

# The Biblical Examiner

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## DEAD BONES

EZEKIEL 37:1-14



### *Replacement Theology*

Some time ago, my wife and I were listening to a Christian radio station. On this program, the speaker was bemoaning the fact that *Replacement Theology* is taking over the church, with about 60% having changed their view concerning Israel. *Replacement Theology* means that the New Testament Gospel Church has replaced Old Testament Israel in God's order of history. Paul clearly explains *Replacement Theology* in his letter to the Galatians, as he calls the new Church of Jesus Christ, *the Israel of God*.

Their anger over the departure from Dispensational Millennial faith by the church was quite apparent, as they called down fire (Luke 9:51-56) upon those who would abandon that faith. They used every derogatory name they could over a Christian radio station. The spirit in their anger was clearly not a spirit of Christ, as they called down the judgment of God upon those who have abandoned and are abandoning the modern nation of Israel. They said those people are departing from the word of God, and they are interfering with God's plan for history, and many more wild claims. They complained that *Replacement Theology* abandons the Abrahamic Covenant, the many prophecies of Isa-

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iah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and many of the minor prophets.

We see from Paul's letters, especially in his letter to Ephesus, that Paul is the one who introduces and develops *Replacement Theology*, as he reaches back to the Old Testament prophecies that were given to national Israel and clearly applies them to the New Testament *Israel of God*. Here are at least three points given by Paul that present *Replacement Theology*.

**1. The exaltation and enthronement of Christ** to the place of all power and authority according to the Davidic Covenant (Eph 1:20-22, 2 Sam 7:1-17) Furthermore, the Kingdom of King Jesus shall expand over the whole world. (Ezek 38ff)

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

**2. Election, or the calling of dead men** to new life in Christ. (Eph 2:1, Ezek 37:1-14)

**3. The unity of all men, Jew and Gentile into one body**, the church of Jesus Christ. (Eph 2:14) **Ezekiel 37:15-28** identifies the different nations that are united into one; he also gives the time frame, or when this unity takes place.

Ezekiel 37 gives the more obvious points of *Replacement Theology*.

Many of us were exposed to if not brought up in the dispensational *faith* which teaches that the bones in Ezekiel 37 represent the old nation of Israel being re-gathered into a mighty physical army. The re-gathering started in 1948. That army will be the subjects of a literal messiah who will physically sit on the earthly throne

of David in Jerusalem. From that throne in Jerusalem, *he shall rule them with a rod of iron;* (Re 2:27) The dispensational faith that I was taught and as I taught for some years teaches forced conversion, much like the followers of Muhammad do as they seek to convert the world to Islam. “Convert or off with your head!”

When I considered Ezekiel 37 in the light of God’s everlasting covenant as revealed in the New Covenant, I found it to be one of the most exciting and encouraging passages in Scripture. As we shall see, Ezekiel 37 is the foundation of Paul’s doctrine in **Ephesians 2:1** *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;*

We will only look at the first half of chapter 37. A short overview of the rest of chapter 37, and of Ezekiel 38 & 39 was in the Aug 2018 Examiner. Those who have seriously read Ezekiel 37 realize it must speak of great and glorious things off in the future. What we shall present is not new. Back in the middle 1800s, Patrick Fairbairn (1805-1874) dealt with the dried bones. He is the only commentator I found who gave a scriptural understanding of Ezekiel which conformed to Paul’s epistles.

Carl Friedrich Keil (1807-1888) of the classic Keil-Delitzsch Old Testament Commentary commented on Ezekiel 37:26 (*Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore.*)

Thus does this prophecy of Ezekiel span the whole future of the people of God even to eternity. But the promise in which it culminates, namely, that the Lord will erect His sanctuary in the midst of His restored people, and there take up His abode above them for ever. ...

**That is,** Ezekiel 37 covers the whole history of God’s people “even to eternity.” Ezekiel clearly tells us that He will forever dwell in the midst of His church.

**Ephesians 2:1-16**, v. 1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ...*

We will not go into the two resurrections at this time, but Paul refers to the first resurrection as described in,

**Revelation 20:6** *Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

Ezekiel 37:1-14 prophesies of the first resurrection.

We would need to go through the entire book of Ezekiel to get the background of this glorious section, but we will only mention that Ezekiel chapters **35-36 clearly looks forward** to the glories of the church after the judgment of the wicked. Chapters **37-39 fulfill that** promised judgment. The rest of Ezekiel describes the glories of the church of Jesus Christ.

**Observe:** Ezekiel’s temple from chapter 40 on has a priesthood, altar, blood sacrifice, &c., e.g., chapter 43. Those who understand the sacrificial activities in Ezekiel’s temple literally have denied Christ, who Himself said, *It is finished.* According to 1 John, it is the Spirit of the Anti-Christ who says that it was not finished by Christ, and these physical activities must be reinstated. We have encountered more than a few of those who are committed to the false Dispensational faith who try to make Ezekiel’s temple a literal temple with literal sacrifices and offerings.

#### **PURPOSE**

Ezekiel’s prophecy was to counter the feeling of despair among God’s covenant people:

*Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. (37:11.*

Ezekiel 38, 39 describe the warfare to be waged by the mighty army of chap 37.)

Sin had done its disastrous work against the apostate covenant people to whom Ezekiel spoke. **God had exalted** their enemies over them for their destruction. There was a dark and fearful apprehension of impending distress and ruin. There was no hope in sight. The people felt as though they were on the brink of total destruction with one foot in the grave. They felt they were no better than a pile of dried bones. Many times, the prophets had promised a better future, but none of those things seemed to be coming to pass. Sin and despair were the order of the day, particularly as the people saw the strength of the enemy around them.

**The clear understanding** of this vision is that God’s Spirit could and would overcome the miserable condition of His Elect, the church. The promise here is that the Spirit would reestablish God’s chosen people into their proper covenant relationship with Himself, and they would again be blessed by the Lord. That blessing is described in the chapters 40 to the end of the book.

The general consensus of Christ’s day was that the promised Messiah would be a strong military leader to

restore the glories that had been theirs under David and Solomon. That false idea is a key doctrine in the modern Dispensational Millennial faith. That faith has encouraged the church to sit back and wait for a rapture, and then join with him in His literal reign from a carnal Jerusalem. We commonly hear of the “preparations” being made for a literal reign, as the modern self-defined Jews—they admit that they have no connection to the first century Jews—raise money to build a literal temple in Jerusalem from where their Messiah will reign. Meanwhile, Christians support their Anti-Christ effort.

Christ told the Jews, *i.e.*, *Israelites*, that He was the Son of David. He told them He was the legal heir to David’s throne, and that He was greater than Solomon. When He failed to literally fulfill Ezekiel’s vision of a great military army to again subdue the world to the Jewish nation, they rejected Him; however, their Anti-Christ faith lives on in the **Jewish religion**.

The following understanding of Ezekiel 37:1-14 is based upon Paul’s statements found in passages like **Galatians 3:1-18**; these passages require their Old Testament context in order to be properly understood. We will not spend the time looking at the many New Testament passages, but the Apostle’s argument throughout all of his letters is that heirship to Abraham and heirship to his promised blessing is by faith. Paul clearly establishes that believers are the only legitimate heirs to the name “Jew,” and that the church of Jesus Christ is the only legitimate heir to the name “Israel, the chosen people of God.”

Throughout all of the Epistles, we are told that the Jew/Gentile distinction was clearly and permanently done away with in Christ. (Ezekiel 37:15-28) The writers of the epistles give us the theology behind the actions recorded in the ancient scriptures, which were common knowledge at the time. The epistles shine God’s light on the dark shadows spoken by the prophets of old.

From the time of the promise given to Eve, the true people of God are those who have placed their faith in the Redeemer, as expressed by Job just a few hundred years after the Flood, about 1500 BC:

19: 25 For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: 26 And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27 Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.

Those who cannot make Job’s confession need to exam-

ine themselves to see if they are in the Christian faith.

**The first resurrection as defined in the New Testament is illustrated** here in 37:1-14. Actually, **the clear prophecy of the church of Jesus Christ** starts in Ezekiel 36:22-38; that prophecy is followed by the vision of the prophecy’s fulfillment starting in chapter 37. There are so many New Testament passages, that we can only touch on a few as we move through this glorious and exciting prophecy.

1) **Vv. 1, 2. Ezekiel is carried by the Spirit** to a large valley *which was full of bones*. The bones turned out to be *an exceeding great army*, so evidently the dead bodies were the result of a great war, v. 10. It was obvious that the “owners” of those bones were dead. The bones had been there for quite some time, for they were bleached by the elements. The war started in the Garden, and Adam’s love for his wife made him the first casualty. The Tempter said, thou shalt not surely die, but they did die. In Romans 5:12-14, Paul tells us that through Adam, sin and death passed upon all men. Accordingly, every person since Adam is born dead in trespasses and sins. The world is populated by the walking dead.

*But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.* (1 Tim 5:6)

According to God’s eternal purpose, He chose to breathe life into a particular people who were born dead in trespasses and sins. (Eph 2:1) Those who have been called to New Life in Christ are now living among dead people who believe the devil’s lie that they are alive though they are dead.

It is obvious that the dead can do nothing about their condition. Except for Jesus Christ, no dead person ever raised himself from the dead. We hear of people whose final wish was to pipe air to their casket and have a bell to ring above ground as they vainly hoped to be able to come back to life.

2) **Ezek. 37:3. Son of man.** It is interesting that Ezekiel is continually called *Son of man*, and here *Son* is capitalized. In the midst of this grave yard, the Lord asked Ezekiel *Can these bones live?* To the natural man, there is no possibility of dried bones coming back to life. This was a question to which any man would have quickly answered, “No way, Lord.” However, Ezekiel answered the question wisely, *Oh Lord God, thou knowest*. Ezekiel placed the impossible in the Lord’s hands, as we must. Only the Lord knows who

will be raised from the dead through the preaching of the gospel, so we are to preach to every creature. It was not Ezekiel's choice, nor is it our choice. Christ's resurrection proves that the dead can and will be resurrected, both spiritually and physically. 1 Corinthians 15:19-28 is commonly used at a grave side—it tells us that our hope is in His resurrection.

Paul prays that the Ephesians would know the power of Christ's resurrection, for it is impossible for the heart of stone to change itself by its own strength. (Ezek 11:19, **36:26**, 2 Cor 3:3) Ezekiel knew it was impossible for the dead to raise themselves, so he placed the impossible in the Lord's hands. Only the Lord knows who will be raised from the dead. We are surrounded by dead people. We live and move in a grave yard where the vast majority of the people are dead without knowing they are dead. Those people are as hardened in sin as we were at one time. Can they live? Can they be reached for the Lord? *O Lord GOD, thou knowest.* Our responsibility is to be found faithful to the command word of God.

