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SWORDS INTO PLOWSHARES

MICAH 4

Micah 3 closed with the destruction of the carnal Jerusalem, which represented the old apostate Israelite church, Acts 7:38. Israel's corrupt leaders had their own interests at heart rather than the things of God, so for their sake, the old Jerusalem was totally cast down, and plowed as a field. The prophecy was first fulfilled by Nebuchadnezzar, and finally by Rome.

Israel trusted in "The temple of the Lord" to immunize them from the judgment of God. (Jer 7:1-4, 26:18, 29:19.)

Josephus records the departure of the Spirit of God from "The temple of the Lord," and thus the end of all false hope in the Jerusalem "temple of the Lord."

"Besides these, a few days after that feast, on the twenty-first day of the month Artemisius [Jyar], (297) a certain prodigious and incredible phenomenon appeared; I suppose the account of it would seem to be a fable, were it not related by those that saw it, (298) and were not the events that followed it of so considerable a nature as to deserve such signals; for, before sunsetting, chariots and troops of soldiers in their armor were seen (299) running about among the clouds, and surrounding of cities. Moreover at that feast which we call Pentecost, as the priests were going by night into the inner court of the priests, [court of the] temple, as their custom was, to perform their sacred ministrations, they said that, in the first place, they felt a quaking, and heard a great noise, (300) and after that they heard a sound as of a great multitude, saying, "Let us remove hence." (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, Book VI. Ch V, 3. [pp. 824, 825]. Holt, Rinehard and Winston, NY.)

Chapter 3 closed with the destruction of the ancient, apostate Israelite church, and chapter 4 opens with the exaltation of the church that replaced it, the new "Israel of God," *i.e.* Gospel Church.

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Micah 4 opens with "in the last days" which started in the book of Acts. The promise in chapter 4 is that the Gospel Church shall be exalted, and the nations of the earth shall honor it. (Ps 110, 1 Cor 15:24-28, &c.)

Vv. 1-7 the last days is understood by even the rabbis themselves as *the days of the Messiah*. (MH.)

In the light of the New Testament, we understand that *the last days* refer to the days of the Messiah in which the Gospel Church is being built upon the Chief Cornerstone, which is Jesus Christ the Lord. He is daily *adding such as shall be saved* to that church. (Acts 2:47.) We live in the glorious day of the Messiah.

Last days... The rabbis were then and are still looking forward to the Messiah to return and establish his rule from Jerusalem with his rod of iron, and bring all nations into the fold of Rabbinic Judaism. Accordingly, those who define themselves as Jews today reject the Messiah as they wait for his first coming. Meanwhile, Zionist Christianity or the dispensational church has adopted the Jewish idea of the millennium; it anxiously anticipates Christ's second coming when he will rule from this throne in Jerusalem with his rod of iron during the 1000-year millennium. Over the past 200 years, Zionism has converted many Christian preachers and teachers to the Zionist faith.

Messiah: "Belief in the coming of the Messiah — a descen-

dent of the House of David who will redeem humanity and establish the reign of God on earth — has been part of the Jewish tradition since the days of the prophet Isaiah. The term “Messiah” is from a Hebrew word meaning “anointed,” referring to the ceremony by which biblical monarchs were selected. The Messiah for us is thus an extension of such biblical characters: a ruler who ushers in the righteous reign of God. Legend depicts a Messiah as a human being of very special gifts: strong leadership, great wisdom, and deep integrity. These will be used to inaugurate a great revolution that will usher in an era of perfect peace. The Messiah was sometimes envisioned as a leader and warrior who would fight the final battle against evil, rebuild the Temple that had been destroyed, and establish an ideal, just world.” (Rabbi Morris N. Kertzer, *What is a Jew*, pp. 118, 119. Touchstone Book, Simon & Shuster. 1996.)

Observe: what the rabbis say about the Jews’ expectation of the Messiah fits perfectly with what dispensationalism teaches. Rabbinic Judaism’s dispensational millennial idea was introduced by a son of a Jewish rabbi in the early 1800s at the Powerscourt Prophecy conferences.

There are presently serious efforts to raise money for Judaism’s “New Glorious Third Temple” in modern Jerusalem, and Christian Zionists are doing their part to help raise that needed money in order to help fulfill the Zionist dream. (International crowdfunding campaign to build Third Temple raises over \$100,000 <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/International-crowdfunding-campaign-to-build-Third-Temple-raises-over-100000-376610>)

Both Jewish and Christian Zionists understand Micah 4:1 as promising a new Third Temple, it speaks of the new Mount Zion

Vv. 1-4, Oehler comments thusly:

“...we are placed upon the heights of prophetic intuition in the descriptions of the latter days given Isa. ii. 2-4, and Mic. iv. 1-4. All nations are going to Zion, which is spiritually elevated above all the mountains of the world, to receive there the Divine law as the rule of their lives, while universal peace prevails under the rule of Jehovah (3). But it is especially in the Book of Isaiah, xl.-lxvi., that the mission of Israel as the servant of the Lord, to be the medium of revelation to all mankind, forms one of the fundamental thoughts. The [Hebrew word] is Israel as the covenant people, xli. 8 sq., xlv. 1 sq., comp. Jer. xxx. 10, xlvi. 27 sq., and in a twofold aspect: On the one hand, the nation as it actually appeared, the blind and deaf servant of the Lord, seeing many things but observing not, having open ears but hearing not, and for such unfaithfulness incurring judg-

ment, and falling into a state of utter ruin, Isa. xlii. 18-25 ; on the other, the servant is Israel according to its ideal, as a nation true to its Divine calling (comp. Ps. xxiv. 6 : Jacob = the generation of those who seek God’s face), and in this respect differing from the nation as it actually appeared, though at the same time one with it. The figure, moreover, represents first the servants of God collectively, that [Hebrew word] (§ 233. 1) from which the holy seed proceeds (see especially Isa. lxxv. 8 sq.) which is to form the stock of the new church, and then culminates in an individual (see § 233). This servant, the ideal Israel, is accordingly called, according to xlii. 4, to establish judgment in the earth, and the isles wait for his law. He is the light of the Gentiles, ver. 6 ; through him the salvation of the Lord is to penetrate to the end of the earth, xlix. 6, comp. with li. 5. In these passages, as well as in ii. 2-4, it is to be remarked that the kingdom of God is now no longer to be extended, as in older prophecy, by force of arms, but by the word. While darkness still covers the earth, and gross darkness the nations, the glory of the Lord arises upon Zion, and nations and kings then walk in this light, ch. lx. etc. The new temple in Jerusalem is thus called a house of prayer for all nations, lvi. 7. The latter passage, lvi. 3-7, is also worthy of notice in another respect (4). It has already been remarked that the law, Deut. xxiii. 4, which excluded certain nations from the theocracy, was abrogated to prophetic intuition. But here the law, Deut. xxiii. 2, which excluded eunuchs from the kingdom of God, is also abolished, while that in ver. 3 of the same chapter, by which no [Hebrew word] was admitted into the church, is annulled (§ 82. 2) by Zech. ix. 6.

In this consummation of redemption, the theocratic relation in which Jehovah in Old Testament times stood to Israel, is transferred to all mankind. The Lord has become the King of all nations, Zech. xiv. 10 sq. (ver. 9), comp. with Isa. xxiv. 23, Ps. xcvi. 10, xcvii. 1 (Ps. xciii. 99, Obad. 21). All the treasures of the world, all the most precious possessions of the Gentiles, now conduce to the glory of the Divine kingdom, and are used for the adornment of the city and temple of God, etc. ...” (Isa. lx. 9-11, and Hag. ii. 7) (Theology of The Old Testament, Gustav Friedrich Oehler, T. & T. Clark, 1873. Klock & Klock 1973 reprint, p 517)

V. 1, *Shall be established in the top of the mountains is understood in the words of Christ, upon this rock I will build my church.* And it shall be so well established that the *gates of hell shall not prevail against it.* (**Matt. 16:18. Ps. 87:1** *His foundation is in the holy mountains.* **Ps. 48:2** *Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King.*)

Shall be exalted above the hills is understood by **Matthew 5:14**, *Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.* Christ said, *behold, a greater*

than Solomon is here. (Matt. 12:42, Lk. 11:31.)

From a small beginning like to a grain of mustard seed, the Lord's church grows into a great tree. (Luke 13:19.)

V. 1, People shall flow into it is understood to be the Gospel Church. Christ told the people that *a greater than Solomon is here*, referring to himself. In that passage, He also said that *the queen of the south came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon*. (Matt. 12:42, Lk. 11:31)

And the Lord is adding to the church daily such as should be saved (Acts 2:47), and he will continue to do so until his predetermined number is filled.

Isaiah 5:25 *Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. 26 And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth: and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly: 27 None shall be weary nor stumble among them; none shall slumber nor sleep; neither shall the girdle of their loins be loosed, nor the latchet of their shoes be broken:*

From the ruins of the old "nation of Israel," the Lord promised **he would establish** and build a new "nation of Israel" on a new foundation which is the Jesus Christ. The citizens of that new nation will be chosen and gathered by the Spirit. He will *hiss* as a bee keeper hisses for his bees, and will gather the elect to the **ensign**, from far and near. (Isaiah 11:10, 12. See Isaiah 18:3, 30:17, 31:9, and Zechariah 9:16.)

A new humanity, or nation was established upon the seed that proceeded from God's promise to Abraham and Jacob/Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ is the ensign to whom all nations shall be drawn:

John 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

The nations are gathered to Christ through the preaching of the gospel and by the drawing of the Spirit. (Mat 28:19, 20)

Observe:

1 Kings 4:34 *And there came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had*

heard of his wisdom. 10:24 And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. (2 Chron 9:23)

Hence, we are told three times that **all the earth sought to Solomon**, and Christ pointed out the obvious—He is greater than Solomon.

In other words, the promise looks forward to the time of Christ when great numbers of people will flock to the church to hear the wisdom of God's law-word as expounded by God's men. And in that day of the promise, their *labour is not in vain in the Lord*. (1 Cor 15:58)

V. 2. The people of God will say, "Come with us. Let us go worship the Lord, hear his law-word and learn his ways so we can do them." And people will willingly go to learn the ways of the Lord.

Psalms 110:3 *Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.*

It is the Spirit of God that makes people willing to follow the Lord. It is the Spirit that draws them, and not the threat of a "a sword" as many of us were taught in Dispensational Millennialism.

He will teach us his ways. If one will be taught in the ways of the Lord, it will be by the Spirit of God himself.

The "Dispes" (MacPherson's term for Dispensationalists) cannot understand the workings of the Holy Spirit. They find it impossible to believe that man can change without the "aid" of a sword hanging over his head. However, we see here that a great multitude will flow into the Gospel Church because **the Holy Spirit** does a work in their hearts, and gives them the desire to *go up to the mountains of the Lord* to be taught *his ways*, so they can *walk in his paths*.

Vv. 3-7 speak of the power of the gospel. The primary difference in pre-mil and post-mil is the manner in which the Lord brings about the peace on earth. Does he bring it about with a literal sword with a "judge" on every corner to enforce his laws of peace and justice, or does he do it with his Spirit of Peace, the Holy Spirit?

