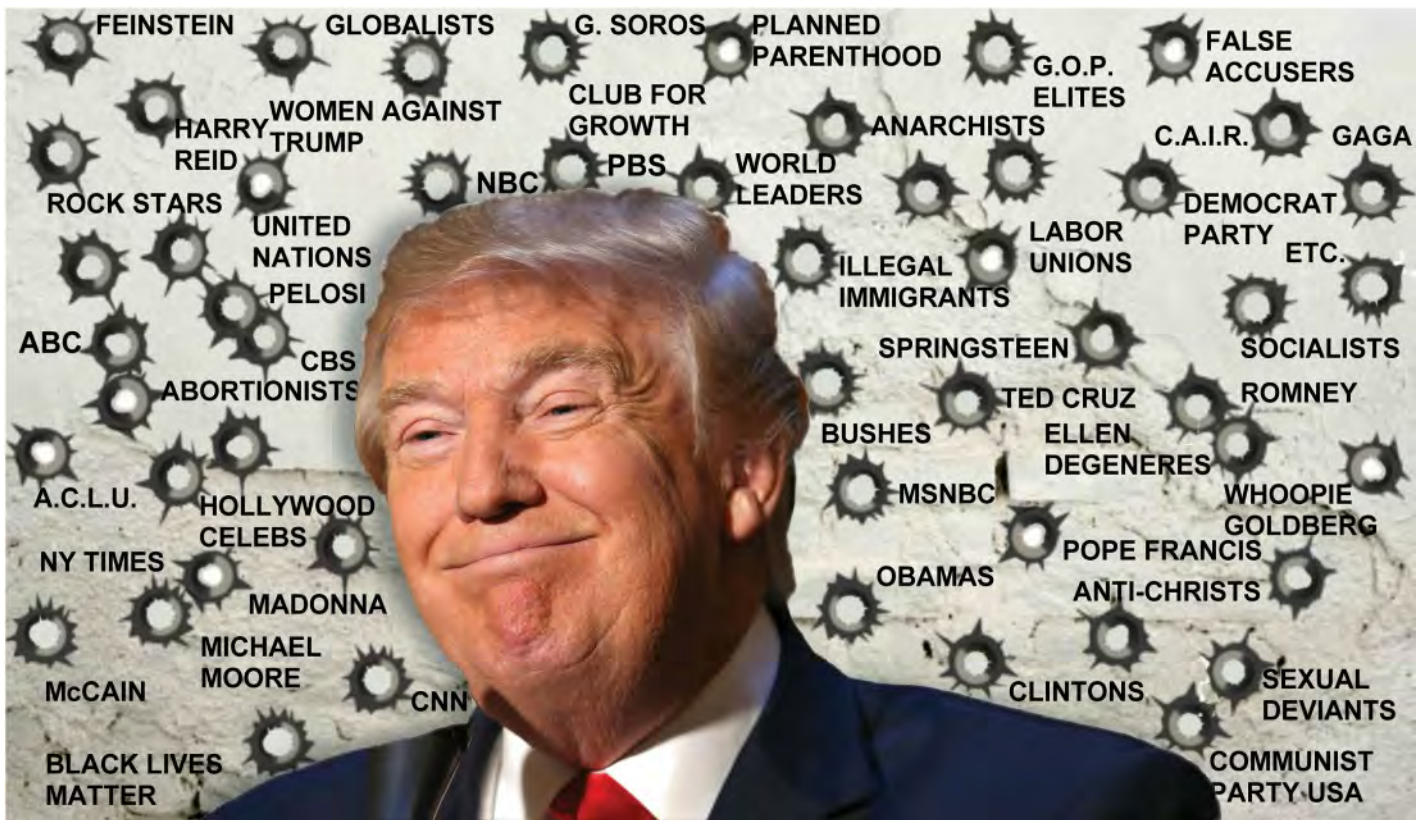


MEDIA



SPOTLIGHT

A BIBLICAL ANALYSIS OF RELIGIOUS & SECULAR MEDIA



MISSED ME!

OKAY, BUT NOW WHAT?

WHEN WE CONSIDER the incredible odds that Donald J. Trump had to overcome in order to attain the office of President of the United States, coupled with the continually increasing vitriol aimed at him by the elites of this world system and particularly the mainstream media, we cannot but discern the spiritual dimension to this past election—a dimension far more evident than in any political action since that which surrounded the founding of this nation. For those who understand the enmity that exists between the world system and our heavenly Father, there can be no question that myriad foul spirits from the pit have been unleashed against President Trump. The question is, why?

Although by human standards Donald Trump seems a decent person, by biblical standards he is certainly not the poster boy for holiness. It's easy enough to find fault in him, just as in any mortal. Who among us can lay claim to perfection? Only the sinless Son of God.

It is not for perfection that we look to President Trump as we discern the spiritual warfare that surrounds his presidency; rather, it is the truth that our Father has chosen him for this time to head this nation, for good or for bad.

Certainly the world—particularly the anti-Christ elements within the world—were stunned when the Electoral College results arrived at the place where Trump's win was inevitable.

(Continued on page 10)

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

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WHY MEDIA SPOTLIGHT?

Media Spotlight is a ministry to the Body of Christ, bringing understanding of the ways in which the world shapes our thinking and lifestyles through the influence of the mass communications media.

God’s Word exhorts, “Buy the truth and do not sell it” (Prov. 23:23). Therefore we do not sell *Media Spotlight*.

Begun in 1977, *Media Spotlight* was the first ministry on a national scale to address the ungodly nature of the secular media—motion pictures, television, toys, games and other things that contribute to Christians living no differently than the rest of the world.

The mass media have impacted the Body of Christ as much as they have society. Many Christians are so dependent upon the media that they aren’t aware of how lukewarm they have become. We have many testimonials from readers who tell us that, because of *Media Spotlight*, they have become aware of the effect the media have on their thinking, and are now more selective in their choices.

But the problem of ungodliness is not exclusive to the secular media. Of major concern are the religious media that present messages contrary to God’s Word. *Media Spotlight* addresses the impact that religious teachers have upon believers in Christ, whether for good or for evil.

It has escaped the understanding of many Christians that what they believe is more often shaped by the teachings and traditions of religious men and institutions than by Scripture. Most teachers in the institutional churches rely more upon their theological disciplines than on the pure Word of God. Yet the wisdom of the world is no substitute for God’s Word, even if offered from the pulpit or in the Christian media.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 24:24 that in the last days false christs and false prophets would arise and would show great signs and wonders, “so that, if possible, they will deceive the very elect.” He also states in Matthew 24:12 that in the last days the love of many toward Him would grow cold because evil would increase in the world. If we believe Him, then we would be foolish not to guard ourselves against deception. There is little time to waste in the short span of life granted us by God. We must choose today whom we will serve. ❖

“History of Anti-Christ” graphics by Carrie Nelson.

Scripture quotations in *Media Spotlight* are from the King James Version of the Bible, rephrased in modern U.S. English unless otherwise stated.



A PERSONAL NOTE

Dear Friends,

For many years we tried to avoid commenting too much on what happens on the political front. But with the election of Barack Obama in 2008 there was a discernable turn in the world of politics in America that heightened our awareness of the spiritual battle between the anti-Christ philosophies of the world and our biblical faith.

Prior to Obama’s election, never in the history of our nation has the U.S. Government and the governments of so many states and cities adopted such anti-Christ positions. His popularity influenced Democrats at every level of government to come out of their closets and be exposed as sexual deviant, Marxist, traitors, not only to the nation, but to the faith many of them profess as Christians. It is because of their profession of faith in Christ that we feel justified in addressing their use of office as a means to destroy everything honorable in this world and sacred to our faith.

Now, with the election of Donald Trump, we are witnessing an increase in the violent anti-Christ diatribes against everything decent and holy. The media elite, the Hollywood elite, the political elite, the financial elite—all are exposed as devilish in their attitudes. Their lust for the spilling of babies’ blood is demonic at its core; their exuberance for the religion of Islam, even at the risk of terror in America, is satanic; their irrational, lying expressions of hatred toward God’s people and toward law and rightfully-expressed authority is ungodly.

The battle wasn’t won with the defeat of Hillary Clinton; it was just beginning in earnest. Now we must be in prayer and walking in holiness as never before if we are to maintain the victory that offers at least a chance turning the tide of evil that was unleashed upon the nation by Obama.

Donald Trump doesn’t understand the depth of satanic deception that lies before him. He will make no distinction between biblical faith and religious fervor embodied in Catholicism, Protestantism, Pentecostalism, charismatic, and even evangelicalism. Nor will he be especially hard on the sexual deviancy that is rampant in the nation. But, then, what would we expect? He must be the president of all the people, not just Christians, and especially not just true believers in Jesus. As such, he will find compromises where we would not like to see them. Yet he still remains the best hope for any semblance of decency within the political realm—a refreshing breeze if not a cleansing wind.

Do not fail to pray for his safety every day, and for the safety of Mike Pence. Also for their families that are also under attack by many. Pray for the Holy Spirit to invade their consciences and direct their actions. Pray that their enemies and detractors will come to their senses and realize their errors. And if they don’t, then may their efforts at sabotage be destroyed; may they turn and devour one another.

We pray for our heavenly Father blessings upon you and yours as you seek to serve Him in truth. We thank, as always, those who continue to express their love through the prayers and financial support that keep us going.

In Jesus’ love,

Al and Jean

Religious leaders protest Graham's appearance

THE APPEARANCE OF Franklin Graham as keynote speaker at the Festival of Hope conference in Vancouver, BC, has a number of Christian leaders concerned. In An Open Letter Concerning Franklin Graham's Visit to Vancouver, Canada, 34 Christian leaders within the Greater Vancouver area denounced what they call Graham's "disparaging and uncharitable remarks" about Muslims and the LGBTQ+ community, as well as portrayal of President Trump's election, administration and policies as intrinsically aligned with the Christian Church." The several "Revs," "Right Revs," "Very Revs," "Most Revs," and "Drs" were concerned that "the contentious and confrontational political and social rhetoric that Mr. Graham has used has the potential to overshadow the message of Jesus and incite hostility in our highly charged social climate." Rather, they wish to focus on the belief that "Jesus's life, sacrificial death, and resurrection ensure that justice will ultimately prevail in the world, that the universe will be restored to its full goodness and wellbeing, and that everyone may find in Jesus forgiveness of sin and reconciliation with the Creator who knows and loves each of us in our unique particularity."

COMMENTARY

The Open Letter provided a link to read Graham's quotes: whatfrankgrahamsaid.wixsite.com/whatfrankgrahamsaid. The purpose was to offer what they considered proof of Graham's unloving comments. They take issue with Graham calling Islam "a very evil and wicked religion" among other things warning of Islam's danger to the nation.

They also took umbrage with Graham's warning to Christian parents not to allow their children to fraternize with "gay" children because Christian children are not prepared to influence "gay" children as much as the "gay" children are equipped to influence the children of Christian parents.

Concerning politics, they oppose Graham's support of Donald Trump as God's choice to lead the United States as president, based on Trump's immigration policies.

Sorry, but I find no fault in this man regarding these positions.

When religious leaders today speak of "our unique particularity," they are employing code words to say that Jesus and His Father accept everyone just as they are even if their "unique particularity" is identified as sexually deviant and/or anti-Christ religious.

We don't deny that "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son" to die for the sins of the whole world" (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2). But John 3:16 continues with these words: "so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life."

The qualifier for entering into the Father's love is belief in His only-begotten Son's death, burial, and resurrection for propitiation on behalf of mankind to take away our sins and the penalty for our sins. Those who do not believe in Him, and who do not repent of their sins cannot enter into God's love, but must face His wrath:

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into His hand.

He who believes in the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him. (John 3:35-36)

Jesus said, "Why do you call Me 'Lord,' but do not do as I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Religious leaders who coddle sinners to make them feel accepted by God within their "unique particularity" are false teachers and Judas priests, leading their flocks to the slaughter. Saul's (Paul's) condemnation of Elymas the sorcerer may be applied to these hypocrites:

Oh full of all subtlety and all mischief, you child of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? (Acts 13:10)❖

Jewish scholar calls for public retrial of Jesus

A JEWISH ORTHODOX SCHOLAR, Ariel Cohen Alloro, is calling for a "traditional Pidyon haBen" ceremony—the "Redeeming of the Firstborn Son." Alloro appeared on Jerusalem Channel TV, and called for a public retrial of Yeshua in the presence of 10 most important rabbis in Israel. His purpose is "to fix the initial rigged trial that took place 2,000 years ago and to clarify in front of the whole world all the aspects and issues related to this delicate subject."

Alloro stated that the first step is to "follow Old Testament instructions for the redemption of the first-born," and that a retrial would exonerate Jesus of the allegations leveled by the high priests at the time. He also claims that the retrial of Yeshua is necessary because the original trial before the high priest in the middle of the night was illegal.

"Israel's native son never should have been sold down the river, so to speak," he explained.❖

Washington State rules against Christian florist

THE WASHINGTON STATE Supreme Court ruled on February 16 against embattled florist Baronelle Stutzman who had been sued by the state for declining to provide flowers for a same-sex wedding. In the case of *State of Washington v. Arlene's Flowers*, the court stated that Stutzman was guilty of "sexual orientation discrimination."

Although Stutzman had previously provided the plaintiff, Rob Ingersoll, with flowers on numerous occasions, she declined when he asked her to create floral arrangements for his wedding. She argued in court that the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment Free Speech Clause and Free Exercise of Religion Clause protect her from being forced to act contrary to her conscience. Her attorney, Senior Counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, Kristen Waggoner, called the court's decision a slap in the face of the Constitution.

Said Waggoner, "It's wrong for the state to force any citizen to support a particular view about marriage or anything else against their will. Freedom of speech and religion aren't subject to the whim of a majority; they are constitutional guarantees."