What can we expect of dead people who are convinced that they live as they pursue the fallen desires of their own heart?

**3) V. 4. *Prophecy upon these bones.*** Ezekiel was told to prophesy to the dead people around him. If any action seemed to be wasted breath, this was.

In WV, there was a small Civil War cemetery just up the road from us, and on Memorial Day one would see many Stars and Bars on the graves, as well as in the cemetery attached to the small Methodist Church. What Ezekiel was told to do would be like one preaching the life-giving gospel of Christ in those grave yards.

*And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Revelation 19:10*

The clear New Testament command to God's people is to speak God's word to the dead people around them. Our Lord commanded His followers to offer *the testimony of Jesus* to every dead person in the world. (Mark 16:4, 15)

**4) Vv. 5, 6. *Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:*** The Lord told Ezekiel that the Spirit of God would cause the dead to live.

\* It was not Ezekiel's responsibility to bring life to

the dead.

\* It was not Ezekiel's responsibility to look around at the dead people and wonder how in the world the Lord could do anything with them.

\* It was not Ezekiel's responsibility to decide which of the dead would live.

\* It was Ezekiel's responsibility to *hear the word of the Lord* and obey it. He was to preach to every creature.

*21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. 25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. 26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; 27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. (John 5)*

Note the wording of v. 24—faith brings life to the dead. V. 25, *now is*; that instantaneous life was not possible until Christ. We can preach Jesus to the dead people around us even with our dying breath, but only when the Spirit *causes the breath of life* to enter, will they live.

**5) V. 7. *So I prophesied as I was commanded.*** In this hopeless situation, what more could Ezekiel do than obey? He obeyed the command of the Lord to preach *the word of the Lord.* (V. 4)

If there ever was a hopeless situation, Ezekiel faced it. If there ever was a time that all effort seemed foolish, this was it. He had been told to preach to a bunch of dead people. He was told to preach in a grave yard.

**1 Corinthians 10:20-31.** V. 27 *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise;* ... What is more foolish to the wise men of this world than preaching Christ? However, it is the preaching of Christ that is the power and wisdom of God that raises the dead to new life in Christ Jesus. The task of those new men is to build a new society according to the law-word of God.

Every Sunday morning, a good pastor friend, Ron Rumburg sends out an email of encouragement to fellow preachers. Here is one:

“Preach the word be instant in season and out of season! What a solemn task we have today. May our God

be with us and enable us by the blessed Spirit of God.” (2 Tim 4:2. Reprove, rebuke, exhort with sound doctrine.) He then quotes

B. H. Carroll (1843-1914) who said, “I have felt shame, sorrow, and contempt, all blended, at some things I have heard from the pulpit. They are nice enough little things, but nothing from the Word of God, nothing to convict a sinner, nothing to lead a sinner to Christ, nothing to lead a babe in Christ to maturity in Christian knowledge, nothing to develop high, holy, and enduring Christian character. Preaching is a solemn work.”

Carroll’s words are even more distressingly true today, for he describes the vast majority of the preaching of the past 100 years. We expect empty words from liberal speakers, but even many who claim to be Orthodox have nothing to convict a sinner, nothing to lead a sinner to Christ, nothing to lead a babe in Christ to maturity in Christian knowledge, nothing to develop high, holy, and enduring Christian character. How many preachers realize the terrible responsibility and have the courage to preach truth though that truth may be offensive to the big givers in the congregation? God is responsible to give the increase.

**6) V. 8. As Ezekiel preached to this very great pile of dried bones,** the bones gathered themselves together, and God placed them in their proper order in the body. Sinew, or the tendon and ligaments that attach the muscles to the bones, were added, and then the muscles were added and finally skin covered everything to form a human body, *but there was no breath* (of life) *in them*. Ephesians 4:7-16 and 1 Corinthians 12 tell us that the Spirit fits every “bone” into its proper place in the body of Christ, and it is sin for a “bone” to complain about its place in the body.

How do we see those around us? Do we see them as never dying souls in need of a new life in Christ? Only the Spirit of God through the preaching and teaching of Word of God can bring life to the living dead.

**7) V. 9. Ezekiel is commanded to speak to the wind:** *Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.* They were slain in the great war that took place in the Garden where death took place, and passed down to all men. The bones had no life, so Ezekiel was given a seemingly foolish task to *Prophesy unto the wind*, or command the wind. (See Rom 1:16, 1 Cor 1:18, 24, 2 Cor 13:4) Notice the appar-

ent foolishness and hopelessness of testifying of Jesus to the living dead around us. Yet in God’s eternal plan and according to His good pleasure alone, He chose to use *the testimony of Jesus*, that is, *the foolishness of preaching* to bring life to the dead. *The testimony of Jesus*, the preaching of the cross of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, which alone can bring life to the dead, life to a dead society, and life to a dead nation.

In the midst of these dried bones which were the result of the great warfare, Ezekiel *prophesied*: He spoke the command-Word of God to the wind, and commanded the wind to *breathe upon these slain, that they may live.*

**8) V. 10. Ezekiel obeyed God as he was commanded,** and preached to the wind. Note that many times it seems that we are “preaching to the wind” as we present the command-word of God *to those who are dead in their trespasses and sins*. At the beginning, Ezekiel was told that those to whom he was being sent (*the children of Israel*, the covenant people of old) would consider him no more than a troublesome wind to be ignored. So, Ezekiel had been down this road before as he had been preaching to *the children of Israel*. No doubt Ezekiel felt that he had been simply beating *the air*. (1 Co 9:26) Now he is faced again with an impossible task, yet without questioning the Lord, Ezekiel obeyed God, and he commanded the wind to *breathe upon these slain, that they may live*. Only the testimony of Jesus will bring life to those dead in trespasses and sin.

**John 3:1-8**, vv. 7, 8 *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

Christ compared the Life-Giving Holy Spirit to the wind. It blows, and we can hear its sound and see its work, but we do not know from *whence it cometh, and whither it goeth*. Nor can man command it.

**In 1027, King Canute tried to command the tide.** Failing to do so, he said, ““Let all men know how empty and worthless is the power of kings, for there is none worthy of the name, but He whom heaven, earth, and sea obey by eternal laws.”” He then hung his gold crown on a crucifix, and never wore it again “to the honour of God the almighty King”

We know not where the Spirit is working except when we see Him bring about genuine, life changing conversion in those who were dead.

Just as easily as the winds of tornados and hurricanes flatten everything, the unseen Wind of God's Spirit can flatten before Him the most stiff-necked sinner without shedding a drop of the sinner's blood. That sinner then becomes a willing servant of the Lord of Glory, as defined in Ps110:1, 1 Cor 15:24-28. The once hardened sinner will then gladly say with David in Ps 132:7, *We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.*

Ezekiel obeyed God's command, spoke the word of the Lord to the wind, and the wind brought life to the dead, as described in Ephesians 2:1 *And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;* (Don't fail to read Eph 1:13, 14.)

*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* (John 6:63. Cf. John 20:22, Acts 2:2, Rom 8:9, Eph 1:13, 14.)

**9) V. 10. So I prophesied as he commanded me.** By faith, Ezekiel spoke to the wind. The result was clearly supernatural as the walking dead were raised to newness of life.

**and the breath of life came into them,**

Though the word **breath** in v. 10 is not the word for **breath** in Genesis 2, the similarity is hard to ignore, for they both required God's sovereign and divine power.

*Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath** of life; and man became a living soul.*

In the Garden, the Lord breathed life into a pile of dust, and the dust lived, and he called that pile of dust Adam. It takes the same power of the Creator God to breathe life into those who are dead in trespasses and sins as it did to breathe life into the dust in Genesis 2. The first breath of life created the old man, Adam. The second breath of life creates the new man in Christ Jesus.

*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.* (1 Cor 15:22)

In Romans 6:4 and in 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul tells us that faith in Christ makes one a totally new creature, with a new direction in life. In Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15, Paul tells us that Adam is the federal head of the old humanity; Christ is the federal head of the new humanity which is made up of those chosen and redeemed by the blood of Christ. (Basic Reformed Theology.)

By faith, we "prophesy," or "testify of Jesus" to the

living dead around us. We prophesy because God commands us to *preach the gospel to every creature.* We proclaim the "*testimony of Jesus*" with the assurance that in God's predetermined plan, He has chosen a particular people unto Himself. Though they were chosen in eternity past, they are called to Him in the present – in their proper time through the "*testimony of Jesus.*"

**10) V. 14. My spirit in you... The clear promise here is of the church of Jesus Christ,** where the Spirit of God indwells those he raises from the dead. According to John 16:7-15, the promise of the indwelling Spirit could not be fulfilled until after Christ ascended into heaven.

**In your own land... Those raised from the dead** would also be placed in their own land.

#### • LAND DEFINED

**Ephesians 1:3** *Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ: Hebrews 4* especially tell us that the true land of sabbath rest, peace and safety for God's people is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. Additionally, **Ephesians 2** tells us that Conversion places one with Him in heavenly places.

**11) 37, vv. 6, 13, 14. Three times we are told** that a result of the His Spirit bringing life to the New Israel of God is so His people would "*know that I am the Lord.*"

In Acts 10:34-38, Peter prophesied of Christ to Cornelius' household. Peter prophesied, and the dead men to whom he preached received the breath of life. It was then that they knew *that the LORD he is God.* Only the *sheep of his pasture*, the Redeemed, can make the profession of Psalms 100:3, *we are his people ...* (Cf. Ps 46:10)

**12) V. 10, "an exceeding great army"** Though out of order, it is the key of not only Ezekiel but also of Paul's letters to the church.

The result of Ezekiel speaking God's command-word to these dead people was that the Lord God sent His Spirit and brought them to life **for a purpose.** They became *an exceeding great army* prepared for the great battle for the advancement of the kingdom of control over the nation (Paul's instruction to the individual soldiers are given in 1 & 2 Timothy)

**The last days' battle is a serious battle for control of the nations.** Will the Kingdom of God prevail, or

will the kingdom of Darkness prevail? We are assured of the outcome in a multitude of places like Psalms 100, Matthew 22, Mark 12, Ephesians 1, Hebrews 1, and of course Daniel. It is Ezekiel's *mighty army* that is responsible to carry on the warfare for control of the world by *earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the Old Testament saints*. (Jude 3) Paul equips Ezekiel's army for battle and assures of victory over the kingdom of Darkness. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but **mighty through God** to the pulling down of the strongholds of error with The Truth. (Eph 6, 2 Cor chaps 3, 10, &c.)