If I remember right, the *dispes* teach that the redeemed will be exalted, so they will be the ones to enforce the law of love and peace with the sword, *i.e.* "Peace Keepers," who must carry a gun! Could the state's determination to pass and enforce "hate crime" legislation be a result of the dispensational belief that anti-hate laws enforced with a gun are the only means of bringing about peace? As are the people, so are their leaders!

Vv. 2-4 are almost identical to Isaiah 2:2-4, so we say that in the mouths of two or more witnesses shall any matter be established. (Deut. 19:15, Mat. 18:16, 2 Cor. 13:1.)

The parallel passage is Isaiah chapter 2:

Vv. 1, 2, *Isaiah saw*... God spoke to him through the pictures he placed in his mind. He wrote down what he saw concerning *Judah and Jerusalem*. He saw the timeframe as being *the last days*, the same timeframe used by Micah and Peter, *i.e.*, gospel age, Acts 2:17.

Isaiah 2:2-4 describes the Messianic time, a time in which the Kingdom of God, now despised, should be elevated above all the kingdoms of the world; a time when it shall exercise an attractive power over unbelievers, and should cause peace to dwell among them.

Acts 2:17 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 1 Corinthians 10:11* *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

Hebrews 9:26 *For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

Isaiah 2:2, the last days, or, the end of days. This period commences “with the beginning of the New Testament aeon, and terminating at its close (compare Heb. i. 1, 1 Pet. i. 20, with 1 Cor. xv. and the Revelation). ...” (Keil-Deilitzsch, pg.113.)

Both Isaiah and Micah, plus more Old Testament passages then we care to list here, speak of the coming glories of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gospel Church. The Old Testament prophets consistently pronounce terrible woes against apostate Israel, but those woes are interrupted with the promise of the “new Israel of God.” The citizens of that Israel have God’s laws written in their hearts, and His spirit gives them joy in fulfilling those laws. (See Zachariah.)

Micah 4:3

1. *He shall judge.*
2. *He shall rebuke many people.*

We saw from vv. 2, 3 that the nations of the world, even though not fully converted, will be impressed to follow after Christian manners. They will recognize God as God and honour Him as the ruler over all. They will do this by seeing his church as his lawful represen-

tative on earth. The law-word of God and its application will go forth in its purity from the church.

They see righteousness in the church, so when the nations have a dispute, they will seek to settle it through the application of the law of God. In that day, the law-word of God will determine what is right and wrong. The law-word of God will both *judge* and *rebuke*; it will result in the persons, and nations, correcting errors, and conforming to the law-word of v. 3.

A century ago, such judging and rebuking was common in these United States. In times past, Blackstone set the standard for English law. “Sir William Blackstone SL KC (10 July 1723 – 14 February 1780) was an English jurist, judge and Tory politician of the eighteenth century.” He is most noted for writing Commentaries on English law. His practical applications of God’s law influenced the major founders of this nation. It was his commentaries that established “common law” in America, *i.e.* common because it was Biblical, and people regarded the Bible as authoritative to settle disputes. Since WWII, there has been a very concerted and successful effort to destroy every remnant of “common law.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Blackstone. Some years ago, someone gave me a set of Blackstone Law Dictionaries.)

V. 3. Because they no longer use violent means to settle their disputes, they do not need the instruments of war. Therefore, they turn these instruments into instruments of peace and production. (Does Ezekiel 39 fit here? It takes a lengthy time—seven is a number of completion—to rid the world of the fleshly weapons, and replace them with the Lord’s instruments of peace. *By weapons*, I mean things such as the education and civil law systems.)

All these things we are considering must be in the context that our king is the King of peace, not a king of carnal warfare, though he certainly does use the carnal weapons of fallen man to accomplish his judgments when necessary, *e.g.* Nebuchadnezzar, Titus.

His standard is his law-word, but in that day, people do not line up with God because of a threat of their heads being chopped off, as many of us have been taught. Men abide by his standard because his laws are placed in their heart, and enforced by the indwelling Spirit of God. The Old Testament is full of the promise that the heart of stone (physical, warring heart) will be replaced by the heart of flesh (spiritual, peaceful heart,

controlled by the Prince of Peace).

Ezekiel 11:19 *And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 2 Corinthians 3:3* *Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. Acts 4:32* *And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.*

The gospel does not make men cowards, but it does make them peaceable. (MH)

V. 4. The peace here is the result of the law of God going out from his church in v.3; it is not a result of threats of physical punishment from the King of Peace. We must understand all of these passages in the light of all of the Scriptures. The gospel is the Gospel of Peace. King Jesus is the Prince of Peace. These prophecies which speak of the last days must be understood in the context of PEACE.

Consider: No doubt, a reason that we are not seeing the peace of v. 4 take place is that *his ways, the law* is not going forth from Zion, *and the word of the Lord from the new Jerusalem.* (Vv. 2, 3) His law is enforced by his Spirit of Grace. Professed faith in Christ without the works of the law is a dead faith, and will not deliver one from the wrath to come. (James 2)

Any idea of physical force required to enforce *his way and law* denies the power of the Holy Spirit to change hearts as his law goes out from the New Mount Sion. (Heb 12:22-24)

V. 4, shall sit every man in safety, and none shall make them afraid. It shall come to pass, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

Lord of hosts identifies Christ as a man of war. He speaks as the Commander of a great and mighty army. (Joshua 5:14, 15.) His victorious warfare against the enemies of Truth is carried out today through the preaching and teaching of the entire law-word of God. (2 Cor 10:4, Eph 6, 1 Thes 5, .. *War a good warfare*, 1 Tim 1:18; *endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ*, 2 Tim 2:3, *more than conquerors through him that loved us*, Rom. 8:37, &c.)

For the mouth of the Lord of hosts] And what better assur-

ance can we desire, since God can neither die, lie, nor deny himself; since, secondly, he is the “Lord of hosts,” and so armed with power to make good what he hath spoken. Peter had a will to deliver Christ from the Jews, but lacked power. Pilate had power to have done it, but lacked will. God lacked neither of these to do for his people, and to deliver them out of danger. Courage, therefore. (Trapp)

Though Christ referred to Himself as the Son of David, He also made it clear that He was *greater than Solomon*. (Mat. 12:42, Lk. 11:31.) Christ, as the Son of David, obtained peace through warfare against the great enemy, Satan, making an open show of his victory. (Col. 2:15.) Since that victory, he reigns from on high as the Prince of Peace. (Eph 1:20-23) He brings peace to the haunted soul, which results in peace with the Father, and with one another. Solomon was known for his reign of Peace, and Christ compares himself to Solomon, saying that he is greater.

V. 5, For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

People will not be forced to follow Christ, but the Spirit will turn their hearts to love and serve the King. (1 Kings 18:37, Philipp 2:13.) The Spirit will cause the number of non-Christians and the number of Christians to be reversed; Biblical Christianity will be the prevailing religion rather than humanism. There will be people still *walking in the name of their false gods*, but they will be the minority. However, the good news is that *Christians will, in that day*, have the same desire and dedication for their God as the pagans have had toward their false gods.

How many times have we said that if Christians had the same dedication towards the God of the Bible as do the pagans towards their god of Humanism, the world would be won for Christ almost overnight? That wonderful day is ahead, *for the mouth of the Lord of host hath spoken it.*

Isaiah 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14* *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

V. 5, for ever and ever. He promised to never leave nor forsake us. (Heb. 13:5.)

V. 6, refers to gathering the *outcasts of Israel* to the **Ensign**, Christ. His Elect are scattered world-wide;

they can be found in the farthest corners of the earth. In the light of the New Testament, v. 6 must refer to the new Israel of God, the Elect. They are gathered to the central location, Jesus Christ, by the preaching of the Gospel of Peace.

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

V. 7, 1 Corinthians 1 & 2 along with Hebrews 12:22 tell us that his reign is through his church – that is, through the preaching of the Gospel of Peace, and the working of his Spirit in the heart of believers.

V. 7, a remnant.

Romans 11:7 speaks of a remnant of the ancient national Israel, that will be called by the Spirit to follow the Lord God, Jesus Christ. Romans was written before the old carnal apostate Israel was destroyed in 70 A.D. (It is significant that the word “Jew” is not used in Romans 11. Rather, Paul refers to the children of Israel [Jacob] who were the remnants of those who returned from Babylon under Ezra and Nehemiah. After Rome destroyed national Israel, those of national Israel who were left by Rome became known as Palestinians.)

And her that was cast far off... The Gentile nations *who sometimes were far off* are now *made nigh by the blood of Christ*. (Eph. 2:13, Acts 2:39.) The elect of the ancient Israelites and the elect of the non-Israelites are united in Christ, and made into one nation; this union is explained in Ephesians 2.

A strong nation..., a new humanity in Christ. That new strong nation is the Gospel Church. It is called to be a militant nation under *the leadership of the Lord of host*. The army of God is to be trained to attack the very gates of hell with the Word of Truth.

The Lord shall reign... for ever and for ever, and Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. (Isaiah 9:7)

The new Mount Sion is the Gospel Church, made up of all the Elect of God.

V. 8, *O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion...*

This refers to old Jerusalem, the strong hold where the Lord’s flock was gathered. It flourished under David and Solomon.

The kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord’s prayer, *Thy kingdom come* refers to the kingdom coming to the *daughter of Jerusalem*, the Gospel Church.

“Being a continuation of vv. 6, 7, v. 8 continues to speak of Jerusalem’s destruction. It was exalted as the strong hold of Zion (David’s stronghold), but it went from dominion to destruction. And the promise is that David’s dominion over the kingdoms of the earth will be passed to the Gospel Church which is under Christ’s dominion. For the promise was that *the throne of his father David* would be given unto Him. (Luke 1:32.)

“Now this had by no means its accomplishment in Zerubabel; his was nothing like the first dominion either in respect of splendour and sovereignty at home or the extent of power abroad; and therefore it must refer to the kingdom of the Messiah (and to that the Chaldee-paraphrase refers it) and had its accomplishment when God gave to our Lord Jesus the throne of his father David (# Lu 1:32), set him king upon the holy hill of Zion and gave him the heathen for his inheritance (# Ps 2:6), made him, his first-born, higher than the kings of the earth, # Ps 89:27 Da 7:14. David, in spirit, called him Lord, and (as Dr. Pocock observes) he witnessed of himself, and his witness was true, that he was greater than Solomon, none of their dominions being like his for extent and duration. The common people welcomed Christ into Jerusalem with hosannas to the son of David, to show that it was the first dominion that came to the daughter of Zion; and the evangelist applies it to the promise of Zion’s king coming to her, # Mt 21:5 Zec 9:9. Some give this sense of the words: To Zion, and Jerusalem that tower of the flock, to the nation of the Jews, came the first dominion; that is, there the kingdom of Christ was first set up, the gospel of the kingdom was first preached (# Lu 24:47), there Christ was first called king of the Jews.” (MH)

The flourishing state of the kingdom, as it was under David and Solomon, which thing was accomplished for the Church by the coming of Christ. (Geneva)

V. 9, in her (that is, Jerusalem’s) judgment, she lost her king, and became a captive of the nations that at one time honoured her. Throughout her judgment period spoken of in the Old Testament, her pain is spoken of as a “woman in travail.”