Stutzman has stated that she will appeal the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

COMMENTARY

The hounds of hell are in full gallop against God's people and even non-believers who have a conscience in matters involving sexual deviancy. There is a viciousness in the attack against such people by government leaders that betrays their ungodly penchant for punishing righteousness. That viciousness and ungodliness is clearly evident in this wrongful lawsuit against Baronelle Stutzman.

But Baronelle Stutzman's case is merely one among several lawsuits taking place in America—including some involving other florists, bakers, wedding venues, and others involved in wedding services. The question is whether or not businesses can refuse to provide services for causes with which they disagree according to the owners' consciences.

Here in Washington State, in which 27 out of 39 counties voted for Donald Trump over Hillary Clinton, Governor Jay Insley, a far left Democrat, has lauded the state court's decision.

I am not familiar with the state constitutions of other states, but Section 11 of the Washington State Constitution strongly defends the right to act according to one's conscience:

Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be



guaranteed to every individual, and no one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That this article shall not be so construed as to forbid the employment by the state of a chaplain for such of the state custodial, correctional, and mental institutions, or by a county's or public hospital district's hospital, health care facility, or hospice, as in the discretion of the legislature may seem justified. No religious qualification shall be required for any public office of employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to affect the weight of his testimony. [AMENDMENT 88, 1993 House Joint Resolution No. 4200, p 3062. Approved November 2, 1993.]

Not being an attorney, my opinion would not matter as far as the legal system is concerned. But I do know English, and I can certainly read the intent of this Section of the Washington State Constitution.

"Absolute freedom of conscience" means just that: One's ability to act according to one's conscience is absolutely (without reservation) guaranteed.

"[N]o one shall be molested or disturbed in person or property on account of religion" can have only one meaning: A person cannot be sued by the state and made to pay or forfeit any part of one's property for practicing one's religion. This certainly means following one's conscience which is inexorably tied to one's religion.

The single proviso upon which the state may think itself justified in molesting conscientious people follows: "but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed

as to excuse acts of licentiousness or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state.”

The state did not argue such, but if the state were to think this justifies their unlawful action, the state would have to rethink itself.

In the case of Baronelle Stutzman and her client, can she be accused of acting licentiously? It may be argued that homosexual acts, whether within or without “marriage” are licentious, so how can the state legitimately punish Stutzman for refusing to engage her business in support of such licentiousness?

True, the state doesn’t recognize homosexuality as licentious, but neither should it accuse Stutzman of wrongdoing for following her conscience. And certainly her practices are not “inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state.” She is not an insurrectionist in defense of her conscience.

No, what the state is basing its suit upon, and what the State Supreme Court agreed with, is a policy of Washington State’s Human Rights Commission—a bureaucratic body appointed by the governor, not elected by the people or authorized by the state’s Constitution to pass law.

The Human Rights Commission has decided that it is “against the law” to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Thus the Commission recognizes the “rights” of sexual deviants, not enumerated in the state’s Constitution, over the constitutionally-guaranteed rights of religious people to exercise their consciences without being molested by the state.

It is called law by fiat. Activist government officials on the Left colluding with activist judges on the Left to deny the constitutional rights of religious people simply because they wish to pander to a large and vocal voting bloc of sexual deviants.

If the state wishes to impose its “morality” upon the citizens of the state in forcing us to comply with the demands of sexual deviants legally, it must pass a constitutional amendment guaranteeing specific “rights” be granted to that class of people.

But that would be too cumbersome and highly unlikely to pass. So the state chooses to resort to bullying innocent business owners who wish to exercise their constitutional right to follow their consciences.

Besides guaranteeing that right, the Washington State Constitution defers to the United States Constitution as the supreme law of the land:

SECTION 2 SUPREME LAW OF THE LAND

The Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land.

And what does the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution say?

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise

thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Again, plain English: The free exercise of religion shall not be prohibited.

The Declaration of Independence upon which this nation was founded affirms that it is the God of the Bible (the only God in whom any of the founders ever professed belief) who grants any “rights” to mankind. The Declaration states:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence is the foundational document for the Constitution, and therefore guides the interpretation of the Constitution. If, therefore, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is a given in the United States of America, what about cases where one individual’s right to happiness conflicts with another individual’s right to happiness, such as in the case of homosexuals demanding that business owners violate their consciences in order to make them happy?

The pursuit of happiness may not be infringed by the state, provided one’s happiness is not destructive to others. But it is not a guarantee that any person may impose his desires upon another individual. Reality dictates that someone in any conflict is going to be unhappy. There is no guarantee that we can all be happy in all circumstances. The pursuit of happiness is a general, not a specific, right, and it is government that must be prevented from denying it, not individuals. When the government prefers one person’s happiness over another’s, it is acting capriciously.

One may argue whether or not the Free Speech Clause applies in these cases, but there is no argument that the free exercise of one’s conscience is guaranteed.

No one’s conscience is going to lead him to do evil. The conscience is a God-given mechanism that instinctively discerns right from wrong. Those who do wrong know they are doing wrong. If one’s conscience tells him it is right to do something wrong, that is rare, and most likely that person is mentally and/or spiritually deficient.

God’s Word describes these people:

To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

They profess that they know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and reprobate toward every good work. (Titus 1:15-16)

Come to think of it, maybe it isn’t so rare. Maybe that’s what’s wrong with the politicians and judges in this country. ❖

ACLJ fighting for jailed pastor in Turkey

THE AMERICAN CENTER for Law and Justice (ACLJ), headed by attorney Jay Sekulow, has taken up the cause of an American pastor, Andrew Brunson, who has been falsely charged with “membership in an armed terrorist organization” and continues to languish in a Turkish prison since early October, 2016.

According to the ACLJ, Brunson, who has been a pastor in Turkey for the past 23 years, is being held without any evidence. Brunson is facing grave danger in a Turkish prison where he is being held simply because of his Christian beliefs. The government of Turkey—led by the Islamic Justice and Development Party—has begun increased crackdowns on Christians, and Brunson, if convicted, may face years in prison based on extremely serious—and false—charges.

Brunson, a U.S. citizen from Black Mountain, North Carolina, was summoned to the local police station in Izmir, Turkey, on the morning of October 7, 2016. He believed he would be receiving a long awaited permanent residence card. Upon arriving at the station, he was informed he was being deported for being a “threat to national security”—a common excuse for deportation in Turkey. It became clear that he was being arrested and would be detained until deportation. But instead of being deported, he was held with no charges for 63 days, during which time he was denied access to his Turkish attorney. He was placed in solitary confinement for part of this time, with his glasses and watch confiscated.

On December 8th, after being detained for 63 days, things took a dire turn. In the middle of the night, Brunson was taken to a counter terrorism center in Izmir and then on to court. He was questioned and has been falsely charged with “membership in an armed terrorist organization.” The charging documents state “no evidence has been gathered” against him. A Turkish judge had the option to deport Brunson, release him on weekly sign-ins at the local police station, or imprison him. The judge chose to remand him to prison.

Brunson is presently awaiting trial, and if convicted under these false charges he could face years of imprisonment, even though his Turkish attorney cannot review his case file. He is in great danger.

The ACLJ has mobilized its international offices, working with the U.S. State Department to free Brunson, and has launched a global campaign to call attention to his plight demanding that Turkey—a NATO member—release Brunson without delay.

As a result, 37 U.S. senators and 39 members of the House of Representatives have signed a letter of petition to

the president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, dated February 15, 2017, requesting that Brunson be immediately released and deported.

Christians are urged to join the ACLJ’s international legal advocacy effort by signing the petition to free Pastor Brunson. The ACLJ may be contacted in regard to this matter at <https://aclj.org/persecuted-church/american-pastor-andrew-brunson-wrongfully-imprisoned-in-turkey>. ❖

First ‘transgender’ doll due out soon

TOYMAKER TONNER HAS created the first “transgender” doll for children. The doll is modeled after transgender teen Jazz Jennings, star of the TLC Network’s show *I am Jazz*.

According to Jennings, “It will be available in July, and I hope that it can place transgender people in a positive light by showing that we are just like all other people. For those asking: the doll is considered to be the first ‘transgender’ doll because it’s based on an individual who is trans. Of course it is still just a regular girl doll because that’s exactly what I am: a regular girl!”

COMMENTARY

There is no such thing as a transgendered person. This is a false construct of psychological theory gone amok. People who desire to be a member of the opposite gender from that to which they were born are spiritually deficient in a way different from other spiritually deficient people, but they are deluded to think they can actually change their gender.

They may mutilate their bodies, but that doesn’t change what God created them to be. If a person’s DNA contains both X and Y chromosomes, that person is a male; if a person’s DNA contains only the X chromosome, that person is a female.

Yet the world system, under the god of this world, Satan, is striving to confuse even children as young as four and five years of age to think that they may be something other than what they are. This doll will be used by ungodly, foolish parents and others to further confuse children with the purpose of forcing their satanic deception on future generations.

Jesus spoke a chilling rebuke against such people:

Whoever offends one of these little ones who believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged around his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. (Matthew 18:6)

Let these perverts enjoy their moment of sin. One day they will face the judge of the universe. ❖

Is Donald Trump a Satanist?

THERE ARE SO-CALLED “discernment ministries” circulating rumors that President Trump is a Satanist. One group, *Tribulation Watch Newsletter* out of Arlington, Texas, warns that “Although his words sounded wonderful and very comforting it is his hand gestures that we should be paying attention to.” The reason is stated:

During his [Inauguration] speech, Donald Trump used two disturbing hand signs. The first is the Communist clenched (sic) fist. In all nations where Communist politicians and insurgents operate, these evil men and women invariably identify themselves by making the sign of the clenched-fist. Some Biblical authorities say that, “The Clenched-fist salute first represents the (rebellious) attitude of people who are angry with God.”

The other hand sign that Donald Trump used during his inauguration speech is called the “Divine King” hand sign. Westerners know it as the “okay” (or “OK”) sign. It’s done with the fingers and thumb of right or left hands (usually the right). Simply touch the index finger to the thumb, creating a circle. The other three fingers then spiral off and there you have it—the well-known symbol of OK. Universally, this sign means alright, acceptable, good, right-on, you bet! A-OK, satisfactory....

But for occultists, the OK sign takes on a darker significance. First, we have the *circle*, indicating the sun deity and the Mason’s never-ending quest for more light. In the Hindu religion, the OK sign is a revered *mudra* (sacred gesture) meaning “infinity” or perfection. In ancient Samaria and Persia, charms and amulets have been discovered with fingers and hands in the modern OK position, joined along with horns.

In Satanism, when making this sign the three fingers not used to make the circle are considered symbolic of the *unholy* trinity—horned god, goddess, and offspring (antichrist). Some go as far as to adopt the view that the bent fingers are shaped as three six’s (sic) or 666. Thus, we have 666, the number of the beast (Antichrist).

In the Illuminist philosophy, the OK sign becomes a sign indicating approval of the “Divine King”, their coming Lord of Light, whom we as Christians know as Antichrist. *Texe Marrs—Codex Magica* p. 501-502

COMMENTARY

Here is the nefarious hand “signal” that alarms these people to the point that they are willing to cast suspicion on

a man without anything concrete to substantiate their calumny.



Others besides this “Christian” publication have asserted Trump’s satanic connections based on nothing more than “hand signals” such as these below.



These are all said to be secret Illuminati and/or satanic signals to the initiates that Trump is one of their own.

Yet we can find myriads of people holding their hands in these fashions with no evidence

that they are involved in anything even hinting at the occult.

If Donald Trump is a Satanist, this certainly isn’t even close to the evidence necessary to convict in a human court of law, let alone in the court of godly justice.

Christians should know better than to cast aspersion on people based on such flimsy “evidence” as that presented by these false accusers.

It’s fine to have zeal; it’s not fine to allow zeal to override one’s judgment to the hurt of others. ❖



DVD REVIEW

By Albert James Dager

WHAT IS AT the heart of the abortion industry's bloody massacre of millions of innocent babies? Is it merely a lust for filthy lucre? Or is there something even more sinister—something so vile and unspeakable that it must remain hidden by the elite within the government and corporate America who support the abortion industry?

I've never witnessed a documentary that indicts the abortion industry for crimes beyond the obvious murdering of innocent children while lying vulnerable in their mothers' wombs, like *Maafa 21*.

Maafa is an ancient Swahili word that describes the period of history in which slavery existed in the United States. *Maafa 21* offers unassailable evidence that that period has not ended; it has merely morphed into a new form of genocide against black people in America.

If this sounds too incredible, I assure you that the power elite not only in America, but internationally, have a secret plan to cull the population of non-white, poor people in the West, and also in Third World nations. A large part of that plan is being accomplished through government funding of abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood.

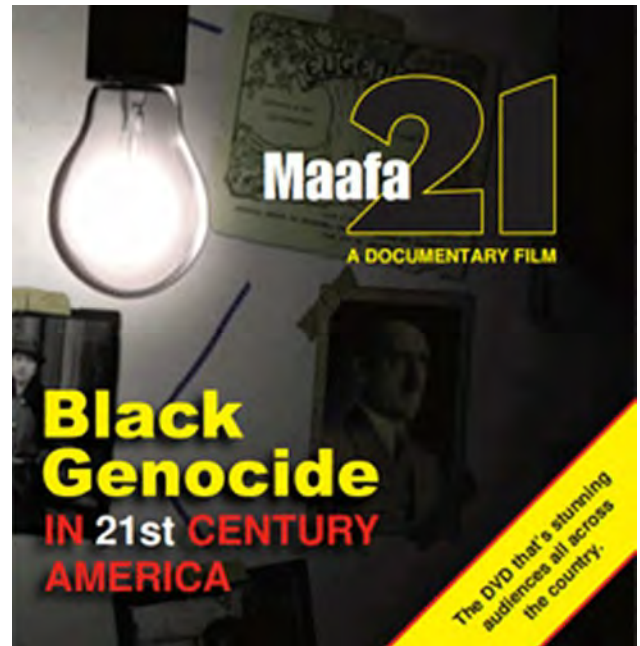
Now that your senses have been rattled, and you have said to yourself, "Al, you're nuts! You've bought into an anti-white lie. Blacks in America are being given preferential treatment through affirmative action programs at all levels of government. Welfare rolls are burgeoning with non-white recipients, and the toll on the economy is threatening economic destabilization."

