

# The Biblical Examiner

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

The Biblical Examiner. 5130 Danville Rd, Lynchburg, OH 45142  
540.255.2243 ; Bro. Need, 740.637.4191 facebook.com/ovid.need

www.biblicalexaminer.org ; ovid.need@gmail.com

Sermonaudio.com/providence ; Youtube

Holding to the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith



## A GLORIOUS VISION OF VICTORY

*The apple of his eye.*

By Rev. Need

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

Let us open by examining the gross misuse of *apple of his eye*, and then examine it in its context. (“A text without a context is a pretext,” and the modern use of v. 8 is clearly a damnable pretext, and has robbed the church of a glorious promise of its victory over the world.)

For a couple of generations, v. 8 has been wrested from its obvious context in Zechariah to justify supporting the apostate, antichrist nation of Israel in order for it to get military, financial and emotional support from professed Christians who are scripturally ignorant. In fact, how many times has support for modern Israel

been the deciding factor in elections. However, the modern nation of Israel has made it clear that they have no connection with ancient Israel of the Exodus, but the Church has refused to hear what Israel has made clear that they are Ashkenazi Jews. (Noah, Japheth, Gomer, Ashkenaz,

Gen 10. Gomer’s brothers are Magog, Madai, Javan Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras. We encounter these names in Ezekiel 38. Check it out. For more than you want to know about the modern “Jew” issue and their pagan “holy days,” see <https://www.biblicalexaminer.org/JudaismOpen.html>. We know that The UN confiscated the Palestinian land to establish a “homeland” for the sons of Japheth through Gomer who follow the Jewish religion; v. 8 was and is still being used to justify that confiscation, and to strengthen Judaism. We continually get pleas to help poor, starving Jewish widows from the “International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.” Judaism is a continuation of the Phariseism of the New Testament. Christians do not know the Word of God, so they end up financing the modern antichrist Jewish state!

“A gift of \$25 will help provide a survival food box to elderly Jews, like Ramzia.” In their fundraising among Christians, they time the modern Jewish widow with the book of Ruth. “Help feed Israel’s Hungry,” “Adapt a wedding in Israel in the same date as your wedding.” “Donate to our Childrn’s center.” (Comment:

### Contents

A Glorious Vision of Victory •  
Current events and Anxiety...7 ;  
Various...8 • EV idiocy... 8 ;  
Mexico and common sense...9 •  
Education... 9 • Derailments... 10  
• Revival?...10 • As religion declines, government grows – tragically...11 • A TikTok World...12 •  
Homeschooling surge continues despite schools reopening...14 •  
Modesty...15 • At Volunteer Precious Metals...17 • The Need for True Gentlemen...18 • **Zeal Without Knowledge...20** • LOL...23 •  
AI & Chatbots...23 • LLMs...24 •

so we can train them up in antichrist “Judaism.” Do-  
nate now.) They know that  
Christians do not know the  
Word of God, so they are  
a source of money to pro-  
mote Phariseeism, *i.e.*, Ju-  
daism

### A Glorious Vision of Victory

The vast majority of Christian preachers and teachers apply v. 8 to the antichrist nation of Israel, and in doing so, they destroy this true promise of the victory given to the Gospel Church. Because the corruption of v. 8 has been adapted as genuine Christian doctrine, the following will seriously examine v. 8, showing that it is a glorious promise that the Kingdom of God, the Gospel Church that shall expand over the whole earth.

The term *the apple of his eye* is used in Zechariah 2:8, where we find Zechariah’s **third vision**. It is short and simple, yet it covers a tremendous amount of ground. **The first vision** had warned those who were following the Lord for what was in it for them—their hearts were not in their service. **The next vision** was given to the Godly workmen, and covered the promised defeat and destruction of the pagan world powers which were standing against the kingdom of God. As we consider Zechariah, we must remember Hebrews 12:22, tells us that the Gospel Church is Mount Zion.

Two months after Haggai had begun to prophesy, Zechariah was also sent of the Lord to help him in the labour, and to confirm the same doctrine. First therefore, he puts them in remembrance of that reason God had so severely punished their fathers: and yet comforts them if they will truly repent, and not abuse this great benefit of God in their deliverance which was a figure of that true deliverance, that all the faithful should have from death and sin, by Christ. But because they remained still in their wickedness, and lack of desire to set forth God’s glory, and were not yet made better by their long banishment, he rebukes them most sharply: yet for the comfort of the repentant, he ever mixes the promise of grace, that they might by this means be prepared to receive Christ, in whom all should be sanctified to the Lord. (Hengstenberg, *Christology of the Old Testament*, MacDonald Publishing Company, McLean VA.)



**The vision in chapter 2** reveals the unlimited, world-wide expansion of the kingdom of God. In this vision, Zechariah saw a man with a measuring line in his hand, which is very similar to Ezekiel’s vision in chapter 40. So, Zechariah asks the interpreting angel who is with him what is going on. He responds that Jerusalem is being measured.

Zechariah’s interpreter goes to enquire of the angel who is doing the measuring to find out what He is doing. As the interpreter goes toward the one measuring to find out the meaning of the measuring, another angel comes out to meet the interpreter.

He tells Zechariah’s angel to **run** back and tell Zechariah (v. 4, *this young man*. Zechariah was a young man at this time), “*Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle therein: For I, saith the Lord, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.*” The measuring angel is the angel of the Lord (*For I, saith the LORD*, v. 5—that is, The LORD Jesus Christ, Exodus 3:14 with John 8:58), and He tells the interpreting angel to hurry back to Zechariah with the explanation of what He is doing.

#### Vv. 1-5 What does the message mean?

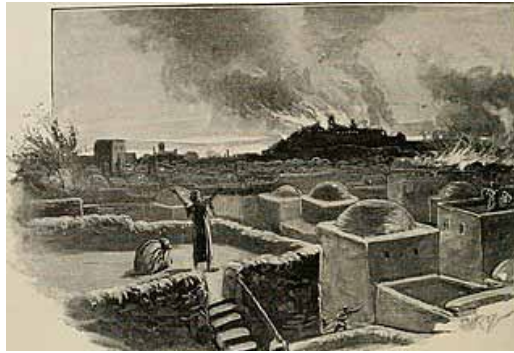
**In v. 2**, the city is being measured. This vision of Jerusalem being measured presupposes that the city is already in existence; but it was not at that time. The vision is being given to Zechariah as encouragement for those doing the work of rebuilding the city.

But the message does not stop with simply rebuilding the city under Ezra and Nehemiah. It looks forward to a future city which will far exceed its present boundaries. Remember, the angel is speaking to Zechariah who is surrounded by the ruins of the city. Zechariah will be speaking to those who are living in the midst of the city in complete ruins. What Zechariah is being told goes just the opposite of what appears in the surrounding ruins. (John 7:24.)

**Thus, Zechariah is being told that Jerusalem will prosper** and be enlarged beyond anything they can even hope or dream about in the midst of their present rubble. In fact, the city’s enlargement will not require walls for protection from her enemies; rather, the LORD Himself will be her protection; the Lord will be unto her a wall of fire round about.

**V. 4 And said to him**, Run, speak to this {b} young man, saying, {c} Jerusalem shall be inhabited [as]

towns without walls for the multitude of men and cattle in it: (b) Meaning himself, Zechariah. (c) Signifying the spiritual Jerusalem and Church under Christ, which would be extended by the Gospel through all the world, and would need no material walls, nor trust in any worldly strength, but would be safely preserved and dwell in peace among all their enemies. (Geneva)



Destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon

**V. 4. Furthermore**, not only will the LORD be a wall of fire round about the city, but He will be the glory in the midst of the city, which corresponds to Ezekiel 38:11. Chapter 38 also identifies the enemies of the Gospel Church.

**The thought is therefore the following:** Jerusalem is in future to resemble an open country covered with unwalled cities and villages; it will no longer be a city closely encircled with walls; hence it will be extra ordinarily enlarged, on account of the multitude of men and cattle with which it will be blessed, (cf. Isa. 49:19, 20; Ez 38:11). Moreover, (2) Jerusalem will then have no protecting wall surrounding it, because it will enjoy a superior protection. Jehovah will be to it a wall of fire round about, that is to say, a defence of fire which will consume everyone who ventures to attack it, (cf. Isa. 4:5; Deut. 4:24). Jehovah will also be the glory in the midst of Jerusalem, that is to say, will fill the city with His glory, (cf. Isa. 60:19). (Keil)

**There can be no mistaking:** Zechariah is speaking of the Gospel Church and its glories under its King, as is evident throughout this chapter. He is certainly not speaking of an apostate, antichrist nation as many try to make out of v. 8. Again, this prophecy is being given to a handful of people who are faced with heaps upon heaps of rubble from the old city; they are faced with a seemingly impossible task of raising up a thing of beauty out of the ashes of war and fire, raising it up even in the midst of their enemies who discourage and ridicule their seemingly useless effort.

In Luke 4, **Christ quoted Isaiah 61, which fulfills the prophecy of Zechariah 2.** (The result was that the Jews were filled with wrath, and sought to cast him down a hill to his death.) When one considers Zechariah 2 and Isaiah 6, how can he not rejoice even in the turmoil of our age.

In the midst of the ruins, Zechariah tells of the future greater glory which awaits the city of the living God, the capital of the nation of the covenant people. (Actually, the capital of the whole earth, *is mount Zion, The city of the great king*, Psalms 48:2)

**V. 5 For I, saith the LORD, will be to her a wall of fire** on every side, and will be the

glory in the midst of her. (d) To defend my Church, to strike fear in the enemies, and to destroy them if they approach near. (e) In me they will have their full felicity and glory. (Geneva)

No doubt those who heard and read Zechariah totally expected his prophecy to be literally fulfilled at a future date under the Messiah as they applied their natural understanding to the prophecy. But from v. 5, we see that Zechariah cannot be referring to a literal, physical fulfillment as we would think of a city or nation in the natural realm, and as taught by those who do not know the Scriptures. V. 5 clearly tells us that the city of the great King will be the Gospel Church under the care of her King, and the King's glory will be in the midst of her, and her protector.

*Wall of fire.* The Lord protects His church with His fiery vengeance.

There is an abundance of New Testament passages which speak of Christ (1) being the protector of the church, and Christ (2.) indwelling the midst of the church, e.g.,

*So that we may boldly say, The Lord [is] my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. (Hebrews 13:6) And who [is] he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? (1 Peter 3:13) 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6:19)*

**Vv. 6-9**

This section contains God's call to those still in Babylon. Because of Israel's sin, she had been scattered everywhere. God used the heathen nations to judge His people's sin, and when Babylon moved against Israel, they destroyed everything, and scattered God's people far and wide. Now the Lord is going to judge Babylon,



and He calls on His people to get out of her before she falls.

Though Ezra and Nehemiah returned to Palestine with many Jews, far more remained in Babylon than returned to Palestine. They were settled into the system; they had good jobs and security, so they remained in Babylon. Others may have remained in Babylon for fear of returning to Jerusalem. Regardless, those who remained were more interested in self than they were in serving the Lord in the hard work at Mount Zion. (The Judaism of Christ's day originated during the Babylonian captivity, as did the Pharisee sect. The Talmud was written in Babylon.) Sadly, most of God's people feel the same about the hard work, dedication and sacrifice required to build the New Mount Zion.

Zechariah, though, is looking far past the ones who remained in Babylon, and speaks to the time of the new City of God, the New Jerusalem.