Vv. 10, 11, she, Jerusalem, is carried out of her place, and taken to Babylon, where she must wait 70 years. At the end of the 70 years, she will be delivered from her enemies by the hand of the Lord. Her waiting will be like a woman in travail, wondering if her delivery will ever come.

Her captivity in Babylon was to have a happy end.

The Lord used Cyrus, who acted as God's servant, to deliver her. She was delivered, and went back to rebuild under Ezra and Nehemiah. However, while rebuilding, the surrounding nations gathered against her. (Ezra 3:1-5, &c.)

Cyrus' delivery was typical of our redemption by Jesus Christ, and the release from our spiritual bondage promised in the everlasting gospel, Luke 4:18, 19. (MH)

V. 12, the many nations are gathered against Jerusalem to defile her. Yet they do not understand the Lord's protection of Jerusalem. His protection leads to their destruction, *as the sheaves into the floor*.

In the secret providential workings of "his counsel," he unites the enemies of his people with one common goal; that is, the destruction of his people. As they take counsel together as to how to eradicate the people of God, God unites them together for their coming destruction. (Ps 2)

Revelation 17:17 *For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.*

"*As the sheaves into the floor*; a plain and very intelligible simile. The husbandman gathers the sheaves into the floor to thrash them; so God gathers, i.e. in due time he will do this, and bring his enemies and his church's enemies together, that they may be bruised, broken, and destroyed utterly, This seems to look to Sennacherib's gathering his power against Jerusalem, and the circumstances well enough suit this; yet is not this to be confined or restrained to Sennacherib, but perhaps to the slaughter made on the enemies in one hundred and twenty-seven provinces in Esther's time, looking to somewhat that is further off indeed running through all ages of the church, and shall be finally accomplished in the ruin of the antichristian kingdom: then shall that of #Zec 12:3 be fulfilled, when though all nations gather themselves against Jerusalem, yet it is that they may be cut in pieces; when the vine of the earth shall be gathered into the wine-press of God's wrath, #Re 14:19,20 19:15-21." (Poole)

V. 13 describes the destruction of the enemies of the church. Their unity together against Zion, the Gospel Church, will be their own destruction. Rather than breaking Jerusalem in pieces, they will be broken in pieces. (Isa 8:9.) The nations unite in a common goal, and that goal is to destroy Christianity. But God is the One who has united the nations against his Church, and his purpose is to destroy them. God has gathered them *as sheaves into the floor* for the purpose of beating them

as small as the dust of the earth. (MH)

Daniel 2:34 *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.*

The enemies of the church do not understand the purpose of the Lord, nor do they have any desire to understand him. But God's word reveals his purpose.

"Arise, and thresh, O daughter of Zion! instead of fearing them, and fleeing from them, boldly set upon them, and take the opportunity Providence favours thee with of trampling upon them. Plead not thy own weakness, and that thou art not a match for so many confederated enemies; God will make thy horn iron, to push them down, and thy hoofs brass, to tread upon them when they are down; and thus thou shalt beat in pieces many people, that have long been beating thee in pieces." (MH)

Isaiah 41:13 *For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. 14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. 15 Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.*

The Lord told His disciples:

Luke 10:2 *Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

In other words, the *threshing* will be accomplished by the strengthened and exalted church under Christ, but *threshing* is not done with physical force; rather, it will be accomplished through the force of the Holy Spirit. The command of Matthew 28:18-20 will be accomplished by the Spirit, and the nations of the world Christianized.

In Ezekiel 38, 39, the Lord brings the pagan nations against his church with the purpose of judging those nations for moving against his church. We understand that this passage cannot describe a carnal warfare, for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of the strongholds of the enemy.

In vv. 8-13, "We have a promise of the glories of the

spiritual Jerusalem, the gospel-church, which is; the tower of the flock, that one fold in which all the sheep of Christ are protected under one Shepherd.” (MH)

In Micah 4, we see the Lord’s deliverance of His Church from the clutches of the enemy, *i.e.*, the false teachers, and their false doctrines. Though the nations have looked with disdain upon the Christian church, and with good reason many times, the day is coming when his church will be exalted with Christ as its head. In that exaltation, God will judge all the nations of the world who have sought to destroy the Bride of Christ. That destruction will include the US. Moreover, he is the one who chooses the means of destruction. (Ps 47:4)

Zechariah 2:8 *For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.*

Zechariah refers to the Gospel Church, not to some Middle East nation that readily admits it is antichrist, and admits that it has no connection with ancient Israel. The US support of that antichrist nation has merited the hatred of all the Palestinians whose parents were then and are now being forced from their homeland in spite of the Oslo Accord. We are now about to reap the results of the modern heretical Christian attitude toward Zionism, as Israel, with US support, pushes for uncontested dominance in the Middle East.

The best thing the US could do is cut Israel loose, and separate from Israel’s Zionist projects. However, corrupt Zionist Christianity will not allow such a thing to take place, and the result shall be the same fate that is in store for the rest of the antichrist nations of the world.

Neither the Trump administration nor any future administrations can deliver any anti-Christian nations from the wrath of our Almighty God.

• **OUR SWORN ALLEGIANCE IS TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG AND FOR THE KINGDOM FOR WHICH IT STANDS.**

Hebrews 12:22 *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Cor 3:17, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16, Rev 21:22 And I saw no temple*

therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.)

• **CLOSING COMMENTS**

* When we see the prevalence of self-serving, greedy spiritual “leaders” and the damage they do to the church, we may wonder if the church will survive at all. But when we come to passages like Micah 4, and we find the promise that the Lord will not *cast off his people*. Ancient, carnal Israel stumbled that salvation might come to the Gentiles. (Rom 9:31-33) And likewise will the self-serving religious leaders of our day fall, so that God can raise up a new nation, a new generation, a new humanity who will love the truth and serve Him alone.

* Both Judaic Zionism and Christian Zionism go hand-in-hand, as they both look for a new glorious Third Temple, from where a mighty Warrior King will establish a bloody rule.

* We should be amazed that even God’s people who have been saved through the everlasting blood of Christ look for a greater than Christ to be restored – that is, a literal Third Temple greater than it was under Solomon. The Old Testament prophecy was that though the new Temple of God—the Gospel Church, which is the body of Christ—would start from a small beginning, it would grow to cover the whole earth. (Dan. 2:34, 35, 45. See also Matt 13.)

* Today’s immigration policies in the US encourage non-Christians to come to this nation, making this nation no longer a Christian nation. Obama imported Muslims, and settled them in small communities, giving them enough power to elect some Muslim representatives to Congress.

* One word from the Lord is enough to establish a truth, but this *word* of promise is repeated many times, probably for the benefit of his faithless people. When it was given to Old Testament Israel, things were quite depressed; as the New Testament Israel of God reads the promises today, things are quite depressed. Hence, the Lord repeats the promise of a coming Christian expansion when the consensus of the world’s population will be Biblical Christianity. Even at the end of the Revelation, sin is still present – there are still those determined to walk after their own gods, Revelation 22:14, 15.

* As the enemies of his church take counsel together as to how to eradicate the people of God from the earth God’s secret providential workings unite his enemies for the coming day of his wrath against them. (Ps 2)

* We see wonderful and encouraging promises in places such as Micah and Isaiah, where our God promises and assures us that the day is coming when Christianity will be the prevailing religion. Christianity will not be forced upon people from above, but will be gently brought into their lives from within by the Spirit.

* There it a vast number of promises, under both the old and new covenants, that assure us that the gospel church of the Lord Jesus Christ will be exalted before the end of these “last days,” and the nations of the earth will give their honor to it.

* It is the Spirit who must work to bring about the peace that is promised in passages such as Micah 4. How do all these things work together, a sovereign God’s predetermined counsel and man’s “free will?” Men’s only answer must be “his ways are high above our ways as the heavens are high above the earth.” Furthermore, we are forbidden to question with “what doest thou?”

May God see fit to revive the victorious Orthodox Christian faith.

Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

REAL ID

WILL “REAL ID” HINDER ILLEGALS?

It was not long ago that any idea of requiring a national ID to travel raised a loud public outcry. But it is now here without a whimper.

When we went to renew our driver’s licenses, we were met with quite a surprise. One of two licenses will be required as of Aug 2020. One is just a normal license, but the other will be required to enter any federal building, military base, or to fly commercial even within the US.

“A standard driver license or identification card can still be used for most functions, just not for airport security to fly commercially or access to federal buildings, including military bases.” One will need a passport to get the “Real ID” license, or he will need to carry his passport with him to get into a federal building or even to fly within the US.

You should get a passport regardless, for the passport will soon be required as your travel papers or documentation, as was required of Jews by Hitler’s Germany.

Similar travel papers and documentation will soon be required for US citizens, but not of illegals, with law enforcement regularly asking for our documentation. The excuse will be “We are looking for illegal aliens,” but the illegals will not be bothered. Let us not think for a moment that the illegal invasion through the Southern border is not without a goal, and it is being financed with an abundance of money.

“Real ID!” Hitler simply was too bold to soon in his move too require total registration of all people for “the welfare of the state.” He has been rightly condemned for his experiments on live individuals, and the removal of those he did not consider beneficial to the state. Where is the condemnation now for what is being done on live individuals, babies in the womb, for the benefit of the state? Hitler was simply before his time, but the time is quickly approaching, e.g. 1984. Hitler’s bold use of military force to expand the power and influence of the state is certainly being copied by the “hawks” in our government, as is his constant surveillance of every person who might harm the state.

Some years ago, I had a friend tell me that voters are like a flock of geese. Something gets their attention, they all raise their heads, look around, make a lot of noise, and then go on with their feeding.

“Big Brother” is watching, recording, and soon will be needed to approve every move we make. GPS records every move, as do cellphones. “Sci-Fi?” Hardly! “1984?” Surely.

Those of us born before 1950 could never have imagined what is now taking place just to travel. (At this point, car or rail is the best, but there are times when air is unavoidable. How many “false flags” have been needed to bring us to this point?)

“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.” George Orwell

Following in Hitler’s footsteps, the government indoctrination or reeducation of our young people has effectively obliterated our history of what “freedom” was like. I must say, however, that freedom was in the past freedom to do those things that are right as defined by the Christian God – the state protected that freedom. Freedom cannot be as it is defined today and is protected by the state; that is, freedom to follow one’s heart, for the heart is very deceitful, and seldom desires to do right; that protection means death to biblical freedom.

“If you want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on a human face—for ever.”

George Orwell, 1984

Hitler did his thing without international approval – Shame on him. What is taking place today is with that approval, and even with the encouragement of the “International Community,” and is far worse than Hitler ever did; multiplied millions of babies are being murdered, but not in the gas chambers, but in the safety of their mother’s womb. There is no limit as to what can be done in the name of the New World Order. Whatever fallen man can imagine to do in order to bring about the NWO is now justified.