All of this is true. But it is also the primary reason that the power elite in the world want to decimate the non-white population. They want to be able to maintain their power base and economic strength, and they see poverty among non-whites as the largest threat to those cherished ideals.

I am well aware that black people in America are being used by leftist forces to push their agenda of class warfare. But if anyone is foolish enough to believe leftists are interested in the welfare of black people, they should understand why they are really at the heart of the abortion industry.

Maafa 21 brings to light the people who are motivated by a goal of black genocide. You will find that these people are found in both major political parties, including some revered politicians, and not all of them are white.

Not long after the abolition of slavery in America, a new philosophy sprang up called eugenics. Even as the abolition of slavery was in the works for a number of years, and was recognized as inevitable, Sir Francis Galton (1822-1911) was developing his ideas on racial differences according to the



evolutionary theory of natural selection posited by his cousin Charles Darwin. After reading Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, Galton concluded that, because many societies tend to protect the underprivileged and weak, those societies are at odds with the natural selection that results in survival of the fittest and extinction of the weak. In Galton's view, the social policies that protect the weak must be abandoned if society would be saved from a "reversion towards mediocrity."

Out of Galton's and Darwin's theories came the pseudo-science of eugenics—defined as "the self-direction of human evolution." Galton is known as the Father of Eugenics, and indeed coined the term "eugenics."

Eugenics and evolution both see what they consider the highest form of primates, such as the gorilla, as almost indistinguishable from what they consider the lowest form of human, the African and the Aborigine.

Charles Darwin stated, "At some future period, not very distant as measured by centuries, the civilized races of man will almost certainly exterminate, and replace, the savage races throughout the world....The break between man and his nearest allies will then be wider, for it will intervene between man in a more civilized state...and some ape as low as a baboon, instead of as now between the Negro or Australian and the gorilla."

Eugenicists understand the volatile nature of their philosophy, and that the vast majority of humanity would be horrified at the end-goal of eugenics—the eventual elimination or at least severe curtailment of non-white peoples. So they developed code words such as "imbecile," "immoral," "criminal," and "feeble-minded." In their thinking, these descriptions applied to non-whites far more than to white people, and they could garner more political and financial support for their goal of forcing the issue of natural selection.

Mark Crutcher explains how the eugenics movement came to be accepted in American society:

The same individuals and corporations who had once made millions on the backs of slaves were now willing to spend millions to get rid of them. But that didn't mean that these guys were interested in becoming public crusaders for the eugenics movement. They were certainly willing to be the brains and the money behind it, but they would hire crusaders to do the dirty work. And the primary one they settled upon was a woman named Margaret Sanger. She was the founder of the American Birth Control League and the publisher of its newsletter, *The Birth Control Review*.

On a practical level, the relationship between Sanger and these elitists was basically a marriage of convenience. In order to advance their common agendas they needed a front man, and she needed money. And the whole thing would be held together by this kind of bizarre obsession with race and class. The result was that the American Birth Control League became the driving force behind the American eugenics movement. Eugenics would no longer just be a philosophy; Sanger and others like her were going to put it into practice.

Said Margaret Sanger:

...we are paying for and even submitting to the dictates of an ever increasing unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all.

This is just the beginning of how Planned Parenthood, which was formerly the eugenics organization called the American Birth Control League, came about and grew to be the third largest "health-related" fund-raising organization in the nation, behind only the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society.

Planned Parenthood has taken billions in government money while locating the vast majority of its facilities in minority neighborhoods and working with the United Nations Organization to push its agenda into Third World countries. That has not only been a tremendous boost for the eugenics movement, but it has also allowed government-funded family-planning programs to target the black population while insulating the government from any direct connection to black genocide.

The American eugenics movement formed the basis for Adolf Hitler's experimentation on non-Aryan victims of the Third Reich, and his pogrom against Jews, blacks, homosexuals, and other "undesirables" in Nazi Germany. American eugenicists visited and worked with Hitler and his henchmen to establish his attempt to purify the German race.

Today, the number one cause of death in the African-American community is not heart disease, AIDS, cancer, diabetes or gang violence. It is abortion.

As pointed out in *Maafa 21*, "Since 1973, legal abortion has killed more African-Americans than AIDS, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and violent crime *combined*. Every week, more blacks die in American abortion clinics than were killed in the entire Vietnam War."

It is said that the most unsafe place for a black baby to be is in the womb of a black mother.

Are black leaders unaware of this nefarious situation? Absolutely. In fact, it wasn't white Christians who were the first to protest against legalized abortion. It was radical black groups like the Nation of Islam and the Black Panthers, as well as individuals like Jesse Jackson.

So what has happened since then? Why no continuing outcry from leaders in the black community?

As we learn in *Maafa 21*, "In 1975, Jesse Jackson called for the ban of abortion through a constitutional amendment. And in an interview in *Jet* magazine, he referred to abortion as genocide. But Jesse Jackson, on the other hand, wanted to become president, and the Democratic Party at that time had sold out completely to Planned Parenthood and the eugenics crowd. And Jesse Jackson went along to get along. And don't ever think that he is the only one. The unfortunate thing we face—whether we're talking about individuals or organizations—there's never been a shortage of black leaders who are willing to sell us down the river if it's enough money and political power in it for them."

Even the NAACP has stifled efforts by people such as Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from alerting attendees at their conventions.

I've only scratched the surface of what this well-documented DVD reveals. Although *Maafa 21* was made before the election of Donald Trump, when viewing it we can understand why the elite of both parties are out to destroy him. Among other things, his promise to defund Planned Parenthood and appoint constitutional justices to the U.S. Supreme Court will greatly cut into their plans for a Brave New World built on the theories of evolution and eugenics.

Every black pastor should see this DVD and show it to their congregations.

One caveat. There is a segment containing a short clip from a Planned Parenthood video made for children. It is disgusting and not suitable for godly-minded people or youth. It starts at the 2-hour mark and continues for only 2 minutes. You may want to fast forward at that point.

Other than that, you will be astounded. ❖

The producers of *Maafa 21* are doing what they can to make their DVD affordable, even packaging it in cardboard sleeves rather than plastic cases, and offering the DVD at reduced prices.

We are able to offer this 2-hour-20-minute DVD through Sword Publishers for \$7 including shipping to U.S. Addresses (see the Sword Publishers catalog in the center of this journal).

OKAY, SO NOW WHAT?

(Continued from page 1)

So stunned were the media pundits that they could only gasp in disbelief and, yes, horror, at the prospect of this non-politician's incredible disrupting of the odds upon which they had so confidently depended for Hillary Clinton's victory.

Only those versed in Scripture could understand the political carnage that decimated the left:

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He will, and sets up over it the basest of men. (Daniel 4:17)

Many Christians of all persuasions were elated by the outcome. After eight years of the anti-Christ Barack Obama's designs against everything holy, they saw a ray of hope that America will return to the glory of the past. But is that what it's all about? Or does our Father have other things in mind?

The glory of America's past is tainted with human failings. As much as we love "America the Beautiful," and attribute to God the blessings that have been bestowed upon this nation, we cannot blind ourselves to the truth that it is, after all, merely a nation of fallible men. The "glory" to which we often look has more to do with prosperity and the good life than it does with holiness. Religion—even the Christian religion—appeals to man's vanity no less than do mundane accomplishments. If there has been any "saving grace" to the United States it is the overall decency that has in the past allowed for the nation being the best in the world in terms of kindness toward all.

I say that in spite of the ugliness of prejudice and hatred that has reared its head at times. That merely reflects the human condition of sin that remains within our mortal nature. But even that ugliness has been in the minority; the phrase from the song *America the Beautiful* that rings true of the past is still within the memory of the elderly: "America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!"

This is a plea to God; it is not a statement of fact. Yet it is true of America far more than it has ever been true of any other nation.

Yes, we can find much fault with America. But that does not negate the truth that our Father in Heaven ordained this nation to be a blessing to the world in many respects. Nor does it negate the truth that honorable men were used by Him to establish this nation, unique in its form of government that has allowed more personal freedom than allowed by any other nation.

The genius of the Electoral College must be understood within the construct of the form of government that our Father in Heaven allowed to be established. Without the Electoral College which grants protection to the less-populated segments of the nation, we would be subject to mob rule, aka "democracy." The entire nation would be guided by the large cities' populations which for the most part are the least godly in the land. Today, the states of New York and California would largely determine the outcome of national elections. Those who wish to eliminate the Electoral College have no understanding of how integral it is to our personal freedoms.

But with personal freedom comes a tremendous responsibility—responsibility far above the norm for those held in bondage by other governments.

And this is where we have failed. We have used our personal freedom for license and licentiousness. We have despised our birthright and sold it for a bowl of savory but foul stew, much as Esau despised his birthright and sold it to his brother Jacob. It is for this reason that the God of Heaven has allowed us to taste of His displeasure.

In many ways the election of Barack Obama for two terms was a blessing to America, even as believers in Jesus considered it a judgment at best, and a curse at worst.

Under Obama we saw the greatest intrusion of government upon personal freedom than ever in the past. We saw the submission of religious freedom to the demands of sexual deviancy; we saw sexual deviancy elevated to celebratory status as the White House was lit up in rainbow colors to commemorate the right of same-sex couples to "marry"; we saw an attempt to destroy a basic need to medical care sabotaged in order to set the stage for socialized medicine; we saw our enemies strengthened and ourselves weakened militarily, strategically, morally, and politically; we saw the rise of anarchy and domestic terror as never before. The list goes on.

So how has this been a blessing?

It awakened Christians—many merely nominal, but many true believers—and caused them to fall on their knees and cry out to God for deliverance from the evil that had descended upon us. We recognized that, unless something drastic happened to reverse the direction of our government, Christians and other right-thinking people were going to end up under severe persecution.

But it took something drastic to bring us to this point. That something is the "blessing" called Barack Obama. Without the jolt of his unfettered attack against everything holy and decent, Christians in America would have continued on their path of complacency. But now, even non-believing decent people have recognized the degree of evil that has gripped this nation. Even so, it is the true believer in Jesus Christ that must carry the burden of prayer and supplication for the sake of the rest of the nation. But

first we must be aware of the spiritual enemies—both mortal and immortal—that surround us.

It is evident from the attacks against Donald Trump by even his own party elite that there are strong spiritual forces at work. The attacks against him are unprecedented in America's history. When have we ever heard of witches casting spells against a political leader in America? Not that it may never have occurred before, but that it has become known within the mainstream population. When in America's history have we seen a president's own party publicly and vehemently criticize and tried to undermine him?

Although there were some decent people who ran against him for the Republican Party's nomination, Donald Trump was the only person who could stand against the evil elements inside and outside the government and get America back to a semblance of political and moral sanity. No other candidate, Republican or Democrat, could do it, simply because it takes someone with the chutzpah that "the Donald" possesses—someone who does not wither in the face of the corrupt mainstream media; someone who does not look at polls to make up his mind on what is the right thing to do; someone who will offend even "good Christians" if it means setting things right. It takes a self-made, self-motivated, self-reliant multi-billionaire with international ties who isn't afraid to point his finger at the clenched fists of his enemies and tell them to "Sit down!" or say to even those close to him who may be a hindrance, "You're fired!"

Whatever anyone thinks of Donald Trump, he is the man God has given us in this hour.

So to believers in Christ I ask, "Okay, so what now?"

What will be our course of action now that the man we had hoped would defeat the corrupt Clinton machine came through?

One important revelation that should hit believers hard is that Trump's election has exposed those who produce the entertainment and the news (upon which so many of us rely for hours of amusement and information) as ungodly, anti-Christ, anti-American evildoers whose corruption spews forth from their productions. Lacking even a modicum of legitimate reasons for complaint, all they can do is cry, whine, wring their hands, and scream invectives, cursing, and foul language. They are caught in the grip of hysteria and apoplexy for lack of reason and common sense.

Will we continue to look to them for entertainment, news, and opinion? Or will we recognize the evil which guides their lives?

Will we again become complacent? Will we return to our ungodly entertainment? Will we forget the narrow escape from persecution that was upon us? Or will we grow even greater in our discernment and diligence to resist evil in our personal lives?

Will we continue to enjoy movies and television programs that blaspheme the name of Jesus, ridicule our faith, denigrate the Lord who has bought us with His blood?

Will we waste countless hours on worthless endeavors for personal enjoyment?

Will we continue to overlook the evil that pervades our churches in the form of false teachers and corrupt religious doctrines?

Will we continue to look at alleged "miracles," "signs," and "wonders" above God's Word, forgetting that in the last days there would be such great deception that if it were possible even the very elect would be deceived (Matthew 24:24)?

Or will we take seriously God's Word that exhorts us to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3)?

Will we stop placing our esteem for men (and women) teachers above our esteem for our Lord and His Word (Psalm 119:128)?

Will we give up the sin that so easily besets us (Hebrews 12:1-11)?

Will we begin to love the unlovely and sacrifice our personal desires and needs for those of others, particularly within the Body of Christ (Philippians 2:3-4)?

Will we finally begin to study God's Word in order to show ourselves approved workers who need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth (2 Timothy 2:15)?

