World War II. Furthermore, he made the mistake of measuring the islanders’ diet partly during Lent, when they were forgoing meat and cheese. Dr. Keys therefore undercounted their consumption of saturated fat. Also, due to problems with the surveys, he ended up relying on data from just a few dozen men—far from the representative sample of 655 that he had initially selected. These flaws weren’t revealed until much later, in a 2002 paper by scientists investigating the work on Crete—but by then, the misimpression left by his erroneous data had become international dogma.

In 1961, Dr. Keys sealed saturated fat’s fate by landing a position on the nutrition committee of the American Heart Association, whose dietary guidelines are considered the gold standard. Although the committee had originally been skeptical of his hypothesis, it issued,

in that year, the country's first-ever guidelines targeting saturated fats. The U.S. Department of Agriculture followed in 1980.

Other studies ensued. A half-dozen large, important trials pitted a diet high in vegetable oil—usually corn or soybean, but not olive oil—against one with more animal fats. But these trials, mainly from the 1970s, also had serious methodological problems. Some didn't control for smoking, for instance, or allowed men to wander in and out of the research group over the course of the experiment. The results were unreliable at best.

But there was no turning back: Too much institutional energy and research money had already been spent trying to prove Dr. Keys's hypothesis. A bias in its favor had grown so strong that the idea just started to seem like common sense. As Harvard nutrition professor Mark Hegsted said in 1977, after successfully persuading the U.S. Senate to recommend Dr. Keys's diet for the entire nation, the question wasn't whether Americans should change their diets, but why not? Important benefits could be expected, he argued. And the risks? "None can be identified," he said.

In fact, even back then, other scientists were warning about the diet's potential unintended consequences. Today, we are dealing with the reality that these have come to pass.

One consequence is that in cutting back on fats, we are now eating a lot more carbohydrates—at least 25 percent more since the early 1970s. Consumption of saturated fat, meanwhile, has dropped by 11 percent, according to the best available government data. Translation: Instead of meat, eggs, and cheese, we're eating more pasta, grains, fruit, and starchy vegetables such as potatoes.

Even seemingly healthy low-fat foods, such as yogurt, are stealth carb-delivery systems, since removing the fat often requires the addition of fillers to make up for lost texture—and these are usually carbohydrate-based.

The problem is that carbohydrates break down into glucose, which causes the body to release insulin a hormone that is fantastically efficient at storing fat. Meanwhile, fructose, the main sugar in fruit, causes the liver to generate triglycerides and other lipids in the blood that are altogether bad news. Excessive carbohydrates lead not only to obesity but also, over time, to Type 2 diabetes and, very likely, heart disease.

The real surprise is that, according to the best science to date, people put themselves at higher risk for these conditions no matter what kind of carbohydrates they

eat. Yes, even unrefined carbs. Too much whole-grain oatmeal for breakfast and whole-grain pasta for dinner, with fruit snacks in between, add up to a less healthy diet than one of eggs and bacon, followed by fish. The reality is that fat doesn't make you fat or diabetic. Scientific investigations going back to the 1950s suggest that actually, carbs do.

The second big unintended consequence of our shift away from animal fats is that we're now consuming more vegetable oils. Butter and lard had long been staples of the American pantry until Crisco, introduced in 1911, became the first vegetable-based fat to win wide acceptance in U.S. kitchens. Then came margarine made from vegetable oil and then just plain vegetable oil in bottles.

All of these got a boost from the American Heart Association—which Procter & Gamble, the maker of Crisco oil, coincidentally helped launch as a national organization. In 1948, P&G made the AHA the beneficiary of the popular "Walking Man" radio contest, which the company sponsored. The show raised \$1.7 million for the group and transformed it (according to the AHA's official history) from a small, underfunded professional society into the powerhouse that it remains today.

After the AHA advised the public to eat less saturated fat and switch to vegetable oils for a "healthy heart" in 1961, Americans changed their diets. Now these oils represent 7 percent to 8 percent of all calories in our diet, up from nearly zero in 1900, the biggest increase in consumption of any type of food over the past century.