The future has crept up on us with very little notice. The “boot” will get heavier as time goes on, until God says, “That’s enough.”

THE WAGES OF SIN (ARE PAID IN FIAT MONEY)

“For when thou shalt eat the labours of thy hands thou shalt be blessed.” — Psalm 128:2

“Here the Prophet . . . teaches us that we ought to form a different estimate of happiness from that formed by the world, which makes a happy life to consist in ease, honours, and great wealth. He recalls God’s servants to the practice of moderation, which almost all men refuse to exercise. How few are to be found who, left to their own choice, would desire to live by their own labour; yea, who would count it a singular benefit to do so! No sooner is the name of happiness pronounced than instantly every man breaks forth into the most extravagant idea of what is necessary to it, so insatiable a gulf is the covetousness of the human heart. The prophet therefore bids the fearers of God to be content with this one thing—with the assurance that having God for their foster father, they shall be suitably maintained by the labour of their own hands; just as it is said in Psalm 34:10, ‘The young lions do lack and suffer hunger, but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.’”
— John Calvin, Commentaries

By the time you realise you’re lost, you’re already in a mess. At that point hardly anybody [male] will stop and ask directions, let alone consult the map to puzzle out how he got lost. With a mess that big, an investigation into “how” would only waste your effort, right? So, mankind just wanders further and further astray,

rather than check the map to find out how we landed here in the first place, and how we can get out.

THE MONETARY MESS

The monetary and financial mess in America and the world has twisted and knotted around itself so many times that who could hope to unravel it? The people in charge certainly aren’t trying. They are completely satisfied to keep patching and re-inflating the system. Their lives most likely alternate smugness with terror—smug when they remember how long they have kept the scam going their way, and how many bullets they’ve dodged. Terrified when they reflect they have only two weapons, liquidity and blarney, and one day both may fail. Like Louis XIV, they content themselves mumbling over and over, “After me, the flood.”

I have spent a lot of time fighting in the courts for the sound money our common law and constitution guarantee us. I disremember how long I had been fighting when a frightening thought struck me: If the Sound Money Fairy suddenly did appear and wave her magic wand, what would we do? How would banks and businesses and just plain people handle it? Wouldn’t chaos result? How could we leap in a single bound from paper money and check books and fractional reserve banking and credit and debit cards and debt and deficit spending into gold and silver money?

Oh, but it doesn’t stop there, by any means. Out of the root of fiat and fractional reserve has grown a giant’s beanstalk of debt and credit that has entwined itself through and over and around every business and body in the world.

Sound money is not merely a legal problem. Certainly, it starts there, but it doesn’t stop until it passes all the way through every institution and custom and thought, finally sinking its sucking tendrils into society’s morality. Precisely here lies the problem’s heart. Inflation is a sin. When that sin is institutionalised in the heart and bloodstream of a society (civil government and the economy), then all society is poisoned.

But more than that, debt and inflation face us with a most practical choice, personally and nationally. Do we believe that we must obey the High King of Heaven, or do we believe the world around us? The High King commands us not to oppress our brothers nor to enslave ourselves. We are to obey, and let the Devil take the hindmost. The world whispers, “Fool! Follow the high road to riches. Wealth first, then morality.” Of course,

the world lies, but our deeds don't. We act because we believe, and the act betrays what we really believe.¹

ENTER THE SIAMESE TWIN

The fiat money system is the jugular vein of a far larger and all-embracing monster. Contrary to the blather you're taught in civics class, the United States is ruled by a single entity, a Siamese twin of government and big business. As a practical matter, these are one and the same creature, although they peek out through different masks and wear (as occasion demands) different robes.

Technically this system is called "fascism" or national socialism, but names like that, having hardened our ears and brains over the years, don't mean much. In fact, the spectrum of economic choices from socialism to capitalism and fascism doesn't offer much choice.

For the last 500 years thinkers and peoples have tried to run a middle way between socialism and capitalism. They tried to restrain the excesses of the industrial age, or predicted its death from those excesses. Malthus and Marx don't differ much. And the results of Marx that we know weren't much worse than the results of Adam Smith that we didn't know, varying only in the class of their victims.²

The last great heave of the "middle way" came when the South fought for its independence. A Christian, agrarian, hierarchical, familial society took on secular plutocratic capitalism and lost. Never mind, the same set of ideas has kept on popping up its head ever since, with distributism, agrarianism, and areas (much the better areas) of environmentalism today.

The longer I think on it the less it seems that there is any way between socialism, capitalism, and fascism, and the more it seems they are all one creature with several faces. After all, Capitalism begat Socialism, and Socialism begat Communism, and Communism begat Fascism, and Fascism begat the New Deal, and the New Deal begat the Welfare/Warfare State, which looks an awful lot like his great-great-great granddaddy. Passing over the accidental outwards and viewing the essential inwards, communism is only monopolistic capitalism raised to the nth power. The state is the sole monopolist in every business, the sole owner of all land, capital, and property, and the sole entrepreneur and employer (sort of like living in West Virginia and working for Peabody Coal Company). How does communism differ, other than degree and efficiency, from

the government-co-ordinated oligopolies that rule us throughout the West? They allow just enough freedom and competition to keep the system on its toes and the innovations flowing. For if the innovations ever stop flowing, the system stops growing, and the system must grow or die.³

All the talk about free markets from the right and social welfare from the left are just so much talk. The ideologues who promote them haven't a clue how cynically the plutocracy uses their naivete. Both free markets and welfare are merely patches aimed at rationalising the system—fixes to keep it from blowing up.

CANNIBALS ALL!

Purely by providence (You thought I was going to say "accident," didn't you?) I came across the work of the Virginian George Fitzhugh. Fitzhugh was an apologist for slavery and published in 1850 the first American book with the word "sociology" in the title: *A Sociology for the South*. He made several speaking tours through New England, and two years later he followed that up with *Cannibals All!*

Fitzhugh's work follows a simple thesis. Freeing the serfs in the middle ages created a permanent poverty and overpopulation problem. Where before the serfs had rights and were entitled to support and sustenance whether old or young, healthy or sick, afterward their employer had no such obligation and certainly no such interest. Freeing the serfs literally threw multitudes of unemployable or marginally employable people out onto their own—and onto the labour market. Because economic power divides so unevenly between capital and labour, and because labour is so numerous, capital would always bid down the price of labour to the lowest starvation wage. The entire social arrangement, the whole economy, had undergone a transformation from a familial system ruled by love to a commercial system ruled by greed.

Fitzhugh's proof presented itself in the world's most capitalist nation, England. The terrible poverty, privation, and maltreatment of free labourers there amply proved Fitzhugh's case.

Now we get to the fascinating point. The work of this obscure Southern apologist for slavery is kept in print by the Belknap Press of Harvard. But I jump quickly to conclusions. Maybe that is only coincidental. Maybe, on the other hand, our ruling elite, so many of whom pass through Harvard's ivied cloisters, believe Fitzhugh was

right. Maybe that explains their unrelentingly fanatical push against humanity, from population control to abortion. Maybe that explains the welfare state. Maybe that explains the full employment act of 1948. Maybe that explains minimum wage laws and early retirement and Social Security. Maybe the plutocrats want their slaves kept warm and cosy, and don't mind making the system pay for it. Maybe that keeps the restive starving proletariat from becoming restive and starving. Price, as they say, is no object, when somebody else is paying.

THE NATURE OF FRACTIONAL RESERVE

Think about how the fractional reserve banking system works. Joe Bleaux makes a deposit, say a hundred bucks. Your friends at the bank then loan out the money, keeping a small fraction "in reserve," say, 83¢.

Now think about it. A bank is not a vault. No bank makes money storing money. The real value of the banking franchise lies in the legal power to create money out of thin air (fiat money). Therefore logically and practically fractional reserve banks will always loan out the maximum amount the law allows. Banks will never leave reserves unemployed, given a choice. Can you imagine a gold miner sitting atop a working, profitable gold mine, but refusing to mine the gold. Nope. Not imaginable. So banks have every reason to encourage as many borrowers as possible—and no dirt to move.

Obviously, when banks promote borrowing, then the number of borrowers will proliferate. Slowly the custom and tradition which shunned debt is changed, until everyone is a debtor. Daddies urge their 18 year-old sons to get a credit card so they can begin building their credit rating. Now where is freedom, if "the borrower is the lender's slave"?

But the borrowing comes with baggage. First of all, it stimulates consumption, and consumption allows the system to keep on growing. But for us personally there is other baggage, the whole question of Christian character. What does the borrowing/debt mentality do to the Christian ideal of self-control? Self-denial? Moderation?⁴ Its purpose is the very opposite of those virtues. Its purpose is not to control natural appetites, not to bring your body into subjection to God and your will, but to turn loose and grab all the gusto you can get. Moderation? Hey, wassa matter witchoo? I'm being moderate. I only bought one twelve-pack.

THE MORAL QUESTION

Thus far we haven't run afoul of any moral ques-

tion—or have we? Here's where we bump face to face with the modern spirit—and God. For the Bible never keeps silent on any relation between man and man, and speaks quite loudly on dealings between borrower and lender.

Problem is, nobody today—Christian or unbeliever—wants to hear what it has to say. Borrowers don't want to hear "content yourself in God's provision" or "the borrower is the lender's slave."⁵ Lenders don't want to hear inflation and usury called sin.

Whoa! That's a mite strong, isn't it? "Sin"? Where's your proof?

Inflation is easy. That's just outright theft by fraud and adulteration, so start with the Eighth commandment,⁶ "Thou shalt not steal," and the Seventh Commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."⁷ Then work your way through all the applications of those commandments to honest weights and measures.⁸

Usury isn't quite as easy to prove a sin, and getting less so all the time. Twenty-five years ago most states had laws forbidding "usury," generally defined as "interest of more than 10% annually." But conquering greed has swept away even that feeble vestige, so that credit card companies are proud to brag that their interest rates are a "low" 18% and usury shops (check and title loans) can charge 800% [sic] yearly.

All Christians agree that no usury may lawfully be charged on loans to the poor. After that the free-for-all begins. Personally, as much as I have studied and wrestled with usury, I still come to the same conclusion (although close friends disagree): no Christian may charge interest on a loan to another Christian, regardless whether he's poor or not. Charging interest to unbelievers is not forbidden at all. The medieval church shared my opinion, but following Calvin, the Protestant world shifted its interpretation to forbid usury on poor loans alone. That opened the floodgates of usury, although Calvin surely spins in his grave to think of it, so opposed was he to usury.⁹

But don't let the real point get lost in the argument. American society does not argue the fine line that divides usury from not-usury. Rather, usury and debt enslavement have shot through the whole society like blue mould in Roquefort. The American system is debt and usury. Why? Because that is the necessary and logical unfolding of the fiat money and fractional reserve system. Your ship may pull out of New York harbour

two points off course, but by the time you get to the middle of the ocean, you're headed for Capetown instead of London.