Will we do all this? Or will we return to the complacency that led to Barack Obama? Will we get into the mud with the ungodly and engage in the same responses of anger and hatred as have some Trump supporters who exhibit hatred toward his detractors? They, too, will use violence and foul language to vent their anger, albeit this is to a far less extent than on the left.

We must not allow our enemy to bring us down to his level. If we do, we can only imagine the evil that may come upon us as a result.

The unregenerate of this world, regardless which side they may be on, will often resort to ungodliness to express themselves. Believers in Christ must not fall into the trap of such ungodliness; we must not forget our Lord's command to love our enemies, even as we must fight against them.

Let us consider that our Father in Heaven may have given us Donald Trump as a final opportunity to get our lives together and begin to live more holy in this corrupt world. Should we believers in Christ fail, all others may legitimately point the finger at us as having failed them as well.

We are the salt of the earth. If the salt loses its flavor it is good for nothing but to be thrown out (Matthew 5:13).

We are also a light to the world. Have we let our light shine so that others may glorify our Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:14-16)?

(Continued on page 14)



An Open Letter to President Donald Trump

Dear President Trump,

Congratulations on your victory in this most challenging campaign for the esteemed office of President of the United States of America. As you face the daunting challenges that lie ahead, my prayer is that you will be guided by the hand of our heavenly Father.

During your race to the White House I was often dismayed to see how the perverse political climate in which you had to mire yourself often threatened not only your reputation, but that of your supporters. The violence and hatred directed toward you by lawless elements of our society as you campaigned has only worsened now that you have become our president. That violence and hatred is designed to turn people's attention from your stated policies toward a mindless distraction that would create the illusion that you are responsible for the disunity our nation is suffering. But thinking Americans were able to look past the illusion and see the reality of what we would be facing were the un-American, globalist, anti-Christ path upon which the nation had been dragged continued.

Be assured that many prayers continue to be offered on your behalf. Those who truly know the God of the Bible understand the flaws of even the most upright men and women, and we have grace toward those whom we perceive have honest hearts, even while we see the sins with which they struggle.

For this reason, I wish to help you see the bigger picture behind your victory—the spiritual elements and implications that reside in the challenges you will be facing as occupier of the highest political office in the land.

I am certain you do not think that your victory was due entirely to your efforts or the efforts of the many people who helped you achieve it, although you and they played important parts in that victory. When you consider the tremendous obstacles you faced, with virtually the entire world against you, including your own party elite, the vast majority of the mainstream media, the Clintons' political machine, the overwhelming number of celebrities—even some

conservative talk-show hosts—all of whom hammered on the same theme—that you are not fit for the office of POTUS—there had to be a higher, unseen power behind the Electoral College landslide that you enjoyed.

No matter the efforts of men to varying degrees, it is not they who determine the heads of government. You may recall from your reading of Scripture that when Israel was taken captive by the Babylonians, God called King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia His “servant.” He also called other pagan kings His servants, simply because it is He who establishes all authority on earth according to His eternal plan of redemption, not only of men, but of His entire creation.

Even so, Nebuchadnezzar became prideful in his achievements, and suffered the chastisement of God:

The king spoke, and said, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty?”

While these words were in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from Heaven, saying, “O king Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: ‘The kingdom is departed from you. They shall drive you from men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. They shall make you to eat grass like oxen, and seven years shall pass over you, until you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will.’”

That same hour the thing was fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from men and ate grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of the heavens, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

“At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to Heaven, and my understanding returned to me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored Him who lives forever—whose dominion is an everlasting dominion—and his kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing, and He does according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. None can stay His hand, or say to Him, ‘What are You doing?’

“At the same time my reason returned to me—and for the glory of my kingdom—my honor and brightness

returned to me. My counsellors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

“Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, extol, and honor the King of Heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways judgment, and those who walk in pride he is able to abase.” (Daniel 4:30-37)

Prior to his moment of pride that cost him seven years of misery, Nebuchadnezzar heard this word from God in a dream:

“This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones, to the intent that the living may know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He will, and sets up over it the basest of men.” (Daniel 4:17)

God’s man for this nation, for this hour, is you, President Trump. But do not allow this truth be an occasion for pride to capture your heart. Rather, realize that you have been honored by the Creator of this vast universe to be numbered among the basest of men, yet exalted to the station of most powerful man on earth by reason of the might and prior integrity of this nation which was founded upon the biblical ethic encapsulated within God’s Word.

May you take to heart the account of Solomon, the last king of a united Israel:

“In Gibeon, Yahweh appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.”

And Solomon said, “You have shown to Your servant David my father great mercy according as he walked before You in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You. And You have kept for him this great kindness: that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

“Now, O Yahweh my God, You have made Your servant king in place of David my father, and I am like a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

“Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen—a great people that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give therefore Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to judge this Your so great a people?”

The words pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. So God said to him, “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern judgment, look, I have done according to your words. Look, I have given you a wise and an understanding heart, so that there was none like you before you, nor shall there arise anyone like you after you.

“And I have also given you that for which thou have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there shall not be any among the kings like you all your days.

“And if you will walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” (1 Kings 3:5-14)

Just as I, and millions of others have prayed for you during your campaign, I wish you to know that I and many others continue to pray for you, that you will find it in your heart to submit in humility to the only true God, Yahweh, through faith in the sacrifice for your sins by His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

I have read in the Christian media that some of the evangelical leaders with whom you met testify that you have given your life to Christ. It gladdens my heart to hear of this. Yet because I do not know you personally, I am compelled to offer this additional insight for your consideration.

Now that you have attained the office of President of the United States, be assured that many will want to come next to you to offer their assistance and counsel. Some, perhaps most, will not have your interests or the interests of the nation at heart as much as their own advancement and profit. I am sure you are already cautious of this. However, in spite of your vast experience in worldly matters, evidenced by the impressive personal empire you have built, when it comes to spiritual discernment and matters pertaining to your spiritual welfare that must underlie your political success, you must beware of wolves coming to you in sheep’s clothing.

I am not merely speaking of your political foes, including those within your party who betrayed you during your campaign. I am speaking of some (not all) of the evangelical leaders who have surrounded you, hoping to influence you not only in matters of faith, but in worldly matters. Do not think that because someone has a large following within the Christian community they can be trusted; often it is just the opposite.

I do not say these things lightly. At the age of 78, and as a believer in Jesus Christ for the past 52 years, I have seen the treachery that can take place within churches when false brethren rise to prominence through guile and flattery. Too often they are indiscernible from true brethren without a deep spiritual walk and reliance on God’s guidance.

I could tell you whom to trust (somewhat) and whom to avoid at all costs, but that is not for me to say without being asked. Rather, I suggest that you pray earnestly for wisdom and discernment. Do not enter into any agreements with anyone on any level, for any reason—political or, especially, spiritual—without seeking wisdom and discernment from our heavenly Father directly. When you deal with people in all walks of life, remember the words of King David of Israel in Psalm 27:6:

The wounds from a friend are faithful, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. →

Your enemies will be quick to flatter you; your true friends will speak the truth and risk your displeasure. Hold the latter closest to your heart.

That's not to say that all who speak encouragement or even flattery are your enemies, or that your true friends may not unintentionally mislead you. But if you will keep that truth in mind, and remember to ask for God's wisdom in all decisions, be assured that He will guide your steps.

Surround yourself with advisors and cabinet members who are not only proven wise and skilled in their particular spheres of political, military, or other critical areas, but who are humble and truthful. Do not abide profane people who utter God's or Jesus' names with carelessness—as expletives; this reveals their ungodliness. Set for those who would be next to you a standard of rightness in thought and action.

Experience doesn't count as much for success as moral judgment, as you understand from your experience with political foes. Just don't forget that important precept when people come to you with impressive credentials.

I wish you to know that, from the start of your campaign I sensed the hand of God upon you. I have prayed for you throughout your run for office. If I am correct—that He has anointed you to lead this nation as His servant—then a servant you must be. The President of the United States is not a ruler; he is a servant. He does not make law; that is the job of Congress. He administers the laws passed by Congress, yet has the power to veto laws that he deems unconstitutional or unwise.

You also have a “Bully Pulpit” which, if used wisely, can guide the lives of millions of people toward making equally wise and proper choices in life. This nation of some 325 million people is so diverse that you cannot expect to please everybody. Rick Nelson was close to the truth when he sang, “You can't please everyone, so you've got to please yourself.”

I say close, because the first part is true; the second part should say, “so you've got to please God.”

If we seek to please ourselves we will be unprofitable servants of the people. If we seek to please God—even if we make mistakes in the process—He will honor our intent and guide us safely through the most difficult situations.

I don't know if these words will reach you; chances are they will not. Yet if our heavenly Father desires for you to read them—whether or not I ever learn of it—then my prayer is that they will not return emptiness, but fullness of blessings for you during your term(s) in office.

At the least, my prayer is that all others who read this will take to heart for themselves the counsel that I offer to you.

In the love of Jesus,

Albert James Dager
Editor & Publisher
Media Spotlight

OKAY, SO NOW WHAT?

(Continued from page 11)

And finally, will we earnestly begin to pray for our leaders in government so that we may live peacefully and so that the exercise of our faith not be hindered (1 Timothy 2:1-3)?

On this last note, I urge our readers to pray especially earnestly for President Trump. He is a man who has determined to sacrifice much in order to help the nation right the ship of state that is listing so badly. He didn't need this job. He could have said, “I have mine; the rest of you are on your own.” But by the grace of God he is where he is, suffering unjust accusations of evil doing, having his sanity questioned, having his family maligned, being ridiculed by “comedians” and media pundits, having his very life threatened amid calls for his assassination, being cursed at, cursed, and foul-mouthed by apopleptic evildoers.

The sheer volume and intensity of hatred and anger toward him, as well as the unfounded accusations of being a fascist, a Nazi, a homophobic, Islamophobic, xenophobic, anti-Semitic hater demonstrate how the satanic realm is opposed to this choice of our heavenly Father to be the leader of America during her darkest hour.

My prayers for Donald Trump are for his and his family's safety, that the assassin not touch him. I pray also that his ungodly detractors be brought to confusion and turn upon one another for their mutual destruction. I especially pray that the Holy Spirit will invade President Trump's mind and heart to direct Him in every decision.

Is Donald Trump flawed? As much as you or I.

Is Donald Trump going to make mistakes? As much as you or I.

Is Donald Trump going to put his foot in his mouth? As much as you or I.

Is Donald Trump the perfect Christian? Probably not.

Is Donald Trump going to make everything right? Probably not.

But none of these things are the issue. The issue is that Donald Trump is our president and is worthy of our respect and prayers, one reason being that he was placed there by our Father in Heaven (Romans 13:1-7).

But let us not forget that Barack Obama was also placed there by our Father in Heaven.

So what do we do? We thank our Father for both men.

We thank Him for Barack Obama because he has caused conditions to wake the Body of Christ out of its lethargy.

We thank Him for Donald Trump because he offers us an opportunity to overturn at least some of the evil foisted upon us by Obama.

And even as we may see President Trump fall and fail along the way, let us not be too harsh on him. Remember what the alternative would have been. ❖

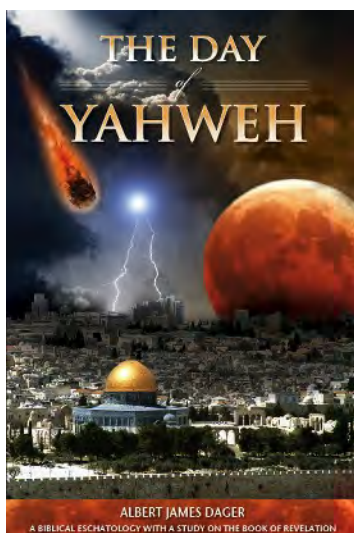


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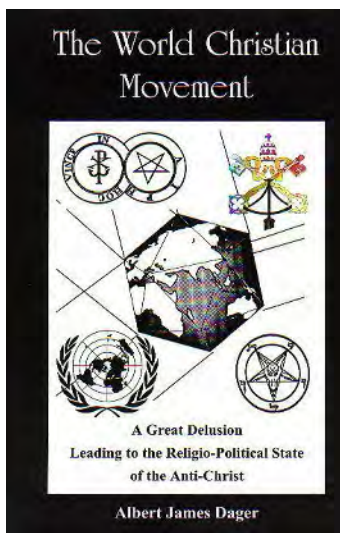
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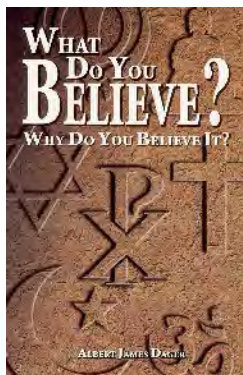
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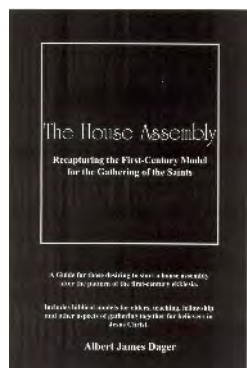
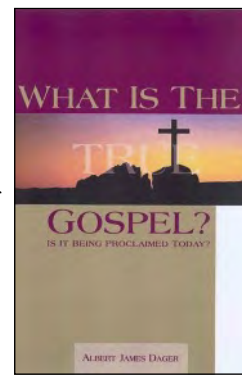


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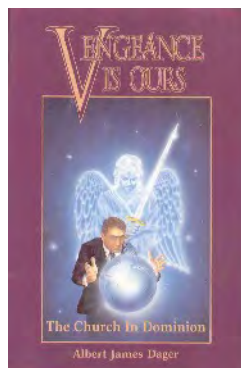