God's purpose in bringing life into the dead and dried bones was not just to show His power over death and hell, though He certainly did that. His purpose was /is to raise a *mighty army*, and equip them with His Spirit (*and lo, I am with you always*) who enables them to conquer *all nations* by teaching the law-word of God. (Matt 28, 16:18)

Those who expect the new life in Christ to be a life of ease will soon learn otherwise. Christianity is at war with the world, flesh and the devil. And right now, *the whole world lieth in wickedness*, and is at war against God and His people on earth. God has equipped the new man with everything needed to overcome the world, and subdue *all nations* under *his footstool*.

Sadly, because of the lack of strong meat from the average pulpit, Ezekiel's mighty army is ill-equipped to carry out this life and death battle for sound doctrine against the many lies and deceits of the devil, lies even from self-identified Christians. The Dispensational faith that has prevailed since the 1860s is bearing fruit. We sing "Victory in Jesus," but go about our daily lives with a defeated attitude. The truth is in Isaac Watts poem that he added to a 1721 sermon he was giving on 1 Corinthians 16:13:

*Am I a soldier of the cross,/A follower of the Lamb,/And shall I fear to own His cause,/Or blush to speak His Name?*

*Must I be carried to the skies/On flowery beds of ease,/While others fought to win the prize,/And sailed through bloody seas?*

*Are there no foes for me to face?/Must I not stem the flood?/Is this vile world a friend to grace,/To help me on to God?*

*Sure I must fight if I would reign;/Increase my courage, Lord./I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,/Supported by Thy Word.*

*Thy saints in all this glorious war/Shall conquer, though*

*they die;/They see the triumph from afar;/By faith's discerning eye.*

*When that illustrious day shall rise,/And all Thy armies shine/In robes of victory through the skies,/The glory shall be Thine.*

The elect have taken part in the first resurrection when they were called from their death in trespasses and sin. The reason for remaining here after the first resurrection is not to wait to be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others fight to win the prize and sail through bloody seas. Are there no foes for us to face to stem the bloody tide of evil and darkness?

The purpose of election is to raise a mighty army to confront the forces of evil with The Truth at every opportunity in the home, in the family, in the religious realm, in the assembly of God's people, in the workplace, in the recreation areas, in society in general, &c. The elect are the new humanity, having been commanded by the Head of that humanity to expand His kingdom into every area of life and thought. Serious and consistent study of the truth found in the law-word of God is required for those who would effectively carry the battle into the enemies' strongholds. *And there is no discharge in that war* (Ecc 8:8) against the subtle and deceptive errors of Satan. As the elect are faithful in the war against the evil darkness that covers the earth, the Lord will provide the victory according to His predetermined purpose.

"When that illustrious day shall rise, And all Thy armies shine In robes of victory through the skies, The glory shall be Thine. Glory to God for His marvelous life producing grace."

### Observe

**First**, those who condemn *Replacement Theology* are very dogmatic that the Abrahamic covenant means that the ancient land of promise, Palestine, as is currently possessed by a self-defined Jewish people, must be the gathering place of Ezekiel's chapter 37 army. From that literal place, the Jewish Messiah will rule, and with his army and using the modern weapons of warfare, he will subdue the world to himself. (Multitudes of self-defined Christians support and even finance that fanciful Jewish dream.)

*For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.* (Rom 4:13, Gal 3:9)

**Second**, the Apostle Paul tells us that the Lord's army

are those who have been raised from their spiritually dead condition. They are raised and empowered by the Spirit of God to wage effective warfare against the lies and deceptions of the devil.

**Third**, the saints of old knew that the physical land of Canaan or Palestine was not the promised land of rest and peace. For those who are God's redeemed, **He** is the promised land of peace and all spiritual blessings. They clearly understood that the promised land was the new Jerusalem, the *city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.* (Heb 11:10)

### Conclusion

**1) God's people have been commanded to preach** the gospel of Christ in a grave yard. We live among the walking dead. Though they live and move, God's word clearly tells us that without the breath of life, they are dead in trespasses and sins.

**2) Our command is to testify of Christ.** We are to prophesy to the surrounding dead people. Our job is not to determine who shall live. That is the Lord's job, and He alone can bring life. He brings life through the preaching of the gospel. He alone can raise those who are dead in trespasses and sins, and give them new life in Christ. He alone can breathe into them the breath of life.

**3) The Lord promises to bring life to particular people; that is, raise them from their death in trespasses and sins to new life in Christ.** He does that through the *"testimony of Jesus, the spirit of prophecy"*. He does that through the preaching of the gospel. And we are commanded to be faithful in offering that gospel no matter how hopeless the situation appears.

**4) He is the one Who raises up His "great army".** The purpose of His army is to fight, not to rest on flowery beds of ease, while others fight to win the prize; but to prepare themselves with His Truth, and take that Truth into the many camps of the enemy.

The Lord breathed life and Holy Spirit power into His army for a purpose; that is, to *war a good warfare*, and to *earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. And there is no discharge in that war*; but there are many deserters.

### Personal Thoughts

**Ezekiel 39:12ff** tells us that it will take an extended amount of time to bury the dead "bones" of Humanism after the victory of the Lord's *mighty army* of chap 37.

*Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* (Rom 8:37)

*Through him that loved us.* The triumph which the apostle looked for was not to be effected by his own strength or perseverance, but by the grace and power of the Redeemer. #1Co 15:10 Ga 2:20 Php 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (C. Hodge)

**Romans 8:37 with Matthew 18:18, 19, 1 Cor 15:28, Daniel 4, &c.**, assures us that as the Lord's *mighty army* obey their Commander in Chief, and go into the heart of the enemy in His power, (*lo, I am with you alway*) the Spirit *shall put all things under his feet*. Having subdued all things, the *army* must then clean out every vestige of humanism from the nations.

### • AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM?

*Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.* (John 7:24) That is, judge according to the overall teaching of the Word of God. We serve no mean, or small and insignificant god, but we serve the everlasting Lord of Glory Who controls and works ALL THINGS after the counsel of His own will!

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## DOES EVERYTHING WORK FOR YOUR GOOD?

Pastor Ron Rumburg

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Paul, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, spoke with certainty when he said, "we know." And what he knew for sure was that "all things work together for good." No Christian would dispute the coming of Christ into this world where He suffered and died and rose again from the dead; this was for our good. Yes, we say He bore our sins in His own body on the tree and rose again for our justification and by His stripes we are healed. This was all for our good. B. M. Palmer insisted, "Look at the comprehensiveness of the promise. Paul does not say, 'Some things work together for good.' He does not say 'Many things,' nor yet 'Most things,' but, without restriction or qualification, he says, 'ALL things work together for good to them that love God.'"

Do pandemics work together for our good? Truly many would not even think that way. But what we would call "bad things" would work for our good. Yet,

Paul by the Holy Spirit's inspiration is telling us that all things whether good or bad or indifferent work in symphony for the good of those called by the purpose of God. Can we truthfully say that we take "joyfully the spoiling of our goods" (Heb. 10:34)? What about the paths that the Lord providentially leads us down! The Psalmist said that "All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth" (Ps. 25:10). Thomas Watson wisely remarked, "Afflictions to the godly are medicinal. Out of the most poisonous drugs God extracts our salvation.... No vessel can be made of gold without fire; so it is impossible that we should be made vessels of honor, unless we are melted and refined in the furnace of affliction.... As the painter intermixes bright colors with dark shadows, so the wise God mixes mercy with judgment. Those afflictive providences which seem to be prejudicial are beneficial."

Do we see the principle of all things working for good in the Bible? Remember when Saul was smitten blind on the Damascus Road as he went to destroy Christians; this turned for his good when Christ appeared in mercy to him. Thus he became Paul who was brought to salvation and spiritual sight (Acts 9). Remember Joseph being hated by his brothers because the Lord revealed certain things to him. Remember these brothers faked his death and sold him to some traders who in turn sold him as a slave in Egypt. Then when things were going well for him his master's wife sought to seduce him and he would not submit. She then blamed him with sexual evil. He was imprisoned and became a trusted trustee whose gift of discerning dreams eventually led him to the position of Prime Minister of Egypt. A famine drew those same brothers to Egypt to buy grain that had been stored up by the direction of Joseph interpreting the Pharaoh's dreams. When he finally presented himself to his brothers what did he say? God sent me to Egypt to preserve you and save your lives (Gen. 45:7). Joseph told his frightened brothers to not be afraid for you thought to do me evil but God meant it for good to save a multitude (Gen. 50:19-20). David said that he strayed before the LORD sent affliction which led to his obedience and this affliction was good for him (Ps. 119:67, 71).

Do you find it easy to believe that all things are working together for your good? That sometimes a childhood illness gives you an immunity to something that would be quite destructive in adulthood. C. H. Spurgeon as a young preacher remarked, "He who said, 'all

things work together,' will soon prove to you that there is a harmony in the most discordant parts of your life. You shall find, when your biography is written, that the black page did but harmonize with the bright one—that the dark and cloudy day was but a glorious foil to set forth the brighter noon-tide of your joy. 'All things work together.' There is never a clash in the world: men think so, but it never is so."

Bernard Gilpin (1517-1583) was called the "Apostle of the North." Gilpin had a saying he was famous for uttering, "All things work together for good." He became one of the reformers in the North of England having studied Hebrew and Greek at Queen's College, Oxford. He was at first against the Reformation Movement but it pleased the Lord to bring him to Christ for salvation. He then was considered an enemy. Bloody Queen Mary's officers seized him and were taking him back to London to be burned at the stake because Bishop Bonner had accused him of heresy. As they were on the road he was treated roughly and heard the officers jeering him with his words, "All things work together for good, do they?" In the midst of their mistreatment his leg was broken, and then he heard the caustic remark, "How will your broken leg work for your good?" "I don't know," he replied, "how it will, but for my good I know it will work, and you shall see it so." While he was recovering from this injury and before his journey to London was finished Queen Mary died and instead of coming to London to be burned, he arrived in time to hear that Elizabeth was proclaimed queen. He turned upon the men who thought to see his death and said, "Now will you believe that all things work together for good?" He returned home in triumph and to the great joy of the people under his ministry.