THE WHOLE MATTER

I have tried to explain that the money issue cannot be teased out of the snarled mess of our financial system and its social progeny. Yes, it's true that a tiny group of plutocrats has been granted an unlawful and unconstitutional monopoly to create money. It's true this gives them a stranglehold on our economic life and our children's future. But from that starting point of fraudulent money, our nation's whole character has been foully corrupted. How many teaspoons of manure, after all, does it take to ruin a whole tanker-truck full of ice cream? It is not enough to fix the money issue alone.

Where does that leave us? After the 9-11 catastrophes, I wrote that our primary protection lay in distance. Here our primary protection lies in value.

Not value as the world calls it, but value as God defines it. Struggle against it as you may, there is no other protection for us than obeying God. The world always called that foolish, and tempted us with the thousand rewards of disobedience, but in the end they are gravel in the mouth and cold death in the heart.

What is the only practical, and practicable, solution for us? To seek out true value—value in our investments, value in our money, value in where we place our affections and efforts, value in how we live and bring up our children. Eternal value.

The Preacher explained it all long ago. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.”

Notes

¹ Luke 6:43-46.

² Now you lifelong ardent capitalists don't get too hot and start sending me smoking letters. I'm probably the only person in Tennessee today (besides my wife) who is not a communist, and who knows why. But I'm getting old enough to admit that the beautiful bride all the conservatives married had a thicker veil and a lot more warts than we realised. And, to borrow a phrase, “New capitalist is only old Commissar writ large. Or boyar.” Just substitute the oppressor of your own choice. Read Dickens or Fitzhugh or any of the English reformers of the first half of the 19th century for a flavour of what I mean. It was certainly no paradise for the labouring class in England, then the most capitalist country in the world.

³ That sounds contradictory, because the system is so given over to death when it comes to human beings. It makes constant war on motherhood and babies, and to hear them preach you'd think populousness was the Great Satan. On the other hand, the system itself must keep on growing or collapse. It must keep on bringing in low wage workers at

the bottom (Get China in the WTO!) or it strangles on its own domestic welfare solutions. It must keep creating money to pay the interest on the money it created earlier, or the bankruptcies will start an implosive chain reaction. If the borrowing stops, the banks die. Any way you look at it, the modern commercial system (call it capitalism or fascism or socialism) must grow or die. Like a cancer. Like Saturn, eating his own children. Once again, the truth slaps us in the face: “All those who hate me love death.”

⁴ This theme occurs throughout the Scriptures, beginning with the Tenth commandment, “Thou shalt not covet” (Exodus 20:17, Ninth and Tenth Commandments by the Lutheran and Roman Catholic count), but the New Testament plainly presents it as the flower of Christian character. Fair to say, it is the opposite of that self-indulgent and uncontrolled character American society produces and encourages. Carefully note that the Scripture does not condemn riches per se, but the wrong use and love of them. As C.S. Lewis remarked, all sin consists of inordinate love, i.e., an uncontrolled affection that fails to keep things in their proper order. Consider these passages, a mere brief sampling: Galatians 5:22-26, I Timothy 6:9-11, I Timothy 6:17-19, James 5:1-6, James 4:1-3.

⁵ Proverbs 22:7.

⁶ Seventh for Lutherans and Roman Catholics, Exodus 20:15.

⁷ Sixth for Lutherans and Roman Catholics, Exodus 20:14.

⁸ Leviticus 19:35-37; Deuteronomy 25:13-16; Proverbs 11:1; 16:11; 20:10-23; Micah 6:10-11; Amos 8:4-6; Ezekiel 45:8-12; Hosea 12:7; Mark 4:24; Matthew 7:2; Luke 6:38.

⁹ Passages relevant to usury include Exodus 22:25-27; Leviticus 25:35-38; Deuteronomy 23:19, 20; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Psalm 15:5; Ezekiel 18:8; Matthew 25:14-30, esp. 24-29; Luke 19:12-27.

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Editor's comments: **First**, property tax is the state's claim of ownership over all property; income tax is the state's claim over all labor. **Second**, “Captital” needs a permanent, low wage underclass in order to keep the system functioning; illegal immigration must and shall be maintained, with very little if any regard for qualifications or illnesses. The healthcare, the education, the welfare system, &c, are intentionally being overloaded so that all will collapse. Then out of the chaos, the NWO will emerge with all the answers.

Sent to me

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Socialist leaning states are attempting to abandon the Electoral College because their socialist candidate did not win the election. However, the Electoral College is clearly spelled out in the Constitution for a reason.

Reason for the Electoral College

In their infinite wisdom, the founders of our country created a structure called the “Electoral College” as a control system and to ensure the individual states were fairly represented. Otherwise one or two densely populated areas would speak for the whole of the nation. It was not created as a device to favor Democrats, Repub-

licans, Whigs, Tories or any other political affiliation. It was created as a system of “checks and balances” to guard against any small vocal area, with a specific agenda, speaking for the whole of the nation.

The following list of statistics should put an end to the argument as to why the Electoral College makes sense.

There are 3,141 counties in the United States.

Trump won 3,084 of them.

Clinton won 57.

There are 62 counties in New York State.

Trump won 46 of them.

Clinton won 16.

Clinton won the popular vote by approx. 1.5 million votes.

In the 5 counties that encompass NYC (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Richmond & Queens) Clinton received well over 2 million more votes than Trump.

In other words, these Five (5) counties alone, more than accounted for Clinton winning the popular vote for the entire country!

These 5 counties comprise 319 square miles.

The United States is comprised of 3,797,000 square miles.

When you have a country that encompasses almost 4 million square miles of territory, it would be ludicrous to even suggest that the vote of those who inhabit a mere 319 square miles should dictate the outcome of a national election.

Large, densely populated cities (NYC, Chicago, LA, etc.) do not and should not speak for the rest of our country...and somehow the geniuses who founded our country understood this and created a system to avoid that circumstance.

And now you understand the supreme importance of the Electoral College.

SUBJECT: TEACHING MATH

This is right on target.....

1. Teaching Math In The 1950s

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price. What is his profit?

2. Teaching Math In The 1960s

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is 4/5 of the price, or \$80. What is his profit?

3. Teaching Math In The 1970s

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80. Did he make a profit?

4. Teaching Math In The 1980s

A logger sells a truckload of lumber for \$100. His cost of production is \$80 and his profit is \$20. Your assignment: underline the number 20.

5. Teaching Math In The 1990s

A logger cuts down a beautiful forest because he is selfish and inconsiderate and cares nothing for the habitat of animals or the preservation of our woodlands He does this so he can make a profit of \$20. What do you think of this way of making a living? Topic for class participation after answering the question: How did the birds and squirrels feel as the logger cut down their homes? (There are no wrong answers, and if you feel like crying, it's ok.)

6. Teaching Math In The 2000s

Same question as number 5 but if you have special needs or just feel you need assistance because of race, color, religion, sex, age, childhood memories, criminal background, then don't answer and the correct answer will be provided for you.

7. Teaching Math in 2019

Un hachero vende una carrtada de madera para 100 pesos, El costo de la producciones es 80 pesos. Cuanto dinero ha hecho?

Copied

FYI as received

WIND POWER

Subject: Wind Farm economic and environmental evaluation

From a classmate.

The maintenance man told me they have 27 towers, that the installation cost was about \$ 2 million each, that each turbine is rated at 2.3 megawatts/hr but only produces an average of 1.3 megawatts/hr = 1,300 kw/hr. The blades are 187 ft long, the towers are about 400 feet high, and we measured the tower at the base at about 13 ft in diameter. The project pays about \$1 million in taxes to the community each year and has a 20-year lease.

A 400-foot-tall tower with a propeller is a very imposing structure when standing next to it. They are

huge. They make a whooshing noise and the turbine itself makes a little noise. The tips of the blades normally turn at 180 to 200 mph. The blades can ice up and throw ice a significant distance - hence each tower has a flying ice danger zone clearly labeled with signage.

I pay about \$.11 / kwh for my electricity here in western Colorado. So, beginning the process of calculating the profitability of these things, each tower could produce an average of $\$138 / \text{hr} =$ which would be $\$3,300 / \text{day} = \$1,204,850$ of electricity / year. Sounds good - so far.

[Note - Germany boasts about their renewable energy effort but Germans pay about \$.35 / kwh on average - 3.3 times more than we do here in Grand Junction - and their rates can get as high as \$.50 / kwh.]

The \$.11 / kwh I pay includes all the distribution costs, etc. The wind farm is not paid \$.11 / kwh for their electricity. According to the ISO Wholesale Power Market Prices, the electric company sells electricity for about \$.03 / kwh so they only gross about \$350,000 per year per machine. Still sounds good - so far.

[The landowner indicated he gets a royalty for each tower that comes to an average of approximately \$1,000/tower/month and gets paid separately for the power line easement across his land.

BUT WAIT! As they say on late night TV when selling you a flashlight:

All of that income happens only if the machines produce 24/7/365. They don't. Studies show the wind only blows the right speed (the wind can blow both too soft and too hard) so they only produce 18 to 19% of the time. Wow - all of a sudden, the economics go all to hell. Now, the income is down to \$65,000 / year / tower - and that's not even enough to pay the interest on the loan to construct the tower.

It gets even more complicated when you consider that the wind farms are being subsidized by the government with the Production Tax Credit. The PTC subsidy has been in effect now for, I think, 36 years. Congress has it [sic] changed it many times through the years but today the subsidy is about \$.02 / Kwh. So, the power company only has to pay tax on roughly 33% of what their product - i.e., the company only has to pay tax on \$.01 of the \$.03 it gets for the electricity. That is a huge subsidy!

T. Boone Pickens invested huge amounts in these

things and openly said that wind farms would not be economic without the PTC.

Then, I don't this know for sure, but I think the turbine manufacturers also are subsidized by the government.

However, the economics get worse - much worse. The maintenance man said the towers cost about \$2 million each - i.e., about \$54 million for the 27 towers. Each tower probably does cost \$2 million but there are many other costs associated with such a project such as land and ROW leases, power line construction, road construction, and security facilities. I found newspaper articles saying this particular wind farm cost about \$130 million. That's over 2 times the cost stated by the maintenance man and, the economics of this project go even farther down the drain.

In addition, the turbines are very technically sophisticated and require constant maintenance. For example, the oils used in the turbines are very temperature sensitive and, when the turbines are not generating power, they must be heated - with electricity. And, all those materials (and the land leases) have a life expectancy of 20 years. I wonder what happens after 20 years?

Another interesting thing is that the dynamics of the power market are shifting. It used to be that peak power prices occurred during the day. Now they occur at night when the renewable sources are not producing. Thus, renewables are now generating when the prices are lowest in the diurnal power price curve.

The bottom line back-of-the-envelope conclusion is that these things are not even close to being economic.