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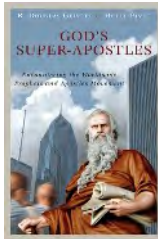
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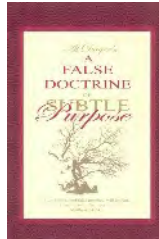
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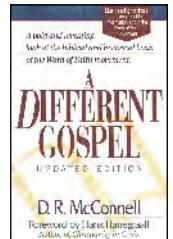
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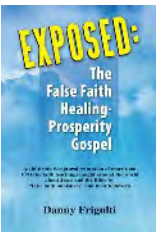
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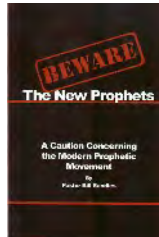
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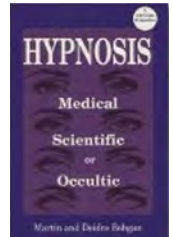
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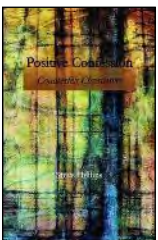
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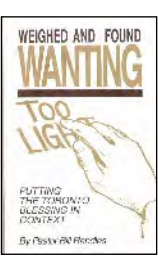
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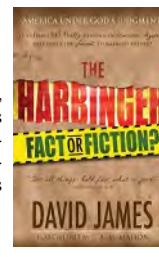
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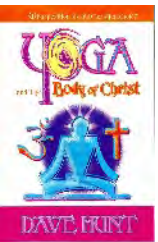
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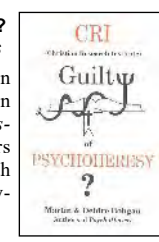
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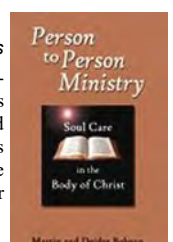
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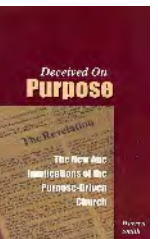
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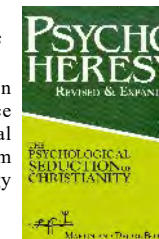
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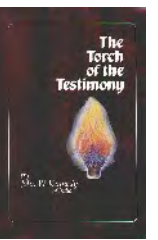
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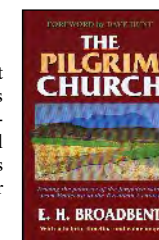
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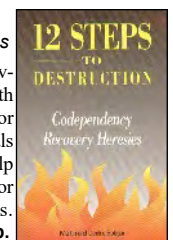
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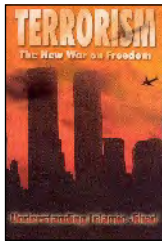
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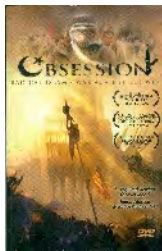
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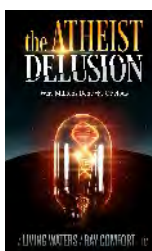
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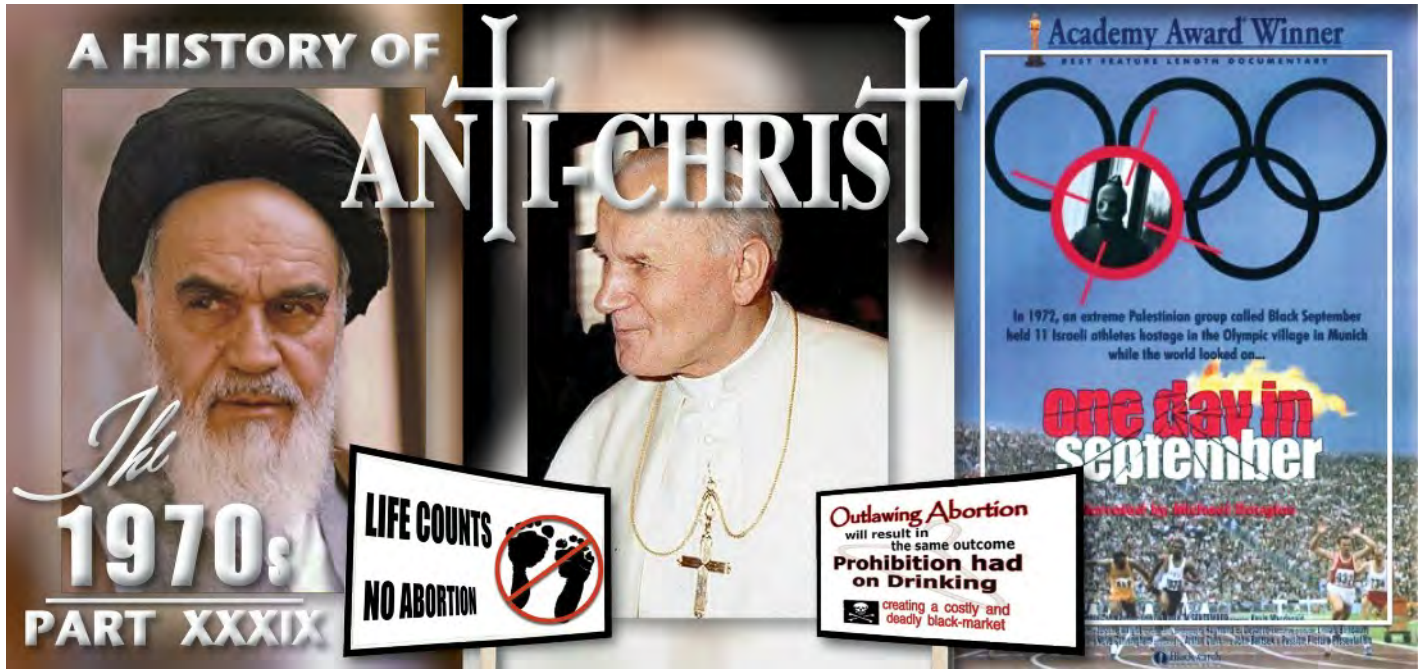
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THE 1970S WAS a decade in which large segments of western populations became so self-absorbed and focused on personal needs and desires with disregard for others, that American author Tom Wolfe was inspired to label it the “Me’ Decade.” The term first appeared in an essay titled “The ‘Me’ Decade and the Third Great Awakening,” first published as the cover story for the August 23, 1976, issue of *New York* magazine. Wolfe’s term described a self-serving attitude in contrast to the social norms of prior decades.

With the prosperity that developed in the West following World War II, the materialistic nature of the West’s citizens came to full bloom during the ensuing decades, gradually culminating in a sense of entitlement. This was largely the result of an increasing lack of discipline on the part of parents who wanted their children to have all the advantages that an industrialized society provides but without instilling the necessary moral and ethical foundation needed to handle it properly. This was exacerbated by popular parenting instructions foisted upon society by the likes of pediatrician Dr. Benjamin Spock, who we addressed in a previous chapter. Spock’s instructions on permissiveness had been gaining ever-growing acceptance since the publication in 1946 of his infamous book, *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care*. The decade of the ’60s began to see the results of his satanic advice with the rebelliousness of youth on the rise.

1968 is generally regarded by historians as the highpoint of the protest wave that swept the West. The years 1974-1976 marked its end. This was largely because governments (particularly the United States) began to become more passive by scaling back military encounters and downsizing national law enforcement agencies which appeased the radical leftist anarchists. But that was only a temporary lull. Although the 1970s were less violent overall than the 1960s, the

rebelliousness merely took a more benign direction, expressing itself in the music venues of the time rather than out in the streets. Disco, Hip Hop, Crip Walk, and Punk dancing arose, the latter three forms leading to even more violence in the following decades.

As we look at the influence of anti-Christ in the world during the 1970s, we will perceive an even greater departure from the biblical ethic that guided Western Civilization for almost 2000 years, and a return to the barbarianism that characterized the entire world prior to the spreading of the Gospel.

ENTERTAINMENT

The music industry has always been on the cutting-edge of societal change. A nation’s mores can be solidly linked to the popular musical messages that come out of the multi-billion dollar music industry. Some of the most anti-social forms of music were spawned during the 1970s, including Hip Hop (including Rap), Crip Walk, and Punk.

Hip Hop

There is no specific starting point for hip hop; it evolved when block parties in New York City became popular among Black youths, particularly in the Bronx. Disc Jockeys played percussive breaks of popular songs by utilizing two turntables in order to extend the breaks. A subgenre to come out of hip hop is gangsta rap which focuses on violence, misogyny, and the impoverished lives of inner-city youths, incorporating political and social commentary. Various forms of hip hop have developed over time, but its roots in Black American inner-city gang culture remains evident.

Crip Walk

Also known as the C-Walk, Crip Walk originated among the Crip gang members of South Central Los Angeles. It emerged out of the rivalry between the Crips and Bloods

when that rivalry was capitalized upon by rappers on the West Coast of the United States who gave it the name Crip Walk. The unique Crip Walk dance steps to hip hop “music” were used by Crip gang members at parties as a testament to their affiliation. It was also used as a “Crip signature” after a gang member killed someone.

Although originally a strictly Crip symbolic dance, it has spread to become a popular hip hop dance for youth around the world.

Punk Rock

This genre of “music” is rooted in the 1960s garage band phenomenon whereby youths often uneducated in the science and art of music utilized guitars, drums, and other percussive instruments to make noise while pretending to be musicians. It was a phenomenon that developed primarily in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The term “punk” was applied by critics to describe garage bands and their followers.

Out of this genre emerged a punk subculture that expresses youthful rebellion characterized by distinctive clothing that includes deliberately offensive, vulgar, and profane T-shirts, spiked arm- and neck-bands, spiked jewelry, and bondage and S&M clothes. Punk is especially popular among anarchists and other anti-authoritarian miscreants.

Disco

Although Disco is not among the anti-authoritarian, violence-prone genres addressed above, it nevertheless has an anti-social element to it. A combination of funk, pop, and salsa, disco appeals to sensuality with popular dances that are sexually suggestive. For this reason disco clubs became associated with promiscuity. They were popularized in movies such as *Saturday Night Fever*, *Thank God It's Friday*, *Car Wash*, and others with sexually-charged themes. There also developed among discotheque-goers a strong drug subculture.



The 1970s saw a continuation of anti-Christ’s use of music to mesmerize and seduce youth to an even greater extent than the preceding popularity of rock ‘n’ roll. With the exception of disco, the other named genres sacrificed even more musicality to appeal to the baser instincts of ungodly people. Sadly, even many Christians have succumbed to that appeal. These genres can be found in churches and Christian musical venues, only “Christianized” with words that, though often unintelligible, are said to “glorify God.”



Movies

1977 saw the release of *Star Wars*—the first in a long series of science-fiction/fantasy movies based on a single narrative. To date, the *Star Wars* enterprise, including prequels and sequels, has totaled \$3.376+ billion, not including re-releases. The special effects and compelling plot line of *Star Wars* combined to offer a unique entertainment experience for its time. Even Christians were enthralled with the movie to the point they were not only willing to overlook its occult theme centered on The Force, but some Christian leaders even tried to equate The Force with God and the theme of “good vs. evil” with the Gospel.

All of the *Star Wars* stories reinforce the idea of The Force—a mysterious, impersonal entity that permeates all things and holds the universe together. The spectacular special effects keep people’s (including Christians’) minds numbed to the obvious eastern mysticism that grips their consciousness as they proclaim, one to another, “May The Force be with you.”

To believers in Christ who understand eastern mysticism, it is apparent that The Force is not God, but an energy field latent within everyone. Through the practice of meditation it is said one can release it to bring one to one’s full human potential. In short, The Force is the power of witchcraft. In *Star Wars* the story is of white witchcraft versus black witchcraft—the light side vs. the dark side of the same Force.

For some time after the initial *Star Wars* was released, there could be seen books and bumper stickers that naively claimed “Jesus is The Force.” But Jesus is not The Force, nor is The Force Jesus. He is the Word of God who has existed throughout eternity. Whereas The Force is said to be “created by all living things,” Jesus was not created. Rather, He is the creator of all living things—in truth, of the entire physical universe (John 1).

Nor is there any dark side to Jesus as there is in The Force. In 1 John 1:5 we are told, “God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him.”

Paul the apostle further reveals this truth in 2 Corinthians 6:14 when he asks, “What communion has light with darkness?”

For Christians to rationalize the identity of The Force and claim it is Jesus is a dangerous step toward synthesizing paganism with biblical truth—a problem that has plagued Christianity for almost two millennia.

Through even a cursory examination it can be found that The Force is nothing more than the eastern religious concept of a universal life force that is alleged to reside within all things. This life force is at once “god” and creature. Hence it is to be worshiped on the one hand and kept under control on the other. It is the same “god” worshipped by the Nazis.

Consider this statement by Martin Bormann, head of the Nazi Party Organization, as reported in the February 21, 1942, edition of the *London Daily Telegraph*:

If we National Socialists [Nazis] speak about “faith in God” we do not mean the same God as the naïve Christians....The natural Force which maintains these innumerable planets in the universe we call the Almighty or God.¹

Is this not identical to Obi Wan Kenobi’s definition of The Force?

Dr. Robert Ley, head of the Nazi labor front, left a message for future Germany before committing suicide in his prison cell:

We have forsaken God, and therefore we were forsaken by God. We put our human volition in place of His Godly grace.

Anti-Christ has used the dark philosophy of The Force to draw Christians away from their roots in the Gospel to a New Age gospel of human potential—a potential that may be realized for those who succumb to the deception of The Force. (See our special report, *The Force Behind The Force*.)

POLITICS

Women’s Rights

The battle for equal rights for women progressed through the decades since suffrage was granted to women in the late 19th century. On August 26, 1970, a more aggressive move toward an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was spawned when the National Organization for Women (NOW) organized the first Strike for Equality Parade in New York City. The strike was primarily concerned with equal opportunity in the workplace, political rights for women, social equality in marriage and other relationships (lesbianism), abortion, and “free” childcare.