This shift seemed like a good idea at the time, but it brought many potential health problems in its wake. In those early clinical trials, people on diets high in vegetable oil were found to suffer higher rates not only of cancer but also of gallstones. And, strikingly, they were more likely to die from violent accidents and suicides. Alarmed by these findings, the National Institutes of Health convened researchers several times in the early 1980s to try to explain these "side effects," but they couldn't. (Experts now speculate that certain psychological problems might be related to changes in brain chemistry caused by diet, such as fatty-acid imbalances or the depletion of cholesterol.)

We've also known since the 1940s that when heated, vegetable oils create oxidation products that, in experiments on animals, lead to cirrhosis of the liver and early death. For these reasons, some mid-century chemists warned against the consumption of these oils,

but their concerns were allayed by a chemical fix: Oils could be rendered more stable through a process called hydrogenation, which used a catalyst to turn them from oils into solids.

From the 1950s on, these hardened oils became the backbone of the entire food industry, used in cakes, cookies, chips, breads, frostings, fillings, and frozen and fried food. Unfortunately, hydrogenation also produced trans fats, which since the 1970s have been suspected of interfering with basic cellular functioning and were recently condemned by the Food and Drug Administration for their ability to raise our levels of “bad” LDL cholesterol.

Yet paradoxically, the drive to get rid of trans fats has led some restaurants and food manufacturers to return to using regular liquid oils—with the same long-standing oxidation problems. These dangers are especially acute in restaurant fryers, where the oils are heated to high temperatures over long periods.

The past decade of research on these oxidation products has produced a sizable body of evidence showing their dramatic inflammatory and oxidative effects, which implicates them in heart disease and other illnesses such as Alzheimer’s. Other newly discovered potential toxins in vegetable oils, called monochloropropane diols and glycidol esters, are now causing concern among health authorities in Europe.

In short, the track record of vegetable oils is highly worrisome—and not remotely what Americans bargained for when they gave up butter and lard.

Cutting back on saturated fat has had especially harmful consequences for women, who, due to hormonal differences, contract heart disease later in life and in a way that is distinct from men. If anything, high total cholesterol levels in women over 50 were found early on to be associated with longer life. This counterintuitive result was first discovered by the famous Framingham study on heart-disease risk factors in 1971 and has since been confirmed by other research.

Since women under 50 rarely get heart disease, the implication is that women of all ages have been worrying about their cholesterol levels needlessly. Yet the Framingham study’s findings on women were omitted from the study’s conclusions. And less than a decade later, government health officials pushed their advice about fat and cholesterol on all Americans over age 2—based exclusively on data from middle-aged men.

Sticking to these guidelines has meant ignoring

growing evidence that women on diets low in saturated fat actually increase their risk of having a heart attack. The “good” HDL cholesterol drops precipitously for women on this diet (it drops for men too, but less so). The sad irony is that women have been especially rigorous about ramping up on their fruits, vegetables, and grains, but they now suffer from higher obesity rates than men, and their death rates from heart disease have reached parity.

Seeing the U.S. population grow sicker and fatter while adhering to official dietary guidelines has put nutrition authorities in an awkward position. Recently, the response of many researchers has been to blame “Big Food” for bombarding Americans with sugar-laden products. No doubt these are bad for us, but it is also fair to say that the food industry has simply been responding to the dietary guidelines issued by the AHA and USDA, which have encouraged high-carbohydrate diets and until quite recently said next to nothing about the need to limit sugar.

Indeed, up until 1999, the AHA was still advising Americans to reach for “soft drinks,” and in 2001, the group was still recommending snacks of “gum-drops” and “hard candies made primarily with sugar” to avoid fatty foods.

Our half-century effort to cut back on the consumption of meat, eggs, and whole-fat dairy has a tragic quality. More than a billion dollars have been spent trying to prove Ancel Keys’s hypothesis, but evidence of its benefits has never been produced. It is time to put the saturated-fat hypothesis to bed and to move on to test other possible culprits for our nation’s health woes.

