

21ST CENTURY

WATCH

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American Revival
Is it possible?



A New Day

by Mark Armstrong

I can't stop laughing! Kash Patel as F.B.I. Director? "It will inflict heavy damage on the F.B.I." Oh, woe is us! Pardon my hilarity, but that's the funniest thing I've heard in a long time. We've figured if that agency was involved (or any of several others), their conclusions were suspect. It's about time! Some Trump allies have been pursued endlessly by agencies who have everything at their disposal. Payback is coming. They've ruined Rudy. Turnabout is fair play.

Kash Patel is talking about turning the F.B.I. building into a museum. If you don't know who he is, consult your device. Nobody in the future will believe the stories of the vaunted law enforcement agency that was allowed to run rampant unless they see it for themselves. Anyway, Patel has been an ally and confidant of Trump and has a long list of

qualifications. Maybe Trump is just floating his name to see the reactions. But look out if Kash Patel is actually named head of the F.B.I.

The current agents that are being interviewed are talking about "massive damage." Yeah. That's what we're hoping for! Word is they shed real tears when the winner of the election was announced. What are they going to do, start WWII?

It seems that the beach chair resident has approved the use of long-range American missiles deep inside Russia. What are they trying to do? How bad is Joe's corruption? He has already pardoned his son Hunter for any infractions going all the way back to 2014. Now the radio is talking about tactical nuclear missiles in Ukraine. This Biden lamebrain is going to get us all killed, if he doesn't get out maneuvered.

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Are You “Putting Off” Salvation?

*Here is a vital principle which could mean your eternal life!
Will you LOSE your salvation by neglecting to practice it?*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Many times, we have printed articles about your Christian life, about the necessity of perseverance, of zeal, of real enthusiasm in order to overcome, and obtain salvation.

MANY TO LOSE OUT

Have you never wondered why it is that God takes so much time and space to WARN us, by examples, and by direct statements, about falling away? Even in this present age, filled with the turmoil of a dying world, without ears attuned to the shrieks of the millions of suffering humans we read about every day — some have FALLEN AWAY! Some have neglected to put these “little things,” as they may have called them, into practice, and for that reason, they are no longer a part of God’s Church!

In addition to His prophecies of a world-wide apostasy and

falling away from the truth (Matt. 24:5, 11-12), Jesus foretold of a terrible state of lukewarmness in His own Church (Rev. 3:15-17)! He said, “... when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8). Jesus was constantly reminding His disciples of the grave possibility of falling away. In His parable of the sower, He described the various types of persons who would hear the word — His very Gospel of the Kingdom — and would receive it with JOY, and yet would not endure to the end.

“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he stumbles” (Matt. 13:20-21).

Notice, this person didn’t

have ROOT in himself. The root is the source of the food supply for the plant — and that which gives it stability in the ground. If you are not drinking in of the “milk” of the word (1 Peter. 2:2), being rooted and grounded in the truth, you will fall away and be burnt.

DANGER OF WORLDLY INTERESTS

Jesus described the next class of persons as being those who receive the word among thorns. “And the cares of THIS WORLD, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful” (Matt. 13:22).

Paul, about to depart from the brethren he loved so much at Ephesus, said, “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise,

speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:29-30).

Paul was very familiar with the human pulls of the flesh, with the vanity, the lust, the greed, and the utter SELFISHNESS of human nature. He battled during his entire ministry to preserve the flock from danger, and to save it from destruction. He wrote to the people in Lystra, Derbe and Iconium, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel,” (Gal. 1:6) and went on to show they had been led off by failing to practice the things he had taught them during his ministry there.

THE NEARNESS OF SIN

Regardless of how close to God a person becomes, SIN is always near! Most of us have not really understood just how EASY it is to “slip over the line” and let the “bars” down — drifting into our old ways and habits, and sinning against God by our actions. When Jesus was perhaps the very closest to God, during His long fast of 40 days and nights in the wilds of Palestine, Satan came to Him, personally, to tempt Him. Are you more immune than Christ?

Paul said, “I find then a law, that, when I would do good, EVIL is PRESENT WITH me” (Rom. 7:21). Paul said he recognized the evil tendencies in his flesh — he knew his nature made him do the opposite from the good he wanted to do. “For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I” (vs.

15). He said he DIDN’T KNOW HOW to perform that which was good! (vs. 18). But God showed him. “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh... for to be carnally minded is death... because the carnal mind is enmity against God... so then they that are in the flesh cannot please God, but ye are not in the flesh, but in the SPIRIT, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you” (Rom. 8:5-9).

The Spirit of God did dwell in Paul. “Christ liveth in me,” (Gal. 2:20). “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man... so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God” (Rom. 7:22 & 25).

All of us must come to see that we are literally standing on a huge precipice, with our backs to the damp, horribly gaping maw of debauchery and destruction! WE must come to realize that wherever we are, at whatever time, Satan will try to ensnare us in whatever way he can — by playing on our particular weaknesses!

I’LL DO IT TOMORROW

It is perhaps so simple, it won’t sound like a very important point to you — but the real basic cause for much of this spiritual lethargy in God’s Church is an attitude of PUTTING OFF everything until LATER, of GOOD INTENT, coupled with NEGLECTFULNESS, which could finally result in putting off your own salvation!

For example, you have come to see you really need to talk to God more — or have you? — and you have decided to

do something about it. You have made up your mind. THIS TIME you really mean it! So, when it comes time to go to bed, you’re very, very tired — and your mind just doesn’t function very well. After only a few minutes of drugged, half-awake prayer that didn’t go any higher than the ceiling, you tumble wearily into bed — intending fully, and even promising yourself that SURELY you’ll “make up for it” tomorrow morning!

Tomorrow morning arrives. You have overslept, or perhaps you have children, and they awakened sooner than you planned — perhaps the telephone rang early, or something happened — maybe you even FORGOT about it, but, at any rate, you didn’t pray as you intended!

Is this you? Do YOU “put off” praying until a “more convenient time?”

DO YOU FAST ENOUGH?

It’s so easy to tell yourself that you’ll get around to doing things tomorrow. In this way, many have been putting off fasting. God only commands you to fast on one particular day, (Lev. 23:32), but by example, by many direct statements of Christ, and by the teachings of the Apostle Paul, we know you must fast often to remain a spiritual-minded Christian.

Jesus fasted. It was because of His CONSTANT nearness to God that He was able to cry out, even with tears, to God for deliverance from the temptations of the flesh (Heb. 5:7). That’s how He can be a merciful High Priest

Continued next page

to us now — because through FASTING and prayer Jesus was so close to God, that even when evil impulses and temptations came, He was able to cast them from Him. “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15).

Even in fasting to stay close to God, Christ set YOU an example (1 Pet. 2:21). Turn to John, the eleventh chapter, and read again the wonderful history of how the living Head of Our Church raised a man (Lazarus) from the dead! Jesus was so deeply moved by the lack of faith of the people that he “groaned in the spirit, and was troubled” (vs. 33), and finally He wept (vs. 35).

But when He came to the tomb, Jesus “lifted up his eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me’” (vs. 41-42). Time that short prayer! I did, with my stopwatch, and even saying it slowly, it only takes eleven seconds!

“And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, ‘LAZARUS COME FORTH!’” (VS. 43). And a man who had been dead FOUR days walked alive out of his tomb.

Why was Christ able to speak only a short, eleven-second prayer, and publicly, in front of the people there, still perform one of His greatest miracles?

Simply because He

was FASTING and praying constantly, not just working up a temporary “spiritual attitude” to perform some great thing — not just “getting in the mood” for a while. He was in such constant communion with God, that He needed only to lift His eyes to heaven, and break off one conversation, with other human beings, and begin a new conversation — with His Heavenly Father. Remember, Jesus is your example.

But, sadly enough, most of us don’t have the WILL POWER Jesus had. We constantly tell ourselves, “Well, I’m too hungry today, I’ll put it off until tomorrow” or, “I’ve got too much work to do, that will require all my physical strength — I’ll put it off until later” or, “I won’t have a good opportunity to PRAY today, so the fasting would only be starving my physical body for nothing — I’ll wait until I’m not so busy!” In just this fashion, you can drift rapidly into a state of spiritual lethargy!

THE LEAKY ROOF

This type of neglect is about like the farmer whose roof leaks. Always, when he is reminded about the holes in the roof, he begins to reason, “Well, it’s not raining now, and I’ve got so much else to do — I’ll put it off until tomorrow.” Tomorrow comes, and then several tomorrows, until it finally rains and he is forced to scatter several pots and pans around in the house to catch the rain water coming through the holes in the roof. He certainly can’t get up on the roof in the

rain, can he? And then after the rain has stopped, he thinks there is no need to repair the roof yet, because it isn’t raining anymore!

Are you like that farmer?

Brethren, never forget that “... the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?” (1 Pet. 4:17). If you’re constantly putting things off until tomorrow, you’re being judged on the strength of EMPTY PROMISES and HYPOCRISY! Rather than real works being noted in your record, you have a record filled with half-hearted promises and “good intentions.”