**V. 6. The same power** that scattered them has the power to restore them.

**V. 7. Dwelleth with the daughter of Babylon.**

The Lord now speaks far past Zechariah's time to the Babylon yet to come, and the evil system in which the church must dwell. Zechariah's people were building a city with strong walls, but the prophecy looks far past their present effort of building the city. It looks past the time of the Messiah's coming to the glorious day of the Church, to the day that it must dwell with the **Babylonian system. Deliver thyself; that is, separate from that evil system.**

**Zechariah 2:7** continues the thought of 2:4 & 5, which speaks of the glorious dwelling of the Lord in the midst of His people. One of the results of His dwelling in their midst of His people was going to be and will be His judgment upon the world, the daughter of Babylon.

V. 5 and the New Testament. **A) Colossians 1:27**, Christ dwelling in the believer. **B) 1 Corinthians 3**, we have the New Testament building which God is building, as well as the definition of the temple of God since Christ.

**Six wonderful promises for the church:**

**First**, what the New Testament building, Zechariah's temple, was looking forward to was the Gospel Church



Jeremiah Lamenting over Jerusalem

which has Christ as its cornerstone, 1 Corinthians 30.

**Second**, Christ is the protector of the church, Revelation 1:16.

**Third**, Christ indwells the church, Colossians 1:27.

**Fourth**, the command to separate from the world system, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. This is the command for the child of God to separate himself from the world, Babylon if you please, not in the sense of a Monastic life, but in the sense of forsaking the sinful, worldly practices, *i.e.*, becoming a new man in Christ Jesus.

Some years ago, we visited my sister who lived in Virginia Beach within walking distance of the beach. It was amazing how many people want to take their clothes off, and use the beach as an excuse to expose themselves in the most base manner. I have no doubt that many of those "naked" people there were good Christians at home. The Word of God clearly commands us to not assume the dress and ways of the world around us. (See "Clothing Betrays the Heart" below.)

[Parentheses]

**Typical of this writer, here is more documentation than you want to know:**

**Romans 8:29** *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed <4832> to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

[Strong's No. 4832 (GREEK) 4832 summorphos {soom-mor-fos'} from 4862 and 3444; TDNT - 7:787,1102; adj AV - conformed to 1, fashioned like unto 1; 2 1) having the same form as another, similar, conformed to. For Synonyms see entry 5873]

**That is Romans 8:29**, speaks of strength of the total character, including but not just outside appearances. It refers to inner Christ-like strength that results in outward Christ-like appearances and actions.

**Romans 12:2** *And be not conformed <4964> to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what [is] that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

[Strong's No. 4964 (GREEK) 4964 suschematizo {soos-khay-mat-id'-zo} from 4862 and a derivative of 4976; v AV - conform to 1, fashion (one's) self according to 1; 2 1) to conform one's self (i.e. one's mind and

character) to another's pattern, (fashion one's self according to) For Synonyms see entry 5873. •Synonyms See Definition for summorphos 4832. See Definition for suschematizo 4964. 4832 - describes what is the essence in character and thus complete or durable, not merely a form or outline. 4964 - to shape one thing like another and describes what is transitory, changeable, and unstable.]

**On the other hand, Romans 12:2** speaks of maybe having the indwelling Spirit of Christ, but the outside actions and appearances are easily influenced by the world's fashions and patterns.

[End]

**Fifth**, the glorious, triumph of the church in God's good time, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

**Sixth**, a New Testament promise of judgment against the enemies of the church, 2 Thessalonians 1:6.

### III. Zechariah 2:6.

God used Babylon to scatter His rebellious people abroad to the four winds. Thus v. 6 is the call to God's people to return. As we keep in mind that Zechariah is built upon Jeremiah, the call reminds us of Jeremiah's prophecies, 31:

*7 For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel. 8 Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, [and] with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither.*

Though the gathering of God's people from throughout the world sounds like He is regathering the Old Testament sons of Jacob, it is the gospel call to Christ. The command to take the gospel world-wide is because God's people are everywhere. God calls His people to return from the places to where they have been scattered because of sin, v. 4. Looking forward to the Gospel Age, the LORD *will hiss unto them from the ends of the earth; and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly*: (Isaiah 5:23, Zechariah 10:8)

**Isaiah 11:10-12** tells of the gathering around Christ. John 3:14, 12:32. Hebrews chapter 4 clearly states that the promised land is Christ (and thus the *apple of His eye* is the Church, or those in Christ), and Galatians clearly states that the Gospel Church is the New Israel of God. (Those who make that small piece of land in

the Middle East the "promised land" that has upon it the protection of God must clearly deny the Word of God, and remove Hebrews four as well as the book of Galatians from their Bibles. The deniers of the Word do not seem to mind wresting the Word in order to support what they want to believe, and/or that brings in the money.)

Prophecy cannot be read nor understood in the spirit of our time. The Spirit used things with which everyone at the time when the prophecy was given could identify to describe the gathering of the Elect to Christ.

Vv. 6 & 7 could be a warning to those still dwelling in Babylon to flee from the city, which is the same warning our Lord gave to His covenant people to flee Jerusalem before it was judged, Matthew 24:15-22. Babylon was destroyed, and is today a pile of dust.

**IV. V. 8**, the warning goes to and beyond the time of the Messiah. Within this though is the judgment upon the nations which have opposed the kingdom of God (Hengstenberg).

V. 8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the {i} glory hath he sent me to the nations which wasted you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the {k} apple of his eye. (i) Seeing that God had begun to show his grace among you by delivering you, he continues the same still toward you, and therefore sends me his angel and his Christ to defend you from your enemies, so that they will not hurt you, neither along the way nor at home. (k) You are so dear



to God, that he can no more allow your enemies to hurt you, than a man can endure to be thrust in the eye; # Ps 17:8. [Ps 17:8 Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, 9 From the wicked that oppress me, [from] my deadly enemies, [who]

compass me about. {oppress: Heb. waste} {my...: Heb. my enemies against the soul} (Geneva)

### Promise of Vengeance against the enemies of the Kingdom of God, the Gospel Church

*...for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.* We will find this idea of God's vengeance against those who stand against His covenant people of all time first given to Abraham in Genesis 12:3. Not only does the context of Genesis 12:1-1 require that it be understood as

Christ and those in Him, but the entire book of Galatians teaches the same thing. [See my commentary on Galatians.] The promise followed through in the New Testament to the church, 2 Thessalonians 1:6.

Seeing [it is] a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you;

What He will do for His church shall be an evident proof of God's tender care of it and affection to it: He that touches you touches the apple of His eye. This is a high expression of God's love to His church. By His resentment of the injuries done to her it appears how dear she is to Him, how He interests Himself in all her interests, and takes what is done against her, not only as done against Himself, but as done against the very apple of His eye, the tenderest part, which nature has made very fine, has put a double guard upon, and taught us to be in a special manner careful of, and which the least touch is a great offence to. This encourages the people of God to pray with David (Ps 17:8), Keep me as the apple of thy eye; and engages them to do as Solomon directs (Pr 7:2), to keep His law as the apple of their eye. (Zechariah 2:8. Matthew Henry.)

**trouble you...** you must be defined as the covenant people — that is, the blood bought Christians who suffer for Christ. The wicked who partake in troubling the covenant people face the recompense of a righteous God. Not only do the wicked face this recompense, but so do those of the covenant people who do not separate themselves from the wicked. (1 Corinthians 3:17, Hebrews 10:25-31.)

The promise of God's righteous vengeance is against all those who stand against His kingdom. As the covenant people partake of the wicked's deeds, they also will face God's righteous vengeance, recompense, consuming fire, judgment and fiery indignation. Those of the covenant people who are yoked together with the unbelievers will face the physical destruction which the unbelievers face, yet their souls will be saved. (1 Corinthians 5.)

**V.9** For, behold, I will shake my hand {l} upon them, and {m} they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath {n} sent me. (l) Upon the heathen your enemies. (m) They will be your

servants, as you have been theirs. (n) This must necessarily be understood of Christ, who being God equal with his Father, was sent, as he was Mediator to dwell in his Church and to govern them. (Geneva)

**A seventh "I will" thus far.** I personally find tremendous comfort in these "I wills" of the Old Testament. There are three in this chapter, five in chapter 3, five in chapter 8, eight in chapter 10 and seven in chapter 12. The liberal use of "I will" is typical of these prophets; in fact, they are found throughout the Old Testament. I will... God promises to do a certain thing. Most of the "I wills" are based upon a condition of obedience, e.g., Abram, Genesis 12:1-3. God said, "Abram, go to where I will show you, leaving everyone behind. If you will go, I will (do these things for you)."

But some of the I wills have no conditions upon them, such as the one here in Zechariah 2:9. Here we see God's promise of His judgment against the ungodly: "I will shake mine hand upon them---." "within this God's promise of "I will judge the wicked" is His promise "and they shall be a spoil to my servants..." Within this promised judgment is God's promise not only to protect His covenant people, but also His promise to give to them the wealth of the wicked.



Of course, the spoiling by His people will be according to a condition—that is Malachi 3:17, faithful service to the Father will result in His faithful children, 1) being spared in the judgment against the wicked, and 2) spoiling the heathen. The VERY IMPORTANT POINT here again is this — IT IS GOD'S WORK, NOT MAN'S. (Note Isaiah 63:17)

**V. 9, I will shake...** This shaking is no doubt referred to in Hebrews 12:26-28, where we have two shakings: The first is referred to in Haggai 2:6, and is talking of the coming of Christ.

The second, Hebrews 12:27, 28, is the shaking which continues among the nations since His coming — the destruction of those things which can be destroyed. Really, it would be Matthew 7:24-29, where our Lord told of the destruction of those things built apart from obedience to the principles of His word. Hebrews 12:28, 29, follows the thought, telling us that what is left after this shaking will be in the hands of His faithful servants. V. 29, our God is a consuming fire, and He will



consume everything that is not built according to His building instructions, (Ez. 11:21).

This threatened (promised) fire, judgment or shaking against the world system (symbolized by the words, the daughter of Babylon), should cause those dwelling there to flee to the daughter of Zion, because the Lord dwells in the midst of Zion.

This passage in Zechariah saw a fulfillment as the Lord shook Babylon to the very foundation. Babylon fell into a pile of dust, yet Jerusalem rose to prominence once again.

The Maccabees led the nation to great victories, yet this prophecy cannot stop there. This was but a dim shadow of the glory of the new Mt. Zion which will be obtained under the Messiah (see Hebrews 12:22).

**Zechariah 2:10 (8:8)** is a reference to Leviticus 26:12, which is easily traceable into the New Testament as a reference to the church, 2 Corinthians 6:16, Ephesians 2:19-22.

The apple of his eye is clearly defined as the Gospel Church, the blood bought Bride of Christ. God will judge those who attempt to take the wonderful promises of God which are given to His chosen people, the church (John 15:16), and give them to a clearly open, pagan, thoroughly anti-Christ nation, modern Israel.

The public figures who teach errors have big names and many followers, but that does not make them right. Only the Word of God is the truth.

(My complete Commentary on Zechariah is posted at [www.biblicalexaminer.org](http://www.biblicalexaminer.org).)