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Health Care CEOs

Your High Health Insurance premiums support outlandish compensation for Health Care CEOs.

“Managed health care in the United States includes almost 1,000 companies representing revenues of more than \$500 billion per year. The largest companies in the industry include members of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Association, Aetna, Humana and UnitedHealth. Chief executive officers and senior leaders earn substantial compensation awards, including salary, bonus, options and deferred compensation plans...”

<http://financialservices.about.com/od/CompRelatedFA/i/Total-Compensation-Of-Ceos-At-Health-Insurance-Companies.htm>

1/3 the cost of “Insurance”, and a Biblical ministry. www.samaritanministries.org. Tell them the Needs recommended them and we get a “free” month.

Manifold Antichrists Are in This World

By Ron Rumburg

“Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time” (1 John 2:18).

Have you ever heard the old adage: “You cannot see the forest for the trees?” Perhaps there is another: “You cannot see the antichrists for the antichrist.” Sometimes Christians are preoccupied or fixated on certain issues. In these dark days perhaps some are looking for or anticipating the Antichrist but live among and accept the presence of multitudes of antichrists. Perhaps we should do some spiritual reconnaissance. John appears to be warning against what they had heard in the reality of what was the present situation—“there (are now) many antichrists.”

Who is an antichrist? John records, “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also” (1 John 2:22-23). Antichrists are liars and deceivers (2 John 7). Also antichrists are deniers of Biblical truth especially regarding Christ Jesus (2 John 9). Antichrists do not have a saving relationship with God through Christ.

John is writing this to “little children” or “dear children or little born ones.” Then by inspiration John pointed out—“it is the last time” or the “last hour.” This is the eschatological finality (eschate hora estin). Is he saying that we are in the final hour? “Ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists.” The prophetic expectation of the antichrist when surrounded by many antichrists is the picture here. The many antichrists are to be found in dishonest man-centered clergy, media personalities, political figures from the local to the national scene, educators with agnostic and antichrist agendas especially in the universities. They are on every hand. True Christianity is the only objectionable belief system in our culture while pseudo-christianity and every pagan belief is accommodated. The Bible is a banned book from the public square in America. One of the first acts of congress in the new nation was to purchase Bibles for those who did not have them. The reason was that our Constitution would only work in a nation with Biblical morality.

Then John said, “Whereby we know that it is the last

time.” “Whereby or for this reason we know it is the last hour.” Nathanael Hardy, writing in his *The First General Epistle of St. John the Apostle* written in 1656, declared:

We...have swarms of antichrists among ourselves; so that this age, and land, and city of ours is become a sink of filthy and loathsome heresies, yea, which is the worst kind of antichristianism, pseudochristianism is the brand of our times, whilst all these antichrists pretend themselves to be the only Christians, yea, some of them assert themselves to be Christified and deified; nay, one of them is so sacrilegiously impudent as to style himself the Christ [302].

Oh, the dishonor that is done to Christ by believers peering through the darkness looking for the antichrist while being overrun with them. Also, there is sacrilege done by those who desire to superimpose their ideas over Christ's. The Lord's people are sick of the blasphemies, heresies and dishonor done to our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ. We just need to be sure we realize and live in terms of our victorious Redeemer in the midst of a perverse and wicked world.

(There is a Chaplain's Conference at Providence Baptist Church in Harrisonburg, VA, June 19-20. All are welcome.)

Serious Consideration

What Will Happen When the Dollar Collapses?

WILL IT BE A FALSE FLAG ATTACK OR A CURRENCY COLLAPSE?

By Dave Hodges

Hitler initiated a false flag event and burned down the Reichstag to gain control over the German government. Could the same happen here in the United States? My initial response to that question is, does it really matter? The pattern of societal collapse and subsequent governmental enslavement of the American people will be largely the same whether the precipitating incident is a false flag attack or a currency collapse. For the purpose of simplicity, let us call the precursor event to all-out martial law, a currency collapse.