GOOD INTENTIONS are not going to save one single soul from final spiritual death! If they could, then God would allow almost the majority of the sinning, ignorant, degenerate humans on earth into His glorious Kingdom! You’d better get busy while the sun is shining and stop up that leaky roof — fill the gaps in your study and prayer habits, until you’re ready for the strongest typhoons and hurricanes of temptation and persecution — because THEY ARE COMING!

THE TIME IS NOW

Peter warns us “... the end of all things IS AT HAND: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer!” (1 Peter 4:7). We are exhorted to be diligently WORKING OUT our own salvation, with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12) and to be putting off DAILY the traits and characteristics of the “old man” of sin! (Col.

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

~Matthew 26:41

3:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:31).

Jesus illustrated this DAY-BY-DAY fight of the Christian when He said, “Sufficient unto the DAY is the evil thereof” (Matt. 6:34). You’ve got to conquer today’s problems TODAY — not make empty promises about “getting around” to it tomorrow!

Christ tells us, “Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for the Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He cometh and knocketh, they may open unto Him immediately!” (Luke 12:35-36). Are we going to say to Christ, “I’ll get up and let you in tomorrow” at His coming?

“... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow me” (Luke 9:23). Jesus said it is a day-to-day process! Notice the example of the Bereans, who were so intrigued by the teaching of the Apostle Paul that they “searched the scriptures DAILY... THEREFORE many of them

believed” (Acts 17:11-12).

Many are comforting themselves by telling themselves, “I’m trying to quit this or that... I’m in the process of doing what I know I should” and, content to be in a constant state of “trying,” they never seem to get around to really DOING anything about it!

Notice how much emphasis God places in doing things TODAY! “But exhort one another daily, WHILE IT IS YET CALLED TODAY; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin” (Heb. 3:13).

A BROAD PRINCIPLE

Perhaps this sounds like a simple key, a rudimentary truth, which is certainly understood readily enough by the majority of God’s people. But it is much more than that! It constitutes a tremendous, all-encompassing principle, which, if really practiced, will result in eternal life!

QUIT PUTTING THINGS OFF — AS OF NOW!

Had you promised yourself

you would pray more today? THEN DO IT! Stop reading this article right now! It will still be here when you return — but TIME is passing! Go to your closet or bedroom NOW and pray. Learn this lesson once and for all — DON’T PUT THINGS OFF, if you intend to enter God’s Kingdom!

Every time you put off until tomorrow what you could accomplish today, you are weakening and possibly even destroying part of your character! And CHARACTER is the very reason for life! CHARACTER is what you should take with you into God’s Kingdom!

Brethren, DON’T let this be “just another interesting article” to you! Don’t read it, agree with it, and then forget about it! Don’t allow Satan to deceive you that you’re alright spiritually if you KNOW you’re not!

In the name of Christ our Savior, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT! NOW! DON’T PUT IT OFF ANY LONGER!



Voters of color reject victimhood, embrace Trump

“The Democratic Party is very efficient. Its problem is it’s selling the wrong product”

by permission of Star Parker and Creators Syndicate

Two weeks ago, I wrote, “There seems to be only one thing about which all Americans agree ... that something is very wrong in our nation.”

My point then was that all the polling data has been pointing in one direction – Americans of all persuasions are not happy with what’s happening in and the direction of our country.

Now we see, despite all the pessimism about the state of American democracy, that it works.

Why be surprised about the blowout of the incumbent party when, for most of Joe Biden’s presidency, the percentage of Americans saying they are satisfied with the direction of the country hovered around 20%, and when, after the early months of his presidency, his approval ratings tanked and for the remaining time, the gap between his disapproval and approval hovered between 10 to 15 points?

As former Reagan speechwriter Ken Khachigian noted in *The Wall Street Journal*, Vice President Kamala Harris drove a stake into her candidacy when in an appearance on “The View” she said nothing came to mind that she would have “done differently than President Biden.”

Gallup started asking about satisfaction with direction of the country in 1979. The highest it’s ever been was 71% in February 1999.

In Trump’s first term, satisfaction reached 41%, the highest it had been in 15 years. Then, to the misfortune of the then and future President Trump, COVID hit.

So, my answer to the tsunami of commentary about what happened in this election is that Americans are not happy and are sufficiently vibrant and healthy to step up and say “enough.”

As I said in my column two weeks ago, the only thing most Americans seem to agree about is that things are not good.

Now that the status quo has been rejected, where do we go?

I will repeat what I have been saying for a long time. A country that is fiscally bankrupt, culturally bankrupt and morally bankrupt is not a country with a future.

The great news that I see is that those with the great stake in the country’s future – our youth, our working class and lower- and middle-income Americans, and our non-white Americans whose

votes have always been disproportionately on the left, for Democrats, shifted in a meaningful way to Trump and Republicans.

Regarding the surge to the right by young men of all colors, my take is they are unhappy with a feminized culture of victimhood, wokeness and moral relativism.

I am not talking about manhood in a macho sense, but in the true sense of masculinity – to step up and take responsibility, to work, to build and to create. They are getting that the critical element of manliness is not taking control of others but of taking control of oneself.

The headline from the exit polls is decisive dissatisfaction with the economy, and all these votes went to Trump.

They will all agree with the tax cuts.

But how about spending cuts? We must shrink the long and heavy hand of government to recapture the economic growth of years gone by.

The voting shift among Americans of color is of crucial importance. The country is becoming less and less white.

Seventy-one percent of the 2024 vote was

white voters. When Reagan was elected in 1980, 88% of voters were white.

Less than half the children in K-12 in America’s public schools are white.

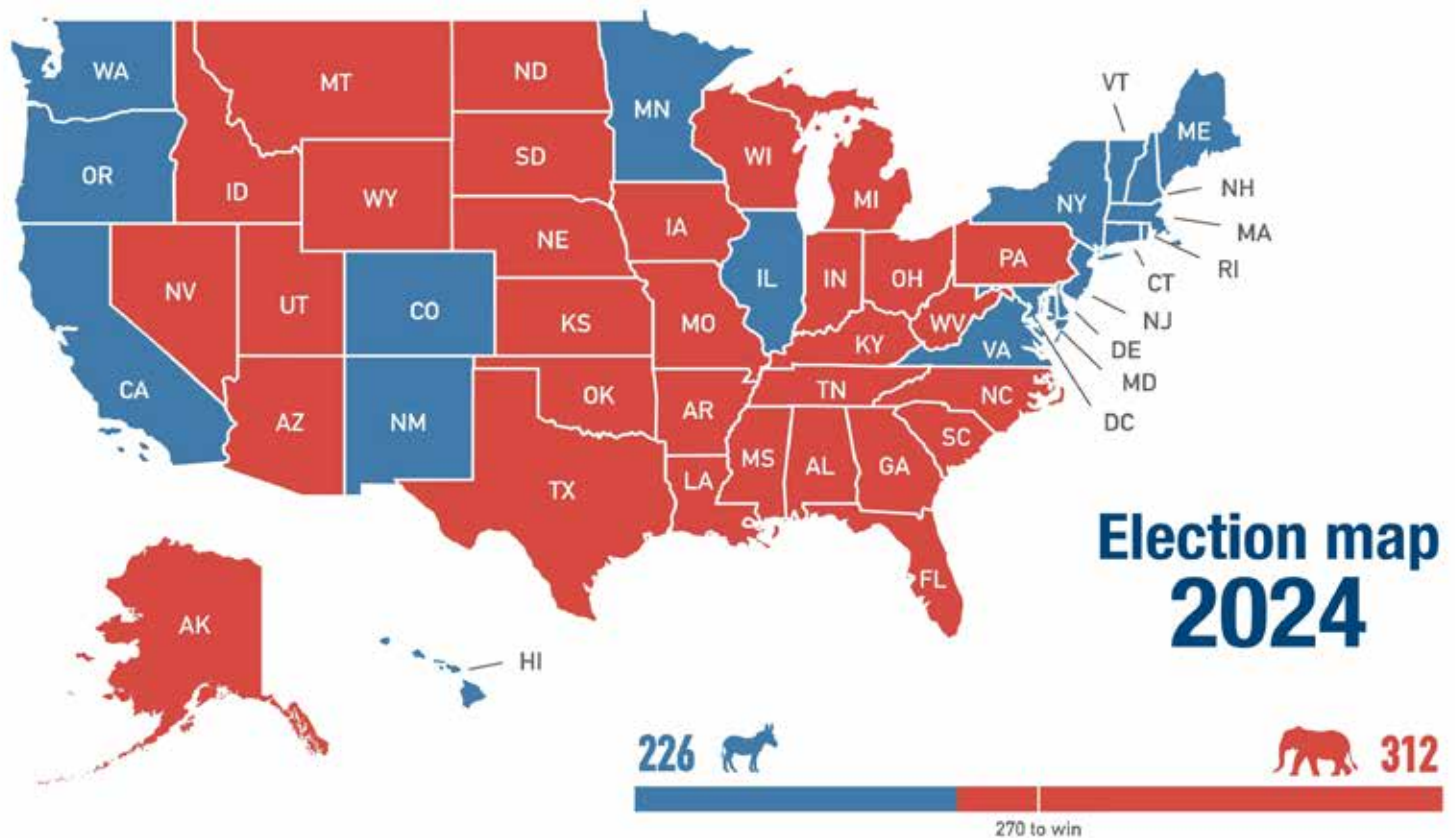
We need Americans of color to walk away from the culture of victimhood and embrace the culture of freedom and personal responsibility.