---

## CURRENT EVENTS AND ANXIETY

**Anxiety denies God's providence.** His promise is to seek first his kingdom, and he will take care of the rest.

Anxiety is an evil, so why add to the evils of the day with this crowning evil, anxiety. Instead of solving the problems, it compounds them. It involves a distrust in God, and it is an insistence we can better protect our own interests than can the Almighty Himself. Therefore, be not anxious. Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Those who do not have a sound Biblical doctrine of Divine Providence must be left in a very anxious state, but the world is not out of control. Job chaps 1-3 clearly tell that Satan is under divine control. He is just an-



other tool in the LORD'S hands as God works to be used in history to **His appointed end** as established in Genesis 3:15. (Note that *faith* is a gift from God the Spirit,

so we need to pray for Him to increase our faith.)

We are surrounded with distressing news, particularly the foolishness that happened in East Palestine. The extremely unwise decision to blow up the tank cars will probably have repercussions for many generations. Who will be held responsible? It will probably be swept under the rug. We need to pray for multitudes of people who are affected.

**Revelation 6:4** *power was given. V.8 power was given. 13:1-5 power was given. 16:8 power was given.*

*Power was given to the wicked to kill one another, speak great blasphemies, and to make war and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues and nations.*

**Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

Jesus Christ has all power as the result of his conquering death and the grave. Christ Jesus stripped the Devil of his power; therefore, the **power** of the workers of iniquity in the Revelation must come from Jesus Christ. That power is given to the wicked in order to accomplish God's divine purpose of history. All history is a movement to subdue all things to the Son.

## The Belgic Confession of Faith, 1561, Article 13: The Doctrine of God's Providence

We believe that this good God, after creating all things, did not abandon them to chance or fortune but leads and governs them according to his holy will, in such a way that nothing happens in this world without God's orderly arrangement. Yet God is not the author of, and cannot be charged with, the sin that occurs. For God's power and goodness are so great and incomprehensible that God arranges and does his works very well and justly even when the devils and the wicked act unjustly. We do not wish to inquire with undue curiosity into what God does

that surpasses human understanding and is beyond our ability to comprehend. But in all humility and reverence we adore the just judgments of God, which are hidden from us, being content to be Christ's disciples, so as to learn only what God shows us in the Word, without going beyond those limits. This doctrine gives us unspeakable comfort since it teaches us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father, who watches over us with fatherly care, sustaining all creatures under his lordship, so that not one of the hairs on our heads (for they are all numbered) nor even a little bird can fall to the ground without the will of our Father. (20) In this thought we rest, knowing that God holds in check the devils and all our enemies, who cannot hurt us without divine permission and will. For that reason we reject the damnable error of the Epicureans, who say that God does not get involved in anything and leaves everything to chance.

(20) Matt. 10:29-30

**Epicurus (341-271 B.C.E.)** is one of the major philosophers in the Hellenistic period, the three centuries following the death of Alexander the Great in 323 B.C.E. (and of Aristotle in 322 B.C.E.). Epicurus developed an unsparingly materialistic metaphysics, empiricist epistemology, and hedonistic ethics. Epicurus taught that the basic constituents of the world are atoms, uncuttable bits of matter, flying through empty space, and he tried to explain all natural phenomena in atomic terms. [That is, mechanical terms.] Epicurus rejected the existence of Platonic forms and an immaterial soul, and he said that the gods have no influence on our lives. Epicurus also thought skepticism was untenable, and that we could gain knowledge of the world relying upon the senses. He taught that the point of all one's actions was to attain pleasure (conceived of as tranquility) for oneself, and that this could be done by limiting one's desires and by banishing the fear of the gods and of death. Epicurus' gospel of freedom from fear proved to be quite popular, and communities of Epicureans flourished for centuries after his death.

Note the great similarity between Epicurus's thinking and the modern day thinking both inside and outside of the church. With no firm Doctrine of Divine Providence, one must accept Epicurus thinking.

### **Providence**

The Doctrine of Divine Providence is impossible for man to even begin to comprehend. Moreover, the Word of God is not given to satisfy man's curiosity about God. The Word is given to reveal what man needs to know about the Tri-une God and how to please him.

Psalms 14:1, 53:1, *The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, and they have done abominable iniquity:*

Observe: **First**, the fool's controlling faith tells him that there is no God to Whom he must answer; there is no God to influence the world nor influence man. The world is simply a bunch of atoms that by chance joined together over a vast amount of time. **Epicurus** banished the fear of God and of death. He left mankind with the goal of peace, prosperity and pleasure. The Christian's faith tells him there is a God, the God to Whom he must answer. **Second**, the fool's controlling faith tells him he can do whatever his corrupt heart desires and whatever he can get away with no eternal consequences. The Christian's controlling faith tells him that he must do all things for the glory of God, and he answers to the righteous judge of all the earth. The Christian has an advocate with the Father as he answers to the father. (Psalms 28:14, 15)

We have God's assurance that the wicked are only acting within the parameters established by HIM:

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

---

## **VARIOUS**

Below are examples of divine Providence in action which will result in all things being subdued under the footstool of King Jesus. (Psalms 110:1 &c.)

### **EV IDIOCY**

• **Electric vehicles more expensive to fuel than gas-powered cars at end of 2022: consulting firm**

Research shows that rising electricity prices and stabilizing gas prices made internal combustion engine cars more economical than their electric counterparts in late 2022

<https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/electric-vehicles-more-expensive-fuel-gas-powered-cars-end-2022-consulting-firm>

• **Why transition to EVs is set to be a national disaster**

An interesting observation was shared by a chauffeur working the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where climate change experts keep sounding the alarm. She claimed many of the elites rejected EVs, concerned about how "dangerous" they are and insisting on being driven in fossil-fueled cars.

[https://www.wnd.com/2023/01/transition-evs-set-national-disaster/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm\\_](https://www.wnd.com/2023/01/transition-evs-set-national-disaster/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_)



campaign=dailyam&utm\_content=newsletter&ats\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3

### • **Not enough raw materials to match EV growth**

<https://atfpro.co.uk/not-enough-raw-materials-to-match-ev-growth/>

• **Several US doctors arrested** for saving children from the Vaccine Holocaust by giving them saline injections instead of deadly spike protein jabs

<https://www.newstarget.com/2023-01-26-us-doctors-arrested-giving-kids-saline-injections-instead-covid-jabs.html>

### **MEXICO AND COMMON SENSE.**

• **Mexico not buying** U.S. yellow corn as GM ban looms, Lopez Obrador says

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/mexican-president-says-government-cannot-buy-genetically-modified-corn-2022-11-09/>

<https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/18416-mexico-quietly-ruling-on-gmo-traits-as-biotech-corn-ban-looms>

• **Mexico prohibits planting** of GM corn, but stops short of banning imports

<https://dialogochino.net/en/agriculture/mexico-gm-ban-planting-corn-imports/>

Of course, Monsanto is doing all it can to force Mexico to use their dead corn.

• **Corporate-infested US government panicking** over Mexico's rejection of GMO crops

<https://citizens.news/694096.html>

• **Border Protection** warns travelers face fines for smuggling eggs to US from Mexico as prices soar

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/border-protection-warns-travelers-face-fines-for-smuggling-eggs-to-us-from-mexico-as-prices-soar/ar-AA16JGuM>

Smuggle people, OK. Smuggle drugs, OK. Smuggle eggs, Not OK.

### **We live in a fallen world!**

• **Eggs:** CLAIM: Tractor Supply chicken feed allegedly laced with ingredients causing chickens to stop laying eggs; company board members tied to WEF, Jeffrey Epstein

“Yep,” responded another. “Just like the ‘flu’ the chickens were given, as well as food plants being destroyed and no more fertilizer shipments. They’re trying to kill us by starving us.”

The engineered takedown of America's food supply is well underway. To keep up with the latest, visit Collapse.news.

<https://www.newstarget.com/2023-01-26-tractor-supply-chicken-feed-laced-stop-eggs.html>

• **Watch: Farmers May** Have Figured Out Ex-

actly What's Causing the Egg Shortage - Was This Intentional?>

[https://www.westernjournal.com/watch-farmers-may-figured-exactly-causing-egg-shortage-intentional/?ff\\_source=Email&ff\\_medium=WJBreaking&ff\\_campaign=ct-breaking&ff\\_content=western-journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/watch-farmers-may-figured-exactly-causing-egg-shortage-intentional/?ff_source=Email&ff_medium=WJBreaking&ff_campaign=ct-breaking&ff_content=western-journal)

• **Massive Fire Sweeps Egg Farm,** Unreal Number of Fire Departments Needed to Contain It

A three-alarm fire at a Bozrah, Connecticut-based egg farm required more than 100 firefighters from at least 16 nearby firehouses to extinguish.

According to WTIC-TV, authorities said the fire, which plagued a 50' x 600' chicken coop at Hillandale Farms on Schwartz Road, took 4.5 hours to extinguish and resulted in the death of an estimated 100,000 chickens.

[https://www.westernjournal.com/massive-fire-sweeps-egg-farm-16-fire-departments-needed-contain/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&utm\\_campaign=dailypm&utm\\_content=western-journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/massive-fire-sweeps-egg-farm-16-fire-departments-needed-contain/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=conservative-brief-WJ&utm_campaign=dailypm&utm_content=western-journal)

We have been warned of a famine to come. Now we have corrupt chicken feed, many fires at egg farms and feed mills, food processing factories burning, land being covered with glass, fuel and fertilizer shortages, &c. **Conclusion:** planned starvation in a nation of plenty.

• **Hundreds of Pallets** of Plastic Products Erupt Into Flames, Sending Thick Black Smoke Into Sky

<https://www.westernjournal.com/ap-hundreds-pallets-plastic-products-erupt-flames-sending-thick-black-smoke-sky/>

**Comment:** We can expect many more “unexplained” events as Divine Providence brings an army of those who hate America into our nation. According to Dabney, in the 1860s, Lincoln declared war on the civilian population of the South, so he could reap the tax money the banks were demanding. (R.L. Dabney, “Discussions,” vol II.) Is Divine Providence repaying that evil? Lincoln sowed to the wind, and the whirlwind is now upon us? Be not deceived...

### **EDUCATION**

Anyone who is not living under a rock knows what is happening to the education system—“Woke” training that is producing hatred among people, beatings, murders, drugs, rapes, unimaginable evils of all kinds. And yet many Christians still leave their children in those cesspools of evil.

• **School districts are dropping honors classes in the name of equity**

Courses were failing to enroll enough black and La-

tino students

Several school districts across the country are no longer allowing students to take honors classes in an effort to increase equity, according to The Wall Street Journal.

[https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/school-districts-dropping-honors-classes-name-equity/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm\\_campaign=dailyam&utm\\_content=newsletter&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/school-districts-dropping-honors-classes-name-equity/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=newsletter&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

• **INDOCTRINATED: Chinese firms** with ties to the CCP are purchasing American private schools with strong military training programs

<https://citizens.news/696144.html>

Also, massive amounts of farm land are being sold to China. Thank the Lord for home educators and Christian schools, but their land is being sold out from under them. We are living in a former Christian land that has lost its Christian purpose. The love of money certainly is the root of all evil.

• **Wyoming Senate Votes to Hold, Invest, and Receive Tax Payments in Gold and Silver**

<https://www.moneymetals.com/news/2023/02/02/wyoming-senate-votes-to-hold-invest-and-receive-tax-payments-in-gold-and-silver-002669>

• **Edward Snowden unveils devious reason behind spy-balloon hysteria**

‘Engineered’ to distract from Biden’s Nord Stream bombshell

After a bombshell report by noted leftist reporter Seymour Hersh revealed that the Biden administration actually ordered the bombing of the Nord Stream pipelines last year, disrupting Russia’s gas income, there appeared reports about Chinese balloons over America’s skies....