*O, for a faith that will not shrink,/Though pressed by every foe,/That will not tremble on the brink/Of any earthly woe!*

*That will not murmur nor complain/Beneath the chastening rod,/But, in the hour of grief or pain,/Will lean upon its God.*

*A faith that shines more bright and clear/When tempests rage without;/That when in danger knows no fear,/In darkness feels no doubt.*

*That bears, unmoved, the world's dread frown/Nor heeds its scornful smile;/That seas of trouble cannot drown,/Nor Satan's arts beguile.*

*A faith that keeps the narrow way/Till life's last hour is fled,/And with a pure and heavenly ray/Lights up a dying bed.*

*Lord, give me such a faith as this,/And then, whate'er  
may come,/I'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss/Of an  
eternal home.*

William Hiley Bathurst (1796-1877)

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## FORESEEING EVIL

Pastor Peter Baugh

The nightmare that began in large metropolitan areas has now worked its way out into small residential communities. According to [Breitbart.com](http://Breitbart.com), in Oregon, Colorado and in Washington D.C., Marxist mobs, masquerading under a pretense of concern for “black lives” and “social justice”, have begun terrorizing suburban communities, vandalizing property, threatening residents with arson and utilizing lasers in attempts to blind innocent citizens. These domestic terrorists had previously used this tactic against police forces in Portland, Oregon, which resulted in some officers actually suffering temporary blindness through injuries caused by these lasers. Now they have begun employing it against suburban Americans in residential communities.

Up to this point, Indianapolis has not suffered as a result of these protests to the same degree as have cities in more left-leaning states. However, as we approach election day and its aftermath, we should not assume that what has happened in Kenosha cannot and will not happen here as well. As conservative Christians, each one of us represents a barrier to the Marxist agenda that drives these domestic terrorists, and, unless our government takes more aggressive measures to suppress their terrorist activities, within a matter of time, they will come for us.

We must not, however, think of these terrorists from a merely political standpoint. Instead, we must remember that God often empowers wicked men temporarily, in order to bring judgment upon other wicked men, whether individually, or collectively. America has long sown the seeds of rebellion against God's authority and defiance of God's Law, and, consequently, God has given us to eat of the fruit of our own ways. Since Americans have worshiped and served their children more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, and have taught those children to defy all authority, God's judgment comes now through the very reprobate children that we have raised, as they rebel against everything even remotely connected with their idolatrous and licentious parents. As Americans have worshiped and served the economy more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever, mur-

dering babies for economic reasons and profaning the Sabbath by opening for business on Sundays, even so, God's judgment comes now in the form of Marxist terrorists who destroy those very businesses whose owners refused to remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy. *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* Just as national Israel's collective rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ and persecution of the first-century church resulted in the gruesome holocaust that climaxed with the destruction of the Temple in 70 A.D., so America's collective rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ and the absolute authority of Scripture has incurred the wrath of God against this nation.

Furthermore, Numbers 35:33 informs us that *“blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it”*. 2 Kings 24:3-4 informs us that Manasseh's sin of filling Jerusalem with innocent blood brought the implacable judgment of God upon the southern kingdom of Judah. If the murder of over 60,000,000 unborn infants does not correspond to Manasseh's wholesale slaughter of innocents in Jerusalem and reap a corresponding harvest of judgment, then what else possibly could?

At the same time, when God sends judgment, he also forewarns his children, that they may prepare in advance, or even escape altogether. The Lord Jesus Christ gave preparatory instructions to his disciples as he foresaw the Roman legions marching to destroy Jerusalem in 70 A.D. Matthew 24 includes specific directions for emergency evacuation in the event of a Roman invasion of the City of David. Furthermore, the Lord Jesus Christ instructed his disciples to purchase swords, even if that involved selling their very garments in order to do so. This undoubtedly had reference to the social chaos that would unfold in the aftermath of the coming invasion, and not to any resistance against the Roman Empire itself. It highlights the difference between passively suffering actual persecution for righteousness' sake, and the legitimate response to more generic threats against our own lives or those of others, such as our family members.

We must not interpret these instructions with such rigidity that we fail to recognize the universality of the underlying principles involved. Admittedly, the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A. D. carries theological implications that make it stand alone as a unique event

in redemptive history. Yet the basic principles of prudent foresight and preservation of life appear repeatedly throughout the Word of God. God sent Joseph to Egypt that he might prepare for seven years of grievous famine, and so preserve life. God commissioned Noah to build an Ark in preparation for a global Flood, that he might so preserve life. And Proverbs 22:3 informs us that *“A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished”*.

We ought to take particular notice of the scope of such preparations in Scripture. Noah prepared, not only for himself alone, but for his entire family and for the whole of the terrestrial animal kingdom. Joseph prepared, not for himself alone, but for the entire nation of Egypt. Parents, according to 2 Corinthians 12:14, have a definite responsibility to lay up for their children, and 1 Timothy 5:8 informs us that *“if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”*. In other words, our responsibility to prepare for the day of evil extends beyond the bare perimeters of self-preservation, and encompasses all of those whose care God has entrusted to us.

In observation and in application of this pattern evidenced throughout Scripture, each one of us has a responsibility to preserve life by making due preparations in advance. We ought not to do so in a panicked manner, controlled by a spirit of fear. Yet, in prudence, we ought to prepare some measures to implement against the approach of the day of evil. Without overextending ourselves financially, we should develop a contingency plan and some resources for the event of a serious crisis emerging, as these domestic terrorists feel increasingly emboldened and empowered to escalate their assault on law and order, liberty and justice. Such a contingency plan should involve a reasonable supply of food and first aid supplies, as well as provisions for the event of a potential energy crisis. If anyone entrusted to our care has special needs, such as medical issues, contingency plans should involve reasonable provision for them, if possible. Those concerned about injuries from lasers can purchase eye protection at [revisionmilitary.com](http://revisionmilitary.com) or at [tech-lasers.com](http://tech-lasers.com), and those concerned about actual gunfire can find body armor at [ar500armor.com](http://ar500armor.com), or actual bullet proof vests weighing only 3.3 lbs at [bulletproofsafe.com](http://bulletproofsafe.com). *Kalashnikov USA* produces magazine-fed shotguns that have received positive reviews, and which will provide an excellent resource for the defense of

home and family. If pricing for some of these resources seems beyond your financial ability, you should ask yourself what you might sell, in order to acquire them.

God will yet put the cup of trembling to the lips of the United States of America. It contains much, and she will drink of it to the full. Believers in America must not expect to escape, based upon ridiculous, unbiblical, juvenile fantasies about a “pre-tribulation rapture”, “mid-tribulation rapture” or “pre-wrath rapture”. We must expect to witness the judgment upon our nation in a first-hand, experiential way, just as Noah witnessed the Flood, as Jeremiah witnessed the Babylonian Captivity and as the first-century church witnessed the fall of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. And, having that expectation, we must prepare, just as Noah and Joseph prepared, that, through preparation, we may not merely preserve ourselves alone, but may also serve God’s most gracious purpose to save much people alive.

Your Friend and Fellow-soldier,  
Pastor Peter Baugh ([peterbaugh16772lbc@gmail.com](mailto:peterbaugh16772lbc@gmail.com))

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## THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

We have the FOX news app on our phones. Fox regularly makes Tucker Carlson’s comments available. The one we recently watched was on how BLM got and retains its power. His conclusion was that it is through fear and intimidation. The Marxist Democrat election platform strategy is FEAR.

Washington Post Promises Catastrophic Violence if Biden Does Not Win

([https://www.westernjournal.com/washington-post-promises-catastrophic-violence-biden-not-win/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=WJBreaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=western-journal&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.westernjournal.com/washington-post-promises-catastrophic-violence-biden-not-win/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=WJBreaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=western-journal&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3))

### Fear makes people easily controllable

From the halls of Congress to the average citizen, fear grips the US. (Note the promotion of fear to keep people from voting in person, yet no fear to go to the grocery store!) This “Scamdemic” has shined the light on the various Communists who are in offices of power, as they refuse to prosecute the anarchists, and refuse to let Trump bring them under control. (Soros is smart. How many millions did he invest to get various Attorney-Generals elected who would refuse to bring charges against the anarchists? Though states will not let Trump bring the anarchy under control, they will gladly let him pay for the destruction.) As I considered Carlson’s comments, some scriptures came to mind.

(The 8/20 Examiner develops how Fear and Guilt are being used to control a docile population.)

### Observe

**First, our beloved nation has forsaken** the God of our fathers who founded this nation. The evidence of our godly foundation as well as our forsaking the God of our fathers is all around us.

**Second, the law-word of God is quite clear** concerning the nations that forsake him, so why are we surprised as we watch our nation being *turned into hell*? How many times has history proved the truth of God's word concerning nations that forsake him? (The "Great Commission" requires the conversion of nations.)

*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.* (Ps 9:17)

**Third, today's spirit of fear is from God** for the destruction of *all the nations* that have forgotten him. The history of Ahab is well known, and how God determined to destroy him because of his wickedness. We read in **1 Kings 22, starting with v. 20,**

*And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. 23 Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.*

**It is the Lord who sends the lying spirit that is needed to deliver a nation into hell,** and that spirit uses lying men to do it. The Lord sent a *lying spirit* to those who claimed to be prophets of God in order to accomplish his purpose. Throughout biblical history, the fault of God's people forsaking him has been ascribed to the spiritual leaders of God's people; men who have **failed to boldly proclaim** the entire law-word of God to his people. They have failed to make his people understand their responsibilities and their assurance of victory in the Lord their God.

*For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of*



*them that obey not the gospel of God? (1 Pe 4:17)*

### Fourth, curses promised:

*But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: (Deut 28:15)*

*But my people would not hearken to my voice; and Israel would none of me. So I gave them up unto their own hearts' lust: and they walked in their own counsels. (Ps 81:11, 12)*

God's covenant people, Israel, despised the law-word of God, and demanded their preachers speak smooth, deceitful things. (Isa 30:8-17) How many self-professed Christians today *will not hear the law of the LORD*? Rather, they seek after those who speak smooth, deceitful words that fail to confront sin and call for genuine repentance.

### The curses upon the Covenant-Breakers

Deuteronomy chaps 27-29 are addressed to God's covenant people, so the application is to the New Covenant people of God. The Apostle Peter tells us that the basic reason for our rapid movement into socialism is in the professed Christian pulpits. When the law-word is preached and repentance called for, how many say, "It does not apply to me?"