America needs these Americans of color, and these Americans of color need the values that built the country.

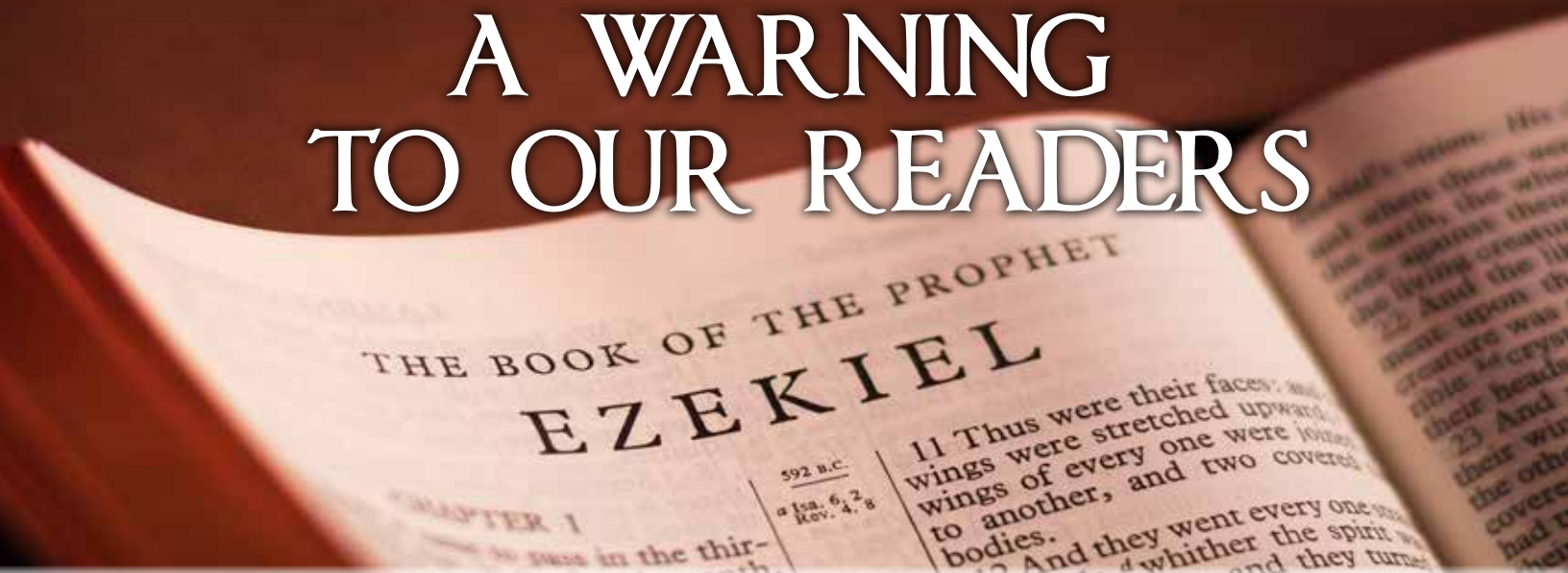
Regarding the Democratic Party, I would not liken it to a bankrupt company. A company in bankruptcy needs to reorganize and do its business more efficiently.

The Democratic Party is very efficient. Its problem is it’s selling the wrong product. □

Star Parker is president of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education and host of the weekly television show “Cure America with Star Parker.” Her recent book, “What Is the CURE for America?” is available now.



A WARNING TO OUR READERS



Will YOU Heed Ezekiel's Prophecies?

by Craig White, FriendsOfSabbath.org

Readers may wonder why the *Twenty-First Century WATCH* often includes articles containing a warning to the world and specifically to the Anglo-Keltic nations.

WHY IS SO MUCH TIME AND EFFORT PUT INTO THIS THRUST?

Readers will recall that the Intercontinental Church of God published a booklet on *The Long Tradition of Prophetic Insight*

and *Accuracy* which demonstrated that clear back to the early 1950s, Herbert W. Armstrong, his son Garner Ted and others were trumpeting a warning that in due time, a German-led United Europe would emerge which would turn radical and militaristic. Temporarily it would be allied with Russia and other powers. They even predicted that the countries under Communist rule in eastern Europe would

break away and join with western Europe in this prophesied union. If you have not yet read that booklet, we urge you to avail yourself of it.

In the meantime, the Anglo-Keltic nations which we identify as the descendants of ancient Israel, it was predicted, would come under duress and gradually decline, suffering internal disasters such as drought, famine and disease epidemics (Leviticus 26; Deuteronomy 28). Probably civil war will ensue (even if on a small scale), making it impossible for those nations to continue at the helm of the world. Yes, a third of the Israelitish people in our countries will die, or shall have died, by famine and disease epidemics! The future is dire and frightening.

This decline will open the doors to hostile powers taking advantage of our weaknesses. Like

<p>The PLAIN TRUTH</p>	<p>March, 1958</p>
<p>Empire (Revelation 17:12-13). These ten kings, or ten governments, will form a <i>union</i> OVER which rides the "woman" who is a great CHURCH! It will be a union of Church and State! The European Trades Union, already mentioned in previous issues of <i>The Plain Truth</i>, is only the beginning! First, it is necessary for the nations in Europe to reach <i>economic agreement</i>. And then POLITICAL agreement, under a strong</p>	<p>leader and religious influence, will follow! Make no mistake about it! A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE IS COMING! Russia will NOT attack the United States! But Russia WILL STRIKE! Prophecy shows a great WAR, in which Russia will be a major contender, is yet future! But WHEN? With WHOM? Future articles in <i>The Plain Truth</i> Magazine will reveal the answers!</p>

Excerpt from "WAR with Russia Ahead?" by Garner Ted Armstrong published in *The Plain Truth*, March, 1958.

ravenous beasts, they will devour our nations, which will lead to another third that will die from that war and of invasion, with the cities being destroyed (Ezekiel 6:6). The remaining third will be carried to the lands of our enemies as slaves (Ezekiel 5:12).

It will be the great Tribulation (Matthew 24), or time of “Jacob’s [Israel’s] trouble” according to Jeremiah 30:7, at which time Israel will be destroyed and scattered.

Garner Ted Armstrong himself wrote articles such as *Great Tribulation Coming on America and Britain — But WHY?; Is America in Decline?; The Beast of the Apocalypse: What is it?; New Order Coming in Germany* and many more. He, like his father and other writers, were decades ahead of their time. They could clearly see what the prophecies were saying and they felt it necessary to trumpet a warning. No matter how long it took.

Today, a strong warning — even fierce at times — must be trumpeted, regardless of the scoffers and deniers; regardless of the consequences the Church and its members may face.

It doesn’t replace the true Gospel of Christ — the coming Kingdom of God on earth. Yet it dovetails beautifully into the Gospel message of the future Messiah Who shall save the enslaved and usher in a golden age of peace and plenty. Ezekiel therefore also contains a message of hope, protection, love and blessings for those who repent (Ezekiel 37).

WHY WE WARN

This Work (and others similar to us), undertakes this warning out of concern and because we care. It is not a message to scare you, but to wake up individuals, families and nations.

One could get the impression of a “don’t care” attitude today among many Christians. Or a view that “the two witnesses will do the Work” so “we can have

a nice social club each week at church services” approach. We, of all people, have a duty of care and a burning desire to warn our peoples. Otherwise, our indifference will be noted by God and we will pay the consequences. Matthew Henry’s *Commentary*, written in the 18th century has an excellent message for us in this regard: “Lukewarmness or indifference in religion is the worst



Warning the world of what is to come and educating nations about the source of their blessings was a common theme of Herbert W. Armstrong’s work.

temper in the world. If [true] religion is a real thing, it is the most excellent thing, and therefore we should be in good earnest in it... If religion is worth anything, it is worth every thing; an indifference here is inexcusable: Why halt you between two opinions? If God be God, follow him; if Baal (be God), follow him ... Christ expects that men should declare themselves in earnest either for him or against him” (*A Commentary on the Whole Bible*, Vol. 6, p. 1135).

We need to be earnest as Matthew Henry declares — fired up with real ZEAL to reach out to warn our peoples before it is too late! The big question is whether we have love for our national brethren, and in fact, all peoples, or a lukewarm and lazy attitude which hides our light — the prophetic message — under a bushel. Do we want to reach out or protect our hides? Do we have a “give” or a “get” attitude? Remember what our Bible warns us about: those who wish to save their lives will inevitably lose it (Matthew 16:25).