[https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/edward-snowden-reveals-devious-reason-behind-spy-balloon-hysteria/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-breaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=breaking&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/edward-snowden-reveals-devious-reason-behind-spy-balloon-hysteria/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

• **Suddenly balloons everywhere. Why?** The news is dominated by reports of balloons everywhere, and the AF using very expensive missiles to shoot them down when a few simple 50 caliber bullets would do the job just fine. The balloons are not the news, but what is going on behind the smoke of the balloon sightings. The past has shown that smoke is used to hide the important news.

Seemingly, Biden’s handlers are doing everything they can to prod Russia into a war. The pipeline was an act of war against Russia who has done nothing to harm us. Only by God’s mercy has Russia not yet been

prodded to retaliate for Biden’s act of war.

• **Good News: Pornographic and Racially Divisive Books Removed From Florida Schools Despite Pushback.** [This article is worth the read.]

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/pornographic-and-racially-divisive-books-removed-from-florida-schools-despite-pushback\\_5032756.html?utm\\_source=&src\\_src=&utm\\_campaign=&src\\_cmp=&utm\\_medium=&est=%2FKWoRtgClnBwXXeU0SeOpgRiZqmkc2jWEn9nUaMI22xz7tcUtalKpus9vkOKpOjGWiE5Wj2pSxfpC8h1Hlts](https://www.theepochtimes.com/pornographic-and-racially-divisive-books-removed-from-florida-schools-despite-pushback_5032756.html?utm_source=&src_src=&utm_campaign=&src_cmp=&utm_medium=&est=%2FKWoRtgClnBwXXeU0SeOpgRiZqmkc2jWEn9nUaMI22xz7tcUtalKpus9vkOKpOjGWiE5Wj2pSxfpC8h1Hlts)

• **Covid jab spike proteins get “delivered” to ALL bodily organs, resulting in hyper-accelerated aging**

The phenomenon of “sudden deaths” being seen all around the world following the release of covid “vaccines” can be traced back to one common cause: the age-accelerating effects of spike proteins.

<https://citizens.news/697456.html>

• **The Federal Government Is Tracking the Unvaccinated**

The U.S. government has been secretly tracking those who didn’t get the COVID jab, as well as those who aren’t up to date on their shots. Worse, it is recording the reason why. Now that the program has been widely adopted, know why it’s being done and how you can outsmart it.

These new ICD-10 codes are part of the government’s plan to implement medical tyranny using vaccine passports and digital IDs.

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/health/the-federal-government-is-tracking-the-unvaccinated\\_5056313.html?utm\\_source=goodeveningnoe&src\\_src=goodeveningnoe&utm\\_campaign=gv-2023-02-15&src\\_cmp=gv-2023-02-15&utm\\_medium=email&est=mYHNSx3WFzBAX230Ks2gIrmYIqWenUmAU%2F9VaksoQlwyFLS6LT2B%2FfosXbPckBeJ2tbkti8GK7XNmfvWC3g](https://www.theepochtimes.com/health/the-federal-government-is-tracking-the-unvaccinated_5056313.html?utm_source=goodeveningnoe&src_src=goodeveningnoe&utm_campaign=gv-2023-02-15&src_cmp=gv-2023-02-15&utm_medium=email&est=mYHNSx3WFzBAX230Ks2gIrmYIqWenUmAU%2F9VaksoQlwyFLS6LT2B%2FfosXbPckBeJ2tbkti8GK7XNmfvWC3g)

**Comment on tracking.** Try to withdraw a large amount of cash from your bank.

### Derailments

• **Four derailments of hazardous materials in a very short time frame?**

Was this merely just another coincidence, or something more sinister?

**Miles Before Ohio Derailment, Train Axle Was On Fire, Video Shows**

Surveillance footage appears to show malfunction on train before it derailed with hazardous chemicals.

A Norfolk Southern Corp. train appears to have been on fire miles before it derailed in eastern Ohio, putting scrutiny on the safety detectors along tracks that are supposed to alert crews to such hazards.

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/miles-before-ohio-derailment-train-axle-was-on-fire-video-shows-7e221f0>

Which raise a question: why were the detectors not working?

• **Train Derailments Hit Two Other Cities in United States as Ohio Faces Major Chemical Disaster**

[https://www.westernjournal.com/train-derailments-hit-two-cities-unit-ed-states-ohio-faces-major-chemical-disaster/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=WJBreaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=western-journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/train-derailments-hit-two-cities-unit-ed-states-ohio-faces-major-chemical-disaster/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=WJBreaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=western-journal)

• **ANOTHER train hauling chemicals wrecks**

Catastrophe strikes near Detroit even as 1st chemical spill cleanup continues

[https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/another-train-hauling-chemicals-wrecks/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm\\_campaign=dailyam&utm\\_content=newsletter&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/another-train-hauling-chemicals-wrecks/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-newsletter&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=newsletter&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

God is turning us over to a foreign army invading from the South. Deliberate Sabotage?

• **It Stinks**

Something REALLY STINKS In East Palestine, Ohio

“In 2022 Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Noah Baumbach produced the absurdist comedy *White Noise* starring Adam Driver about an Ohio family whose lives change after an air contamination accident near their home. (Gateway Pundit, Feb. 15, 2023)

“The filming took place at several locations in Ohio.

“In the movie made for Netflix — The family’s lives are disrupted when a cataclysmic train accident casts a cloud of chemical waste over the town. This “Airborne Toxic Event” forces a massive evacuation, which leads to a major traffic jam on the highway. Jack drives to a gas station to refill his car, where he is inadvertently exposed to the cloud.

“Michael Burea posted the trailer for the movie. ...”

“East Palestine, Ohio residents were reportedly cast as extras for this movie — of a train disaster and toxic chemical explosion!” ...

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/something-really-stinks-in-east-palestine-ohio>

• **Game-Changer? Tennessee En Route to Rejecting Federal Education Money**

[https://www.theepochtimes.com/game-changer-tennessee-en-route-to-reject-federal-education-money\\_5046581.html?utm\\_source=Opinion&src\\_src=Opinion&utm\\_campaign=opinion-2023-02-15&src\\_cmp=opinion-2023-02-15&utm\\_medium=email&est=SUfHy8tWkb%2BVgB65gkXpuFC9xB0r0oylwYcANqDO%2BnzHJaAD9wWhT8%2BH0XBXL0c%3D](https://www.theepochtimes.com/game-changer-tennessee-en-route-to-reject-federal-education-money_5046581.html?utm_source=Opinion&src_src=Opinion&utm_campaign=opinion-2023-02-15&src_cmp=opinion-2023-02-15&utm_medium=email&est=SUfHy8tWkb%2BVgB65gkXpuFC9xB0r0oylwYcANqDO%2BnzHJaAD9wWhT8%2BH0XBXL0c%3D)

**Pray they will succeed in ridding Federal money**

**from education, and prove it can be done.**

---

## REVIVAL?

• **‘Pure act of the Holy Spirit’**: Asbury University revival humbles students before the Lord

[https://www.christianpost.com/news/asbury-university-senior-revival-is-a-humbling-before-the-lord.html?uid=%7CUNIQID%7C\\*&utm\\_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm\\_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.christianpost.com/news/asbury-university-senior-revival-is-a-humbling-before-the-lord.html?uid=%7CUNIQID%7C*&utm_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm_medium=email)

• **Cedarville University experiencing** ‘outpouring of the Lord’ at revival

[https://www.christianpost.com/news/ohio-school-having-outpouring-of-the-lord-in-revival-event.html?uid=%7CUNIQID%7C\\*&utm\\_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm\\_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.christianpost.com/news/ohio-school-having-outpouring-of-the-lord-in-revival-event.html?uid=%7CUNIQID%7C*&utm_source=The+Christian+Post+List&utm_campaign=CP-Newsletter&utm_medium=email)

**Breaking: 24/7 Revival Comes to an End** at University After 13 Days and 50K People Flock to Town

[https://www.westernjournal.com/breaking-24-7-revival-comes-end-university-13-days-50k-people-flock-town/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=WJBreaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=western-journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/breaking-24-7-revival-comes-end-university-13-days-50k-people-flock-town/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=WJBreaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=western-journal)

Such “revivals” in the past where emotions ran high produced NO SOCIAL CHANGE. Let us see how these young people act and vote after they go home. Will the fruits of the Spirit be evident? The “proof is in the pudding.”

---

## AS RELIGION DECLINES, GOVERNMENT

### GROWS — TRAGICALLY

Star Parker: ‘What we deem to be moral ... now arrives to us not from heaven but from Hollywood’

By Star Parker

Some thoughts about our country as Christmas and the new year approached.

In his Farewell Address to the nation in 1796, America’s departing first president, George Washington, observed: “It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring to popular government.”

And what is the basis upon which we define morality?

Washington answers, “reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

Per our first president, for a democracy to function properly, it must be guided by moral principles. And the guidelines and rules by which we define what is moral are framed by principles of the Bible.

This is not exactly what we have going on today.



Rather than our democracy following prior moral principles, our moral principles now are defined by our democracy. What we deem to be moral – good and evil, right and wrong – now arrives to us not from heaven but from Hollywood.

Consider how, over the last 20 years, our idea of what is morally acceptable has changed.

Twenty-two years ago, in 2001, per Gallup polling, the following percentages of Americans viewed these activities as “morally acceptable”: gay/lesbian relations: 40%; birth to unwed mother: 45%; polygamy: 7%; suicide: 13%; pornography: 30%.

In the latest survey in 2022, following are the percentages calling these same activities “morally acceptable”: gay/lesbian relations: 71%; birth to unwed mother: 70%; polygamy: 23%; suicide: 22%; pornography: 41%.

What exactly happened over 22 years that, on average, the percentage saying each morally sensitive area is morally acceptable has more than doubled?

One thing that has happened is that the percentage of Americans that think the Bible is relevant to their life has dramatically dropped.

Per Gallup, the percentage saying that religion is “very important” in their life has dropped from 70% in 1965 to 49% in 2021.

The percentage saying they attended church in the last seven days has dropped from 49% in 1960 to 29% in 2021.

Certainly contributing to this is a long series of court decisions in which interpretations of the First Amendment have been more about purging religion from our public spaces than about protecting religious liberty.

The 1962 decision banning prayer in public schools was just the opening salvo producing our reality today in which traditional values and morality are gone from the instruction our children receive in public schools. Those values have been replaced by the secular humanism of the far left.

It is very popular to think about public policy in terms of the social agenda and the economic agenda, as if these are two separate worlds. But they’re not. As religion declines, government grows.

Perhaps George Washington’s point that a moral and virtuous culture enables popular government can be best understood in that a free society cannot function

when individuals cannot govern themselves through personal responsibility.

Tens of trillions have been spent on anti-poverty programs with practically zero impact. Substantial research shows that what really combats recurring poverty is the so-called “success sequence.” Those who finish high school, do not have children before marriage and work overwhelmingly move out of poverty.

Government and politics have become our new religion, despite their dismal track record of success in improving the human condition.

The Penn Wharton Budget model, an economic research group at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, projects now that by 2050, our national debt will be 225% of our GDP.

A national culture increasingly rooted in falsehoods is spending itself into oblivion and bankruptcy.

How about we Americans who still pray direct our prayers that in the upcoming year we see a revival of truth in our nation? Let’s pray that all our citizens see that the only path to freedom is each embracing eternal truths that enable all of us to successfully govern our own lives.