And, environmentally, they kill birds and bats - millions of them. I used to wonder how this could be happening. The propellers seem to be turning so slow. But the propellers are so big the tips of the blades are actually moving at 180 to 200 mph. No wonder a bird can't see them coming. And, apparently bats don't even have to be hit by the blade to die. The way bats are killed is that the passing blade creates a vacuum and the bats lungs explode even if he doesn't come into contact with the blade. And, yes, I know that cars and windows and cats kill birds but cars and windows and cats don't kill eagles and falcons and other protected birds and endangered species, and cars, windows and cats don't kill bats.

And, the stupidest, most injudicious, most reckless

thing of all is that the Obama administration granted permits to wind farms to kill birds and bats, including endangered species. All other industries are fined big dollars for killing birds – not wind power. What are we doing? Talk about double standard? How crazy is this?

(To maintain good public relations, a man was assigned to dispose of the dead birds every morning at the windfarm on Mount Storm, WV. Ed.)

Then, the coup d'état – this is the craziest part of all. We must keep 100% of the fossil fuel plants operating to generate electricity during the 80+ % of the time the wind is not blowing at the right speed. Wow.

We have built thousands of these things at a cost of many many billions of dollars. Why in the world are we doing this? I'm dumbfounded.

My numbers are admittedly “back-of-the-envelope and rounded” but the economics are not just bad – they are atrocious. That's about as far as I got with my “economic investigation” so, I turned to the literature. Here's what one expert says:

Are solar and wind cheaper than fossil fuels? Not according to a peer-reviewed article in the journal Energy, by D. Weißbach, et al. in 2013. They did a very detailed study of energy returned on energy invested and found that solar, wind and biomass energy sources, when backed up for night time, cloudy days and still air, do not even meet the basic threshold of returning the energy invested in their manufacture, operation and installation.

Reports that solar and wind capacity (see the IEA here) additions might be cheaper than natural gas or coal plant additions by 2020 (or some other date) ignore the fact that solar energy does not work at night and wind power does not work when there is no wind or the wind speed is not in the ideal range. Research shows that nuclear, hydroelectric, coal and natural gas all do well in producing reliable electricity; but solar, biofuels and wind cannot even pay for themselves.

The one scenario where solar might do a little better than break even is in the Sahara Desert, but still it is very close to the economic threshold.

In a recent report on the levelized cost of generating electricity, the EIA carefully separates the cost calculations for “dispatchable” generation, such as coal or natural gas, from “non-dispatchable” technologies such as solar and wind. For our grid to work properly electricity has to be available on demand and not just when

the wind blows and the Sun is shining. Since there is no currently available or planned technology for storing electricity at a grid scale, all solar and wind requires a 100% fossil-fuel, hydroelectric or nuclear backup. The EIA, unlike Weißbach, et al., does not add the cost of this backup into their comparison. So, why bother with solar and wind at all if you are going to have to build the fossil fuel backup anyway?

My conclusion (and his conclusion also): A total waste of money – a total boondoggle – profitable to companies only because we, the taxpayer, are subsidizing them – and why are we subsidizing them? - because it's green and it makes us feel good.

And because the burning of fossil fuels is purportedly causing global warming by adding CO2 to the atmosphere. Well, we are indeed adding CO2 to the atmosphere but the quantity is insignificant and CO2 is an insignificant greenhouse gas. CO2 has increased from 0.028% to 0.041% (an increase of 0.013%) in the past 140 years. The theory says man's 3% contribution to the 0.013% increase is causing global warming. How could only 3% of that miniscule 0.013% (i.e., a component comprising 0.00039% of the atmosphere) cause global warming? It can't. Even more absurd, we are supposed to believe that taxing that 0.00039% of the atmosphere will curtail the warming, slow the ocean level rise, and save the planet?

It's nonsensical, CO2 is, a fundamental requirement for life and the added CO2 is actually greening the planet – vegetation worldwide is growing about 20% faster and using less water than it was because CO2 is a fertilizer for plant growth.

As sent to me, Bro Need (Follow the money.)

Book Review

“WOLVES AMONG LAMBS – MY STORY OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND COVERUP IN THE CHURCH.”

By Thomas Williamson

Editor's note: We must realize that the abuse and coverup is a serious problem among all denominations.

“Wolves Among Lambs” is a new book, published in 2019, written by Pastor Stacey Shiflett of Calvary Baptist Church in Dundalk, Maryland.

This book is the latest entry in the ongoing controversy among fundamentalists and evangelicals, over the

question of whether sexual offenses and misconduct by the clergy, or by prominent lay people who are favored by the clergy, should be revealed and exposed, or covered up for the good of the ministry.

Actually, I thought this issue was resolved by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 5:20, discussing offenses by elders in the church, when he stated, "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear."

The argument can be made that when Paul said "all," he meant all active members of the First Church of Ephesus, not the entire world. But clearly the emphasis here is on open disclosure of serious morals offenses as opposed to cover-up. Likewise, in 1 Corinthians 5, Paul demanded that a sexual offense in the church of Corinth be publicly exposed and dealt with rather than covered up.

Paul discussed this scandal in a letter that would obviously circulate and be read in other churches - it was not to be hushed up using the excuse that it was just a "local church matter."

Nowadays, we would object to Paul publicly exposing the shame of the Corinthian scandal, and we might even misquote 2 Samuel 1:20, "Publish it not," a verse that has absolutely nothing to do with the question of whether the misconduct of clergy or prominent laity should be exposed. As for Paul, he did "publish it." Some observers may be shocked by "Wolves Among Lambs," in which Pastor Shiflett has published details of some recent scandals among fundamental Baptists, and has named names. In the opinion of this reviewer, Shiflett has handled this situation in a scriptural manner, and we need this type of exposure in order to deal with a problem of sexual misconduct among Baptists that is rapidly getting out of hand and generating huge amounts of damaging publicity for our movement.

Those who speak out against the epidemic of sexual misconduct and the accompanying cover-ups are routinely denounced as troublemakers, and accused of plotting to destroy fundamentalism. This characterization does not apply to Shiflett at all - on 3 separate occasions, the issue of Baptist clergy misconduct, and whether or not to report it, was forced on him as a most unwilling victim of circumstances.

Shiflett's first crisis came at age 17 when he was molested in his sleep by a ministerial student from a Christian college in South Carolina. He reported the attack, was supported by his parents and clergy, and the student was arrested, he confessed, and was sent to prison.

The second crisis came at age 22 when Shiflett was serving as a youth pastor in an independent Baptist church, and the senior pastor unsuccessfully solicited him to commit an unnatural sex act. Here again, his parents and clergy contacts supported him. The senior pastor was confronted, confessed to everything, and was removed from his pastorate.

However, his congregation was not informed as to the reason for his departure. He went on to another position administering a Christian school at an IFB church in South Carolina, and the pastor there retained him on the staff even after being warned by Shiflett and others of his misconduct. This offender, benefitting from the cover-up, remained in the ministry until his death.

National Headlines From A Sex Scandal - What To Do?

Shiflett's third crisis came in 2018, when as pastor of the church in Maryland, it was revealed that the previous pastor, Cameron Giovanelli, had allegedly had an adulterous affair with an underage teenage girl from the church. Giovanelli had gone on from there to serve as President of Golden State Baptist College in Santa Clara, California.

The story immediately spread on Facebook, the Internet and various news media. Shiflett and his elders investigated the accusation and determined that it was credible, and other women came forward with allegations of immoral conduct by Giovanelli.

When the story broke, Giovanelli tendered his resignation from Golden State. His superior, Pastor Jack Trieber of North Valley Baptist Church, did not accept the resignation immediately. He later accepted Giovanelli's resignation and banned him from the church property, saying that he had conducted an investigation that had revealed some unspecified misconduct on Giovanelli's part.

Shiflett documents in his book that there was no investigation by the church in California, and that Giovanelli was let go only after Shiflett advised Trieber that this scandal could not be covered up. Giovanelli landed on his feet shortly afterwards, being added to the pastoral staff of Immanuel Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida.

At this point, some readers will object that these scandals are absolutely none of our business. But it is this attitude and policy that enables sex offenders in the clergy to go from one church or school to another, seek-

ing and seducing married women and underage girls and boys.

Shiflett addresses this cover-up mentality on page 225: “We have been quiet too long. We have no problem calling out everybody else and their issues. But when it comes to saying something about our own hypocrisy, it pretty much amounts to treason. Let me be clear. It is not the ones who speak out that give us a bad name. It is the sin we remain silent about that is killing our testimony.”

Could it be that Shiflett has simply had an extraordinary run of bad luck in his personal experiences, and that such offenses as he has experienced first-hand are extremely rare among fundamental Baptists? If so, then “Wolves Among Lambs” is not a relevant or significant book at all, and its publication is at best a waste of good paper and ink, and at worst could be dismissed as a libel on the fundamental Baptist movement.

However, Shiflett makes it clear that the problem of sex abuse in fundamental Baptist churches is not a rare aberration - it is an epidemic. “If the number of cases that exist in the churches that I know about are any indication, then trust me - WE HAVE AN EPIDEMIC! **And again, I’m just talking about the independent Baptist crowd. I do not even want to think about what is going on with the other denominations and religions.** (Emp. added.)

“Sexual abuse is happening. There is no question about that. But that’s only half of it. The other half is the extreme measures that churches go to in order to cover it up. The problem with the whole cover-up culture is that it severely distorts the real numbers.”

Many fundamentalists were angered by the story in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram article on December 9, 2018 which cited 412 reports of sexual abuse in 187 IFB churches. They insist that this is not such a terribly high rate of incidence in such a large movement.

Shiflett discusses these figures, indicating that they may be only the tip of the iceberg of total abuse cases in IFB churches, since only 12% of actual abuse crimes are ever reported. “Do you realize what that means? It means that if the 412 cases that have been reported are less than 10% of actual cases, this problem could very well be affecting THOUSANDS of our churches.”

Shiflett then cites a Houston Chronicle article published on February 10, 2019 documenting more than

700 victims of sexual abuse in Southern Baptist Convention churches over a period of 20 years. The article stated that “about 200 offenders have been convicted or took plea deals, and dozens of cases are pending. They were pastors. Ministers. Youth pastors. Sunday School teachers. Deacons. Church volunteers.”

The book cites FBI figures showing that a child has a 25% chance of being molested, that approximately 1 in 10 men have molested children, and that they have only a 3% chance of being caught. The average abuser of girls had 52 victims, while the average abuser of boys had 150 victims.

Shiflett responds to the argument that he is “keeping people from getting saved” by exposing sin in the camp. “The old and worn-out argument has always been that if the lost in our community hear about sexual abuse in our churches, then they will die in their sins and go to hell. I want to clarify that. If the lost in our communities hear about sexual abuse in the church, and watch the church cover it up and blame the victim, THEN those lost people will probably die and go to hell.” (Page 200)

Shiflett reports that attendance, and expressions of appreciation for his church, increased after his honest and public admission of immorality by the previous pastor of his congregation. The cover-up can do more damage than the original offense, but Shiflett’s congregation found that honest exposure of the problem was beneficial to their ministry.