THE EZEKIEL WATCHMAN

“Ezekiel”?! The very name conjures up thoughts of an Old Testament prophet railing against a sinful nation. A man whose message is studded with condemnations and wild visions unable to be understood. Warnings about lengthy periods of intense death causing diseases, famines, slavery. Mysterious visions about chariots, rods, Gog and Magog, a millennial temple. What do all these mean? Why should a Church of the twenty-first century take the



Ezekiel prophesied to the elders of Israel (Ezekiel 14). Wood engraving by G. B. Castello, published in 1886.

book seriously? Surely, many say, the book of Ezekiel was a message only for his time or are the ramblings of a very weird man.

But is this fair? Is this really the case or are these perceptions about Ezekiel unfounded? Can his prophecies be understood today? And do his writings have any relevance for us living in the midst of a pulsating, secular, humanistic and godless Western world?

His message for Israel in the last days is not a general, overall prophetic message. It is one filled with detail, of terror and warning that our nations will be defeated in battle and millions taken into

captivity in foreign lands. THAT is the core of the Ezekiel Warning. We can also call it the Captivity Doctrine.

The use of the term “Ezekiel’s Message” is not to refer to the entire message of the book, but a particular feature or aspect of it — specifically warnings of soon-coming invasions bent on defeating the House of Israel.

“But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require

at the watchman's hand" (Ezekiel 33:6).

We have a duty of care to proclaim this Watchman witness to our peoples and to trumpet it to its fullest extent. By way of reiteration, the Ezekiel Warning is not merely publishing articles on prophecy. It is a particular type of prophetic warning: a distinct warning to the "lost" tribes of Israel that they will be invaded, conquered and taken into captivity in foreign lands where many will die — to the extent that only one tenth of the one third which go into captivity will return in the second Exodus (meaning that only 3.3% of the original total of Israelites will be left alive for Christ, the Messiah, to rescue, as we understand at this time).

Ezekiel 33 makes it clear that if Israel's Watchman does not blow a trumpet blast warning about impending captivity, the bloodshed of many will be on his head! The truth about Israel, detailed prophecy and the Warning Watchman are amongst the most critical issues facing the Churches today, which are entrusted by God to carry out this

responsibility — one of the most important given to any group of people in history! It must not go to sleep at the wheel.

Clearly, the only conclusion one can draw from Ezekiel 33:6 is that if we do not carry out this vital mission, the blood of many will be upon our heads. Let us now see if we will be self-willed and come up with excuses to bow to God's Word and to blow the trumpet warning!

To trumpet a warning, our peoples must first know their identities (awakening our peoples to their identity is sometimes known as the Israel Message) — an educational message proving their identity. That means that the outreach to them must become extensive. It has to be.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We urge our peoples (in fact ALL peoples) to come to their senses and to turn back from decadence and ways that the great God of the universe finds offensive. It may be that He will tone down the intensity of Tribulation and reduce the impact of the rod and spare you and your loved

ones if you do repent.

This message needs to go out in a thunderous way, to wake up our peoples before it is too late. The groups sending out this message for a long time have been well and truly ahead of their time, but they cannot be ahead of the time for eternity. Something will give soon, triggering a fascist United Europe under the helm of Germany to arise. It will come, wait for it.

Garner Ted's father wrote: "Soft words and pretty speeches do not arouse people out of this pleasant dream. It takes a jolt!" (Herbert W. Armstrong, "Personal from the Editor," *Plain Truth*, September 1965).

Will you repent and turn to God while you still have time and join in this crusade to warn our peoples of impending doom?

While this message may seem dour, that is not all there is to it. Beyond the gloom there is HOPE! For God will send Christ as Messiah to rescue His people and usher in a Millennial age of peace and prosperity for the peoples of Israel and for all nations (Ezekiel 37)! ☐

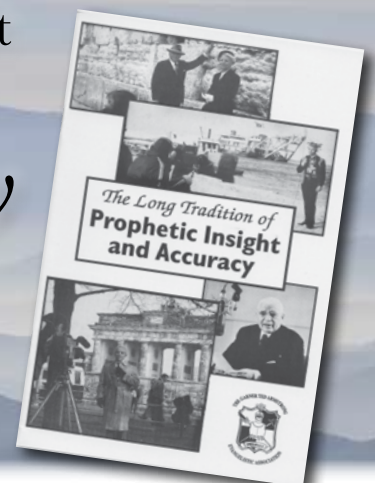
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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

AMERICAN AND CHINESE COMPETITION

It was already heated, but the incoming Trump administration has left little doubt about how they will address trade relations between the world's two largest economies. Already China has been scrambling to circumvent existing tariffs. One practice has been incorporating new companies in countries like Vietnam or Singapore and moving production there so the goods will not technically be "Chinese." Xi has also been forced into the ironic stance of promoting free trade. But with the Chinese economy on the back foot, dismal population demographics, and the certainty that Washington will not be backing down, there are not many other options. Massive stimulus packages are being pumped into their economy. Xi recently presided over the opening of a massive port in Peru, one of the many infrastructure projects China has financed to facilitate trade with its BRICS partners and others. Still, there is no substitute for the American market and we will be closely watching how this dispute unfolds.

ALL TRANS SQUAD

A soccer team in Spain consisting entirely of "trans men" (born female) has been federated, officially accepted by the league, albeit regionally and into a low tier. It is the first of its kind in Europe. The Catalan men's league in which the team competes already allowed women to play, so many issues regarding gender were avoided. Their first game resulted in a loss with a score of 19-0.

A MAP TO NOAH'S ARK

A Babylonian clay tablet from the 5th century BC has made headlines recently. Discovered in the late 1800's, the artifact is housed in the British museum. An additional fragment was discovered in

1995. One side has the oldest known map in the world and the other is text only. The cuneiform writing has been a puzzle, but recent breakthroughs have led to the conclusion that it contains directions to what we would call Noah's Ark! There is a Babylonian flood tradition that is very similar to what we are familiar with from the Bible. The text gives travel directions, including distances. It also mentions the mountain "Urartu," the Assyrian equivalent of "Ararat," where the Ark is recorded as grounding.

WHEN PARROTS ATTACK

A town in Argentina has faced a growing, seasonal invasion of parrots. Locals estimate their numbers peaked at 50,000 last winter, or five times the human population. Parrots are beautiful and intelligent birds but they are also extremely loud and possess fearsomely strong beaks, not to mention that thing they do on cars. Beyond the nuisance and mess there has been real destruction, like biting the insulation off of power lines and causing them to short out. Efforts to get them to relocate have so far proven futile.

ASYLUM FOR WOMEN

The European Union has ruled that being a woman from Afghanistan is enough to qualify for asylum. This in response to the severe restrictions that have been imposed since the Taliban retook control of the country. The new rules include being forced out of many professions, banned from higher education, enforcing strict dress codes, and many travel restrictions.

FAWZIA AMIN SIDO

...is the name of a girl recently rescued by Israeli forces in Gaza. Unlike other hostages, Fawzia

had been in captivity for ten years. She was abducted in Iraq by ISIS at the age of 11 before later being taken to Gaza. Thousands of other children faced similar horrors at the hands of ISIS, being stolen from their homes, abused, and sold into slavery. Her path to freedom began when the man who had purchased her, a member of Hamas, was killed.

CONTROVERSIAL MIGRANT PLAN

Italy has negotiated a deal with Albania to accept and process up to 3,000 of the migrants that arrive on Italian shores each year. In addition to relieving pressure on their systems and facilities, the plan is expected to serve as a deterrent as migrants typically try to reach wealthier countries with more robust social programs. A limited number have already been transferred to Albania. However, many of those have been sent back to Italy after activist Italian judges deemed their countries of origin, such as Egypt, “unsafe.” This infuriated the current government, which believes the designation is not deserved in many instances and is only being applied to undermine the scheme. A similar agreement between the UK and Rwanda was canceled after the new Labor government took power.

COLUMBUS!

DNA testing claims to have settled the dispute over the heritage of Christopher Columbus. Samples were taken from his remains as well as those of his son. The results indicate Columbus was a Sephardic Jew from somewhere in southern Europe. There have been many competing theories as to his origins over the centuries. Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish monarchs who hired Columbus, are also the ones who required all Jews to convert to Catholicism or leave the country. This likely contributed to some of the ambiguity around Columbus’ roots.

LA CASA DEL CUY

That’s Spanish for, “The House of the Guinea Pig” and it is the name of a restaurant located in New York City. Guess what they specialize in? Guinea pigs are commonly eaten in countries like Ecuador and Peru, to which they are native. The bulky rodents reproduce rapidly with up to four litters a year. The meat is also said to be lean, though it is certainly not among the “clean” animals listed in Leviticus 11. It

is also rather alarming to see the furry, pet store staple, shaved and roasted whole on a spit, looking for all the world like the biggest barbecued rat in history. Which it may well be.

CHINA INTERNATIONAL AVIATION AND AEROSPACE EXHIBITION


The week long event showcases civil and military manufacturers and results in tens of billions of dollars worth of sales. Weapons and drones factor in, as does China’s first domestically produced airliner, which they hope can begin to compete with dominant American and European manufacturers. The J-35 fighter jet is of great interest. It looks much like the American F-35 but little is known about its performance and weapons capabilities. China plans to use a modified version on its nascent fleet of aircraft carriers. An advanced Russian fighter, the SU-57, is also present in a show of solidarity. Other products on display include helicopters, submarines, and an unmanned space plane China intends to use to supply their space station.