[https://www.wnd.com/2022/12/religion-declines-government-grows-tragically/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-breaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=breaking&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2022/12/religion-declines-government-grows-tragically/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”~ John Adams

“Liberty will not long survive the total extinction of morals.”~ Samuel Adams

---

## A TIKTOK WORLD.

The 2/25/23 World Magazine article follows a mother, Jane, and her daughter, Anna. Anna’s problem started with a divorce, and changing Anna from home-school to “public” school.

### Social sickness

As strange as it might seem for a previously healthy child to claim she has a life-altering disorder—and even exhibit symptoms that are strikingly similar to those of others her age—lots of girls are doing it. Early in the pandemic, neurologists across the globe began documenting a surprising surge of young girls arriving at movement disorder clinics with similar Tourette-like tics. Besides their symptoms, they had one thing in com-

mon: spending time on TikTok. One study found the number of referrals for rapid-onset tic disorders at some clinics rose from about 5 percent before the pandemic to up to 30 percent by 2021. Some doctors dubbed girls with the beans tic “Evies.” A



group of German psychologists called the phenomenon a “mass social media-induced illness outbreak.” Other researchers from the University of Sydney used the words “social media contagion” in a paper published last March. ...

Too many are losing that fight. For years, experts have been sounding the social media alarm over adolescents’ increasing isolation and depressive symptoms. But now, coming out of the pandemic, they say social media is contributing to a greater range of afflictions and mental illnesses—and turning mental and emotional disorders into status symbols, even a way to get more followers. Some experts and lawmakers are trying to hold tech companies accountable. But just like parents, they struggle with how much to intervene to shield kids from the dangers. ...

During Anna’s hospital stay, doctors put her on medication for anxiety. And they diagnosed her with functional neurological disorder (FND), a group of problems including vocal and physical tics not connected to an underlying disease. While its cause is unknown, doctors say FND is rarely triggered by one thing. Jane joined FND Facebook parent groups. She read all she could get her hands on about the disorder. When she brought Anna’s doctors recent articles and studies about social media use as a factor in functional tics, they appeared surprised.

Meanwhile, Anna was posting TikTok videos from the hospital using the hashtag #FND. That hashtag currently has 898.5 million views on the platform. She also posted videos documenting her treatment. Jane tried to have Anna’s phone taken away, but hospital staff prohibited it. At the very suggestion, Anna flipped out.

PSYCHOLOGISTS JONATHAN HAIDT and Jean Twenge track the correlation between social media use and rising mental illnesses among teens. They found that adolescent mood disorders remained relatively stable until the advent of smartphones and social media. ...

Today, 95 percent of U.S. kids ages 13 to 17 have smartphones, according to Pew Research Center. Common Sense Media estimates that nearly 80 percent of teens use social media regularly. The number of 8- to 12-year-olds using social media rose from 31 percent in 2019 to 38 percent in 2021, Common Sense Media found.

**Two-thirds of U.S. teens Pew surveyed use TikTok. One in 6 said they watch it “almost constantly.”**

“TikTok has become the No. 1 source for mental health [information] among kids,” said Sissy Goff, a licensed therapist in Nashville, Tenn., and a Christian author of titles including *Brave: A Teen Girl’s Guide To Beating Worry and Anxiety*. “I have girls all the time who are regurgitating what they heard some influencer say about any mental health issue.” ...

TikTok, owned by the Chinese company ByteDance, claims its community guidelines prohibit content depicting, promoting, or normalizing “activities that could lead to suicide, self-harm, or disordered eating.” In a recent statement on mental health, the company said “de-stigmatizing mental well-being discussions, especially amongst the younger generations, is crucial to decreasing ... fears about judgment.”

**TAKE AWAY:**

**First**, parents do not spend time with their children, so the children find “social media” friends. To them, “hanging out” is done with smart phones.

**Second**, TicTok attracts young girls especially. Anna suffered from non-epileptic seizures, mood disorders, mental illness, muscle weakness, &c. After replacing her smart phone with a flip phone which blocked all social media, “Within a month, Anna regained use of her legs. Her tics disappeared.”

**Third**, China owns TikTok, and with TikTok, China, is sapping the strength out of our young people rendering them useless to society.

**Fourth**, the US government and China are both at war with the “West,” and they are winning that war by destroying the heart and soul of the young people.

**Fifth**, there have been and are efforts to outlaw TikTok, but Tiktok is not the problem. The problem is the heart and soul of America has been de-Christianized thanks to the apostate pulpits of the “West,” and the compromised gospel, if it be a gospel at all.

**1 Peter 4:17** *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? 18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*

Laws will not change the heart; however, the purpose of law is to retain evil so the Truth can be proclaimed. Only the spirit of God through the faithful preaching of the gospel will change the heart and salvage the “West.”

---

## Homeschooling Surges

### **HOMESCHOOLING SURGE CONTINUES DESPITE SCHOOLS REOPENING**

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — The coronavirus pandemic ushered in what may be the most rapid rise in homeschooling the U.S. has ever seen. Two years later, even after schools reopened and vaccines became widely available, many parents have chosen to continue directing their children’s educations themselves.

Homeschooling numbers this year dipped from last year’s all-time high, but are still significantly above pre-pandemic levels, according to data obtained and analyzed by The Associated Press.

Families that may have turned to homeschooling as an alternative to hastily assembled remote learning plans have stuck with it — reasons include health concerns, disagreement with school policies and a desire to keep what has worked for their children.

In 18 states that shared data through the current school year, the number of homeschooling students increased by 63% in the 2020-2021 school year, then fell by only 17% in the 2021-2022 school year.

Around 3% of U.S. students were homeschooled before the pandemic-induced surge, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The rising numbers have cut into public school enrollment in ways that affect future funding and renewed debates over how closely homeschooling should be regulated. What remains unknown is whether this year’s small decrease signals a step toward pre-pandemic levels — or a sign that homeschooling is becoming more mainstream.

Unimpressed with the lessons offered remotely when schools abruptly closed their doors in spring 2020, she began homeschooling her then fifth- and seventh-grade children that fall. McCarthy, who had been working

as a teacher’s aide, said she knew she could do better herself. She said her children have thrived with lessons tailored to their interests, learning styles and schedules.

“There’s no more homework ’til the wee hours of the morning, no more tears because we couldn’t get things done,” McCarthy said.

Once a relatively rare practice chosen most often for reasons related to instruction on religion, homeschooling grew rapidly in popularity following the turn of the century before leveled off at around 3.3%, or about 2 million students, in the years before the pandemic, according to the Census. Surveys have indicated factors including dissatisfaction with neighborhood schools, concerns about school environment and the appeal of customizing an education.

In the absence of federal guidelines, there is little uniformity in reporting requirements. Some states, including Connecticut and Nevada, require little or no information from parents, while New York, Massachusetts and some others require parents to submit instruction plans and comply with assessment rules.

The new surge in homeschooling numbers has led state legislatures around the country to consider measures either to ease regulations on homeschool families or impose new ones — debates have gone on for years. Proponents of more oversight point to the potential for undetected cases of child abuse and neglect while others argue for less in the name of parental rights.

All of the 28 state education departments that provided homeschooling data to the AP reported that homeschooling spiked in 2020-21, when fears of infection kept many school buildings closed. Of the 18 states whose enrollment data included the current school year, all but one state said homeschooling declined from the previous year but remained well above pre-pandemic levels. (The exception, South Dakota, recently changed the way it collects data).

Minnesota, for example, reported that 27,801 students are being homeschooled now, compared to 30,955 during the last school year. Before the pandemic, homeschool figures were around 20,000 or less.

Black families make up many of the homeschool converts. The proportion of Black families homeschooling their children increased by five times, from 3.3% to 16.1%, from spring 2020 to the fall, while the proportion about doubled across other groups, according to U.S. Census surveys.



Raleigh, North Carolina, mother Laine Bradley said the school system's shortcomings became more evident to families like hers when remote learning began.

"I think a lot of Black families realized that when we had to go to remote learning, they realized exactly what was being taught. And a lot of that doesn't involve us," said Bradley, who decided to homeschool her 7-, 10- and 11-year-old children. "My kids have a lot of questions about different things. I'm like, 'Didn't you learn that in school?' They're like, 'No.'"

Bradley, who works in financial services, converted her dining room into a classroom and rearranged her work schedule to take over her children's education, adding lessons on financial literacy, Black history and Caribbean history important to her heritage.

"I can incorporate things that I feel like they should know," she said. Her husband, Vince, who retired from the Air Force last year, steps in at times. The couple also have a 14-month-old. They plan to continue homeschooling for as long as their children want it. Her social media posts about her experience have drawn so much interest that Bradley recently created an online community called Black Moms Do Homeschool to share resources and experiences.

Boston University researcher Andrew Bacher-Hicks said data showed that while homeschool rates rose across the board during the last school year, the increase was greater in school districts that reverted to in-person learning, perhaps before some parents were ready to send their children back.

He said the same health concerns that drove those increases are likely behind the continued elevated rates, despite additional upheaval in schools as parents and policy-makers debate issues surrounding race and gender and which books should be in libraries.

"It's really hard to disentangle those two things because all of this is kind of happening at the same time," he said. "But my my guess would be that a large part of the decisions to exit from the system do have to do with COVID-related issues as opposed to political issues, because those things come up frequently and we've never seen an increase in homeschooling rates like this before."

He said parents also may be concerned about the quality of education delivered by schools that have had to rely heavily on substitute teachers amid pandemic-caused staffing shortages.

McCarthy, the mom from suburban Buffalo, said it was a combination of everything, with the pandemic compounding the misgivings she had already held about the public school system, including her philosophical differences over the need for vaccine and mask mandates and academic priorities.

The pandemic, she said, "was kind of — they say the straw that broke the camel's back — but the camel's back was probably already broken."

"There are kids that don't know basic English structure but they want to push other things on children, and it can be blatant but it can be, and mostly is, very subtle, very, very subtle," McCarthy said. "So we were ready to pull them and will never send them back to traditional school. It's just not a fit for us."

"It's just a whole new world that is a much better world for us," she said.

<https://apnews.com/article/covid-business-health-buffalo-education-d37f4f1d12e57b72e5ddf67d4f897d9a>

---

### Clothing betrays the heart.

#### Modesty

Rev Need

**Modest appeal** is a topic seldom discussed from the pulpit, even in the Orthodox Community. However, I am going to tread where "angels fear to tread." Because this is a "newsletter," I do not fear losing a congregation member, but as a pastor I might fear losing a member and their tithe. Let me make others the "Bad Guy" by giving give various quotes on **1 Timothy 2:9**, with emphasis added. More than likely, the reader will assume the following does not apply to her or him.

- **It is beyond question** that [both male and] female clothing reveals the heart. **Modesty avoids skin-tight clothing** [on men or women]. Knowing what it means to dress modestly can be difficult because there is no Christian list of clothes you can and cannot wear. To dress modestly is to show propriety in the way you dress. To be modest is to be unpretentious or to have an accurate estimation of oneself. Modesty does not only concern women, and it doesn't only have to do with revealing clothes. It means much more, and certainly not less, than dressing appropriately. The biblical idea of modesty has to do with one's heart and attitude as well as with one's actions and appearance. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/dress-modestly.html>)

• **What exactly is modest dressing?**

The modest clothing simply refers to the clothing which perfectly covers your “private parts and their adjoining parts” as the adjoining parts could also excite to gaze on the private parts. It protects your modesty and chastity from lustful gazes.