Restoring Our Credibility

“Wolves Among Lambs” is a vitally important book, because it shows the way to stop the epidemic of sexual immorality among the leadership of fundamentalist churches.

Shiflett calls for a redefinition of sexual abuse: “1. When a person in power makes unwanted advances on someone under him, that is abuse.

“2. When a person in power makes sexual innuendos to those under his authority, that is sexual abuse.

“3. When a person in power shows unwanted attention, grooms, pampers with gifts, touches, hints, flirts, manipulates events or has an agenda to break down the resistance of a person under him, that is abuse.” (p. 264)

Shiflett warns against pastors who take too much authority for themselves, making it possible for them to abuse that authority: “Nowhere in the Bible does a leader in the church have the right to be a dictator. The

pastor is commanded to rule (Hebrews 13:7, 17), but not to lord over God's heritage (1 Peter 5:2-3).

"He is commanded to be an example to the flock. The pastor is called an under-shepherd. His role is to lead the flock; not beat the flock. He is to feed them, love them, preach to them, teach them, warn them and protect them.

"Too many church leaders today have taken more upon them than God intended. They are accountable to no one. They do not answer to their church for their actions. They do not submit themselves to the Word of God. They are their own authority, above rebuke and correction.

"Their sense of entitlement has blinded them to their God-ordained boundaries. They feel they are immune to the biblical principles of local church accountability. The lines between right and wrong become blurred and they consider themselves the final judge....

"Many people lack the courage to confront these false teachers. These wolves are simply allowed to do whatever they want, ruin as many people as they want, pad their pockets, and answer to no one until they become more and more powerful. Rumors swirl with little or no effort to confirm them. People who make accusations are belittled and dismissed. . . . Many church members have been taught to never question authority. This is unbiblical on a number of levels." (Pp. 280-281,287)

He comments on the hero worship by some fundamentalists of Jack Hyles, deceased pastor of First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana, which has had a series of sex scandals over the years: "I will say this, though. It is sickening how many men there are who appear to be trying to outdo each other in their worship of Jack Hyles. Someone needs to inform these dear brethren that he is no longer with us and they can stop kissing his ring now. Their obsession with him is embarrassing." (p. 266-267)

Shiflett deals with the reality that some accusations are false, and how a falsely accused pastor should deal with that. He estimates that from 2% to 10% of abuse accusations are false.

He believes that those who come forward with accusations must be taken seriously, in spite of the possibility of a false accusation: "If someone has mustered up enough courage to speak up about an alleged abuse, that person deserves to be loved and protected until the story proves to be a false accusation.

"So many times I have seen a church throw the victims and their families under the bus in their efforts to 'protect the church.' Excuse me, but that little girl IS the church. That little boy IS the church. That young woman or that teenage boy IS the church." (p. 293)

He emphasizes that pastors must report all credible accusations of sexual abuse to the police immediately, but at the same time, the church leadership should be asking questions and seeking out the truth, instead of looking the other way.

He calls for a policy of closing the doors of our churches to known sexual predators: "As pastors and church leaders, we absolutely have to shut the doors of our churches to those with known sexual crimes and predatory tendencies." (p. 313) He does not believe in "second chances" in the ministry for those who have molested children.

Art Environment of Transparency

Shiflett calls for transparency, not only on matters of sexual offenses, but also in finances: "Show me a pastor who is hiding key information involving the finances, and I will show you a pastor who is hiding other things. ... I have found an astonishing correlation in men who have a sense of entitlement in the area of money, and a sense of entitlement in the area of sexual fulfillment....

"A major red flag in any ministry is extravagant and unnecessary spending. This is an indication of a low evaluation of valuable resources. It also reveals a disrespect for holy things. A church leader who wastes money will also waste people....

"Show me a waster, and I will show you someone with more serious problems. Show me a ministry whose leaders are allowed to pursue a life of luxury and grandeur, and I will show you a place that is setting itself up for a world of hurt." (pp. 332-334)

Shiflett calls for churches to remove any opportunities for sexual misconduct, or temptation to commit such misconduct. Potential victims of misconduct should be encouraged to speak out, and supported when they do so, rather than being silenced.

Pastors should be on their guard at all times: "When a man in the church keeps attracting the same handful of children to him before or after the church service, something is not right. When you notice a person who loiters in the restroom, something is wrong. When children are surrounding a man for no apparent reason, that should set off alarm bells.

“If a pastor is touchy-feely with the teen girls, someone needs to say something. I can assure you if my wife or I ever saw a man touching my girls, we would put a stop to it.

“I have seen pastors who are ‘huggers.’ They hug the women and teenage girls, touching their arm when talking to them. They shake their hands and won’t let go. They lean into them when they are speaking. Mark it down. Something is wrong.” (p. 343)

“The teen girls in my church will not get their need for hugs met by this pastor! I will not lay a hand on them. The only thing I will do is shake their hand, or the occasional fist bump. I believe it is unwise for a man to hug a teenage girl or a woman who is not his wife.

“I do not pay them compliments about their looks or their hair or their clothing. ... I see men taking another woman in a full, frontal embrace. Beware!

“I see men in some churches walking around and hugging all the women and girls. I was at a church once when they had what they called a ‘love offering.’ That was when everyone went all over the church hugging each other. Men hugging other men’s wives, and vice-versa. And trust me when I say that some of them were taking full advantage of the opportunity! You mark it down. That is trouble waiting to happen.” (p. 366)

“Sexual predators have a specific and unique approach. They build trust. They build relationships. They cultivate the respect and awe of their victims. They also groom the parents in many cases to build trust and cover their tracks. It is sad how many parents refuse to believe their own children when told of sexual abuse. The pedophile has executed his plan perfectly....

“One woman shared with me and my wife that in 9th grade, her pastor put his hand up her dress. She told her mom, and nothing was ever said or done about it. It turns out the mother did not believe her daughter. This boggles my mind. This level of gross negligence in adults is inexcusable.” (pp. 344-345)

Shiflett offers lots of practical advice to ward off predators. Church interiors, even parking lots and other exterior places, should be well lit. Security cameras should be installed. A safety team, possibly armed, should be appointed. Background checks should be done on all workers. “Let me be very clear about this. A person with a criminal background of sexual abuse should be forbidden for life from working with children.” This is a good book for all fundamental Baptist

preachers to read and consider. It has 400 pages and is available for \$15 by ordering at surewordpublications.com or by sending a check made out to Calvary Baptist Church at 7321 Manchester Rd., Dundalk, Maryland 21222. (Reprinted from Northern Landmark Missionary Baptist, May, 2019.)

Note: We are seeing among “Reformed Baptist” a wise move to a plurality of Elders, making themselves accountable to each another.

WEIRD & DEADLY WEATHER

High Death tornados. 1920 Palm Sunday tornado outbreak left over 380 dead, and at least 1,215 injured. I lived in Indiana when the Palm Sunday tornados killed 256 people in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana. I remember the day, though the tornados went a good bit north of where I lived in Indianapolis.

Job 38:34 Canst thou lift up thy voice to the clouds, that abundance of waters may cover thee? 35 Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go, and say unto thee, Here we are?

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

DEFINITION OF “BABY” REWORDED AT ABORTION DEBATE

A pro-life leader on a tour of college campuses was advised by a pro-abortion student that a baby who survives an abortion is not really a baby because he or she was not meant to survive.

Kristan Hawkins, who leads Students for Life of America, was speaking to an audience at Boston College when a student asked her about providing medical care for children apprehended at the U.S.- Mexico border.

“Do you believe that a baby who is born alive during an abortion at Planned Parenthood should get care?” Hawkins asked the student.

“No,” the student replies.

“So do you think it’s a baby?” Hawkins pressed.

“No,” the student replies again.

“Why?” the pro-lifer asks.

“Because they’re performing an abortion,” the student responds. “So, for that, they’ve already determined that

it's not a baby.”

Responding to the incident, Tami Fitzgerald of the North Carolina Family Values Coalition says the view that a baby that survives an abortion is not really a baby sounds like a philosophy in which truth is subjective.

“Whatever your truth is, is actually true, which we all know is not true,” she tells OneNewsNow....

Boston College, home to approximately 15,000 students, is a private Roman Catholic university.

— Bob Kellogg, onenewsnow.com

A NON-PERSON. LOGICAL IMPLICATION:

Hitler Lives On: A child born alive is declared dead by the doctor and mother. If the child is kept alive, then he/she has no legal standing as a person, for he or she is now a non-person. What can be done either to or with him/her since there is no binding laws that apply? Knowing the evil that dwells in the heart of fallen man, we cannot dismiss the most evil thoughts concerning a “non-person.”

ON THE MOUNTAINS LET ME TELL

1 Chronicles 7:2

A solitary medical doctor urged his horse forward into the cold and foggy November night. Behind him lay the safety, warmth, and comfort of a fort. Ahead lay danger, mystery, and a long ride back to his isolated Presbyterian mission station called “Waiilatpu” - the place of rye grass.

In the wee hours of the morning, Marcus Whitman rode into the mission compound at Waiilatpu. Ten years earlier, this had been a wilderness, inhabited only by wild beasts and wild men. Now there were cultivated fields, orchards, flocks of sheep, herds of cattle, and a gristmill. This clearing had come to represent a clash between two cultures. On one side of the clearing were the lodges of the Cayuse, where even now could be heard the muffled death wail of a bereaved Indian family. On the other side of the clearing were five covered wagons, a vivid picture of Westward expansion.

In the middle of these two cultures stood Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. Ten years ago, they had left their homes in rural New York to come into this wilderness with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Some Cayuse had welcomed their influence, had abandoned their pagan ways, and had come to embrace Christianity. They had ceased their witchcraft, their murder, and the horrid practice of burying alive their unwanted children. These Cayuse

had learned to cultivate the ground, to raise cattle, and to love their children.

But some Cayuse had not appreciated the Whitmans' sacrifice. Fear, resentment, and suspicion ran deep. In the last few weeks, muttered threats and secret powwows had broken out into open resentment. Indians were dying of a measles epidemic despite the best efforts of Marcus. It was a Cayuse custom to kill a “te-wat” - medicine man, if his patient died. Marcus knew that the Indians also resented the growing influx of white men from the east. But Marcus could not change history. He could only do what he could to help the Indians adapt to a changing world.

Marcus dismounted at the T-shaped mission house. It was late, and Marcus was tired. But he sent his wife, Narcissa, to bed so that she could get some needed rest, her last on earth. Marcus took her place attending the sick children, white and red alike, who needed his aid through the rest of the night.

Perhaps a great flood of memories swept over Marcus that night. He recalled the day when he, as a young medical doctor sitting in a church in rural New York, first heard the missionary Samuel Parker tell of the tribes beyond the distant Rockies. He remembered the day that Narcissa Prentiss had agreed to become his wife. He remembered how, at their wedding, Narcissa had requested that the congregation sing the great missionary hymn, “Can I Leave You?” He remembered that, by the fifth verse, the song was stifled by sobs as his courageous bride sang alone this stanza:

In the deserts let me labor,

On the mountains let me tell,

How he died—the blessed Saviour To redeem a world from hell! Let me hasten, let me hasten, Far in heathen lands to dwell.