• THE FEDERAL RESERVE IS THE ENEMY OF HUMANITY

The Federal Reserve has been bleeding this country to death for a century. What the dollar bought 100 years ago, can only buy three cents of product today. This means that 97% of the value of our currency has gone

into the pockets of the Federal Reserve investors for the past 100 years.

I am amazed at the abject ignorance of the American people and that they think the Federal Reserve is actually part of the federal government. As we like to say in the alternative media, the Federal Reserve is no more federal than Federal Express. For the record, the Federal Reserve is a privately held corporation which sells stock to preferred insiders. In 1913, a small majority of Congress commissioned the Federal Reserve to control banking in the United States. Without a doubt, this was the worst decision ever made by an act of Congress.

• **THE DOLLAR IS DIVING**

The world is running from the dollar, or should I more accurately state the Petrodollar. Until recently, our dollar was used as the currency of international trading. Further, the dollar was also the reserve currency for oil. All foreign countries wishing to purchase oil from the Middle East, first had to purchase dollars from the Federal Reserve. After FDR took us off the gold standard during the Great Depression and Richard Nixon finished the task of providing America with a totally Fiat currency, the only backing that our dollar enjoys is that of being the reserve currency for both trading and for oil (i.e. the Petrodollar scam).

The major cause of the present economic calamity is fractional reserve banking. When the government goes to the private Federal Reserve and asks for one trillion dollars, the federal reserve gets to print one trillion for the government, at interest, and \$10 trillion dollars for themselves and to lend out at high interest rates. This inflationary practice erodes the value of your dollar while enriching our Federal Reserve investors. Ultimately, the currency upon which we depend on will be destroyed and life as we know it will be changed forever.

The practice of fractional reserve banking should be wholly illegal because it creates a state of permanent inflation for the benefit of a few and sets up economic demise for the many.

• **A CHANGING OF THE FINANCIAL GUARD**

The nations presently running from our petrodollar are India, China, Iran, Japan, South Africa and Australia. They have signed their own trade agreements and their currency of choice is no longer the dollar!

When the collapse of the dollar occurs, it will literally and figuratively come like a thief in the night, and I do mean overnight!

We are all familiar with the concept of inflation, which

is the intentional byproduct of the Federal Reserve. But I am not just talking inflation, I'm speaking about hyperinflation which is caused by the collapse of the value of the currency resulting in runaway prices. Here are three examples of how quickly a currency collapse can occur when a nation's money when its money no longer holds its value:

1. In Weimar Germany, from 1922 – 1923, prices doubled every three days.

2. In the modern era, in Yugoslavia from 1992-94, witnessed prices doubling every 34 hours.

3. In Zimbabwe, in the two year period from 2007 – 2008, prices doubled every 25 hours.

History is replete with examples of currency collapses and they typically follow very predictable patterns in which a nation unravels and social chaos, and many times, widespread violence and even genocide becomes part of the national landscape.

• **WHAT DOES A CURRENCY COLLAPSE LOOK LIKE?**

It can accurately be stated that a lot has been written and rehearsed by the federal government on the topic of the effects of a currency collapse and its subsequent impact on society. NORTHCOM, DHS and FEMA as well as other federal entities have practiced for this eventuality. In each and every scenario, the facts remain the same, human beings and society follow a very predictable pattern of decline when the currency of the day collapses. And normally, the currency collapse comes without any warning to the general public.

When George Soros recently pulled his money from the S&P 500 and from Bank of America, Citibank and JP Morgan, all Americans should have sat up and taken notice. Generally, when the currency collapses, a stock market crash is right on its heels. Because of the repeal of Glass-Steagall, a banking meltdown will immediately occur following the collapse of the stock market because since Clinton's presidency, banks are now allowed to loan money for investment in the stock market and for down payments for homes. It was irresponsible of Congress to repeal Glass-Steagall, because it made surviving an economic Armageddon a near impossibility just as it did during the 1929 crash.