IRON BEAM

Israel has signed a contract to augment its famed Iron Dome missile defense system. The Iron Beam is a high powered laser capable of taking out missiles, drones and rockets. It has the advantage of not requiring expensive munitions to operate, though it is not intended to replace the traditional projectiles that have so successfully protected Israel from aerial threats.

DIET AND DEPRESSION

Edinburgh University is taking a new angle to understand and treat conditions such as bipolar depression. They are advocating for it to be understood as an issue with the body’s underlying processes rather than just an emotional problem. They have opened a “Hub for Metabolic Psychiatry” that will further investigate how our basic needs, like diet and sleep, affect these diseases. An early study showed over 30% of participants with bipolar depression reporting significant improvement after 8 weeks on a Ketogenic diet, which excludes carbohydrates. While the results are encouraging, they hope to understand why some respond to these types of treatments while others do not. □



Can We Fix It?

by Michael Armstrong

The electorate of the United States, fed up with the status quo, delivered a stunning result this November 5th. On its face it was a rebuttal of “business as usual,” of a stagnant economy, of rising prices and uninspiring leadership (to say the least).

However, some of us hope it was something more than that. We hope it reflected a deeper dissatisfaction over issues that bear on the morality of the nation as a whole. If it was merely a self interested reaction to diminished prosperity, it will not be enough. Some reprise or economic boost resulting from policy changes may occur, but the true turn around necessary to heal this country will remain out of reach.

For that, there is only one path forward. It is almost cliché to repeat but as relevant as ever, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my

face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14).

Hopefully, there has been a great deal of that in our nation. While there is no remedy outside of repentance for a corrupt and morally bankrupt population, only God can truly know when things have reached the tipping point from which there is no return. The Bible provides true solutions as well as examples of how nations have changed for the better.

The economy and inflation polled near the top of voter’s concerns. What are some rules scripture lays down for these issues? “The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender” (Prov. 22:7). This scripture proves itself true in more ways than one. The wealthy often enjoy undue influence,

though this role encompasses some unique pitfalls as well (Matt. 19:23-24).

More to the point, for our nation as a whole, may be the warning over our burgeoning debt. Virtually no steps have been taken to get it in check heretofore. Should efficiency and budget remedies prove effective, we may be fortunate enough to avoid the kind of drastic interventions that have been necessary to put Argentina back on the path to solvency. We certainly do not want to wait until we are suffering from triple digit inflation before tackling the problem.

How about honesty and accountability from those who hold high office? “You shall appoint judges and officers in all your gates, which the Lord your God gives you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment. You shall not pervert justice; you shall

not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous. You shall follow what is altogether just, that you may live and inherit the land which the Lord your God is giving you” (Deut. 16:18-20).

This scripture speaks volumes. Its context, after a recap of God’s Holy Days and before a reminder regarding idolatry, shows its importance. No society can thrive while burdened with self-seeking leadership. Corruption is a scourge and you can see its detrimental influence on businesses and organizations of all types and sizes. Unfortunately, it is almost taken for granted that our elected officials deal out favors to their friends and families. The lobbies with the deepest pockets receive the most consideration when it comes to regulation or government contracts. Such practices should not be taken for granted. They are a sin against God Almighty!

The audacity goes further. “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying: ‘The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, that observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers’” (Matt. 23:1-4).

There is an interesting and observable shift in opinion on certain issues when you compare the average citizen to the

elites or the ruling class. There is a notable divergence on topics like climate change, where the kind of radical government interventions proposed to address it would substantially increase the cost of living. The truly wealthy are not affected in the same manner when the cost of living goes up.

A similar point could be made about the tax code. It is complicated to the point of absurdity. Those who can afford

spectrum, welfare can be a touchy subject. “For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who walk among you in a disorderly manner, not working at all, but are busybodies. Now those who are such we command and exhort through our Lord Jesus Christ that they work in quietness and eat their own bread” (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12).



Screenshot from USDebtClock.org as of November 27, 2024.

teams of lawyers and accountants are able to take advantage of the many loopholes built into the system and often end up paying very little. The average citizen muddles their way through the forms, pays whatever it says, and hopes that is the last they will hear of it. With all the heated rhetoric about people paying their “fair share,” it is a wonder the nation does not turn to a flat tax, similar to the system of tithing in the Bible. Alas, the tangle exists for the benefit of those with a vested interest in its continued complexity.

On the other end of the

Care for the poor is a necessity. It is emphasized in both the Old and New Testaments. We cannot lose our compassion and pretend to be righteous. But, as Paul is stressing in this scripture, there is a potential for abuse which should not be tolerated. As a nation we need a safety net. Tragedies occur, people fall on hard times, and having a system in place to alleviate hardship and suffering is appropriate and Godly. For the sake of everyone involved it cannot be allowed to become a scam.

Needed resources are wasted, the character of those

who take unnecessarily suffers and as confidence in the system is lost compassion wanes. Society runs the risk of becoming hard-hearted towards the truly unfortunate. This worsens when the system is further exploited as a tool for influence.

Like many other problems and sins we struggle with, no amount of enforcement can prevent abuse. Maybe you have had similar experiences... I have been approached by someone who wanted to sell me their food stamps. I have worked with someone who deliberately worked part time for minimum wage while having more children to increase their benefits. Direct quote, "I'm going to eat steak every day." I have more COVID examples than space allows. Many were forced out of work, their employers shuttered, and were truly in need of relief. Others double dipped or elected to go on an extended vacation. It takes character and integrity on all sides to maintain a system that is beneficial, generous, and sustainable.

Promises made sometimes overlook a nation's ability to make good on them. Argentina has been making a painful correction. Many subsidies and price controls that people relied upon have been taken away. Yet this became absolutely necessary after consecutive years of triple digit inflation. Despite the pain, President Milei has retained his popularity and many trust him to stay the course and fix their economy in spite of the temporary hardships.

Would that these sorts of corrections could be made before disaster actually strikes. Many African nations are grappling with fuel and electric subsidies they cannot afford, and yet cannot remove without plunging their cities into chaos. Nor are "1st world nations" immune from

these kinds of problems.

Spain is taking an opposite tack to its European peers by legalizing 300,000 undocumented migrants a year. Their leftist government believes there is no other way to plug employment shortfalls and generate the tax revenue necessary to maintain



Spain's Canary Islands have become a favored destination for migrants. 2024 saw nearly 40,000 new arrivals.



A group of migrants arrive at the harbor of Los Cristianos at Tenerife Island (the Canaries) after being transferred there from El Hierro Island, Spain, 18 November 2024. The European Commission (EC) announced in September 2024 that it is allocating an additional 14 million euro package to the Canary Islands to help deal with the migration crisis.

their social safety net with an aging population and dismal demographic projections.

France's government is collapsing. Budget wrangling is at the heart of it, with demands for pension increases, protection for medical subsidies and a freeze on certain tax increases as the sticking points, despite a 6% deficit. At the same time, European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde has categorically stated that current social models will crash without drastic changes taking place. The same population growth issues have caused production to lag while requiring more spending for retirement as well as programs to try to encourage the young to have more children.

Across the board it is more spending with less revenue. At some point the financial reality is going to become the overriding issue though attempts at correction, like raising the retirement age to reflect modern life expectancy, are met with tremendous push-back.

These may all seem like physical, temporal problems of administration. But they are indicative of deep seated spiritual issues in society. As a whole, we cannot thrive if we are all self-seeking and self-interested. As with our more obvious struggles to control theft, dishonesty and covetousness, we wound ourselves when we abandon efforts to keep them in check. There must be return to personal responsibility and morality or none of our problems will be fixed. This is true of the population in gen-

eral but its effect is amplified in leadership. And when problems exist at the highest levels, there is no other plane on which they may be corrected.

The blessings of a happy and prosperous society do not exist apart from God. They are a gift. But we have been blessed with a great deal of knowledge and instruction to illuminate both why things go awry and how they can be corrected. The history of the Bible provides us with examples of how a nation can be restored and rejuvenated.

When King Hezekiah came to power, Judah had been subjugated by Assyria. 2 Kings 18:3-4 says, "he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done. He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image..." and verses 6-7, "For he held fast to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses. The Lord was with him; he prospered wherever he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him."

While he did end up having to pay tribute to Assyria, Judah was not carried off in the same manner as Israel. Hezekiah humbled himself and entreated God (2 Kings 19). Internal strife

derailed Assyria's plans and left Judah intact. Hezekiah's own life was extended by a similarly merciful answer to a humble petition. God can heal, He can protect or delay, even if the end result is inevitable.

Notice an interesting scripture in 2 Kings 20:16-19, "Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, 'Hear the word of the Lord: "Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be

left," says the Lord. "And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.'" So Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good!" For he said, "Will there not be peace and truth at least in my days?""

It is an odd sentiment, but those who know the truth face a similar conundrum. We know that there are many end-time prophecies that do not bode well for our nation. It is not called the "time of Jacob's trouble" for nothing. The church has striven to warn of the prophecies contained in Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and others as well as New Testament reiterations from the book of Revelation, the writings of Paul and the

words of Christ Himself!