#### • A THREE-FOLD CURSE FOR OUR DAY

**28:28, 29:** *The LORD shall smite thee with **madness**, and **blindness**, and **astonishment** of heart: And thou shalt grope at noonday, as the blind gropeth in darkness, and thou shalt not prosper in thy ways: and thou shalt be only oppressed and spoiled evermore, and no man shall save thee.*

**Verse 28, 29.** In addition to this, there would come idiocy, blindness, and confusion of mind—three psychological maladies; for although 'iuwaarown {see definition 05788} signifies primarily bodily blindness, the position of the word between idiocy and confusion of heart, i.e., of the understanding, points to mental blindness here. **(K-D)**

**Ver. 28.** *The Lord shall smite thee with madness, &c.]* At the calamities befallen them, and through the force of diseases on them: and blindness; not of body, but of mind; **with judicial blindness and hardness of heart:** and astonishment of heart; at the miserable condition they and their families should be in. **(Gill)**

**madness:** "shigga'ôn. Madness, abandon, three times

in the OT, two times as a form of judgment from God, either on Israel herself {#De 28:28 } or on those who attempt to destroy her. {#Zec 12:4}” (TWOT)

**Ver. 28.** *Blindness*, to wit, of mind, so that they shall not know what to do; see #Job 5:13,14; so as they shall commonly choose and follow the worst counsels and courses, to their own ruin. (Poole)

**Asthorishment**, bewilderment, (Confusion from failure to understand), stupefaction. (don't know what to do.)

timmahôn. Astonishment. The Heb. noun occurs only twice, {#De 28:28 Zec 12:4 } both times in context with shigga'ôn 'madness,' and 'iwwarôn 'blindness,' the three rhyming nouns all denoting aspects of divine judgment, a factor often in the background of the passages where the root tmh appears. R.F.Y. (TWOT)

**The Lord shall smite...** Sin and rebellion in the house of God has resulted in a world of idiocy, blindness, hardness and confusion that cannot see nor understand what is taking place. There will soon be astonishment over the condition that blindness and hardness has allowed to develop. The blindness is judicial blindness because they reject the law-word of God; the result is confusion, madness and idiocy, *i.e.*, stupidity. God has given the rebellious blindness to the results of their stupid decisions and actions, so they bring judgment upon themselves.

#### • EVIDENCE OF THE SPIRIT OF FEAR

*And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth. (Lev 26:36)*

**28:63** *And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it. 64 And the LORD shall scatter thee among all people, from the one end of the earth even unto the other; and there thou shalt serve other gods, which neither thou nor thy fathers have known, even wood and stone. 65 And among these nations shalt thou find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest: but the LORD shall give thee there a trembling heart, and failing of eyes, and sorrow of mind: 66 And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life: 67 In the morning thou shalt say, Would God it were even! and at even thou shalt say, Would God it were morning! for the fear of thine heart wherewith thou shalt fear, and for the sight of thine eyes which*

*thou shalt see.*

**Fear destroys** boldness to stand for godly freedom and against the enemies of truth and righteousness.

#### Conclusion

The Lord has sent a Spirit of Fear. It is His judgment upon his covenant people because they have turned from him.

**1) Our religious leaders** *prophecy falsely*, giving God's people what they want to hear.

*The prophets prophecy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof? (Jer 5:31)*

**2) God's faithful preachers and teachers** have for many years warned of this day of the Lord's coming in judgment, yet they have been ignored.

*And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: (De 29:19, Ps 10)*

**3) In this writer's opinion**, the fault primarily lies with both the professed Christian leaders and the professed Christian parents who for better than a century have ignored the truth about the government education system.

According to Americanboard:

The first schools in the 13 colonies opened in the 17th century. The early public schools did not focus on academics like math or reading. Instead they taught the virtues of family, religion, and community. But by the mid-19th century, academics became the sole responsibility of public schools. Public Schooling in the South was not widespread until the Reconstruction Era after the American Civil War. Common Schools emerged in the 18th century. By 1900, 31 states had compulsory school attendance for students from ages 8-14. By 1918, every state required students to complete elementary school. The idea of a progressive education, educating the child to reach his full potential (apart from God) and actively promoting and participating in a democratic society, began in the late 1800s and became widespread by the 1930s. John Dewey was the founder of this movement.

(<https://www.americanboard.org/blog/11-facts-about-the-history-of-education-in-america/>)

John Dewey—regarded as the father of American education—was not primarily concerned with teaching new information. He was concerned with inculcating new attitudes. He was a social engineer -- one might even say a community organizer, e.g., Obama. He be-

lieved that socialism was the future. His self-appointed mission was to implement the transition to this brave new world of socialism. All of his grand theories, his scores of books, and his hundreds of articles can be summed up as a program for making America socialist.

[https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2012/10/john\\_dewey\\_is\\_a\\_fraud.html](https://www.americanthinker.com/articles/2012/10/john_dewey_is_a_fraud.html)

It is worth mentioning that one of the chief motives behind the compulsory attendance laws was job security and salary increases for administrators and teachers. (Why should we be surprised? It has been a well-known fact that communists have controlled the unions since their beginning.) Since those salaries were based on confiscated tax revenue, and not on performance, the incompetent had job security. (The school boards own all the real property, *i.e.*, immovable property, upon which we must pay rent, *i.e.*, PROPERTY TAX) Additionally, the common schools are used for political power and wealth redistribution.

“It is how these (anti-American, ed.) ideas are spread to society at large. Thus, one might argue that public education is the greatest evil of all, and that it must be struck down in one mighty blow before we begin to find ourselves as persons, families, and a people again.”

<https://mises.org/library/common-school-movement-and-compulsory-education>

**Public Schooling started** with the inclusion of teaching biblical morality. That teaching was slowly removed and replaced with teaching the child to reach his full potential without God. “Education without God only makes man more effective in his rebellion.” Parents saw the rebellion in their children, but refused to connect that rebellion to the “public” education to which they were forcing upon their children. They have an impossible expectation of a “good education” without God. The teaching of Marxism in American education started very early,

Actually, the Marxist’s training of young people in the common schools started in the early 1800s with men like Horace Mann, whose goal was to transform America into a socialist state; this truth has been documented and very obvious since the middle 1900s, yet Christians have suppressed the truth.

The commitment to “socialism” and the anarchy in the streets are the products of Marxist’s instruction in the state schools, K-1 through college. The results of that 150+ years’ worth of instruction are now before us. Supported and financed by American Christians,

their children have abandoned the faith of their fathers, and are now the state trained Marxists who are burning down our cities. Communism is being forced upon America courtesy of the Christian community who sent their children to be trained in Marxism.

Scripturally, the fault primarily lies with both Christian leaders and parents who have suppressed the truth about the anti-Christian government education system, and the everlasting validity of the law-word of God.

*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.* (Ho 4:6, Jer 18:14)

Generally, both Christian leaders and Christians have rejected God’s law, and God has rejected their children:

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* (Pro 22:6)

Not only have they failed to work to train up their children in the ways of the Lord, but they have hired heathen teachers to train them up in the ways of rebellion and anarchy.

*Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.* (Jer 10:2)

*Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.* (Ps 127:3)

*And the fruit of the womb is his reward.* Or rather, “a reward”; that is, they are of the nature of a reward for a life of devotion to God; they are among the blessings which God promises, and are evidences of his favor. That is, children are his reward to his people.” (E.B. Pusey, Barnes’ Notes.)

Christians have paid the world’s crowd to make heathens out of the children of the Lord’s blessing. The Lord is now fulfilling his promised judgment against his people as the anti-Christian trained Marxists children wage war to destroy our once-Christian nation.

As someone stated to me about computers: “Garbage in, garbage out.” Why do Christians expect a godly outcome when they send their children to the state to be educated in *the way of the heathen*?

### IS THERE HOPE?

#### A call to repent

*13 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; 14 If my people, which are called by my*

*name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*  
(2 Chron 7)

### **A call to forsake sin**

*13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whose confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. 14 Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.* (Pro 28)

### **A call for healing**

*Heal their land* is promised if the conditions are met by those who claim to be his people:

1) Christian conversion, humility and repentance over the sin of allowing the *heathen* to train their children. 2) Get the Lord's children out of the anti-Christ pro Marxist's education system.

**Only the Lord can give** his people the courageous heart to believe his word enough to humble themselves, admit their sin of paying the heathen to train their children, and remove their children from the heathen training establishments.

**Psalms 123:3** *Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us: for we are exceedingly filled with contempt.*

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### **INTERESTING OBSERVATION**

Last August, a new Postmaster General was appointed. He set about to cut costs by consolidating regional divisions from 7 down to 4. He admitted the move will slow delivery, and may even leave mail on the work-room floor or docks.

<https://federaloup.com/articles/2020/08/14/usps-shakeup-union-response.aspx>

My experience: In WV, my wife and I did a good number of mystery shops at various post offices. One of the things we looked for was that the employee offered Priority Mail service with a delivery of less than 3 days and the included \$50 insurance. A Priority package we just received took over 12 days. Our Netflix rental DVDs now take at least four days to get returned. In the past, it took at the most 3 days. (Yes, I know about Netflix promotion of pedophilia with "Cuties." When one goes into a store, he need not purchase a pornographic book from the magazine section. We are in the world, but not of the world.)

As a mass mailer, we mail First Class with the endorsement, "Return Service Requested" which requires 6 months forwarding and corrected address sent back.

For 6 more months, the piece is to be forwarded. Typical of the Federal Government, there is no one to whom one can complain. Their delivery and attention to the "Return Service Requested," which they often change to mean different things, is basically ignored. (Because few postmasters paid attention and honored our endorsement, we were forced to cut our Examiner mailing list from about 2,000 to what it is now: e-mail and a few First Class hard copies.)

Back in the 1960s when George Wallace was running for president, I had a girl friend who worked at the PO. She said that when a contribution came through for Wallace, there were some blacks who would send it to the Dead Letter Office. In addition, there are current reports of mail coming through the system with BLM marked on the mail. It is the college age privileged white kids who are the agitators in the Marxist BLM movement. Our tax dollars at work.

### **BLM Protest. Where are the Blacks?**

All of that to say this: The Marxist Socialists are depending on the being able to use and control the mail-in ballots to gain the upper hand in this next election. As are all unions, no doubt the postal union leadership is committed to Marxism. We are being told that it may be months before we know who is the president. No doubt, Democrat mail-in ballots will straggle in for many weeks, along with many court fights to count the ballots.

### **Truckloads of U.S. Mail Found Dumped in California. So November's Election Will Be Totally Fine**

<https://pjmedia.com/election/victoria-taft/2020/09/08/truck-loads-of-u-s-mail-found-dumped-in-california-so-novembers-election-will-be-totally-fine-n902855>

### **Election year!! Read the articles, and draw your own conclusion.**

Social media is determined to control the outcome of this election. (The god Zuckerberg desires to control the election)

Zuckerberg warns Election Day results may take weeks. Fears 'civil unrest' during extended vote count.

He has said Facebook won't allow candidates to announce they have won unless there's a "consensus."

[https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/zuckerberg-warns-election-day-results-may-take-weeks/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-breaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=breaking&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/zuckerberg-warns-election-day-results-may-take-weeks/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

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## THE POWER OF REMEMBRANCE

Pastor Larry Lilly

*Joshua 24:14-18 Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! 15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. So the people answered and said: "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed. 18 And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.*

I use the passage from Joshua to hopefully encourage you in this time of stress to remind you of God's hand of blessing on our fair land. In many ways our country, The United States of America, is considered with good reasons to be the land of God's hand. As with Israel we have a land that has been blessed by God, with many if not most people of past generations having a profound faith in God's beloved Son, The Lord Jesus Christ.