In a currency collapse, your life savings will be wiped out. From this point on, the effect cascades like a roaring tsunami racing across the open ocean.

Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy demonstrated that gas stations will be bone dry within two days following a complete collapse. Subsequently, commerce will not move. If you are on vacation, you may not make it home.

On the second day following a currency collapse, being on the road will be a risky endeavor because of other desperate motorists who will lie in wait to rob other motorists of essential supplies and resources.

With no available fuel, the grocery and drug stores will be empty within one to three days. There will be no food to be had except for that which is decaying in your refrigerator and that in which you can beg, borrow and steal from your neighbors who will also be begging, borrowing and stealing from your other neighbors. If you have an adequate food and water supply, you better have an adequate gun and ammo supply in order to defend your assets. And when will you sleep? The protection of your critical assets is a 24/7 proposition. Therefore, having a cooperative survival plan is critical.

Without gas, people will stop going to work. Corporations will disappear overnight. Hurricane Katrina showed America that the police cannot be expected to stay on the job more than 48-72 hours as they will be home protecting their families and foraging for food and water like everyone else. The emergence of former police, now operating as gangs, will become common in an effort to secure the products which will ensure survival. Therefore, when your home is under attack, there will be nobody to call. Everyone will be on their own.

The elderly and the chronically ill will be the first to die. Too old to defend their assets, the elderly will find themselves overpowered as they will make easy preys of opportunity for the roving gangs. The chronically ill will have no way to procure their medication and even if they survive the looting rampage which will follow a currency collapse, these poor souls will perish without access to their life-sustaining prescriptions.

The money in your wallet will be useless. Cell phones will not work. Heating and air conditioning will not work either and depending on the time of year, the environment could prove deadly to untold numbers of people.

Water treatment plants will stop operating for the same reasons that you will not be able to find a cop during this crisis. Nobody will be manning the water treatment plants. Toilets will back up and diseases will spread like wildfire. Cholera will become the leading cause of death even surpassing homicide. Something as simple as toilet paper will become a prized commodity. There will be no trash pickup and more disease will result due to the increased rodent population.

Clean drinking water and hunger will become the dominant motivator in society. Roving bands of looters,

turned murderers, will sweep through neighborhoods seeking to obtain these critical elements of survival. Young women will sell themselves for a can of food for their children. Society will see the widespread loss of human dignity and self-respect.

Infanticide and euthanasia of the weak will become common events because there will be decided efforts to reduce the amount of mouths to feed. There will be the stark realization that the lights are not coming back on and the ensuing sense of hopelessness will lead to murder-suicides within families and simple incidences of suicide will be used as a means to escape the horrendous circumstances.

• **HUMANITY'S DARKEST HOUR**

There will come a time when all the available animals will be devoured and then there will be only one place to turn to for food. History shows that cannibalism will set in by the beginning of the third week. Extreme hunger will lead to humans hunting humans as an available food supply. There is a real possibility that this could begin to occur within 15-20 days following the currency collapse.

• **THE GOVERNMENT'S VERSION OF THE FINAL SOLUTION**

If the establishment military has properly planned, they will move into take control but they will not move quickly. The more death there is, the fewer people there will be to control. Government will typically move in with their solutions towards the end of the second week as has been the case in past economic collapses. The earliest the military could be deployed on the streets would be about four days from the event. Even then, the military cannot be everywhere. Christians should pay particular attention for when the Roman currency was debased in the third century, there was a revolving door for Roman emperors and Christians became the scapegoats for the economic issues.

To fully understand the relationship that will exist between yourself and the government, Google "Executive Order 13603". The reasons behind the creation of Executive Order 13603 will soon become readily apparent. You will retain ownership over nothing including food, water, guns, ammunition, your house, your car and even yourself. If you survive, you will be conscripted to work in some capacity in a specialty and location not of your choosing. The provisions for dealing with potential dissidents will go into motion under the NDAA which allows for mass arrest and secret incarcerations without due process.