The protest included chanting and speeches by prominent feminists such as Betty Friedan, author of *The Feminine Mystique*, who had originally proposed the strike to NOW.

¹ G.H. Lang, *World Chaos: Its Root and Remedy* (London: The Paternoster Press, 1948), p. 16.

Although the protests were met with opposition by the mainstream media at the time (how times have changed), and by conservative women’s groups, it did have an impact on the political scene, and would lead to a groundswell of support for the Equal Rights Amendment that would pass the Senate and be proposed to the states in 1972.

The Equal Rights Amendment failed to garner enough states for a super majority as required by the Constitution, largely because of the efforts of Phyllis Schlafly, founder and chairman of Eagle Forum, who mobilized large protests by Christian women and others who saw the amendment as a threat to the already protected status of women, particularly in the home. Yet in spite of the amendment’s failure to pass, many of its provisions have been incorporated into law through judicial and governmental bureaucratic fiat, as well as congressional law. Some of these provisions include unfettered access to abortion (*Roe v. Wade*), affirmative action in employment, particularly in government jobs (Equal Employment Opportunities Commission), affirmative action in education (Title IX of the Education Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965), even as other provisions continue to be promoted by feminist organizations. These protections for women were later broadened to prohibit discrimination due to sexual orientation and now, sexual identity (Barack Obama’s executive orders).

Ever since Eve was seduced by anti-Christ in the Garden, women have struggled to overcome the role assigned to them by Yahweh while they remain in their mortal condition during this present age. For millennia women used their feminine charms and wiles to get their way with men. Not content that in many ways they possess greater control than men over many aspects of life, ungodly women have sought to assert themselves as equal to men in roles granted exclusively to men by Yahweh.

This mirrors Satan’s desire to make himself equal to Yahweh.

It isn’t that women are inferior to men except in overall physical strength that our Father has assigned to them the position of helper to men, but because the woman was deceived (1 Timothy 2:13-14), and because the man was created before the woman:

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head inasmuch as he is the image and glory of God, and the woman is the glory of the man.

For the man is not [originally] from the woman; but the woman from the man. Neither was the man created for the woman, but the woman for the man. For this reason the woman ought to have mastery over her head because of the angels.

Nevertheless, neither is the man without the woman, nor the woman without the man, in the Lord.

For as the woman is from the man, even so is the man also [born] by the woman, but all things by God. (1 Corinthians 11:7-12)

It is only in the Lord (that is, for those who are redeemed and born again by the Spirit of God) that there is equality in the eyes of Yahweh.

There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither bond nor free; there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

Yet even then, in this age the woman is to be under the headship of the man. This can only be accomplished to any consistent degree within the Body of Christ, provided both men and women understand the reason and purpose for this. The only way it can work in the world is among men and women who, although not born again, are influenced by the Gospel through the biblical ethic that has influenced much of the world since the first century AD.

Anti-Christ is fully aware of this, and is fomenting discord between men and women in the world as he works to draw them further away from that biblical ethic. His control of the world system leads to the promotion of “women’s rights” that in truth will enslave women to their base nature as fallen creatures.

Roe v. Wade

The most nefarious of these special “rights” granted to women by the state is the right to abortion. This is not among the rights granted to mankind by our Creator as delineated in the U.S. Declaration of Independence; it is in truth nothing but a privilege granted to women by the state. It falls into the category of “civil rights,” an invention of the left gleaned from the 1936 Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). The idea of civil rights, granted not by God but by the state, was later adopted by the United Nations as stated in its Charter, primarily authored by American communist aide to Franklin D. Roosevelt, Alger Hiss. Although there were Civil Rights Acts in 19th-century America, these were to assure that black people were not denied the same political and social rights enjoyed by whites. There were no broad attempts to adopt civil rights as granted by the state until the Soviet Union Constitution enumerated them, even as the state often violated them. Civil rights then made its way into U.S. politics as a further attempt to right certain wrongs experienced by blacks in America into the 1960s and ’70s. In all cases, there were never attempts to define abortion as a civil right until Planned Parenthood came on the scene early in the 20th century and proposed abortion and birth control as a way to commit genocide on Blacks and other non-white people. Planned Parenthood’s nefarious plot was given legal status through the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling declaring abortion a civil right in its Roe v. Wade decision on January 22, 1973. With that

decision, all state laws limiting access to abortion to the first trimester of pregnancy were abrogated for the entire United States of America. This legislation by fiat has stood against attempts by religious and other right-thinking groups to curtail the easy access to abortion.

It is a fact that Margaret Sanger, founder of Planned Parenthood, crusaded for abortion and birth control as a means to cut down the non-white population of America and other western nations. But anti-Christ has used those strategies to cut down the population of whites as well, especially Christians, many of whom seem to believe that a woman has the right to kill her baby, even up to the moment of birth.

Since Roe v. Wade, easy access to abortion has spread to other nations also, including during this decade to Italy (1977).

TECHNOLOGY

Bar Codes

In 1970, the National Association of Food Chains (NAFC) established the Ad-Hoc Committee for U.S. Supermarkets on a Uniform Grocery-Product Code. The purpose was to set guidelines for barcode development. There came from this a standardized 11-digit code to identify products through a barcode system using scanners. Several companies were approached to come up with the best system. Ultimately, IBM’s process was adopted and, in time, was implemented for grocery chains.

Today, barcodes are used extensively to identify not only groceries, but virtually every product sold, as well as pets, employees, hospital patients, prisoners, and you name it.

The creation of the barcode has given rise to concerns among many Christians that it may one day be used as an identifying mark of the anti-Christ. Some therefore consider the use of barcodes an evil in itself.

Be that as it may, even if the barcode were never invented, God’s Word is sure. The man, Anti-Christ, will come to power one day, and barcode or not, he will hold sway over a significant portion of mankind.

TERRORISM

Highjackings

In July, 1970, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt agreed to a cease-fire to end the Six-Day War. This sparked outrage among many Muslim anti-Israel factions, among them the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) whose leader George Habash had vowed, “If a settlement is made with Israel, we will turn the Middle East into a hell.” Habash and his lieutenant, Wadi Haddad, planned a series of airplane hijackings by which they issued a series of formal demands that called for the release of some 3,000 Palestinian and Arab prisoners held in Israeli and European jails.

On September 6, 1970, the PFLP almost simultaneously hijacked three jetliners shortly after they had taken off from

European airports en route to the United States. The hijackers on one of the airplanes were foiled, so others seized a fourth jet, diverting it to Cairo, Egypt. The other two were flown to Dawson Field in Jordan. Yet another jet was hijacked three days later.

Over time, all the hostages were released as were many Palestinian and Arab prisoners.

These high-profile hijackings were four of 29 attempted or carried out by Palestinian factions between 1968 and 1977, and they triggered the Jordanian civil war. The PFLP and PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization) sought to depose King Hussein of Jordan. When they failed in their coup, the hostage crisis came to an end with the release by the PFLP of the last six hostages in exchange for the release of several Palestinian and Arab prisoners.

Munich Olympics

At 4:30 AM on September 5, 1972, eight members of the Black September faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization climbed a two meter chain-link fence into the Olympic Village that housed athletes from all the competing nations. They were assisted by other, unsuspecting athletes (it's not clear if they were Americans or Canadians). Once inside, they used stolen keys to enter the two apartments housing the Israeli team. There they met resistance, and after a struggle in which two Israelis and two terrorists were killed, the intruders managed to capture nine hostages, and demanded the release of 234 Palestinians and non-Arabs jailed in Israel. But Israel's policy is never to negotiate with terrorists. Two botched attempts by German police to rescue the hostages resulted in the Palestinians killing the hostages. All but three of the terrorists died from police gunfire; those three were captured.

The Islamic terrorism that sparked these hijackings and kidnappings is at its root anti-Christ. Ever since the establishment of the state of Israel, Islamic terrorism has held the world hostage even while Islam continues to wage war against Christians and Jews. Anti-Christ has used terrorism to contrast with and hide his even more nefarious design to subvert the West through immigration and procreation, further destroying the biblical ethic that has guided the West for centuries.

Toward the end of the '70s terrorism gained a foothold among nation states in the Middle East.

Iran

On January 16, 1979, the deposed, cancer-ridden, dying Shah of Iran, Mohammad Reza, boarded a plane to take him out of Iran to exile in Egypt. His departure brought to power the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini who would institute a strong Islamic religious state. Mohammad Reza's abdication marked the end of over 2,500 years of continuous Iranian monarchy since the founding of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great. During his reign, the Shah oversaw a secular

government with ties to Israel. With his departure came a religious tyranny and a nation bent on Israel's destruction. To this day, Iran remains Israel's greatest enemy and an enemy of the United States, giving anti-Christ considerable clout in his design to turn the world against Israel and her allies, which we see coming to fruition more every day.

WAR

Yom Kippur War

Having never recovered from their humiliating defeat in the Six-day War of 1967, Egyptian and Syrian forces chose Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year, to launch a coordinated surprise attack against Israel. The date was October 6, 1973, and as Egyptian troops moved deep into the Sinai Peninsula, Syrian troops tried desperately to throw Israeli troops out of the Golan Heights. Iraqi and Jordanian forces joined the siege shortly after.

Israel's counterattack overthrew the Syrians and recaptured the Golan Heights. This new attempt by anti-Christ to remove Israel's buffer of protection met with such resistance that his armies had to settle for a cease-fire on October 25, just three weeks later. Israel suffered tremendous losses, having been unprepared with many of its soldiers on leave for the holiday. Although Egypt again suffered defeat at the hands of Israel, in 1974, Egypt's Premier Anwar Sadat was able to negotiate the first of two Egyptian-Israeli disengagement agreements which provided for the return of portions of the Sinai to Egypt. A 1979 peace treaty between Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin allowed for the return of the last segment of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. This was realized in 1982.

Again, anti-Christ had sought to destroy Israel, but God's Word is sure. Israel will remain, and Jerusalem will be inhabited by the Jews at the time the Lord Jesus returns to establish His millennial Kingdom.

ENVIRONMENTALISM

Earth Day

In October, 1969, John McConnell, the son of an itinerant Pentecostal preacher, addressed the National UNESCO Conference in San Francisco with



the proposal for a global holiday to celebrate the earth's life and beauty, and to advance the cause of peace on earth. His desire was to alert mankind to the need for preserving the ecological balances of nature. His proposal garnered strong support and led to an Earth Day Proclamation by the City of San Francisco. The first celebration of Earth Day took place on March 21, 1970, in conjunction with the spring equinox. It has been celebrated around the world every year since then on the day of the spring equinox.

In June, 1970, McConnell created the Earth Day Proclamation for worldwide use and awareness. It was signed by 36 world leaders, including UN Secretary General U Thant.

The next year one of the largest environmental groups in the world was founded. Greenpeace has been a mixed bag of good and bad activism for environmental concern. But many of its tactics have been illegal and dangerous.

Due to the sometimes radical left's efforts to "save the earth," Congress in 1973 passed the Endangered Species Act which, on occasion, has been misused to place the welfare of animals and even insects above the welfare of humans.

There is certainly nothing wrong with caring for the earth. In truth, that is what our Father expects of His children. True believers in Jesus do not purposely create conditions that will damage the environment (Genesis 1:26). However, Earth Day has become more of a pagan celebration of "Mother Earth," drawing people's attention to bacchanalian festivals and orgies in the wildernesses of the world. Anti-Christ has demonstrated his proclivity for turning a commendable if not godly expression of concern for nature into a celebration of the earth as a goddess (Romans 1:22-25).

SCIENCE

Genetic Engineering

As mankind's audacity led him to ever-increasing attempts to manipulate God's natural order, experiments in eugenics were given a boost with the first successful freezing of mouse embryos in 1972. This was a significant step in the process of developing Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART). This culminated in the birth of the first "test tube baby," Louise Brown, on July 25, 1978.

There is no doubt that *in vitro* fertilization has been a boon to many women who could not otherwise bear children. Yet whenever man tampers with nature, there remains a de facto affront to the role of God in determining the outcome. Also, there are no moral guidelines to the use of *in vitro* that would ensure that only married couples (men and women) would have access to the process.

Anti-Christ has always been on the attack against marriage and the family as designed by God. Eugenics and its results have been one of his greatest tools.

In 1976 the first artificial gene was created, leading to genetic engineering breakthroughs that have commonplace applications today. This is most notable in Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) utilized in the agriculture industry. Where genetic engineering will take mankind—should the Lord not return anytime soon—can only be imagined. Genetic engineering is being considered for animal and plant breeding, and is closely related to cloning and stem cell research.

When one specie's genetic material is added to a host specie, a new transgenic organism may be created.

There are no set international standards to regulate genetic engineering involving humans and other animals, and some technocrats surmise the possibility of creating a "master race" that would be superior to naturally born humans.

This is exactly what Hitler envisioned, but today the science is almost to the point of realizing his dream. And what greater anti-Christ was there than Adolf Hitler for his time?

When man is inspired by anti-Christ to tamper with nature, he is waving his fist at his Creator, daring Him to do something about man's inordinate desire to be like God.

Wait until God's fist returns the salute.

TECHNOLOGY

Home Computers

In 1975, Altair, the first home computer, was marketed, providing new technology for the home. At first, the computer was useful for educational purposes and for various means of personal financial and home management. It wasn't long before it became a primary source of entertainment, not all of it wholesome. The home computer has opened the door for sexual content and contact that has allowed anti-Christ's attack on marriage and the family stupendous success.

Need I say more?

Not only is illicit sex pervasive on home computers, video games have captured the minds of millions of adults and children. Although the first commercially successful video game, Pong, mesmerized people with its simple "tennis game" approach, technological advances in gaming have given free rein to human imagination which, according to God's Word, is only evil continually (Genesis 6:5). Young children are, if not carefully monitored by godly parents (who are few today), exposed to sexual and violent content that can sear their consciences (1 Timothy 4:1-2). Not to mention chat rooms, social media, and other dangerous, anti-Christ content.