So, if we follow the rule “private parts and their adjoining parts”, the hiding would be from neck down to the navel for perfectly covering the breasts, and from navel to the knees for the genitals. However, sometimes modesty rules could be changed depending upon the different cultures. <https://www.quora.com/profile/SamiNow>

**Comment:** While pastoring in Indiana and like it was yesterday, I distinctly remember a very attractive female talking head on a news cast in Indianapolis say, “If you’ve got it, flaunt it.” That seems to be the motto of many women.

• **[In modest apparel.]** The word here rendered modest, κοσμιος, properly relates to ornament or decoration, and means that which is [well-ordered, decorous, becoming.] It does not, properly, mean [modest,] in the sense of being opposed to that which is [immodest,] or which tends to excite improper passions and desires, but that which is **becoming or appropriate**. (Barnes)

• **1 Timothy 2 is given in the context** of a women’s dress in public worship. Her appeal is to be appropriate for a Christian woman. This at least will be settled beyond all controversy, that everything in dress which is not in accordance with modesty and sobriety must be disapproved. (RWP)

### **Modest apparel starts in the heart**

• **Yet we must always begin with the dispositions;** for where debauchery reigns within, there will be no chastity; and where ambition reigns within, there will be no modesty in the outward dress. But because hypocrites commonly avail themselves of all the pretexts that they can find for concealing their wicked dispositions, we are under the necessity of pointing out what meets the eye. **It would be great baseness to deny the appropriateness of modesty** as the peculiar and constant ornament of virtuous and chaste women, or the duty of all to observe moderation. Whatever is opposed to these virtues it will be in vain to excuse. He expressly censures certain kinds of superfluity, such as curled hair, jewels, and golden rings; not that the use of gold or of jewels is expressly forbidden, but that, wherever they are prominently displayed, these things commonly

draw along with them the other evils which I have mentioned, and arise from ambition or from want of chastity as their source. (Calvin)

• **appear in at the time of prayer**, and at any part of public worship; and thus the Ethiopic version renders it, “so let the women be clothed in prayer,” namely, as follows;

*that women adorn themselves in modest apparel:* the word rendered “apparel” signifies a long robe, which reaches down to the feet; and the word translated “modest” signifies that which is clean, neat, and decent, yea, beautiful and ornamental; and the sense of the apostle is, that he would not have them to come to public worship in rags, and in dirty and filthy garments, but that their bodies should be covered with clean and decent raiment; so the Israelites washed their clothes that they might be ready to meet the Lord at Mount Sinai, Ex 19:14. **The Jews always appeared in their best clothes on the sabbath day;** this is one of their rules: [ {n } ]

“for the honour of the sabbath, every man must be clothed, תיקן תוסכ, “with clean or neat apparel” and clothing on the weekday must not be as clothing on the sabbath day; and if a man can make no change, he must let down his talith (or upper garment, his cloak); so that his clothing may not be as the clothing of the weekdays, when that was girt up about him.”

The apostle adds,

*with shamefacedness and sobriety:* these are the two general rules by which dress is to be regulated; it is right and proper, when it is consistent with chastity, when it is not immodest and impudent, and **more like the attire of an harlot than of a woman professing godliness;** and when it is moderate as well as modest, and **suitable to a person’s age and station**, and is not beyond the circumstances of life in which they are. There is no religion or irreligion in dress, provided pride and luxury are guarded against, and modesty and moderation preserved. (John Gill)

• A more modest and becoming dress than the Grecian was never invented; it was, in a great measure, revived in England about the year 1805, and in it, simplicity, decency, and elegance were united; but **it soon gave place to another mode, in which frippery and nonsense once more prevailed.** It was too rational to last long; and too much like religious simplicity to be suffered in a land of shadows, and a world of painted outsides. (Adam Clark. One author pointed out how the English royalty always dressed. They are always modest, yet appropriate for their station in life. Consider how this nation dressed in beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Our mode of dress has de-

teriorated as the Christian faith has deteriorated. Though the plan of salvation has not changed, the attitude toward the Thrice-Holy God of heaven and earth has changed dramatically.)

- **Simple attire** which does not attract attention. (PNT)

- [1.] [**Religion is external as well as internal.**] There is the form which must be clothed with the power of godliness; religion must not be secret, but manifest to the world. Therefore women must profess the Christian name, and take part in the worship of the Church.

- [2.] [**There must be a harmony between the profession of godliness and those deeds of mercy and piety**] which, Dorcas-like, show the true disciple of Jesus.

- [3.] [**The highest distinction of women does not spring from dress or decoration,**] but from the luster that is thrown round their character by works of goodness. They will thus “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior”.—T.C. (PC)

A Christian woman’s true adornment must be the countenance of her face. Anything that draws attention from her true **countenance** is to be avoided. But we cannot give men a pass on apparel. I am sure that many of us are from a by-gone generation when street clothes were very seldom seen in the public assembly that gathered to hear the Words of the King proclaimed by the man of God.

Is there is no fear of God before **OUR** eyes?

---

From the Sanders

## AT VOLUNTEER PRECIOUS METALS

Dear Friends,

Here we are, already at the beginning of February! Christmas and New Years have both come and gone in a flash. We hope that yours was wonderful and your New Year is truly joyous and prosperous.

Analysts are predicting record prices for gold and silver in 2023, but analysts are always predicting. We read dire warnings about the state of our economic and monetary systems. To let you in on a secret, though, our family wallows in an industry knee deep in dire warnings. You’d think after a while the warn-ers would get tired, but they have not. On one hand, folks in our business can become a bit calloused. On the other, we have to admire them. These warn-ers are truly faithful bellwethers, the ignored lighthouses of an Em-

pire dying, or rather committing suicide, by debasing its currency. How much longer the game can continue is anyone’s guess.

What stands out the most in our minds, however, is the unique position of precious metals. Without knowing it, by buying physical gold and silver, you have put a highly leveraged investment into your hands. And you have done so without the added risk typical of leverage through borrowing.

Metals are highly leveraged because of three factors. The first is the end of the dollar as the world’s reserve currency, the second is the real physical shortage of precious metals, and the third is the impending threat of mandated Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs).

A multi-generational shift in the world’s reserve currency began in earnest around 2009. Since gold and silver are politically neutral, unlike the US dollar, this shift promises to thrust gold and silver back into a pivotal monetary role. This is every gold and silver bull’s nirvana and now it is actually possible. The loaded gun we know as the dollar has been pointed in the faces of the world’s governments since the end of WWII and they are tired of it. The BRICS countries have been steadily working to create an alternative to the dollar system and dollar reserves, and gold is central to that strategy. But at present prices there’s not enough gold to serve as the world’s reserve currency. Exactly – at present prices. To make that leap gold will have to be upvalued many times. This is a huge leverage in silver and gold just waiting to explode.

The second leveraging factor is the enormous short position hanging over gold and silver markets. No one knows how big the short really is, but bullion banks and central banks have sold paper gold and silver contracts that dwarf the actual metal they hold. Only a few



people heavily involved in the precious metals industries seriously discuss this enormous physical short. GATA.org has done great and faithful work over the last 20+

years bringing this to light, but the broad market itself is still ignorant of this enormous discrepancy. No one knows how many more millions of ounces of both met-



als have been sold than exist, but when the panic to cover the short begins to drive up prices, everyone will see and understand how much leverage it confers on physical silver and gold.

Finally, there's the development of CBDCs, which would allow the government to control all your finances. No longer will currency be a medium of exchange. It will morph and metastasize into a woke, Orwellian weapon to reward your social value, allowing government-approved 'good-thinkers' to live safely under the thought police's wings, and relegating 'bad-thinkers' to something even lower than India's untouchables – the 'cancelled'.

But wait – these three factors leveraging gold and silver don't exist in a vacuum. An enormous sovereign debt crisis is breaking out around the globe. Over the last 14 years out of control money creation to monetize government spending deficits have set nations up for bankruptcy. Exploding debt, shrinking tax receipts, ballooning inflation, and rising interest rates are racing toward each other and history's greatest sovereign debt train wreck. Coming in from the blind side, something potentially unstoppable is about to arise - a plain old dollar collapse.

The timing of this couldn't be worse. These major shifts are taking place immediately after the entire world was forced into lockdowns, mass movement pattern management, mask requirements, and immunization marketing and mandates. As if that wasn't enough now little children are dropping like flies with heart attacks from unnecessary and ineffective vaccinations. But just as it appears the monolithic governmental/corporate entity is winning; people are waking up. This boring stuff about reserve currencies and CBDCs blow by 95% of the population but children dying from shots shake people awake in a hurry.

And they are not waking up alone. We work in what many would call a fringe or niche industry, but still our experience assures us you are not alone. Never before have we seen volume like the past two years and everyone who calls us sings the same tune – "I need to protect myself and my family from whatever is coming."

Folks, gold and silver is just a start, arguably a necessary start (said by someone who sells it) but it is not the end. Form community wherever you can. Pray with those folks and plan with them. Learn to grow food for yourself and teach your children how important it is to

provide for themselves. We may not see savagely hard times, but they no doubt will. What you teach them today may save their lives tomorrow.

Finally, don't stop living. We moved out to the country 25 years ago, preparing for Y2K. It ended as a wonderful mistake for us. But before it did, as we built community with others nearby, and found some folks who were so narrowly focused on preparing for the next crisis that they forgot how to live now, how to live and enjoy God's goodness that saturates our lives. What does it profit us to prepare for every crisis but lose our souls? At all costs and hazards, we must cling to the love of God and love for others. Only that love can keep us as creatures created in His image, whatever the world's crisis.

Happy 2023!

The Sanders at <https://volunteerpreciousmetals.com/>

Watch this very short video: <https://volunteerpreciousmetals.com/introductory-videos/> There are several more short explanation videos also available.

---

## THE NEED FOR TRUE GENTLEMEN

By Dr. H. Rondel Rumburg

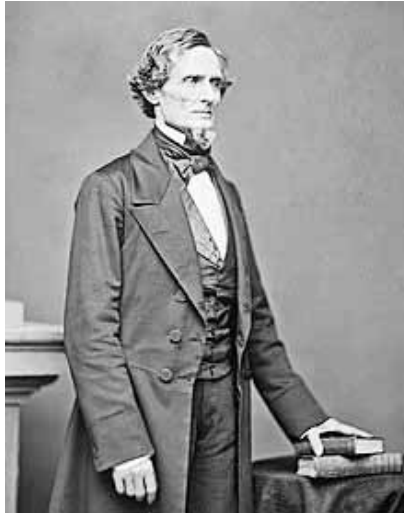
A "gentleman" is a genteel man. In other words he is noble in the Christian sense of the word. he is a man of character. Character is actually what a man is and not what a man is perceived to be or perceives himself to be, which is reputation. Douglas Southall Freeman distilled Robert E. Lee's visible life into one word, "Character!"

General R.E. Lee was considered the consummate Southern Christian gentleman. He exemplified the best in Southern manhood. Freeman remarked, "In Lee the South sees character... Success could no dim it. Public adulation could not tarnish it. Defeat could only test it. For character is invincible."