There is one ironclad thing that you can count on, food and water will be used to control the people following the collapse of the dollar

• WHO WILL HELP US?

When past currency collapses occur, organizations such as the World Bank, the IMF, the UN and the US have appeared to render their predatory version of help in exchange for control of critical infrastructure and other capital considerations. Because of this aid, more people survived in the impacted areas. However, what happens when the top dog collapses? Who would be able to come and render aid in America? Even in a world disgusted by our imperialistic ways would offer help, could they? Not under the coming circumstances could anyone offer help because they will be in a worse situation.

In short, there will be nobody riding in to rescue the United States. Despite some rebelling against the dollar, the world is still dependent upon our currency. When the currency collapses it will pull the rest of world down with us. The subsequent collapse of global currencies will indeed constitute a major depopulation event and all the elite have to do is wait it out in places like the tunnels under Denver International Airport.

During this time, Americans will truly discover if there really are FEMA camps and what they will be used for. If people want to eat, they will be enticed to go where food is promised. Although you can count on the above mentioned events transpiring in the event of a currency collapse, what lies ahead is unknown to a large extent because the top dog will not have been economically obliterated in modern history.

• CONCLUSION

In addition to what has previously been written, in an economic collapse, we can expect the government to impose travel restrictions and martial law. Life, as we know it will not be recognizable.

Obama is willing to talk about the \$17 trillion dollar deficit. However, you never hear the government nor the media discuss the real debt? Our real financial obligations total \$240 trillion dollars through programs like social security, Medicare, public pensions and welfare. Subsequently, I want to make one thing abundantly clear; It is not a matter if we are going to have a currency collapse, it is when. And the when is much sooner than later. It could happen tomorrow, next month and even next year. We do not have two years left in the American economic engine. A currency collapse is nothing to look forward to, and people who

intend on surviving the event should be in the midst of their preparations.

http://www.shtfplan.com/headline-news/what-will-happen-when-the-dollar-collapses_06022014

Judgment is not coming—it is here

“World Bank warns of food riots as rising food prices push world populations toward revolt”

“(NaturalNews) A new report issued by the World Bank (1) warns that food prices are skyrocketing globally, with wheat up 18 percent and corn up 12 percent this quarter. Ukraine, one of the largest wheat exporters in the world, has suffered a 73 percent increase in domestic wheat costs. Argentina has seen wheat prices skyrocket 70 percent. ...”

EBT Cards *Underground irrigation aquifers being depleted *Genetically Modified Crops *Money Supply *Global seed supply being collapsed by biotech companies, &c.

Prepare now. Read the entire article at:

http://www.naturalnews.com/045369_world_bank_food_riots_emergency_preparedness.html#ixzz33fZL1CpX

And men WILL learn that The Lord, He is God:

“Daniel 4:34 ¶ And 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 [is] an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom [is] from generation to generation: 35 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?”

Isaiah 46:10, 11, Acts 4:28.

“Ephesians 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”

I found encouragement in this 1869 comment by Joseph Parker on John 20:15.

“Over sin we may weep night and day, but over God’s providence no tear of grief is either pious or reasonable. No doubt it is a providence full of mystery, a road of deep declivities and sharp curves, with many a jungle and many a den where beasts may lurk in cruel patience for their prey ; yet there is a foot-track through it all onward to the summer landscape and the harvest plain. Why weepst thou ? Surely not over the child who has gone to the care of the angels and the sweet rest of the pure skies ? Surely not over the disappointment whose sharpness has taught thee thy best prayers and mellowed thy voice to the tenderest music ? Why weepst thou ? If for sin, weep

on ; if for God, your tears are not vain only, but unnatural and impious. When Mary knew but part of the case, she wept over it; when she knew it all, her joy became almost a pain by its very keenness. So shall it be with ourselves in the revelations which are to come. We cannot stop the tears now—they will come—they must come ; but out of every tear shed over the unknown or misknown way of God there will come a new and surprising joy.”