RELIGION

First Female Priests

The '70s saw a breakthrough in feminism when the first female priests were ordained in the Episcopal Church in the United States. On July 29, 1974, four Episcopal bishops ordained eleven women as priests, although the ordinations lacked "recommendation from the standing committee," a canonical prerequisite for ordination. Known as the "Philadelphia Eleven," the women's ordination was initially opposed by the House of Bishops, but in 1976 the General Convention of the Episcopal Church granted its approval. Since then, several denominations have ordained women, and it has become commonplace within mainstream churches.

This breakthrough for feminism was possible because the mainstream Protestant churches involved had long before departed from the biblical expression of ministry in the

assembly. Having inherited the concept of priesthood from their former Roman Catholic roots, their clergy-laity foundation was anti-Christ. How could it not devolve further into a female dominant role?

Not to be outdone, even Pentecostal and charismatic as well as some fundamental churches have taken to ordaining not priests, but female pastors and teachers, also contrary to the Scriptures they claim are their sole source of doctrine and practice.

The subjective nature of the religious spirit serves anti-Christ by compromising God's Word with the rationale that, if the Holy Spirit leads, then the letter of the Word must yield. What the religious spirit fails to understand is that the Holy Spirit never leads contrary to the Word of God.

Pope John Paul II

The world was shocked in 1978 when the Roman Catholic College of Cardinals chose a non-Italian pope for the first time since 1503. Born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in the Polish town of Wądrowice, Pope John Paul II became an immediate sensation. His coronation sparked unheard of praise from world leaders and even many leaders within evangelical Christianity. I recall Pat Robertson gleefully exclaiming, "We have a new pope!"



My internal reaction was, "What do you mean 'we,' white eyes?"

The Catholic Church may have had a new pope, but where did an alleged leader within non-Catholic Christianity get off by claiming the pope for the rest of us?

Actually, I was not surprised by Wojtyla's election. When Pope Paul VI died on August 6, 1978, I recall telling my mother that I didn't believe the next pope would be Italian, but would come from a communist country, or have ties within communist circles. She was surprised, of course. There hadn't been a non-Italian pope since Giuliano della Rovere was elected as Julius II in 1503. What prompted my "prophecy" was my knowledge of world events coupled with my understanding of last-days prophecy.

I was surprised to be found wrong when the Italian Albino Luciani was elected John Paul I on August 26, 1978. In fact, I was pretty confused, and wondered if I didn't know what I knew.

When John Paul I died mysteriously just one month later on September 28, I again anticipated a non-Italian pope with the expected credentials.

Then came John Paul II, and the unprecedented joy and acclaim that accompanied his election not only among Catholics, but by the entire world. Surely, I believed, this man is special and there is a spiritual dimension to his election that is unique if not unprecedented.

History has shown how great an impact his papacy had on the world political scene, particularly with the downfall of the USSR through his efforts in conjunction with U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

John Paul II was a "progressive" pope, taking the influence of Roman Catholicism into world politics to formerly unheard of heights since the heyday of the Holy Roman Empire. His successors have built upon that influence, and have been even more "progressive" (i.e., leftist) than he.

Anti-Christ has used the papacy to foment intrigue and wars throughout history, as well as persecution of the saints. In these last days, the papacy is more supportive of "world peace" even at the expense of freedom. It moves in leftist circles and adopts leftist causes, even finding compromise with homosexuality and abortion, subjects that previous popes had always held a firm stance against.

It remains to be seen what role the papacy will play in the last-days anti-Christ's terrorism against all things righteous.

Charismatic Movement

The 1970s saw an explosion of activity within the Charismatic Movement, some not so bad, most terribly bad. The most positive elements centered around the Jesus Movement that began to stir in the late 1960s, coming to its peak in the 1970s. This was a major element that came out of the hippie counterculture to impact Protestantism. It began on the West Coast of the United States, primarily in the beach communities of Southern California. From there it spread rapidly throughout the U.S. to other parts of the world.

Calvary Chapel

Out of the Jesus Movement sprang a number of churches, some already in existence but dying out until the hippies began invading them looking for answers to their discontent that they couldn't find in drugs, sex, and rock 'n' roll. Responding to the Gospel in droves, they claimed that Jesus gave them the "high" they were looking for.

The largest church movement to grow as a result was Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, California, pastored by Chuck Smith, a former pastor within the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel founded by Aimee Semple McPherson. Based on claimed prophecy by Smith and others close to him, he was to become a world-renowned pastor and teacher. When former hippie John Higgins Jr. introduced Smith to "hippie evangelist" Lonnie Frisbee, Frisbee became the catalyst for the growth of Calvary Chapel, leading evangelistic outreaches to hippies in Southern California. Frisbee co-founded the House of Miracles commune with John Higgins, Sr.

Frisbee would later be disowned by Calvary Chapel because of his homosexuality which caused a scandal within the community. Eventually, Frisbee contracted AIDS and died as a result. He was interred in the late Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral Memorial Gardens.

But Frisbee's influence on Calvary Chapel remained, and Chuck Smith's laid-back style coupled with his fatherly image captured the hearts and minds of the disenfranchised and homeless hippies. Without coercion, many of them began to become conformed to the norms of society, casting off their hippie clothing and trappings and getting jobs, wearing ties (or at least more conventional clothing), and quitting drugs and alcohol.

Late in his life, Smith would depart from his anti-Catholic stance to become somewhat ecumenical, even embracing Rick Warren, with whom he had previously expressed displeasure over doctrine.

As a former attendee at Calvary Chapel, Costa Mesa, where Jean and I met, it saddens me to see the direction in which the Calvary Chapels have gone of late, many embracing ecumenism, the emergent church movement, and some forms of mysticism that characterizes many churches within the Vineyard Movement that was born out of Calvary Chapel when John



Chuck Smith

Wimber and Chuck Smith parted ways. (See our special report, *The Vineyard: History, Teachings, & Practices*.)

As flawed as Calvary Chapel was and is, having been touched by anti-Christ in numerous ways, it was probably the most positive element of the Charismatic Movement for its day. Just about everything else has been corrupt, if not at its beginning, certainly as it progressed.

Space doesn't allow for in-depth analysis of every aspect of the explosion of popularity within charismatism. But it is important that I touch some significant highlights of how anti-Christ worked within that movement.

Christian Television

The early 1970s saw the rise of Christian Television, primarily within the United States. The largest network to come into existence was Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN) founded by Paul and Jan Crouch along with Jim and Tammy Bakker in 1973. TBN was unique in that, although there were many Christian programs broadcasting on other established networks, TBN built its own facilities and owned its own licenses to broadcast independently of others. The

Bakkers had previously been working with Pat Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), helping it to grow.

Parting ways with TBN about one year later, the Bakkers founded their own network, The PTL Television Network, with their flagship program, *The PTL Club* airing on hundreds of stations.

Between TBN, PTL, and CBN, Christians were inundated with charismatic teachers who were little known, and even unknown prior. These include Latter-Rain proponents Earl Paulk and Larry Lea, shepherding founder Bob Mumford, church growth guru C. Peter Wagner, and flamboyant "fakirs" Benny Hinn and Rodney Howard-Browne, all of whom grew to prominence in the 1970s.

There is little within Christian television that can be regarded as even close to biblical; it is a virtual wasteland of false teaching and, at best, flaccid, lowest-common-denominator preaching. Christian television has been a great tool of anti-Christ to lead believers and non-believers alike away from the purity of God's Word into a morass of false teachings. Add to this the scandals that have made a laughing stock of the faith among non-believers, and it is evident that Christian television has served the enemy far more than it has served our Father in Heaven.

Even so, He has used Christian television on occasion to impart some truths, and to touch the lives of many who would not otherwise have had any access to those truths.

Shepherding-Discipleship Movement

The increasing subjectivity of the Charismatic Movement was bound to lead to serious error. As more and more Christians became disillusioned with their churches for various reasons (most legitimate), they found themselves foundering in a sea of confusion and uncertainty, looking for something or someone to give them spiritual direction.

Toward the late 1960s, two young Catholics, Steve Clark and Ralph Martin, who were on the secretariat of the Cursillo movement (a Roman Catholic advocacy group), became deeply involved in the Charismatic Renewal. These men formed The Word of God group which, by the mid-1970s had attained a membership of some 1,000. By 1990, through a subsidiary organization known as the Sword of the Spirit, they controlled an international network that affects the spiritual and social lives of millions of people.

In 1970, Clark and Martin began to introduce stringent structures within the Word of God group, creating coordinators and district subgroups called "subcommunities." They also began formal initiation into membership, requiring each member to make public commitments to the group through covenants.

Sometime in the 1970s, Clark and Martin began to make contacts with the leaders of Christian Growth Ministries in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Christian Growth Ministries was formed in 1970 by four popular charismatic Bible teachers. Don Basham (Disciples of Christ), Bernard (Bob) Mumford (Assemblies of God), Derek Prince (philosopher turned Pentecostal), and Charles Simpson (former Southern Baptist), were frequent contributors to *New Wine* magazine published by the Holy Spirit Teaching Mission (HSTM) in Fort Lauderdale Florida.

Under these men's leadership, HSTM changed its name to Christian Growth Ministries (CGM), and *New Wine* became the most widely circulated charismatic publication.

The four men began developing teachings on authority, submission, pastoral care, and discipleship, disseminating their teachings through *New Wine* and CGM-sponsored seminars and conferences. Three of these conferences in particular, called "Shepherds Conferences," would catalyze the Shepherding Movement (aka Discipleship Movement or Shepherding-Discipleship Movement). The first was a conference held in Leesburg, Florida, in March, 1973, drawing 450 charismatic pastors and lay leaders. The second, held in June, 1974, at Montreat, North Carolina, drew over 1,700 pastors and leaders. It was at this conference that a Canadian Pentecostal, W.J.E. (Ern) Baxter, joined the four. Together they became famously (or infamously) known as "The Fort Lauderdale Five."

These five, together with Clark and Martin, along with John Poole, formed a secret group called "the Council." The purpose of the Council was to coordinate efforts between the Word of God and Christian Growth Ministries in a common cause to convert the world through ecumenical cooperation in a tightly controlled spiritual environment.

The method of operation for the Council was to offer support and advice to major charismatic leaders. For example, Derek Prince was authorized to produce a curriculum for Morris Cerullo and to work on the board of one of Cerullo's institutes.

The Council's collaboration with the Roman Catholic Church is significant. It was largely the Council's work that put together the historic Kansas City Conference in 1977 and, subsequently, the Washington for Jesus Conference in 1980. The purpose was to demonstrate unity in the Spirit in an ecumenical environment.

Shepherding-Discipleship's modus operandi is to wield virtually total control over the lives of Christians they are able to seduce into their web of deceit. Abuses abound, where people are not allowed to do so much as go shopping without their "shepherd's" permission. They are told whom to marry, with whom they may associate, and even wives are more subject to the shepherds than to their own husbands.

Shepherding-Discipleship is not merely an aberration that affects individual personal lives. It is a broad-based ecumenical outreach designed to conform the entire Body of Christ to an authoritarian structure with the purpose of achieving dominion over the temporal world system. (See

Vengeance is Ours: The Church in Dominion [Sword Publishers, 1990])

The ecumenical approach disregards sound doctrine in favor of "unity." The real purpose is not to bring people to Christ (although by God's grace that does happen) as much as it is to bring them to unification under a religious hierarchy.

Shepherding-Discipleship exemplifies the authoritarianism needed to implement and sustain any attempt at establishing a theocratic or theonomic state. Although it is believed that Shepherding-Discipleship has died out, it still flourishes among dominionist groups.

Bob Mumford made public apologies for the abuses incurred under the Shepherding-Discipleship movement, but his apologies went only so far as to say that the abuses were the result of overzealousness on the part of some shepherds. The concept, he said, was still viable.

The Shepherding-Discipleship movement continues as one of anti-Christ's most potent means to deceive and enslave Christians.

Jonestown Massacre

We can't leave off the subject of anti-Christ's influence in religion without reminding ourselves of Jim Jones and the self-induced massacre of his cult in Jonestown, Guyana, on November 18, 1978. So infamous was that gruesome event, and so shocking to the world, that it remains the largest such event in modern history. In all, 918 people, including 304 minors, drank poisoned Flavor Aid, a Kool-Aid type beverage.

We need not delve any further than this to recognize anti-Christ's trademark hatred of all things called "Christian," even if far removed from biblical faith. ❖

NEXT

THE 1980s

Robertson, Robison endorse *The Shack*

Pat Robertson and James Robison have come out with praise for *The Shack*, the recently released movie based on the best-selling book by William P. Young.

Space doesn't permit a long dissertation on the novel's heretical storyline. Truly discerning believers know its ungodly premise is not suitable even if it is designed to draw the "unchurched" to "God." Our concern is with the lack of discernment on the part of Christian leaders today.

Or is it lack of discernment? I will not judge, but anyone who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit should be able to see through such obvious unscriptural stories as that within *The Shack*.

It's amazing how some leaders can be so right on in some things, but so off base on the obvious. ❖



FEEDBACK

Dear Al and Jean,

All praise, honor, and glory unto our almighty, awesome, holy God who is our salvation.

I have been given a wonderful bunch of men to minister to here at Valley State. Recently I began teaching Hebrew, and am pleased to have not lost one student to “lack of interest,” or “it’s too hard.”

Thirty-one-and-a-half years ago I was given a prison sentence of seven years to life for kidnap/robbery. Three years later, September 17, 1988, God called out to me and I cried back to Him. I set my hand to the plow and a yoke was placed on my shoulders. My hands have not left the plow, nor have my eyes left the end of the row.