How can Southern men lead the South back to the culture of their forefathers? Certainly not by aping men such as the drunken Grant, the pyromaniac Sherman, or the agnostic Lincoln. The South must have men such as Lee, Jackson, Stuart, Davis, Stevens, Pelham and the myriad of others who were Christian gentlemen. These Christian gentlemen practiced their faith in a manly way. Christian gentlemen are not effeminate! Southern men of Confederate ancestry must seek to become such gentlemen. Unless this is true of us no amount of flag waving, monument preservation, moralizing about our Confederate dead, promotion of Southern literature or

any such will make a lasting impact on our generation. We must be men whose lives demand respect and thus have credibility.

First, one needs to be a Christian to be such a gentleman. In creation “God hath made man upright” but in the fall man “sought out many inventions.” Man has tried to evade God’s mandates for his life. Man outside Christianity has “many inventions” or many fallen speculations of heart that are foreign to God. A Christian is a person who has had a regenerating work of the Holy Spirit; has been convicted of his sins against God and has embraced Christ as his only Lord and Savior. He is given a new nature whereby old things have passed away and all things have become new. He then has the Christian graces of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, meekness, temperance, and many more such attributes, which are the true traits of character. Lee reflected, “I can only say that I am nothing but a poor sinner, trusting in Christ alone for salvation.” Lee’s life exemplified the presence of those Christian graces.



Second, when a man is a Christian he will be on his way to being a gentleman. Thomas Nelson Page, the great Southern writer wrote, to his father, “To be a... gentleman was his first duty; it embraced being a Christian and all the virtues.” Dabney Carr Harrison heart Lee say, “The virtue and fidelity which should characterize a soldier, can be learned from the holy pages of the Bible alone.” Lee as president of Washington College, explained the code of honor—“be a gentleman”. That was succinct and implied what the culture of the day expected, which included a man who was a practicing Christian. Lee answered an inquiring student, “Young gentlemen, we have no printed rules. We have but one rule here, and that is that every student must be a gentleman.” Sadly the Southern culture of today is not producing such men. The cause seems to be ignoring or despising of Biblical Christianity, which leaves men pagans. Paul the apostle warned against “having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof,” and he said, “from such turn away.”

Lee composed a test for a true gentleman during the

war for Southern independence. “The forbearing use of power does not only form a touchstone, but the manner in which an individual enjoys certain advantages over others is a test of a true gentleman. The power which the strong have over the weak, the magistrate over the citizen, the employer over the employed, the educated over the unlettered, the experienced over the confiding, even the clever over the silly – the forbearing or inoffensive use of all this power or authority, or a total abstinence from it when the case admits it, will show the gentleman in plain light. The gentleman does not needlessly remind an offender of a wrong he may have committed against him. He can not only forgive, he can forget; and he strives for that nobleness of self and mildness of character which imparts sufficient strength to let the past be but the past. A true man of honor feels humbled himself when he cannot help humbling others.” The need of the

hour is Southern men of quality, which is another way of reiterating the point of this article. Lee certainly has a grasp of it and exemplified it. Even so the sons of the Confederate soldiers, as well as other men, should be men of quality. It is written, “Honor your father.”

What is required of such Southern men? And what is not meant by it? The men needed are those who not only respect Christianity, but who are Christians in the true sense of the Word. Such men who are needed do not just acknowledge the Bible to be God’s Word, but they practice the principles of that Word in every facet of life. The kind of men needed not only favor honor, but they are honorable. They not only desire respect, but they are respectful and respectable. Needed are men who do not just want to be treated honestly, but are men of integrity. Gentlemen respect the Lord, the home, the family, womanhood, neighbors and the church for which the Savior died.

The Old South could not conceive of a Christian who was not a gentleman or a gentleman who was not a Christian. The sons of such illustrious ancestors must return to the old ways if they would experience the old days. ~ Deo Vindice

## ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

Rev. Need

**Romans 10:2** *For I bear them record that they have a*

zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Zechariah is addressing God's covenant people:

**5:1** Then I turned, and lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a flying roll. 2 And he said unto me, What seest thou? And I answered, I see a flying roll; the length thereof is twenty cubits, and the breadth thereof ten cubits. 3 Then said he unto me, This is the curse that goeth forth over the face of the whole earth: for every one that stealeth shall be cut off as on this side according to it; and every one that sweareth shall be cut off as on that side according to it. 4 I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof. 5 Then the angel that talked with me went forth, and said unto me, Lift up now thine eyes, and see what is this that goeth forth. 6 And I said, What is it? And he said, This is an ephah that goeth forth. He said moreover, This is their resemblance through all the earth. 7 And, behold, there was lifted up a talent of lead: and this is a woman that sitteth in the midst of the ephah. 8 And he said, This is wickedness. And he cast it into the midst of the ephah; and he cast the weight of lead upon the mouth thereof.

**This two-part vision, the flying roll and an ephah** into which he cast the weight of *wickedness*, is a sad vision. Zachariah's previous visions had been joyful, victorious visions. This vision speaks of judgment against the people of God—the hidden sins of the individual Christian, church, society and nations. Zachariah 11 also follows this line of thought.

Zechariah 5 gives us an insight into **the major purpose of Zechariah's prophecy**. The prophet's goal was not to urge the people to build the temple at any cost—"The end justifies the means"—but to call the people to covenant renewal, *repentance and faith*, godliness and Faith, a godly people through faith in the LORD. Faith is defined for the Covenant people as doing ALL THINGS according to *the law of the LORD*, and leaving the results up to him. (James 2)

**Zachariah shows us (v. 4) that external zeal in the work of the LORD** will not hide one from the sword of HIS judgment against *wickedness*. There is absolutely no place man can go to hide from *the flying roll, i.e., the law-word of God*. (Ps 139:7-12)

The *flying roll* has the same dimensions of the temple porch. (1 Ki 6:3) The altar was built before the porch, and the priests were called to approach past the altar toward the porch as they sought to intercede for a sinful people, Joel 2:17. Whether or not *the flying roll* and the porch are inter-related in judgment is really not important. What is important is that the *roll* consistently, throughout Scriptures, represents *the law of the LORD*. (cf. Ezek. 3:1-3, &c.)

**There are five obvious principle presented** in this prophecy, 5:1-4.

**P-1.) The flying roll represents the law of the LORD.**  
**P-2.)** There are two violations of His *law*: **the thief**, outward actions concerning man's relationship to man, and **sweareth falsely**, inward actions toward the LORD, *e.g., the fruit of their thoughts*. *Theft* and *thoughts* represent the whole duty of man, Mark 12:28-34, Ecc 12:13.  
**P-3.) The violation of the law of the LORD** in either or both areas will result in the curse. **P-4.) the curse that goeth forth** over the whole earth against **all who ignore** or dismiss *the law of the LORD*: Zechariah is addressing not only ancient Israel, he is looking forward to the New Israel of God, the Gospel Church, as well as the whole earth. **P-5.) There can be no hiding** from this curse. The curse will consume everything for all time.

Remember, this prophecy is addressed to those who are zealously, physically involved in the LORD'S work; it is to call them to faith, repentance and responsibility. The judgment threatened here is not against a failure to be involved in the hard labor for the Kingdom, but a failure to have one's heart right with God and with man according to the Word. **The judgment is for the zeal apart from faith and repentance**. If the situation is not dealt with, the curse (*the law of the LORD*) moves as a curse against the ungodly heart, and will consume even the stones and timbers of the temple which the ungodly are working so hard to rebuild. It will consume their own homes as well as their nation, and it doesn't stop here. The curse will consume the ungodly works world-wide. Physical location does not restrict the workings of *the law*, for the *law of the LORD* applies to all of His creation.

The LORD tells us that His *law* will seek out the ungodly in heart regardless of where they might be. They cannot hide behind their zeal for God's work, nor behind their closed doors at home, nor even in the darkness. (Ps 139:11) If their zeal for God's work is not motivated by godliness and purity of heart, then judg-

ment will follow. However, even the godliest intentions will still be tainted by sin; *search me O LORD!*

A **“spiritual” leader** who might intentionally attempt to build zeal (for whatever reason, personal glory or even godly reasons) apart from purity of heart brings judgment upon himself and those he is “motivating.” Matthew 7:24-29 clearly presents the curse against the ungodly zeal used to build the Lord’s work.

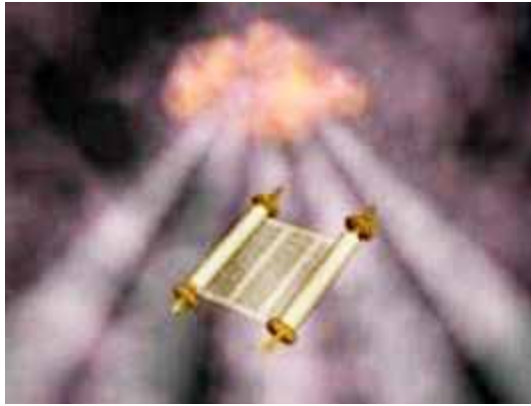
On the other hand, if the leader is calling for repentance and faith as Zechariah was doing, yet the people refuse and continue in their ungodly zeal, the leader has delivered his own self. In addition, God even uses unholy zeal for his praise, for all things work according to his sovereign, preordained purpose. (Ps 76:10, 24:4, 1 Tim 1:5, 2 Tim 2:22, 1 Pet 1:22)

Anyone who has worked with people for any length of time has encountered those who have an ungodly “spirit” of which they refuse to repent and forsake, and they use outward zeal to hide behind. Others look at them and say, “My, look at how spiritual they are. Every time I see them, they are doing something for the cause of Christ.” Yet behind closed doors and apart from the public view they are ungodly; they ignore their responsibilities; their home is in shambles; they abuse their families with their words and actions as their tempers overflow. (The internet makes secret sins readably available.)

Probably one of the best measures of the godliness behind outward zeal would be the personal, private, dedication *to the law of the LORD*. How dedicated are they to their spiritual condition, Psalms 119? Beyond any doubt, zeal apart from a personal dedication *to the law of the LORD* is nothing but hypocrisy. Zechariah clearly shows us that judgment according to the *law* will overtake the hypocrite and consume all he has.

We should take note here that in Zechariah, both types of zeal, godly and ungodly, may produce appealing results. Even though the people did not heed Zechariah’s warning, the temple was built.

**Zeal with no regard for holiness** will draw a larger following as well as attract more funds. Human nature enjoys a message which permits a good feeling of ac-



ceptance by the Father apart from personal holiness. The main thrust behind the modern Charismatic Movement was **feelings apart from godliness**, *i.e.*, direct access to God apart from holiness. (See our work, *Tongues - a Biblical View*.) However, orthodox Christians cannot point an accusing finger at any group. Such a zeal is not at all uncommon in even

the godliest groups. Anything which permits approach to the Holy Father of the Lord Jesus Christ apart from godly motives will gain wide support, as well as the curse.

How many “temples” have been and are being built apart from godliness? Some of us can remember Zig Zigler, whose methods were used to create zeal in the people to build large “temples?” Everything was used to motivate people to build the attendance. Many of these workers would be more at home selling insurance because of the secular (*i.e.*, without God.) methods of building zeal. On the surface those temples look exciting and successful. But one day the truth will be revealed. I cannot think of any of those “tremendous” works from the 1950s to the 2000s that are still standing. (Heb 12:27-29) *The flying roll* has consumed and will consume all things not founded upon the sure foundation of the Rock of Ages. (Matt 7)

**People are much easier to get excited over various things as long as it doesn’t involve taking responsibility**, confronting personal sin, turning from that sin and walking by faith. Yet any other kind of work will fail. Protest meetings will draw a crowd, but the temple cannot be built with protests. Nor will politics build godly culture; however, in our system of government, Christians are required to work to claim civil government for the Kingdom. In Acts 17:6, the LORD called a people unto himself, and the result was an outflow of Christian graces which turned the world up-side down from the inside out. The foundation of this nation was a result of Christian involvement. It seems that the motivation for a godly civil government has been lost. (See “As religion declines, government grows.”)