When the words in the biblical text I'm using, were spoken, Joshua warned the people of the terrible folly of having "False Gods" in their midst and that these abominations must be destroyed, or else.

In our time the False Savior, Marxism, is being exalted while Jesus Christ is not so subtly thrown out of our life, nationally and often privately. The idea of some that they can be a true follower of Jesus Christ and Karl Marx is folly. Marxism exalts the STATE as Hegel states, "God walking around on earth."

An anemic Laodicean type of Christianity has bowed the knee to Marxist philosophy and demonstrate their fickleness to Jesus in the face of Biblically knowledgeable people at every sporting event and even to ignorant Christians in public gatherings. God's people "bow the knee to God, Period." To the disgrace of our history, the blood of every military man and woman's bloodshed in defending our country is counted as nothing.

Years ago Charles Colson stated concerning the spiritual anemia of the professing church at large; "The times smell of sunset." How true.

Yet, there is hope for Western Civilization, in earlier times dubbed "Christendom!"

Here's some thoughts from the gifted pen of Dr. Robert Bakke, pastor of a church in Minnesota.

### Concerning our current situation:

We've been here before. Among the first and greatest national experiences of the United States was a massive spiritual awakening in the face of overwhelming problems. Economic Disaster and Plagues- the tragic after-effects of eight years of the War of Independence with England were profound. The 1790's were years of grave national doubts. We faced the enormous pressures of two superpowers on our borders and the constant threat of war. We teetered on the edge of national bankruptcy, exacerbated by a banking crisis and real estate speculation bubble that burst. Without the English navy, the U.S. had terrible trouble with pirates interrupting our trade. Twenty percent of our budget went to pay off Muslim pirates in North Africa, and the French and English were taking our ships in the North Atlantic.

Political Unrest and Empty Churches. The editorial pages and cartoons were among the most vicious in American history. Political rancor was fed by Newspapers essentially owned by the political parties, rancor highlighted by a duel between two prominent political figures, Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton. The famous duel left Hamilton dead.

The nastiest presidential election in U.S. history between John Adams and Thomas Jefferson was thought by many to be a political struggle for the soul and future of America. Many Christians were convinced that Jefferson was the antichrist.

An anti-Christian French Enlightenment was sweeping through the intelligentsia (affecting publishing, schools and government). The "Reign of Terror" caused fear of French terror cells. There was political unrest and riots in our cities. Federal troops were called in to quell anarchy.

Most Churches were empty. Pastors wrote that these were the worst times they could have ever imagined. Others wrote of "coarse sensuality" and intense partisanship in the land. Irreligion was rampant on college campuses, Bibles were burned publicly. At major Schools only a handful of students confessed Christ.

**What happened?** Pastors began a movement of prayer. It was small at first, but it grew. After years of seeking God, in 1801 a spiritual explosion took place

that swept our nation like a wildfire. Some say it was our nation's most important religious moment that changed the course of history.

Hundreds of Christian movements were born, and thousands of churches were founded. Modern missions exploded on the scene. Abolition was launched. Hospitals, schools, and colleges were founded. The impact on our nation and around the world was astounding. **Robert Bakke** "America's Pentecost," **Prayer Connect Magazine Issue#1 Can Prayer Save America?**

Now, in our time, the question is NOT can prayer save America, but rather, will we fervently pray? LML

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For Tough Times Consider:

"His soul shone in the dark desperation of our prison. Bonhoeffer had always been afraid that he would not be strong enough to stand such a test but now he knew there was nothing in life of which one need ever be afraid."

Bonhoeffer demonstrated faith to others at Buchenwald.

### **Khrushchev's Message 61 years ago**

"Your children's children will live under communism, You Americans are so gullible. No, you won't accept communism outright; but we will keep feeding you small doses of socialism until you will finally wake up and find you already have Communism. We will not have to fight you; We will so weaken your economy, until you will fall like overripe fruit into our hands." "The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

### **Do you remember what Russia's Khrushchev said in 1959?**

Remember, socialism leads to Communism. So, how do you create a Socialistic State?

**There are 8 levels of control;** read the following recipe:

**1) HEALTHCARE** - Control healthcare and you control the people. **2) POVERTY** - Increase the poverty level as high as possible, poor people are easier to control and will not fight back if you are providing everything for them. **3) DEBT** - Increase the debt to an unsustainable level. That way you are able to increase taxes, and this will produce more poverty. **4) GUN CONTROL** - Remove the ability to defend themselves from the Government That way you are able to create a police state. **5) WELFARE** - Take control of every as-

pect (food, housing, income) of their lives because that will make them fully dependent on the government. **6) EDUCATION** - Take control of what people read and listen to and take control of what children learn in school. **7) RELIGION** - Remove the belief in God from the Government and schools because the people need to believe in ONLY the government knowing what is best for the people. **8) CLASS WARFARE** - Divide the people into the wealthy and the poor. Eliminate the middle class This will cause more discontent and it will be easier to tax the wealthy with the support of the poor.

### **A perfect parallel to what is happening right now!** *Perilous Times and Perilous Men*

*"But know this, that in the last days perilous times (Times of Stress) will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 6 For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, 7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; 9 but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was."* 2Timothy 3:1-9.

Larry Lilly's Journal, Sept 2020. [larrylilly@larrylilly.net](mailto:larrylilly@larrylilly.net)

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## **SOVEREIGNTY & RESPONSIBILITY**

### **THE TAKING OF AI, JOSHUA 8**

Those of us who are "Calvinists" are at times charged with ignoring man's responsibility. I must admit that I know "Calvinists" who totally ignore man's responsibility, believing that God will accomplish his purpose without any effort on man's part. They seem to use "Calvinism" to avoid human responsibility. I also know "Arminians" who totally ignore God's sovereignty, and place everything upon man, e.g., "Man will not convert the world to godliness." Certainly, I must agree with that statement, for man will not, but who are we to say that God cannot convert the world to godliness through the preaching of the gospel?

Throughout Scripture, we see illustrated for us by the Spirit the proper balance between God's Sovereignty and Man's Responsibility.

Though we find God's total sovereignty and man's

responsibility taught throughout Scripture, Joshua 8 records one of the clearer views of this important and key doctrine. Here is recorded the conquest of Ai. The method of conquest was not chosen by Joshua, but by the Lord, and that method was different from what the Lord required to take the strong hold of Canaan, Jericho. This shows us that the Lord moves differently in different matters and in different people. No one can judge another according to the way the Lord works in himself. (*See Rom. 14:4, 2 Cor. 10:12.*)

Here are some points for your consideration from this chapter.

**First**, the two Testaments, like our two eyes, mutually enlighten and assist each other. Without the two working together, it is impossible to see how God works in history. Moreover, without a working knowledge of the Old Testament, we will be unable to understand our Christian responsibilities as mentioned in the New Testament, *e.g.*, Hebrews 4:11.

Both Paul and James used Old Testament illustrations to present their spiritual doctrines. (Rom. 4:3, Gal. 3:6 & Jas. 2:23—Paul proved justification by faith alone, and James proved justification by faith WILL result in obedience to the word of God.) The Old Testament gives us literal, physical examples of the spiritual truths and requirements presented in the New Testament. (*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.* 1 Cor. 10:11.)

Those who vainly try to separate the two Testaments will not be able to properly understand God's workings in history—in the lives of nations and/or individuals—nor will they understand the Christian's responsibilities to the God of History. Considering that the Old Testament illustrates man's responsibility to his Redeemer-King, we can safely say that that responsibility presented in the Old Testament is one reason fallen man is so determined to cut the Old Testament out of his Bible: Thus we cannot say, "That is Old Testament; therefore, it does not apply for us today." Pink said it like this:

Thus we see how that the principles which were to regulate Joshua and his men were the same as those which are to govern Christians in connection with their spiritual warfare. "The two Testaments, like our two eyes, mutually enlighten and assist each other" (A. Searle). They were to proceed with the utmost confidence in God, yet with entire submission to Him. They

were to act faith in His sure promise, and at the same time render implicit obedience to His precept. They were to go forward fully assured that Jehovah had given Ai into their hands, nevertheless they must adhere strictly to the strategy He had specified. So, though told "the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly" (Romans xvi, 20), we are definitely bidden to resist him steadfast in the faith (I Peter v, 9). Our confidence is "that He which hath begun a good work in us will finish it" (Phil. I, 6), nevertheless, in the very next chapter we are exhorted "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (verse 12). Mighty foes and powerful forces are arrayed in the fight, but the ultimate issue is not in doubt: "forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. xv, 58). (Pink, *Joshua*, 215.)

**Second**, the Lord delivered Jericho by a miracle, with no effort on Israel's part except obedience; he now delivers Ai through self-discipline and hard work on the part of his people. He delivered Jericho in a way to show his people that God alone is the one who will deliver the land into their hands—they would thus realize that though they had to put hard work into the conquest, the Lord alone was the one who delivered the victories.

**Third**, God is sovereign, yet he holds man accountable for his actions. The cause of their failure to take Ai the first time was Achan's sin and Joshua's yielding to the suggestion of the spies that appealed to the natural desires: just a few men were needed to take the city. Joshua leaned to his own understanding, which resulted in defeat at Ai. Obviously, the spies also bare a great amount of the blame for the bad advice given to Joshua.

### **Good men, Bad advice**

We might mention here that good men can give bad advice; just because a man has been good in the past, does not mean his advice is good in the present. Only the word of God changes not, so all advice must be examined in the light of prayer and God's word; something Joshua failed to do.

Continually, we are confronted with the two great themes of Scripture: *God's Sovereignty & Man's Culpability*. Thus though man failed in his responsibility at Jericho and at Ai, God's good purpose was accomplished. I cannot work it out in my own mind, so I sure cannot put it down here. However, I will give Pink's statement on v. 3:

"So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up

against Ai.” That was not only an act of obedience, but, we doubt not, should also be regarded as one of faith—in response to Jehovah’s “See! I have given into thy hand the King of Ai.” Should any one be disposed to ask, “But since the Lord had made such an announcement, why was it necessary for Joshua and the whole of his army to go to so much trouble?” he would betray his ignorance both of God’s sovereignty and of man’s accountability. God’s predestination of the end does not render needless our use of means: rather does the former include the latter, and is realized by the same. When the Lord informed Hezekiah through one of His prophets that He would “add unto his days fifteen years “ (Isaiah xxxviii, 5), that certainly did not imply that the king might henceforth dispense with food, drink and sleep; any more than God’s assurance to Paul that there should be “no loss of life” of the ship’s contingent rendered it the less imperative to abstain from recklessness and to use means for their preservation (Acts xxvii, 22-24, 31). God’s gracious assurances unto His people are not designed to promote indolence, but instead to stimulate and to encourage diligence, knowing that “our labour is not in vain in the Lord “ (I Cor. xv, 58).