(Preaching through the Bible.)

The Great Conflict

“Revelation gives us the head-on conflict of two great invisible empires, Babylon the Great and the New Jerusalem. Visibly, that conflict was manifested between Rome and the church. Rome steadily sought to exterminate Christianity, or at the last, to reduce it to the status of a Roman cult dedicated to providing social cement. Rome could not remain Rome and tolerate Christianity, a rival far more deadly to its basic structure than Carthage. Two very real empires were clearly in conflict. ...The two are rival empires, but Rome is dedicated to the hatred of God that spells death (Prov. 8:36), while the church is a tribe of the Lord, in exodus from the world of that empire to the land of promise and fulfilment. ... This conquest will be “little by little”: “And the LORD thy God will put out those nations before thee little by little: thou mayest not consume them at once, lest the beasts of the field increase upon thee” (Deut. 7:22). Social order requires the slow process, but it must be steady. The church cannot grow cold in its love and service (Rev. 2:4-5). It is not surprising, therefore, that the language of the letters [to the seven churches, ed.] is “taken from military usage”: “to him that overcometh” (2:7). Two empires are at war, each claiming title to the same cities and lands. ...

“I know thy works — by that I mean your labor and your patience.” [Rev 2:1] Labor is *kopos*, the “toil which exhausts,” and patience is *hupomone*, “triumphant fortitude.” The patience of the Church of Ephesus, however, was not with reference to heretics, who were sharply tested and put out; it had reference to their own testing under persecution, as the Roman Empire sought to destroy this bastion of Christ’s Empire (2:3). This persecution had weakened their love (2:4), in that believers had grown weary of trouble and weak in hope. Serving Christ had become all battle, and the important and necessary dimensions of hope and reward (Heb. 11:6) had grown dim and remote. But faith, hope, and love are different faces of a common fact, and a man cannot long remain in true faith without hope and love (1 Cor. 13:13). The loss, under fire, of hope and love meant a corresponding decline of faith. A church without lively hope is a church soon to be uprooted by Christ (2:5), and a church that rejects history as a dimension of faith, hope, and love is likewise

under judgment. The warning to Ephesus is therefore a very grave one: either move in the full confidence of faith, hope, and love, confident in Me as the ground of victory, or you move in terms of death and removal. Nevertheless, some of their “first love” remains in their hatred of “the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate” (2:6).

This sentence is a qualification of the earlier statement, “I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love” (2:4). One cannot love God without hating all that He hates and all that which opposes Him. Men who cannot hate are beyond love also, and incapable of either action or hope. ...

But the call to the church is to gird for continued action, to stand, fight, love, and hate as men. Men cannot refuse to be men, to seek flight into eunuchism, and be anything more than an abomination to God; neither can they seek to be more than man, to rise up into heaven and be as God. These twin attempts of apostate man, eunuchism and divinization, have only and always their outcome in death. The tree of life is only for those who, as men, overcome in battle, who enter in and possess the land under God. Man is called through battle to victory.

(R. J. Rushdoony, *“Thy Kingdom Come. Studies in Daniel and Revelation, pp.100-103. Ross House Books.*)

• POLICE INVESTIGATE CHURCH AFTER POSTER WARNING ABOUT HELL

Police have investigated a Baptist church over a poster which suggested non-believers would burn in Hell.

A 20-year-old passer-by complained the sign did not tally with the message “love thy neighbour.”

The poster read: “If you think there is no God, you better be right” with a picture of burning flames below the words.

Pastor John Rose of Attleborough Baptist Church in Norfolk, said the poster was an attempt to get people to engage with the Christian message and he regretted that it had been interpreted as inciting hatred.

A police spokesman said national guidance required them to investigate the complaint that the poster was offensive and the matter had been recorded as a “hate incident.” After talking to the police the poster was taken down.

<http://www.charismanews.com/us/44075-police-investigate-church-after-poster-warning-about-hel>