They had already given so much. Narcissa, so young and eager, was already broken in health. Marcus too was worn with care and toil. And not far away, Alice Clarissa, their only-child, rested in a shallow grave—drowned in the Walla Walla river at the tender age of two. The Whitmans had sacrificed wealth, home, family, friends, society, and their own health to come and labor here. But they still had one thing more they could give. The supreme test of their loyalty would come with the dawn of a new day.

On November 29, 1847, a band of hostile Cayuse came to the main mission house, demanding medi-

cine. Marcus had dealt with angry men before, and he hoped for the best. He could not deny their request and reached for his bag. One of the Cayuse warriors stepped behind Doctor Whitman, drew a concealed tomahawk from his belt, and slammed the blade into the base of the doctor's skull. A shot was fired, and instantly all was confusion. Narcissa must have known what the gunshot meant. But she did not panic. Her first thought was not for herself, but for the little orphan girls of the Sager family who depended upon her. Bolting the door to her room, she gathered the children about her as a general massacre began outside. The fury of the murderers would not be restrained even by the sight of women and children. A gun was thrust into the window, and a bullet tore through Narcissa's shoulder, wounding her severely.

Several of the immigrants from the east were slain in the yard. A ministerial student named Andrew Rogers, a descendant of Scottish Covenanters, could have escaped, but instead he ran toward the compound to defend the women and children and was mortally wounded in the process. With his life's blood ebbing away, Andrew Rogers fought on. Getting Narcissa and the orphan girls upstairs into a loft, he kept the murderers at bay for over an hour with the broken end of a gun barrel.

At last, the wounded Narcissa was lured out of the house by promises of safety. On the way out, she passed her husband lying in a pool of blood. Amazingly, he was yet alive. Their conversation was brief, but he assured her of his love for her and his confidence in God's eternal purposes. As Narcissa came trustingly outside, a volley rang out and she was instantly pierced by several balls. She had given her all for the Cayuse. She had nursed the Indian children, taught them to read the Bible, taught them to pray, and to sing the name of Jesus. She had been faithful unto death, and now was to receive the crown of life.

The massacre did not end with the killing of the Whitmans. All the able-bodied men the Indians were able to find were massacred. Helpless women and children were savagely abused and held ransom for almost a month. Finally, the women and children were rescued by a series of thrilling events.

After a search that took several years, justice was eventually served upon all of the murderers. Some of the murderers were tracked into the Blue Mountains by a Christian Nez Perce chief, and some of the guilty

Cayuse were slain in battle. Five of the murderers, including the two men who personally slew Marcus and Narcissa, were brought to trial and convicted of capital murder by a jury that included converted Indians.

What became of the martyrdom of Doctor and Mrs. Whitman? Was their sacrifice in vain? Did a young doctor and his bride waste their potential when they went "far in heathen lands to dwell"?

The obscure mission station called Waiilatpu was obscure no more. Newspapers in the east were soon ablaze with the stirring account. In those days of slow mail, the newspaper was the way that relatives in New York first learned of the martyrdom. Judge Prentiss, as he read the headlines handed him by his grieving wife, must have remembered the image of his daughter, an eager young bride, singing:

In the deserts let me labor,
On the mountains let me tell,
How he died—the blessed Saviour
To redeem a world from hell!

A great wave of interest in missions swept across the United States in the coming years. Boys and girls, inspired by the courage of the Whitmans, took up the banner of Christ. Henry Spalding, a steadfast friend of the Whitmans who labored at Lapwai, a mission station east of Waiilatpu, returned to the field after the tragedy, reaping a great harvest that had been sown among the Cayuse and Nez Perce. A converted chief named Timothy became an earnest and dedicated Christian. Spalding's church in Idaho still exists to this day as a testimony to the martyred missionaries.

In the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. stands a statue of Marcus Whitman, clad in buckskins. He holds a Bible in one hand, and saddlebags full of medical supplies in the other. His life and influence have not been in vain for Marcus and Narcissa served a God who has promised, "My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11).

—Drawn from Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Opening of Old Oregon by Clifford Drury
Mighty Men Herald, Nov 2016. John Huffman. cbcbelleville@gmail.com

PERSONAL

I had nose surgery for a deviated septum. I cannot remember being able to breathe so well as I could after

that surgery. However, there was a sore spot on my nose from wearing my CPAP mask. They removed the sore spot, and found that it was a basal cell carcinoma, for which I must see another dermatologist.

Now that the nose surgery is out of the way, it is time to start considering the Spinal Cord Stimulator to help ease the pain in my back.

I am making slow progress on the “Judeo-Churchianity” book. There is so much important Judaic Zionism information available that needs to be revealed that it is hard to know where to stop. Please continue to pray that God will give wisdom as we put this together. Lord willing, I hope to meet with some local, knowledgeable men who will help me say what needs to be said in a consistent and sound biblical way. As much as possible, my goal is to stay above reproach by both the world and the church.

My wife and I joined an OPC church, for it is the only reformed Orthodox Church less than an hour from us. So, my “advisors” will be Presbyterians.

Even the U.S. Congress is making noises about serious fines against any statements or actions that can be considered “anti-semitic.” On the other hand, Congress supports all statements and actions against Christians.

We certainly live in troubling times, but our hope is in the Lord.

Please remember us in your prayers and in your giving.

Lamentations 3:26 *It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*

Global Warming

TOP CLIMATOLOGIST: OUR MODELS CAN'T BE TRUSTED

A leading climatologist is warning that nearly all of the computer simulations at the heart of the predictions of catastrophic, man-made global warming cannot be trusted with respect to a key measure.

At a meeting in the Palace of Westminster in London, Professor John Christy of the University of Alabama in Huntsville told MPs and peers the climate models are way off in their predictions of rapid warming at high altitudes in the tropics.

“They all have rapid warming above 30,000 feet in the tropics – it’s effectively a diagnostic signal of

greenhouse warming,” he said. “But in reality it’s just not happening. It’s warming up there, but at only about one third of the rate predicted by the models.”

Christy’s remarks were highlighted by the Global Warming Policy Foundation, a non-partisan think tank in London. The group says that while it is “open-minded on the contested science of global warming,” it is “deeply concerned about the costs and other implications of many of the policies currently being advocated.”

Read a paper presenting Christy’s key findings

Christy said a similar discrepancy between empirical measurements and computer predictions has been confirmed at the global level.

“The global warming trend for the last 40 years, starting in 1979 when satellite measurements began, is +0.13C per decade or about half of what climate models predicted,” he said.

But Christy says climatologists aren’t paying attention to the real-world data.

“An early look at some of the latest generation of climate models reveals they are predicting even faster warming. This is simply not credible,” he said.

Many other scientists have pointed to failed predictions based on the models, noting a “pause” for the past two decades in the rise of average global temperatures.

Scientists who promote the theory of anthropogenic climate change contend a rise in the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere due to human activity is causing catastrophic warming.

But a new scientific study found that the current CO2 levels of 410 parts per million were last seen on Earth 3 million years ago. Researchers at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research concluded that temperatures were up to 7 degrees Fahrenheit warmer globally and sea levels were 65 feet higher.

Meanwhile, the millennial generation in America apparently is taking the climate models to heart. Two-thirds have nothing saved for retirement, and there are indications that the predictions of doom by politicians and many climatologists are to blame.

<http://www.wnd.com/2019/05/top-climatologist-our-models-cant-be-trusted/>

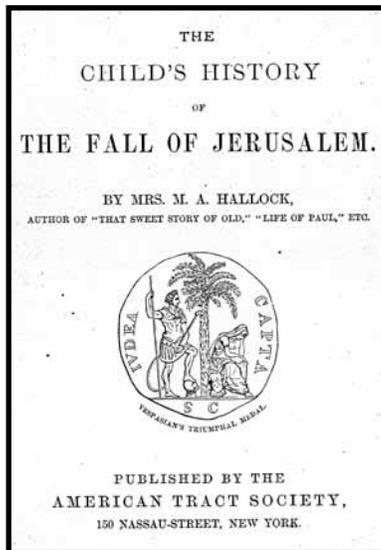
THOUGH HE SLAY ME

By Rev. R.J. Rushdoony

One of the greatest lessons of my life was to rec-

ognize the absolute priority of God and His law and His Word, which is what Calvinism is about. I never doubted the Bible, but, as a child, the Lord was there like my parents for me to love and obey and for them to help me. As I matured, I began to understand the Faith better when I reread Job, a decisive experience for me. A key verse was Job 13:15, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." I suddenly saw the true meaning of our faith. God has absolute priority. I live only to serve Him, and it is a sin to put oneself at the center of things.

No matter what, I must trust the Lord. I am simply



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His creature. I live to serve Him, not me. The heart of the Faith is not what the Lord can do for me, but what I must do for Him.

My faith must be God-centered, not self-centered. To the very end, I must love, obey, and praise Him with all my being.

We can never take precedence over the Lord. It is a sin to make our hopes too important. "Though

He slay me, yet will I trust in Him." Nothing in my life can take precedence over that faith.

We are not Calvinists until we affirm that faith. The Reformed Faith is not merely assent to certain sound doctrines, but radical submission to the God Who is absolutely Lord over us. I have wanted so much in my life that I did not get, but I have gotten what the Lord has willed that I should get. Not all of this has pleased me, but it has pleased and has served His holy purpose.

My word has meant nothing to God. Again and again, He has driven me to His Word. It is a blessed word, but sometimes a terrifying word as it undercuts my hopes and my word.

It is not easy to trust in the Lord when He is destroying our hopes and undercutting our stands, but the alternative is terrifying. We can safely stand only on God's ground.

Memorize that simple sentence of Job 13:15 and repeat it in your private trials. It will give you strength because it will teach you true trust. It is a verse to live

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and die by.

That verse tells us Who is God, and how to serve Him. It speaks of the priority of God and confounds our pretensions. Believe and obey; believe and live.

January 2001 Chalcedon Report

LETTER

Brother Ovid, I was studying this morning and read again your booklet, The Gospel Perverted and wanted to say thank you for sharing this much needed truth, may God continue to use you and bless you, thank you. Cleve Morton

BOOKLETS BY THOMAS WILLIAMSON

Several folks have complemented Mr. Williamson's writing. I have two small booklets authored by Mr. Williamson that I will send postpaid upon request:

"Mission Accomplished. What Christ achieved as a result of his first coming, death and resurrection. *Prophecies Fulfilled * Kingdom of God established * Christ given all power on heaven and earth * Satan overthrown * Throne of David established forever" & **"Defining Our Terms** – Essays in New Testament Prophecy"

All articles by Bro Need unless otherwise noted. Check our web site for more theological articals than you care to read.

Our informal Home Bible Study in Romans is at sermonaudio.com/providence

Several weeks ago our web site went down without warning. It has now been updated, and is on line again. When the web site went down, so did the [@biblicalexaminer.org](http://biblicalexaminer.org). We have not got it working properly yet. Use ovid.need@gmail.com for now.