The end is decided. All we can hope for is a reprise like that granted to Hezekiah. Yet that is no small thing! Under his leadership evil practices that are repugnant to God were put away. How many thousands or millions benefited from this revival? How many were allowed to live, thrive and potentially come to repentance while these wicked influences were kept at bay? It was a tremendous opportunity.

Applying this lesson to our own time, we might ask ourselves which course of action God would find preferable: rolling over in defeat and contenting ourselves with self righteousness or striving with all the strength He gives us to resist what is destroying us and to establish truth and justice?

Hezekiah's reign lasted 27 years. Afterwards, his son Manasseh took the throne and ruled for 55 years. His tenure is stated to be the worst ever, flooding the nation with idolatrous depravity and debauchery. He was succeeded by Amon, who continued in the same vein but reigned only 2 years. Then, a major change took place.

Josiah came to power at the tender age of 8. Unlike his predecessors, "he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (2 Kings 22:2). Eighteen years into his reign, the Book of the Law was found. It is remarkable to consider that it had ever been lost! The King asked for it to be

read to him, and the effect upon the young monarch was profound. He was devastated at the sins they had been committing and the punishment it would inevitably bring. When he inquired of the Lord, he was given a promise similar to that of Hezekiah; wrath was surely coming, but because he had humbled himself it would not happen during his lifetime.

The young king did not sit idle (no pun intended). He active-

ly rededicated the nation to God, bringing it back into sync with God's laws and removing all of the idolatrous practices from the land. The whole episode is recorded in 2 Kings 23 and is well worth reading.

As an interesting aside, verse 13 mentions altars that Solomon had built to the gods of his wives such as Ashtoreth. These apparently survived the previous reformation of Hezekiah. In



The book of God's laws is found in the temple and Shaphan reads to King Josiah (2 Chronicles 34). Chromolithograph, published in 1886.

a strange way, this may be some small consolation for our nation today. God willing, we will make many changes to realign our country with the laws of truth and justice. But abolishing certain practices (like many of the holidays based on these same pagan deities that have been re-branded as “Christian”) or other sins that have become entrenched, is simply not going to happen. Still, we have the record of God honoring Hezekiah’s efforts and delaying His wrath even though the nation was not “perfect” by any means.

This entire period, from Hezekiah to Josiah, is worth consideration when we ponder the potential for a national revival. Lasting over 100 years all together, we get a bird’s eye view of reform followed by decay, more reform and then the inevitable destruction. After Josiah’s death, it was the end of Judah’s independence. The nation plunged right back into the very sins he had expunged from the land. They were subjugated by Egypt, and in barely over a decade they were captured by Babylon.

This was just as God had indicated it would be, but in each instance His people returned to Him they were granted a temporary reprieve. What Josiah achieved may have been the last gasp of a dying nation but it was a

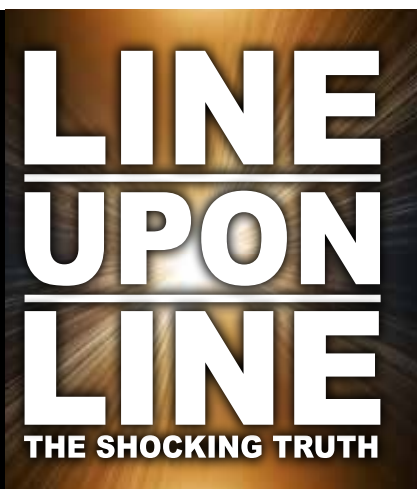
noble and a worthy effort. Think of it in real human terms. Think of 31 years where evil is held at bay and the tremendous alleviation in real human suffering.

Repentance and reconciliation are available if we can only muster the collective humility and fortitude to take hold of it. God has promised. He has preserved the truth, His law, and a multitude of historical examples to show us how it can happen and prove that it is possible. The United States of America needs a true, spiritual revival. Economics is not enough. Regaining pres-

tige is not enough. Healing and realignment with God must take place on a personal level and throughout the institutions we all share. Freedom cannot be a cloak for evil. Power must be used for good, and not for ego or personal

enrichment. We pray that is the kind of change the people of this nation desire.

In the end, the question is not “Can we fix it?” but “Will we fix it in time?” At some point there will be no turning back. As the wrath of God waited until the “abominations were full” before establishing Israel in the promised land, so we may have a chance to change course before it is too late. As He delayed punishment in the lifetimes of Hezekiah and Josiah, it is possible to receive a reprieve. A chance for true, national repentance! □



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BIBLE STUDY*by Dr. James & Natalie Ricks*An open Bible with text overlaid. The text is in a large, white, serif font with a black outline. The background is a close-up of the Bible's pages, showing the texture of the paper and the binding.

OVERCOMING EVIL, NOT APPEASING EVIL

The history of mankind proves that appeasing evil always ends in disaster. Giving in to evil encourages all the more evil. Appeasing evil dictators or evil pagans or criminals only makes matters worse. Letting evil nations get off easy for their evil actions only encourages them to conduct more aggressive evil actions.

Sir Winston Churchill stated that WWII was a completely preventable war. It is believed that if the Allies, when they had the greater military forces, such as when Hitler invaded the Rhineland, should have resisted him he would have been removed by the German Generals. But they gave him a bloodless victory. They kept appeasing Hitler. After each appeasement Hitler became more aggressive. What does God think about being nice to evil rulers? The king of Israel spared the evil ruler Ben-Hadad after God gave Israel the victory.

1 Kings 20:41-42, “And he hastened to take the bandage away from his eyes; and the king of Israel recognized him as one of the prophets. 42 Then he said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Because you have let slip out of your hand a man whom I appointed to utter destruction, therefore your life shall go for his life, and your people for his people.”’”

Not only did the evil king not appreciate the kindness of the king of Israel, he soon planned to attack and stab Israel in the back again. The

Bible indicates that evil must be cauterized and removed or it will metastasize and grow even more dangerous. God does not believe in appeasing or compromising with evil.

1 Kings 18:40, “And Elijah said to them, ‘Seize the prophets of Baal! Do not let one of them escape!’ So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the Brook Kishon and executed them there.”

The priests of Baal were evil. They taught the sacrifice of children in fire to false pagan gods and child sex slavery in pagan temples as young temple prostitutes, both male and female. We can see in the Old Testament that God clearly believes in the death penalty. We cannot do now as God did in the Old Testament because we are not a theocracy run by God. We also do not have direct contact with God through a prophet.

So then why is it compassionate for God to administer the death penalty, often in great numbers? For one thing, God has the prerogative to decide life and death. But also, God will bring back the evil persons in a controlled atmosphere where evil (demonic influence) is locked away and God rules directly. Then evil people can be forgiven and taught the truth. They will, in that new age, have a chance to repent, mature, and be saved by God.

Ephesians 1:20-21, “Which He worked in Christ in raising Him from the dead, and He seated

BIBLE STUDY

Him at His right hand in the heavenlies, 21 far above all principality and authority and power and dominion, and every name being named, not only in this world, but also in the coming age.” (MKJV)

What will happen in this coming future age for all those not saved now?

Revelation 20:11-13, “And I saw a great white throne, and Him sitting on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And a place was not found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the small and the great, stand before God. And the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.”

Graves will be opened to a physical resurrection for all those who never really had an actual chance for salvation in their first life. The bible will be fully opened to them and they will truly understand it for the first time. They will learn right from wrong, reflect on their old life and repent, and thereby be judged by their new works.

Verse 12, “And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead in it. And death and hell delivered up the dead in them. And each one of them was judged according to their works.”

Most will be saved because God is merciful. This life is not the only day of salvation, therefore the death penalty is not permanent. However, if in this world the true murderers, violent gangs and evil dictators were executed swiftly, we would have less violence and murder overall.

The feckless Neville Chamberlain, leader of the western Allies at the beginning of WWII, kept giving in to Hitler and Mussolini, again and again. He thought, “If only we give them what they want they will be satisfied.” The Allies gave them no resistance for taking Ethiopia, Albania, Rhineland, then Sudetenland, the rest of Czechoslovakia and

then the sneaky taking of Austria. The leaders of the League of Nations did nothing. What did they receive for all their appeasement? The near conquest of England itself. Vast air armadas bombing Britain is what Chamberlain got for giving in to evil.

Can we not see a similar pattern regarding crime in our own liberal cities? Chamberlain thought that Hitler had some legitimate complaints about the way the last war ended, so just appease him and he will be satisfied and leave everyone alone. Liberals in American cities use the same reasoning. Pacifying a violent mob never works. Portland’s murder rate increased between 530% and 800% depending on whose numbers we use. Increases in other cities are also significant. The anarchists among us want violence and the thugs among them want to loot. America’s number one city is in a death spiral of crime at this very moment. Residents and businesses are fleeing New York City.

God expects local government to maintain law and order and to punish criminals.

Romans 13:3-4, “For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the bad. And do you desire to be not afraid of the authority? Do the good, and you shall have praise from it. 4 For it is a servant of God to you for good. For if you practice evil, be afraid, for it does not bear the sword in vain; for it is a servant of God, a revenger for wrath on him who does evil.”