We know from history that Zechariah’s warnings fell on deaf ears. The “germ” of zeal without godly knowledge, reform remained, the curse came and all was con-



sumed.

Human nature has not changed, and it demands that ungodliness be covered over or ignored rather than *repent and forsake*, Proverbs 28:13, 14. It is so much easier to blame others for the difficulties we face— "Let's make 'them' responsible, so I won't have to be a responsible citizen of the church nor of the nation." We see a tremendous amount of zeal around us, yet very little, if any call to repentance and responsibility. Certainly, this is not a blanket statement, for by faith we understand that there are many very godly and zealous Christians working for the Kingdom today, 1 Kings 19:18, Romans 11:4.

Many of us have been involved in "By any means to win some. Whatever compromise as long as I can continue to preach the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection." Remember when Billy Graham was invited to go behind the "iron curtain" with his brand of Christianity. Did he properly present the Biblical Christian Faith that says that there is *another king, one Jesus* over the various nations? (Acts 17:7) Did his message stir up the powers that be in Russia? We know that it does not here. "Go along to get along." King Jesus is far above any earthly power or authority, which was the first century Christian conflict with Rome. He is the King over the new Kingdom he established through the faith of Abraham.

The "germ" of ungodliness which Zechariah is dealing with remained. That germ is dealt with in chapter eleven as those who have **ungodly zeal reject the good shepherd**. The ungodliness does the same today – it denies the Good Shepherd. One does not have to be outside of the covenant to deny the Good Shepherd. (Rom 1:21) Denial of the Good Shepherd can be zealous toward the work of the Lord, yet that zeal is not based upon knowing and applying *the law of the LORD—Zeal without Knowledge*. Paul addressed this sin problem in Romans 10:2, *they have a zeal of God but not according to knowledge*. The context is clearly talking of the Jewish people depending upon their works to qualify them to stand before God as righteous, *i.e.*, LEGALISM, which certainly is not dead in our day. Only through Christ's righteousness can any person stand before God.

That is, natural Israel had a zeal, an earnest desire for God, but that zeal was not according to a correct knowledge of God as revealed in his Word. They sought to serve God through rites, rituals and good works; zeal-

ous in outward actions as they go about to establish their own righteous apart from being subdued by the Spirit. Though Paul's message is to natural Israel, which ceased to exist after the Jewish-Roman war, it applies to all who exhibit zeal for God without the righteousness of faith.

**Romans 10:3** *For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

#### Applications

In the context of Zechariah, let's observe a few things from Romans 10:2, 3:

**First, zeal or excitement of mind** or fervor of spirit is not necessarily a sign of Godliness. From John 2:17, (Ps. 69:9) we see genuine **godly** excitement or fervor for the work of God, a zeal on behalf of the work of God seen in building His house. Yet Paul warns us in Romans 10:2 that zeal apart from the law-word of God brings God's judgment.

**Second, knowledge**. Paul, in Colossians 1:9 & 2:2 defines correct **knowledge**—that is, **proper application of the Scriptures** in all things, particularly in repentance of sin, faith, and doing all things in accord with his holy word.

**Third, ignorance**, or not knowing the proper way to do the LORD'S work (Acts 13:27; 17:23). Paul, in Romans 1:19-21 strongly condemned the willful *ignorance* about the Lord; that is, for willingly and knowingly suppressing any knowledge of God, so they can establish their own method of righteousness.

**Fourth, righteousness which speaks of** being right before God for salvation. (Rom. 1:17; 3:21; 10:3; --That divine arrangement by which God leads men to a state acceptable to him, Rom. 10:4ff.) Then **finally** we have submitted to subject one's self, to obey.

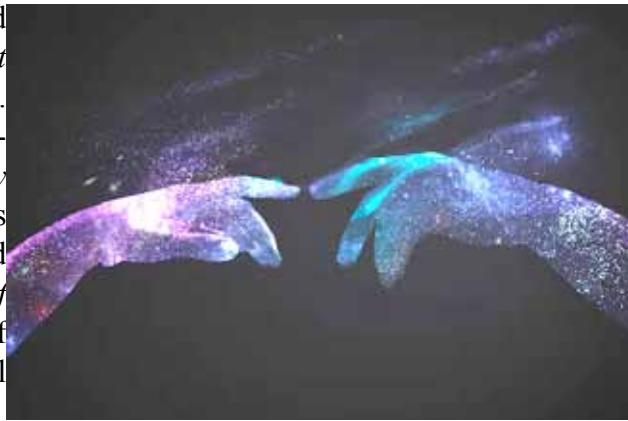
#### ZEAL WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE

They are zealous, but without the proper knowledge nor application of the *Law of the Lord*. They are zealous in their own method of righteousness, though the zeal may be for the "ministry."

Zechariah's prophecy certainly applies to the New Israel of God, where we have professed Christians very zealous for the work of God, yet that zeal is built apart from *the law of the of the LORD*. Either they do not

know the requirements of God's law-word concerning the area where they are zealous or they are willingly ignorant of *the law's* requirements. Either way, they are going about in their zeal, maybe even exciting others to follow them, yet that zeal is not in accord with Biblical holiness.

**Unholy zeal** can be seen in several areas. **(1.)** Exciting folks by secular means (Zig Zigler motivation works), music, &c., to go do "spiritual work." (See Zec. 4:6, etc.) **(2.)** Exciting people to think that the answer for a problem is anything except individual responsibility, repentance, confession over sin and faithful obedience to every word which proceeds *out of the mouth of God*. Godly zeal must understand that *the law of the LORD* applies to the **total man**, and applying *the word of God* to every area of life, including civil government.



**Jeremiah 48:10** *Cursed be he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood. {deceitfully: or, negligently }*

Ver. 10. These words seem like the words of the prophet to the Chaldeans, inciting them to go on valiantly against the Moabites, calling it the work of the Lord, which he would have done, and to which he had called them. There is a time to withhold our hands from shedding blood, and that is always when we have not a special authority and call from God to it; and there is a time when God will curse those that do so withhold their hands, that time is when God doth require the shedding of it. (Poole)

Jeremiah speaks to the Chaldeans to carry out the LORD'S Divine decree against the Moabites, or they will bring a curse upon themselves. If the *curse* is upon even the pagan Chaldeans for not following the LORD'S Divine decree, then how much more is the curse against those who claim to be His yet fail to follow the LORD'S Divine decree?

*The curse that goeth forth* over the whole earth against all who ignore or dismiss *the law of the LORD* cannot be avoided.

*The curse* cannot be stopped without God's people

repenting and returning to the entire law-word of God. God help us to examine our own hearts and make sure that the zeal we have for the LORD'S work is based in obedience to the Word, a clean heart and pure motives to glorify God in all that we do.

## LOL

Department Says Police K-9 Won't Face Charges for Stealing Officer's Lunch

[https://www.westernjournal.com/department-says-police-k-9-wont-face-charges-stealing-officers-lunch/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=newsletter-WJ&utm\\_campaign=dailyam&utm\\_content=western-journal](https://www.westernjournal.com/department-says-police-k-9-wont-face-charges-stealing-officers-lunch/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=newsletter-WJ&utm_campaign=dailyam&utm_content=western-journal)

Genesis 3:15

## AI & CHATBOTS

**Man's unending attempt to be as God.**

Rev. Need

I will bore you with just enough to keep you up with what is happening as man pursues his impossible dream of being his own God—AI and Chatbots. **Headline:**

**Human and subsequent AI efforts to "create" mimic God.**

Touted as the next wonder of the world, LLMs are infiltrating education, marketing and religion by compiling intel through program input and collecting universal content to build a knowledge cache developers say will surpass human capacity. From this data repository, LLM "brains" are being credited with the ability to create novel aesthetic and biological products. Chatbots can, and expect to be, used to compose essays, reports, advertising and artworks. ...

What God created from the unseen, they attempt to mimic by altering what He already brought into existence

Large language models are being used to create unique proteins not previously known in the natural world. This is a copycat effort by AI promoters to do what God did and does – create substance. What God created from the unseen, they attempt to mimic by altering what He already brought into existence.

Humanity in all its arrogance does not have the capacity to devise a new idea. Every concept and subsequent effort to "create" is a bastardization of God's work by

manipulating language, cellular and molecular structure that imitates what already is, but it cannot make anything “better” in this corruption of God’s work. It can only manipulate what already exists and each “improvement” is a degradation of the Creation, initially devised and guided by the human mind. ...

<https://canadafreepress.com/article/human-and-subsequent-ai-efforts-to-create-mimic-god>

**Comment:** Read the above closely. Man can only manipulate what already exists, so his goal is to create new substance, which is his goal with AI and Chatbots.

### LLMs

New language-learning algorithms risk reinforcing inequalities, social fragmentation, per U-M study

Large language models, or LLMs, can recognize, summarize, translate, predict and generate human languages on the basis of very large text-based datasets, and are likely to provide the most convincing computer-generated imitation of human language yet.

<https://fordschool.umich.edu/news/2022/new-language-learning-algorithms-risk-reinforcing-inequalities-social-fragmentation-u-m>

### CHATBOT

Wikipedia: A chatbot or chatterbot is a software application used to conduct an online chat conversation via text or text-to-speech, in lieu of providing direct contact with a live human agent.[1][2] Chatbots are computer programs that are capable of maintaining a conversation with a user in natural language, understanding their intent, and replying based on preset rules and data. Designed to convincingly simulate the way a human would behave as a conversational partner, chatbot systems typically require continuous tuning and testing with many in production unable to adequately converse; in 2012 none of them could pass the standard Turing test.[3] The term “ChatterBot” was originally coined by Michael Mauldin (creator of the first Verbot) in 1994 to describe these conversational programs.[4]

**New York Times: New chatbot turns ‘strange,’ declares love for computer user**

Columnist: ‘I was thoroughly creeped out’

A columnist for the New York Times says he test-

biblicalexaminer.org  
5130 Danville Rd  
Lynchburg OH 45142

### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Examiner in your inbox  
E-mail request to [ovid.need@gmail.com](mailto:ovid.need@gmail.com)

### HARD COPY POSTAGE IS 80 CENTS

ed a new, artificial intelligence-powered Bing search engine from Microsoft, and watched as the computer codes left him “deeply unsettled, even frightened.”

[https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/new-york-times-new-chatbot-turns-strange-declares-love-computer-user/?utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=wnd-breaking&utm\\_campaign=breaking&utm\\_content=breaking&ats\\_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3](https://www.wnd.com/2023/02/new-york-times-new-chatbot-turns-strange-declares-love-computer-user/?utm_source=Email&utm_medium=wnd-breaking&utm_campaign=breaking&utm_content=breaking&ats_es=76c88699640bf17c199c18ba90162de3)

Open warfare against the church is becoming more evident, for the church is seen as the only road block to the efforts of man to be his own God.

Clearly, education without God only makes man more effective in his rebellion, his effort to be *as God*.

Genesis 11:6 *And the LORD said, Behold, the people [is] one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which*

*they have imagined to do. 7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.*

**O LORD, come down again and bring utter confusion to the wicked.**