While it be true that unless God gives the victory no efforts of ours can possibly achieve it, nevertheless it is our bounden duty to make every effort. Though the fall of Ai was certain, yet Israel were called upon to discharge their responsibility. God’s promises to us are not given to induce slothfulness, but to be a spur unto obedience to His precepts. Faith is no substitute for diligent and zealous work, but is to act as the director of the same. Hope is not to absolve us from the discharge of our obligations, but is to inspire unto the performing of the same. It is because victory is sure in the end that the soldiers of Christ are called upon to fight: that assurance is to be their incentive, from which they are to draw their energy. The genuine exercise of faith has a powerful influence both upon the Christian’s efforts to mortify the old man and to vivify the new. This is clear from Romans vi, 11, and what follows: we must by the reckoning of faith account ourselves legally one with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection before we can expect any success in subduing our lusts or developing our graces (v. 13). Faith is indeed the victory “that overcometh the world” (I John v, 4), yet as the previous verse clearly shows, it is a faith which is operative in the keeping of God’s commandments. (*Joshua*, 2:12.)

Though Israel had the promise of victory, they had to strictly follow the plan given by God.

**Vv. 3-7**, notice the emphasis on **human responsibility** before God’s deliverance. The victory was all of the Lord, yet the overwhelming emphasis was on human

responsibility, *e.g.*,

*He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. (Pr. 10:4, 22)*

Human responsibility and Divine blessing—the two are consistent; they cannot be separated.

*Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. (Ps. 127:1)*

If there is no human responsibility (labour), there will be no house.

**Certainly, this writer is a “Calvinist.”** However, the Scripture is clear on the fact of human responsibility to preach the gospel, for that is the means the Lord has ordained to save the elect. (1 Cor. 1:21) Human responsibility in God’s plan includes evangelization, but God alone does the converting, and that converting is according to his sovereign purpose and pleasure alone (with no advice from anyone). (*See Job 9:12, Dan. 4:35, Eph. 1:5-9, Phil. 2:13.*)

I know some “Calvinists” who are as bad as some “Arminians:” The “Calvinists” totally ignore man’s responsibility, and the “Arminians” totally ignore God’s sovereignty. And thus both flee from their responsibilities (as clearly laid out in both the OT and NT) to preach the gospel to every creature and teach all nations to be obedient to the faith, *e.g.*, “What’s the use? God will convert the world to godliness without my help,” or “What’s the use? No matter how much I work, the world will never be converted to godliness.”

I might mention that when one man or group of men refuses to follow God’s plan, he will exalt someone else or others. Old Testament Israel was cut off and replaced by a New Israel, the Israel of God, the church. (*See Mt. 21:33-46.*)

God’s plan will be accomplished despite man’s irresponsibility, and he will use men, even ungodly men, to accomplish his eternal plan of redemption. He is subduing and shall subdue all things under the feet of his Dear Son.

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## PERSONAL

There is justified concern about the Netflix streaming movie, “Cuties.” Netflix is defending the film though it spotlights a “dance sequence showing underage girls gyrating provocatively...”

<https://www.breitbart.com/entertainment/2020/09/11/netflix-defends-releasing-cuties-social-commentary-against-sexualization-of-young-children/>

**“Grooming” young girls for Pedophilia:** Some time ago, my wife and I attended a public-school play. Each grade up to middle school had a section in the program. Part of the program had maybe 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls who were dressed very skimpily, and were “gyrating provocatively” on stage. In fact, one young girl, maybe 8 or 9 years old, came out with a gold boa, and used it as would a stripper, as she “undressed” down to a swimming suit. Meanwhile, the men in the audience issued many “wolf whistles.” I am sure there were many dads involved in the whistles. The spirit was so oppressive and stressful that I had to leave the performance. I would not be surprised if some of those parents signed the petition against “Cuties” while they applaud their own daughters “gyrating provocatively.”

**Covid, man-made:** Chinese virologist vows to publish proof COVID-19 man-made ‘The virus is not from nature’

[https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/chinese-virologist-vows-publish-proof-covid-19-man-made/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm\\_campaign=dailyam&utm\\_content=newsletter&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2020/09/chinese-virologist-vows-publish-proof-covid-19-man-made/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=newsletter&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

**Online Bible.** Obviously, I use an abundance of Scripture in my writings. I have read the scriptures through enough times that though my memory has been greatly “detuned” by my heart attack and the many medications I take, a few words may come to mind about a particular subject. I am then able to search for the words, and the scripture is there. Online Bible on my computer is a life-saver for me, and takes multitude of hours out of research.

### **Foolishness of the “Mask Mandate”**

“Dr. Martin Feeley, Clinical Director of the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group, said the restrictions being imposed by the government are “draconian” and the virus is “much less severe” than the average seasonal flu.” “The 20th century was the American century. **Throughout the century, the business of America has been war. The 21st century will be the Chinese century. The business of China is business.**” (Gerald Celente, Trendsjournal, 15 September 2020)

**CDC** “In the end, people who wish to wear masks of whatever type should feel free to do so. But mandates as favored by Democrat and RINO politicians are inappro-

prate and ineffective, as the CDC is now more or less admitting.

[https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/health-care/item/37023-the-cdc-admission-mask-effectiveness-up-in-flames?ct=t\(EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_12\\_2\\_2019\\_15\\_37\\_COPY\\_01\)&mc\\_cid=db7d5a1def&mc\\_eid=ac0ee9953a](https://www.thenewamerican.com/usnews/health-care/item/37023-the-cdc-admission-mask-effectiveness-up-in-flames?ct=t(EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_12_2_2019_15_37_COPY_01)&mc_cid=db7d5a1def&mc_eid=ac0ee9953a)

### **China in your bedroom**

Alphonso: China’s Ears in Your House

Alphonso technology is built into smart TVs, including Sharp, Toshiba, Hisense, Seiki, and Skyworth.

“Other companies openly working with China include Bloomberg, ABC, MSNBC, NBC, CNN, the *Washington Post*, and the *New York Times*. When one considers China’s ability to spy on us through applications such as Zoom, then the Xi Jinping’s 2013 dictate that technology is a “national weapon in modern times,” becomes more ominous.”

[https://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/computers/item/37036-alphonso-china-s-ears-in-your-house?ct=t\(EMAIL\\_CAM-PAIGN\\_12\\_2\\_2019\\_15\\_37\\_COPY\\_01\)&mc\\_cid=db7d5a1def&mc\\_eid=ac0ee9953a](https://www.thenewamerican.com/tech/computers/item/37036-alphonso-china-s-ears-in-your-house?ct=t(EMAIL_CAM-PAIGN_12_2_2019_15_37_COPY_01)&mc_cid=db7d5a1def&mc_eid=ac0ee9953a)

We commonly hear “It is no one’s business what goes on in the bedroom.” But China knows what goes on if you have “smart” TV there. As we build ships, China builds total control over everyone and everything through technology. BLM is China’s effort to instill Marxism in the US. China is gaining control of all information, as well as all technology, even the technology that controls our “War Machine.”

“We” have intentionally made China rich enough to hold the world hostage. **Example:** The V. A. provides my heart medication. I tried to get the normal 90 day refill, but was told by my V. A. doctor that there is such a shortage in medication they could only provide 30 days worth. Trump has complained that China controls our medical supplies, and China has threatened to withhold medicines.

The NWO crowd has accomplished what they have been working toward since WW II. The “pinchers” are starting to close, particularly with the coming demand for vaccinations. Are we ready?

### **Guns and Amo**

*“Also today:* You now have 49 days until the election, which means you’d better have your rifle ready for self-defense, since the radical, lawless Left is going to explode with an attempted violent coup and mass murder event after the election.” (9/14/20. Mike Adams also points out



that there are multiple arrests being reported that the fires out West are set by BLM / Antifa. One arsonist in Oregon has been caught and released 4 times. Obvious conclusions any one?)

**Cancer report:** Bettie has not finished with her scans. We cannot make informed decisions until their results are in, which should be before the end of the month. Between Bettie's and my hospital appointments, we are on the road 2-3 days a week. Please pray that we will be able to get all the tests done quickly, so we can lay it all before the Lord as we make decisions.

**Videos:** As I have time, I hope to put sermons up on sermon audio and on youtube.

“We must pray for forgiveness for America's sins, or lose this nation.” Mike Adams, NaturalNews.com

Nez Perce Indians

## INURED TO HARDSHIP

All was deathly silent in the small village of Kamiah, in what would one day be the state of Idaho. A neat white chapel testified that the Gospel of Jesus Christ had come to Idaho territory. The fir trees and silent mountains stood around the house of worship as people stood in quiet groups, talking, praying, and pointing to a little house framed with simple boards and roofed with cedar. Inside that house, a man was dying.

This man was Henry Harmon Spalding, the beloved pastor of the Nez Perce Indians. He was on his deathbed, and the people he loved were gathered around, awaiting the end. Slowly, a tall Indian rode into the clearing around the church and made his way toward the house. This was Chief Timothy, once a savage, but now a Christian. Let us follow him into the house and observe the scene.

Inside the house we find an old man propped up in a bed. His beard flows down to his chest, and his eyes are sunken and hollow. He knows eternity is near. But when his eyes see Timothy, they brighten and sparkle with the gleam of renewed vigor. Timothy was Spalding's first convert to the Gospel, and he has proven faithful. The old missionary and the old chief look at one another in silence, for there are no words to express their thoughts.

It is said, that in the final days of life, the mind rushes back to early memories. The sight of old Timothy has brought back a flood of memories to the veteran missionary. He remembered the distant village on the east side of the continent where he had been born, an ille-

gitimate child. He remembered his own conversion to the Gospel, and the first time that he as a young man had heard about the people that lived west of the Rocky Mountains. He remembered the young lady, Eliza Hart, who had agreed to become his wife and cross an unknown continent at his side. Eliza was waiting for him in heaven, and Henry would see her soon.

As Henry continued his remembrance, he remembered the day, forty years earlier, when he and his fellow missionary, Marcus Whitman, and their wives had left all they had known to bring the Book of God to the Indians of the Northwest. He remembered his first sight of the rugged mountains, the first grizzly bear, the first hostile Indian. Many troubles had been weathered and many hardships endured in his long pilgrimage on earth.