Crime has skyrocketed in all cities that underfunded the police, coddled criminals and where anarchists were allowed to run wild. Undermining policing leads to people dying in greater numbers. Appeasement never pays.

Obviously we should not vote for politicians that will enable crime and evil dictators. We are limited in what we can do in this, Satan’s age. Note Paul’s advice.

Romans 12:19-21, “Beloved, do not avenge

Continued next page

BIBLE STUDY

yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. 20 Therefore ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.’ 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (NKJV)

First, note that God will avenge evil. He will punish the evil person that may seem to be getting away with it now, but no one fools God. They will pay someday, in some way. But in the meantime, our goal is to overcome evil with good. Christ says to love your enemy. That attitude is the opposite of this world.

Ephesians 4:31-32, “Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and tumult and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.”

When we have a spirit of forgiveness, we have defeated the Devil. Satan loves to get various groups of people hating each other, even killing each other. He feeds the ever increasing cycle of grievances and hatred and murder. When we refuse to hate we are the spiritual winners. It is a spiritual battle that the world just does not understand at this time.

Ephesians 6:12, “For we do not wrestle

against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the world’s rulers, of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”

Pray for these worldly governments to allow us to do the work of God in peace.

2 Thessalonians 3:1, “Finally, my brothers, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified, even as it is with you.”

Ultimately, God will not appease evil. The wicked will become ashes.

Malachi 4:3, “And you shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day which I am preparing, says the LORD of hosts.”

Revelation 21:8, “But the fearful, and the unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, will have their part in the Lake burning with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

The defiantly evil will face the second death in the lake of fire and become ashes. Some are so evil that they will be resurrected just for closure and to face their ultimate fate. Others will be given a real chance of repentance and growth so they can avoid the second death. We need to be faithful to God now and assure ourselves of the salvation provided by Jesus. □



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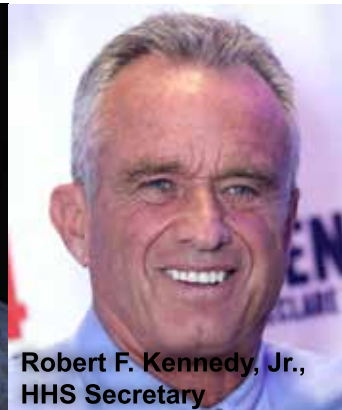
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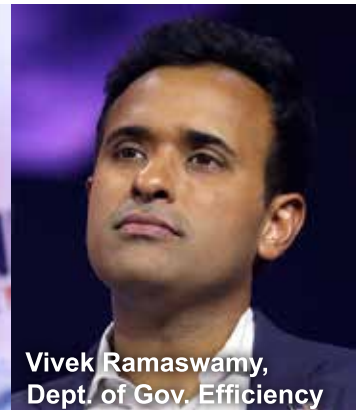
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Pete Hegseth, Defense Secretary



Linda McMahon, Secretary of Education



Tom Homan, Border Czar



Elon Musk, Dept. of Gov. Efficiency

A New Day Dawns

Continued from page 2

Some are insinuating that he might be willing to start WWII to save himself. That's not going to work. He might try, but it'll blow up in his face. Who knows how deep Joe's problems are? We don't want to be vengeful, but if he broke the law... And what about Zelensky?

Meanwhile, we don't have long to wait. The media and the leftists will go for broke when it comes to outing some damaging Trump information, but I think it's too late. They can try all they like. They've already tried, but apparently they're not giving up. Except for Joe and Mika who have their own show on MSNBC. They went on a pilgrimage to meet with Trump, and apparently he received them graciously. After all they've said! Needless

to say, they're in the doghouse with both their viewers. I guess they're going to try to switch gears and support Trump?

The way I see it, everybody in government wants to escape, any way they can. Otherwise, it's going to be a long wait in the unemployment line. The "things" they've been pushing have gone out of vogue. Men in women's sports? That was a bridge too far. Maybe that's what pushed us over the edge. Denying there's any difference was nonsense, and they know it. Maybe this will be a turning point in American history. We hope so.

It appears that we've been given one last chance. Things have been going downhill in this country for a long time. The first Trump presidency didn't have the advantage of knowing who would undermine him, but hopefully he's learned. The team he's

assembling now looks like they know who's who and what's what and will make sure we don't get burned this time.

Trump apparently doesn't care about all the serious looks and furrowed brows on the networks. With any luck, he'll return the nation to its first works. Did we witness a miracle when he survived the assassination attempt? How often has God intervened in the affairs of man? Let's not pretend God isn't involved.

We can't even conceive many of the things that are in our future, but we pray it all goes well.

Some of you were around when Reagan beat Carter. The church played it down, but it turned everything upside down. Suddenly there was an enthusiasm that changed everything, after months and years of humiliation. Is this deja vu? □

Welcome to Nineveh

by Stuart Rowland



We here in the United States have just ended another presidential election cycle. The results of the people's vote, without a doubt, sent a clear and vivid message of a desire, dare I even say a need, for a change in direction for the nation? While there are some people from the fringe of both sides of the political aisle that are still crying and boiling over in anger because of the results, a majority of the population is ready to move forward into a new path to travel.

Some are using a phrase that really shows the hopes of the people for the immediate future, suggesting that the United States might even be heading into a new "Golden Age" of peace and cooperation. I, too, have allowed myself to think, maybe even imagine, "What if it is so..."

But, let us not kid ourselves. This nation has spent decades sowing the wind. It has earned a hard harvest of the whirlwind. We only had 1,200,000 violent crimes in the U.S. this year. Only. We lead the world in both mass shootings and school shootings (that are not otherwise part of an on-going war effort.) While thefts are down from 2023 in many areas, automobile thefts are up about 13% over that same period.

Putting civil crimes to the side for a moment, let's examine the moral crimes a little. To date, an estimated 1.7 billion abortions have taken place. As of the time of this article, over 812,000 of those took place in the U.S. 7,884 of them were for rape/incest/medical reasons.

It has been estimated that between 350,000

and 800,000 children have been lost to child trafficking. Many go into forced labor. Many others are pushed into sex trades. Others still meet ends that are too horrible to even believe to be possible. Yet, there it is.

The United States is a greedy, violent country. So much of what it does, at least at the levels of power and control, is based on lies. Mercy is rare; punishment flows with ease. In fact, the U.S. reminds me a lot of an Assyrian city of a long ago time...

Welcome to Nineveh!

Nineveh was a great, big city. Some estimates suggest that it would take an average person three days to walk it from end to end. It was a rich city, full of various customs and cultures. It was a key center of finance and trade. They were very inclusive of others, being on several water and land passages.

However, they were a violent, vicious people. They would often use war as a way to gain wealth and power. They would plunder a beaten foe to the point of having no way to survive.

They were religious, with the majority of residents following Ishtar, the goddess of war and sex. Idolatry was everywhere.

Nineveh also had blood on its hands — tons of blood. But, God wasn't ready to destroy them quite yet. He wanted to give them a chance to repent from their ways, and in the process, save their lives.

As we know from the Book of Jonah, Jonah was called to deliver God's message to the people of Nineveh. But, Jonah didn't want to go. Was it the fear of how Assyrians would treat him, being a Jew?

Was it the concern that, if there was any country on Earth at that time that posed a real threat to the Tribes of Israel, that it was the Assyrians? Maybe all that and even more. Whatever the reasons, Jonah decided to run.

Now, I won't go over the whole story of Jonah, as most of you dear folks probably know it. And, if some of you want to do a quick refresh, it's only four chapters long (the Book of Jonah) and it is a fast, enriching read!

To continue our point, though, God persuaded Jonah into doing what God told him to do in the first place. Jonah went into Nineveh, announcing that people there needed to repent of their ways, or God would destroy Nineveh in 40 days.

Shockingly, when a half-digested dude wearing tatters of clothing and seaweed, smelling of fish vomit, walks up to you and says, "Repent!"... Well, people paid attention to what he was saying.

The leader of Nineveh heard Jonah's message,

and ordered the people to wear sackcloth, to fast, to repent. The people did as told. And, God had mercy on them, holding off on His wrath for a generation. To see how things ultimately ended for Nineveh, just read the Book of Nahum.

Are we like Nineveh? I honestly don't know for sure if we are walking that path. But, it is too good of an opportunity to waste! There are feelings of hope and optimism that have been missing from this land for a long time. So, maybe this is the

Nineveh-moment for America. Maybe we are being called to take the message of repentance to the people. Maybe the United States will be given one more opportunity to actually be "One Nation, Under God."

But, we'll never know for sure if we decide to just chill out in a fishy belly, now will we? Take the step — follow His calling — say a word. It might mean everything to someone that is waiting to hear that word. Peace to you. □



Artist's impression of Assyrian palaces from *The Monuments of Nineveh* by Sir Austen Henry Layard, 1853 (Wikipedia)



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LESSON NINETEEN: JUDGMENT

The time of one's judgment is the time of his opportunity for salvation, extending from one's calling by God until his death (or the resurrection). During this judgment period, a person's mind is opened to understand God's way, and his actions and attitudes are being evaluated by God in the light of His way of life and His law. All human beings from all time shall have a full opportunity for salvation either now (for the Church), or during the one thousand year reign of Christ on earth, or in the Great White Throne Judgment. Those who shall qualify for God's Kingdom — the overwhelming majority — shall inherit eternal life, and those who deliberately reject God's way shall be consumed in the lake of fire.

DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW

One of the most awesome truths of God is that all mankind from all time shall have an opportunity for salvation — the attainment of eternal life in the family of God. No human being is doomed forever simply because he has never heard of Christ's name or never really understood God's purpose and plan. God makes it adequately plain that He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). He intends to give everyone a chance to know and understand His truth and to have the opportunity to be with Him in His glorious Kingdom (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4).

Combined with this thrilling truth that all men shall have an opportunity for salvation is the fact that all men will not receive this opportunity at the same time. The time during which each individual is receiving his chance is the time of judgment. The term "judgment," as used in this context, is not restricted to passing sentence. It rather implies a process, a period of time during which a person's mind is opened to understand God's plan, and during which his actions are

under daily scrutiny by God in the light of that understanding. God is intimately concerned with His children, and works in their lives to produce the best ultimate results. The parable of the tares of the field shows that Christians start out as seeds and must grow until the harvest (Matthew 13:36-43). Of course, this judgment process shall in most people's lives cover a period of many years. It is only at the end of this period that God shall make the decision of whether or not that person shall enter His Kingdom at the resurrection.

But judgment involves more than just making a "yes" or "no" decision, more than the simple determination of whether a person shall be granted salvation; for, indeed, the overwhelming majority shall make it. Judgment also involves the reward that God shall give to each person who qualifies. There are different positions and responsibilities in God's family. As Jesus related in the parable of the pounds (Luke 19:12-27), the servants who used their pounds profitably were all given positions of rulership, but the level or degree of their position was directly proportional to how much they had accomplished. The parable of the talents (Matthew

25:14-30) shows that God rewards each person according to what he accomplished in relationship to what he had to start with. The servant who started with two talents and made two received the same reward as the servant who started with five and made five.

God has divided His plan into three great judgment periods, each of which deals specifically with a different classification of persons. The first period of judgment began at the creation of man and shall continue until the return of Jesus Christ. During this era, God has not chosen to call the vast majority of persons, but rather a small group — “the elect” (Romans 8:28 ff). These “elect” have had their minds opened to understand God’s truth and have been given God’s Holy Spirit in this age. For these persons — who compose the Church or “house of God” — the period of judgment is now. “For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God” (1 Peter 4:17). Those whom God has called now are not called because of an inner desire to serve God, but by virtue of God’s mercy (Romans 9:15-16).

God has not called the masses now because He wants man to learn by experience that his way apart from God is the way of death (Proverbs 14:12). Those whom He does call now are called for the express purpose of preaching the gospel to the world as a witness (Matthew 24:14; 28:19-20) and to prepare to become rulers in God’s millennial Kingdom (Revelation 1:6).

All those who have qualified for God’s Kingdom from Adam’s time to the return of Christ shall be resurrected at His return. The end of this first judgment period is thus marked by the first resurrection (Revelation 20:5-6).

During His thousand-year reign, Christ and the saints shall reestablish God’s government on earth (Micah 4:1-4) and shall reconstruct society so that in every way it conforms to God’s holy laws. God shall also pour out His Spirit upon all those who will be alive during this time, and shall open their minds to understand the gospel and give them a chance for salvation. The millennium thus marks the second great judgment period of God; the time when the human beings who live on

into the new age (from the present age) and those subsequently born as their offspring shall have their opportunity for salvation.

After the thousand-year period, there is the “Great White Throne” judgment. This spectacular event epitomizes the time when all who have ever lived and died without having had a chance for salvation, never having heard about Jesus Christ and the plan of God, or never having had their eyes opened to truly understand the gospel, shall be resurrected from the dead to physical life (Rev. 20:11 ff). This time their minds shall be opened to a full understanding of God’s laws and His truth.

“Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves ... And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done it, says the Lord” (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

This third judgment period is the greatest of the three because it includes the innumerable multitudes of all humanity who have lived and died in ignorance of God’s way.

Although God wants all to come to the knowledge of His truth and earnestly desires that all obtain salvation, it is nevertheless true that some few shall totally reject God and lose out on eternal life. Those who have adamantly rejected this truth, those who have committed the unpardonable sin by not asking God to pardon their sins, shall be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14). These individuals are those who would never repent of their sins and shall therefore be put out of their misery by a merciful God. It would be cruel punishment for God to make a rebellious person live forever under His government when that individual has permanently rejected God’s government in his life by his actions and attitudes.

God’s fairness, concern and love for mankind is exemplified by the three judgment periods outlined above. His plan for salvation includes ample opportunity for all those who have ever lived and died to live a full physical life under God’s laws, and then to qualify to enter His Kingdom, and, ultimately, to gain eternal life as full members of His divine family. □

SUMMARY: Read these scriptures in your own Bible:**2 Peter 3:9 – God is not willing that any perish.****1 Timothy 2:4 – God wants all men to be saved and know truth.****Matthew 13: 36-43 – Parable of the tares (Judgment).****Luke 19:12-27 – Parable of the pounds (speaking to reward in God’s Kingdom).****Matthew 25:14-30 – Parable of the talents (speaking to reward in God’s Kingdom).****Romans 8:28 – The elect.****1 Peter 4:17 – Judgment is now for the Church of God.****Proverbs 14:12 – Any way without God results in death.****Micah 4:1-4 – Christ will establish His government on earth at His return.****Revelation 20:11 – White Throne Judgment.****Ezekiel 37:12-14 – The Second Resurrection.****Revelation 20:14 – The Lake of Fire****QUESTIONS (ANSWERS BELOW):**

1. Not every person who has ever been born will have an opportunity for salvation. True or False?
2. Sadly, those who lived out their lives never hearing the name of Jesus Christ will not have an opportunity for salvation. True or False?
3. Actually, everyone who has ever lived will have their opportunity to know all truth, enter the Salvation Process and, if successful there, enter the Kingdom of God with eternal life. True or False?
4. All of mankind receives the opportunity at salvation at the same time. True or False?
5. Judgment is...
 - a) a sentence [to life or death]
 - b) a process
 - c) a period of time in which a person’s mind is opened to understand the plan of God
 - d) a period of time in which one’s actions are under daily scrutiny by God
 - e) all of the above
6. For most people, this period of judgment spans many years. True or False?
7. When does God make a decision whether or not a person shall enter His Kingdom?
 - a) soon after He calls you to a judgment period
 - b) sometime during the judgment period
 - c) at the end of the judgment period
 - d) any of the above
8. Judgment and reward are the same thing. True or False?
9. How many judgment periods does God have in His salvation plan?
 - a) 1
 - b) 2
 - c) 3
 - d) 4
10. The first judgment period began with the creation of man and will end at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. True or False?
11. The judgment period for the present day Church of God is now. True or False?

12. Those whom God is calling now are for the express purpose of...
 - a) preaching the gospel to the world as a witness
 - b) to prepare to become rulers in God’s millennial Kingdom
 - c) both
 - d) neither
13. Those who have qualified for God’s Kingdom from Adam to the return of Christ shall be resurrected as spirit beings...
 - a) soon after their death
 - b) at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth
 - c) during the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth
 - d) at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ
14. The second period of judgment will be...
 - a) 100 years in length
 - b) 500 years in length
 - c) 1,000 years in length
15. The millennial reign of Christ marks the second period of judgment. True or False?
16. Offspring will continue to be born during the 1,000-year reign of Christ. True or False?
17. The third judgment period is known as...
 - a) the First Resurrection
 - b) the millennium
 - c) the White Throne Judgment
18. The White Throne Judgment is also known as the Second Resurrection. True or False?
19. The Second Resurrection is for all those people who lived and died without having their opportunity at salvation, never having heard about Jesus Christ or the plan of God. True or False?
20. Those resurrected in the White Throne Judgment, or Second Resurrection, are resurrected to...
 - a) physical life — a physical body
 - b) spiritual life — a spirit body
21. God wants...
 - a) all to come to the knowledge of God and obtain salvation
 - b) to remain unconcerned one way or the other
 - c) to pour down His wrath upon all of mankind
22. Not everyone offered the opportunity at salvation will accept it. True or False?
23. The three judgment periods exemplify the...
 - a) wrath and harshness of God toward mankind.
 - b) fairness, concern and love of God toward mankind
 - c) lack of specific concern toward mankind

LESSON NINETEEN — ANSWERS:

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 19. (true) | 13. (b) | 7. (c) | 1. (false) |
| 20. (a) | 14. (c) | 8. (false) | 2. (false) |
| 21. (a) | 15. (true) | 9. (c) | 3. (true) |
| 22. (true) | 16. (true) | 10. (true) | 4. (false) |
| 23. (b) | 17. (c) | 11. (true) | 5. (e) |
| | 18. (true) | 12. (c) | 6. (true) |



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