As for the yoke, it has never been much to bear. Oh, there were a few times when I stumbled under the weight, but I have not fallen and let go.

When my wife was told she had cancer I was tempted to throw it in. As I sat there and remembered that day 46 years earlier when she took me by the hand and said, “Let’s go out and play,” it was the first day of the first grade. We were best friends from that day on.

Losing her was harder than losing either of my parents or my granddaughter, but though I was tempted to throw in the towel, though my feet had been kicked out from under me, though the weight of that yoke felt as if it was breaking my back and I was being dragged behind that plow through brambles and rose

bushes with the thorns plowing through my flesh, I kept my eyes locked on the end of the row, and I fought to get my feet back under me.

That old man who is our own worst enemy and the Devil’s biggest ally was drilling me with every vile, foul thought he could to weaken me. But all I could think of was my hero from the Scriptures. He is the biggest yet the littlest hero in the Scriptures. I found Him maybe two-and-a-half to three years into my walk with God, and it is he whom I strive to be like.

He is found in the Book of Jonah 4:7.

“God prepared a worm.” And what did that worm do? He was obedient to his nature, and he accomplished the will of God.

That is what I strive to be obedient to: my nature as a born again son of God. As the Lord Christ Jesus was obedient to the Father’s will, so I desire to be like Him.

We know that the Old Testament has many foreshadows of Christ, and I have used the worm on more than a few occasions to demonstrate absolute obedience.

Well, my dear brother and sister in Christ Jesus, be blessed and know that you are welcomed by oh, so many men in prison who struggle with the liberal doctrines that ooze like pus (poison) from so many pulpits today.

However, that is just one more sign of how close we are to the return of our Holy God.

Come soon, Lord Jesus. Come soon.

Be blessed,

M.B., Chowchilla, CA



Dear Al,

Your newsletter *Media Spotlight* is a real blessing to me. I read it and use it in my Bible studies. I wish I could

order books and DVDs from you, but I can’t. I am an inmate at CMU prison in New Mexico, and you have to be an approved vendor or on my visitation list in order to receive donations or for me to be able to order merchandise from you.

That’s too bad because your ministry is such a blessing to me. I agree with all that you teach.

You say that you used to be Catholic? I am a Catholic, and now you have me nervous about my faith. Do you have any materials on the Catholic faith that you can send me? I may receive any literature that you send me for free. It’s the money transactions that need approval.

I was baptized and confirmed five years ago while I was in prison. I have been locked up since 2010 and I’m going to be getting out in about nine months. I don’t know where I’m going to go to church when I get out, so I was hoping for some guidance from you before then.

Thank you so much for all that you do, and I pray that the Lord continues to bless you and your ministry.

God bless,

E.G., Los Lunas, NM



Dear Al and Jean,

Thank you so much for sending out your well-informed Media Spotlight to people like me who have never donated a cent to your ministry!

This last issue spoke very deeply into my heart. I know, Al, that we Christians need to get ready both spiritually and physically for the times that lie ahead of us. Thanks for an honest warning!

To get ready for anything is extremely difficult for me because of a nasty, long-standing case of Lyme-

disease which is very costly to live with. It robs your body of everything from sleep to digestion, strength, energy, and physical movement.

As of a year ago I walk with a walker at the pace of a snail because of the muscle tissue being so weakened from the bacteria. I can't drive anymore, and friends go shopping for me.

My husband of 32 years passed away in April of last year, so I feel pretty stranded, and am terrified of what will happen to me during these coming last days should the Lord permit me to live past tomorrow.

Please pray for me, for God's grace to keep me going in spite of pain, muscle spasms, headaches, fears, and dread.

Fortunately I like to pray. That takes my mind off myself because of the difficulties other Christians that I know are going through at this time.

I believe you are also right in warning us of deceiving spirits that are loose on the earth at this time.

Praise God I don't have a TV or computer that would expose me to those deceptions. I listen only to the radio, to a station that broadcasts a lot of the Scriptures together with the old Christian hymns and other beautiful songs about the Lord and with biblical content in the lyrics.

Thank you also for giving us insight into how to pray for our new president.

In Christian love,
J.S., Chico, CA



Dear Media Spotlight,

I cannot even begin to tell you how much I enjoy your newsletters!!

After seven years of incarceration (for drugs) I am finally getting a new chance at life!! I cannot wait to find you online as well! Please update my new address.

May our Father and His Son continue to bless you!
B.G., Hemet, CA

Dear A & J,

Greetings in Jesus.

I am a new subscriber and reader. I have already ordered, read, and shared several of your publications. I am already a big fan, and appreciate the fact that you test all things as we are told to do.

Are there limits on how many we can request?

Please pray for our chapel. Our pastor is a woman who says we all worship the same god, slaves built the White House, and Trump is Satan.

She speaks in "tongues" at the altar, and says Allah is just another name for God.

It's a big mess.

Please pray we get a new pastor. Men here are really hungry.

There is a line for your publications and men are talking—even unbelievers. ☺

God bless.

Love in Him,
M.B., Tehachapi, CA



Dear Brother and Sister in the Lord,

Thanking the Lord in prayer for both of you. Also for the love and burden you have for the Body of Christ, to warn and exhort, and love to know what is at stake for all of us.

This last *Media Spotlight* of winter 2016 is really a stirring of waking us up out of our complacency. I write about this myself.

We need this kind of teaching and warning more than all that is brought to us in the churches.

May I please receive the DVD, *The Enemies Within*?

Please find enclosed the money order for the costs, and the difference for your ministry.

You are in my prayers often, and I close with:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you both!

Your Dutch-Canadian sister,
P.V., Innisfil, Ontario Canada

Dear Al and Jean,

Your last newsletter was the best ever! I was born in 1960, so it was very informative to me. I'm looking forward to when you focus on the 70s. Even though I was 10 then, it was an awful time for me, as were the 80s.

We were raised poor by a single mother who moved a lot because we would not pay our bills. Never got settled in school, and my sister and I had frequent scares from men in their 30's to 50's trying to pick us up on the street.

I used to get beat up at school and at home. In the 8th grade, my mother put us in Seventh-day Adventist school.

I ran away with my sister from the live-in academy when I was in 10th grade, and lived on the street here and there for a short time.

I got saved in 2009 while reading my Bible—John 3. I was like a baby and had to learn all over again. That's why I love your newsletter. Thanks for it!

N.G., Tillamook, OR



My Brother in Christ!

I just finished reading the fall 2016 *Media Spotlight* again before passing it on. In prison I come across men who observe different "faiths." I've known some who have jumped ship and adhere to Islam or Catholicism or Krishna. I've remained faithful for over 27 years now. There is only one way to the Creator of Heaven and earth—through His Son Jesus.

May God bless you.

C. H., Huntsville, TX

We would like to be able to respond to all the letters and emails we receive, but it's impossible. Be assured, though, that we read every one of them, and do pray for those who ask it of us.

For those who phone, it would be helpful if we could keep calls to about 15 minutes if possible.

Thank you.



I Hate “Angels”

By Albert James Dager

NO, NOT OUR Father’s angels that are all “ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will be heirs of salvation.”

I mean the “angels that are variously represented as demure, effeminate (even feminine), sweet and babyish.

You know the expression adults use to describe babies: “Oh, she’s such a little angel.”

Or the exclamation of men taken by a woman’s beauty: “What an angel!”

Or the term for one who exhibits religious piety: “She (or maybe he) is so angelic.”



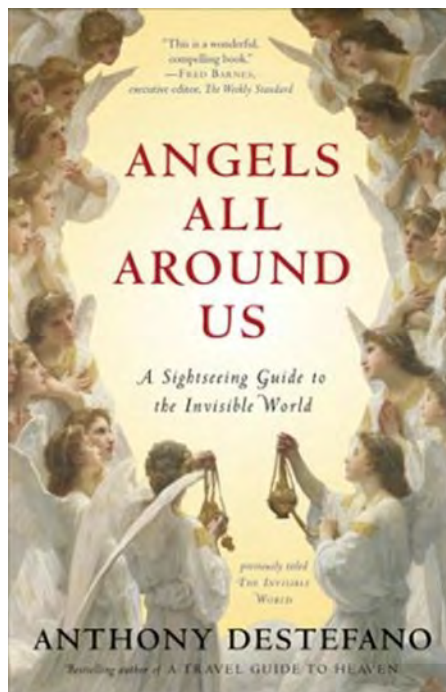
I have been sorely vexed when I’ve watched some programming on the Trinity Broadcasting Network where the performers are surrounded by the late Jan Crouch’s Rococo decorating style replete with baby “angels” that are in reality nothing more than

representations of the Greek god of “love,” Eros, or

Cupid. Just search for “Angels” on the Internet and you’ll find that easily 98% that come up are feminine and/or babies.

I am sorely vexed by the wispy, effeminate images of long-haired, slender beings with breasts called “angels” that originated in pagan mythology as fairies.

I am sorely vexed by TV programs such as *Touched by an Angel*, wherein men and women portray angels on earth sent to minister to just about everybody, believer in Christ or not, to encourage them in their humanistic endeavors. In the process they are just as befuddled as their human charges, not sure of just what God wants of them. They are not angels, but spirit guides as found in New Age literature.



But what really bugs me is that these images proliferate as evangelical Christian iconography.

We can expect the world to be ignorant about these things, but why do Christians have to be ignorant about them? God’s Word is very clear on its teachings about angels. Why can’t Christians read it and just accept what it says rather than succumb to pagan concepts of the spirit realm?

I’ve included on this page some pictures from various “Christian” sources advertising books and products about angels. It is clear that the strong masculine presence of biblical angels has no place among these merchandisers. In fact, it’s so rare that the trade publication *Christian Retailing* considered it news that Romans, Inc. had released among its popular angel collections of statues its first male angels. Yet although they are male, they are not masculine, as can be seen by the picture of the “Angel Gabriel” on the right.



It is argued that angels are spirit beings, not men, so they don’t have gender. But all we can go by is what Scripture reveals. Every representation of angels in the Bible is that of a man. And why should it be otherwise? God has established that all authority within His Kingdom and in the Body of Christ is masculine. Should not male imagery dominate among those of angels? Yet the vast majority of angels are depicted as women, even though women are peculiar to the human race, having come out of the man who was created first.

God made men and women distinct from one another and has ordained that the man is the head of the woman. They do

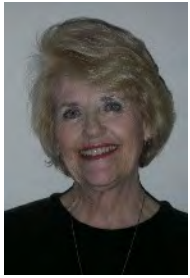
not hold equal status within the assembly. Satan wishes to confuse the issue by infecting the churches with his feminist inventions.

Satan has likewise confused the issue on angels, convincing mankind that the strong, masculine image of angels portrayed in Scripture is not the only valid image of angels; feminine and child-like images are more prevalent.

It is any wonder that God forbade Israel to make images of things in heaven or in the earth? Not only is man prone to worship them, he can’t even get it right.

What effrontery to foist upon these grand servants of God representations born from the corrupt imagination of men influenced by demonic spirits.

If I were an angel I’d be chomping at the bit to reap the earth. ❖



Jean's Turn

LAND OF EXCESS PROTESTS

By Jean Dager

PEOPLE LIVING IN the United States are certainly privileged. Compare us to people living in Third World countries. Imagine living in Haiti or in the Philippines where the very poorest must survive by foraging through garbage dumps. Donations pouring in from benevolent countries are intercepted and hoarded by greedy, corrupt government officials, and only the barest minimal essentials are distributed to their poor—and that's just for show.

Imagine, too, residing in a sharia-controlled Muslim country where women are cruelly treated without rights, and thieves are punished by having their hands cut off. Not to mention many other atrocities.

Wilfred Hahn published an article about America's Gross Domestic Product and said that today we live in an era where many countries suffer from excesses, not shortages. He said, "The milk and honey industries are suffering from excess supply....Dairy farmers in the U.S. have dumped more than 43 million gallons of milk between January and August of 2016....America is overflowing with honey....In Canada, an influx of imported honey from China, Zambia, Vietnam and other countries is causing many beekeepers to close shop. The wholesale price has halved in recent years."

So I ask, why all the angry and seemingly endless protests in this land? Some so violent that people and police trying to protect the public are injured, private property is needlessly destroyed, and traffic and business is halted. There are far too many unwarranted protests in this land of excess and privilege.

Personally, I'm fed up with these countless protests. The problem is, however, that now I'm becoming angry

and totally disgusted by these actions. I've been identifying with David's words in Psalm 35:6-8 when contending with his enemies:

May their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them. Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me, may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.

God's Word reminds us that our flesh will always be warring against our spirit. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 states:

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, *and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.* (Emphasis added)

I was further convicted of needing an "attitude adjustment" when I read a devotion by missionary George Bowen who said, "You are surrounded by a world of unloving and unlovely beings; and how can you walk in love here? Consider that formerly you found no difficulty in loving yourself; in spite of all the repulsive things you knew about yourself, you went on loving yourself, with an unwavering steadfastness. Consider, that Christ sets you the example....Is the servant greater than his Lord? Do you presume to despise what He regards? Did He bring too much love down from heaven, and must you send some of it back?"

I think the last sentence rides upon a bit of a chuckle.

We are all spiritual beings. The unsaved are guided by their human spirit and also evil spirits. The saved strive to be obedient to and abide in the Holy Spirit. Only in knowing the Lord and embracing His Spirit can we be changed to allow His light to shine through us, always looking to challenge ourselves to "walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us" (Ephesians 5:2). ❖

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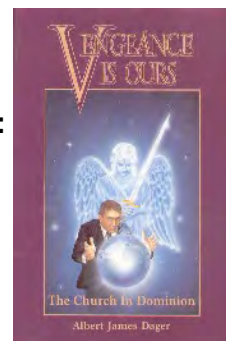
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