He carried some scars in his body as well as in his soul. It is not an easy thing to be a pioneer missionary in a hostile land. But Henry had always risen to every challenge. When most of his comrades had died or gone home, Henry Spalding had stayed.

A friend who knew him well once said that he was “inured to hardship from infancy.” The veteran missionary had been chased by bears, thrown by horses, hunted by savages, and distrusted by his own companions. Even his fellow-laborer, Marcus Whitman, had often misunderstood and slandered him. Working closely together on a foreign field is always hard, and differences of opinion can divide good men. The drive and zeal of Henry Spalding made him clash with anyone whom he considered as lacking zeal. Marcus Whitman sometimes viewed Henry as proud, uncompromising, and cantankerous.

But when Marcus' daughter Alice Clarissa drowned in a creek, Henry made a hard 120-mile trip through the mountains to comfort his grieving friends. Beneath his rough beard, sunburned face, and fiery eyes there was a soft heart. Henry mingled his tears with those of Marcus and Narcissa as he preached the funeral of the little girl from the tender text, “Is it well with the child? It is well” (II Kings 4:26).

So firm was his love to the Whitmans that Spalding entrusted his own eldest daughter to their care, and the girl had been with the Whitmans on the fateful day of their martyrdom at the hands of the Cayuse in November of 1847.

Henry and his wife Eliza were threatened with death

numerous times, but the Lord had delivered them to carry on the work. Their own mission compound, called Lapwai, was protected by converted natives like Chief Timothy who would not let hostile hands touch their beloved teacher.

While Marcus and Narcissa Whitman went to an early martyrdom and reward, the Spaldings were left on earth to continue the task of taming the west with the Bible and the hoe. After losing his beloved wife Eliza in 1852, Henry continued, “steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (I Corinthians 15:58). Over his long and faithful ministry in the Northwest, he lived to personally baptize over 1,000 converts. His ministry extended beyond the Nez Perce tribe to embrace the neighboring tribes of the Cayuse, the Spokane, the Walla Walla, the Yakima, and the Couer d’Alene.

Henry had lived to see the wilderness of Oregon reach the status of statehood. By the time of his death, the transcontinental railroad had been laid. The mountains over which he had once walked on foot beside a mule were now crossed by trains. On his last trip east in 1871, the old missionary had gazed in wonder as the landscape slid past the window of his comfortable railcar. On this trip to the east, the old missionary was hailed by large crowds wherever he went. He was welcomed by august bodies of statesmen and stood before the U. S. Senate as well as the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. He always preached to crowded churches, telling the people the fascinating story of the mission work in the Northwest and the blood of martyrs that had hallowed that ground. Spalding pled that the work was not over, and that the west could not be won with the railroad, barbed wire, and the Winchester rifle, but that the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and that alone, could tame the wild frontier. The U. S. Senate applauded his efforts and all the famous newspapers sang the praises of the old missionary.

But Henry Spalding would not bask in personal glory. He set his face toward the western sun and returned to his old station at Lapwai, wanting to die at his post of duty. Indeed, his last years were some of his most fruitful, as he began to train a host of young Nez Perce pastors and teachers who would continue his work.

Even at the age of 70, old Spalding worked as hard as ever. That year, he travelled more than 1,500 miles on horseback. He lived with the Indians, slept on the hard ground, ate their food, and taught them the Book

of God. He gave the Nez Perce a written language and translated large portions of Scripture for his beloved people. He also taught them to sing, and Henry loved nothing better than to sit in that white frame church and hear the sweet songs of Zion being sung by his converts.

Gentle singing now called the old man out of his memories. The loved ones about his bed were singing a favorite hymn, a hymn loved by his wife Eliza, now awaiting him in glory, “The delightful day will come, When my dear Lord will bring me home, And I shall see his face.”

Near Henry was his well-worn Bible and his journal. The last entry of that journal was written with a shaky hand, telling of the baptism of several natives from the Umatilla tribe. Interestingly, the final two natives, a warrior and his wife, who were baptized by Spalding took the Christian names Marcus and Narcissa Whitman. Under this baptismal record, the final words of Henry’s journal were these, “Bless the Lord, oh my soul.”

Over the dying missionary, Chief Timothy stood reverently, his dark cheeks wet with tears. He had joined in the singing, and now he opened his copy of the Gospel of Matthew, translated by Henry into the Nez Perce language, and offered his pastor a few words of comfort from the Book of Books. The old chief then joined his hand with the hand of the old missionary and gave his teacher these final words of parting:

“You are my great interpreter. You was sent by God to me and to this people, to teach us life, the Word of God. You are going first. God only is good and great. Jesus alone gives life. Now don’t be concerned. I will never turn back. My wife will never turn back. This people will never turn back.”

With these words echoing in his heart, Henry Harmon Spalding finished his earthly pilgrimage and entered the eternal rest that is reserved for the people of God. He was buried at Lapwai, his old mission station, under a grove of trees, and his grave is carefully maintained by a grateful people to this very day. He had committed the truth to faithful men, men who would teach others also.

The churches that Henry Spalding started still stand today, and there are Nez Perce pastors alive and preaching today in the Northwest who gratefully trace their heritage to his influence. Nez Perce National Park now marks the place where Henry Harmon Spalding lived

and labored.

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them” (Revelation 14:13).

—Drawn from Henry Harmon Spalding by Clifford Drury and Marcus and Narcissa Whitman and the Opening of Old Oregon also by Clifford Drury.

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## QANON

*(See Editor's comment at the end.)*

**What is QAnon**, the conspiracy theory group showing up to Trump rallies?

In 2018, as President Trump traveled across the country, spectators have been spotted holding up giant cutouts of the letter Q and wearing T-shirts with the hashtag, #WeAreQ.

### **So who are they?**

Under the radar until now, they are members of the fringe, right-wing group QAnon that believes in massive conspiracies in the media and the so-called “deep state” to take down Trump.

The group “is just hitting the right audience at the right time given the right circumstance,” Joseph Uscinski, a University of Miami professor who co-authored the book “American Conspiracy Theories,” told The Associated Press. He said the topics appeal to many who are already inclined to believe conspiracy theories.

Read on for a look at what QAnon is, and why it's been in the news lately.

### **What does the group believe?**

There are several conspiracy theories this group has latched on to, especially the belief there is a network of people, including in the U.S. government, that wants to take down Trump and his administration, according to The New York Times.

With the outbreak of the Coronavirus, QAnon followers have begun to spread false “treatments” for the virus. Furthermore, the group have accused liberal billionaire George Soros of rigging the Iowa Democratic caucuses following its flawed outcome.

A previous theory, according to NPR, held that Special Counsel Robert Mueller was not actually investigating allegations of Russian interference and collusion in the 2016 election. Rather, the former FBI director

looked into prominent Democrats — including former President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, Trump's 2016 opponent — and their relationship with Russia or potential connections to a massive (unsubstantiated) pedophile ring.

Another belief is the military asked Trump to run for president in order to deal with the nefarious group of people in government, according to NPR.

The group also has its own lingo. Aside from calling the leader simply “Q,” they refer to those who attempt to debunk the group and its theories as “clowns,” and those who follow along as “bakers.”

### **How did it get started?**

According to The Associated Press, an anonymous person posted on the online messaging website 4chan in October 2017 claiming to have a high-level government security clearance — a “Q clearance,” to be exact — and discussed Trump, Obama, Clinton, political donor George Soros and others. The message was titled, “The Calm Before the Storm,” which many believe to be a reference to a meeting Trump had with military leaders earlier that month when he used the same phrase.

The poster, “Q,” leaves what are called “breadcrumbs,” or clues for followers to decipher to figure out the conspiracy theories.

It's unclear who “Q” actually is, and if he or she is just one person or a group.

### **Why have they made headlines?**

People holding signs or wearing apparel referencing QAnon started showing up at Trump rallies and other political events in early 2018.

A group marched to the Department of Justice in protest in April 2018. And a 30-year-old man was arrested for alleged terrorist acts, among other things, after he blocked a highway near the Hoover Dam with his armored truck, calling for the release of a Justice Department report pertaining to Clinton's email server, WTVR reported. The man involved in that June incident is believed to have been associated with QAnon.

Roseanne Barr, the embattled actress whose name-sake show was canceled this year after she tweeted racist sentiments about a former Obama administration official, has also apparently retweeted messages from its Twitter account and asked to make contact with the leader.

In June 2018, she also tweeted the phrase “wwglw-ga,” which NPR translated as “where we go one, we go all,” a common phrase among supporters.

Anything else to know about the group?

It looks for validation, especially in the number 17, which coincides with where Q is in the alphabet.

For example, the University of Alabama national champion football team gave Trump a jersey with the number 17 on it earlier this year when it visited the White House. As The New York Times reported, some who adhere to the Q group believe it’s a symbol that it exists; others online believe it shows Trump, himself, is “Q.”

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/what-is-qanon-the-conspiracy-theory-group-showing-up-to-trump-rallies>

**For a very good embedded Fox video interview concerning QAnon, go to**

“Trump addresses QAnon conspiracy theory for the first time: ‘I heard that these are people that love our country’”

‘I don’t know much about the movement besides that they like me very much,’ the president said

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-qanon-conspiracy-theory-first-time>

### Confronting “Q”

This author had not heard of nor followed QAnon, but it is starting to get enough coverage that it needs to be addressed.

**A THEOLOGICAL ISSUE:** The “Q” movement emphasizes conspiracy theories of every kind, including Satanic theories. **QAnon’s MAJOR problem is that it teaches that conspiracies control history.** As Christians, we cannot even entertain the idea that conspiracies control history without denying the Christian

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faith.

“If you dig down and listen hard enough, there’s something there. ... Every lie has some sort of truth built into it.” (Jonathan Staab, World Magazine, 09.12.20.) There may be enough truth to captivate and make “QAnon” desirable to investigate; however, such an investigation is dangerous, for QAnon is built on an unspiritual foundation, *i.e.*, **conspiracies control history.** For three years, I served under a Dispensational pastor who was given over to the idea that conspiracies control history. With no faith or a Dispensational faith with no victorious God, where does one go? We as finite creatures cannot comprehend the mind of God, and how every event was already established by the Tri-une God before He even spoke the words in Genesis 1.

**ANSWER TO QANON:** Understand that history is working the minutest detail, even the exaltation of the vilest persons, toward God’s divinely appointed end: Ps 2, Dan 4:35, Acts 2:23, 4:28, Col 1:16, 17, 1 Peter 1:20, Eph 1:4, Heb 4:3, Rev 13:8, 17:8, &c. (Post-Mill has the sure hope that God is in total control. See *1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith*, Chapter 8: Concerning Christ the Mediator.) God limits the wicked:

*Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. Psalms 76:10*



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