

STRAIGHTWAY

And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him [Mark 1:18].

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O Lord! How Long?!

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Through God's providential powers, 2016 may go down in the annals of American history as the year when God permanently sealed our country to its foreboding death. It is still unknown at this time what powers God will finally appoint to bring this country to its knees with absolute judgment.

For this time in our history, we are drawn to the burden of the prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk penned his book around 627 B.C. on the eve of the Babylonian Captivity; it is possible he may have lived into the third deportation of 586 B.C. The meaning of his name bears the

hope of "embrace." The prophet wanted "to embrace" God and/or His people, or the prophet wanted "to be embraced" by his God Who answered him when he cried out.

The Prophet's Cry

The true remnant of the End Time today finds itself with a similar heart perplexity as the prophet Habakkuk found amidst the deep debaucheries and violence consuming the once sacred city of Jerusalem. He wondered how long God would wait before bringing a finality of judgment upon the wicked and perverse city of Jerusalem.

This edition includes two more articles

America and Its Ideological Demise
America: Reading Its Obituary

Habakkuk cried out:

O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance? for spoiling and violence are before me: and there are that raise up strife and contention. Therefore the law is slackened, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong judgment proceedeth (1:2-4).

As Christians living in America, we never would have thought eight years ago (yea, four years ago, yea, even perhaps twelve months ago) that our country would be found in the swirling vortex of intellectual insanity, characterless leadership, ineptitude of academia, moral bankruptcy pervaded with inordinate affections of strange flesh controlling the laws of our country. And with all of this cacophony and absurdity, there is the mixture of covenants among the diabolical powers of the

abyss of Satanic darkness. Yes, we cry as Habakkuk amidst our own national sinful distress, “O Lord, how long” before full judgment is sent upon this evil, God-forsaking nation called America?

The Lord told Abraham, “For the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full” (Gen. 15:16b). Nevertheless, it seems that the evils of America are more appropriately at the proportions mentioned in Revelation 18:5, “For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.” The cry continues in Revelation 18:6, “Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.” In all that now plagues our nation, we seriously wonder if the cup of our iniquity can take another drop of evil.

The Lord’s Response

Unto Habakkuk’s disturbing cry the Lord responded, “Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you” (1:5). God proceeded to declare to Habakkuk that He was working, and that He would use the Chaldeans to bring this judgment upon His people in Jerusalem. In the light of the Chaldean reputation for evil, and of the barbarous atrocities they were known to commit, the prophet was shocked that God would use such

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a people to judge Jerusalem. The ignoble Chaldeans were far worse in their sins as heathen than even the deep sins of the Jews at Jerusalem. The prophet was shocked that God would work this way to bring about the needed judgment.

In the midst of this wonderment, Habakkuk then questioned God's method of correction and judgment. How could the Judge of all the earth use a much worse evil to correct an evil? For such a judgment could get out of hand and take the matter further than what should be taken in judgment. Oh, the symbolic Chaldean powers that are prevalent in our times! Any one of them could be used by God to bring about the final destruction of America.

The Prophet's Response and God's Response

In Habakkuk 2, the prophet responds to the Lord's sobering words of His coming judgment by the Chaldeans. He is hoping that God will change His mind, and perhaps another remedy to the evil of Jerusalem could be produced by the Lord. Therefore, the prophet stands upon his watch, "to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved" (2:1).

The answer does come from the Lord in three declarations. (1) First, He assures Habakkuk that He truly will balance the books in speaking of judgment upon all who do wrong. The child of God must believe that

the Lord will vindicate His truth and holiness. But, we must remember that judgment may not immediately come, because God is not willing that any should perish; but He wills that all men come to repentance. (2) The Lord also assures that there is a wonderful and blessed day coming when the earth will be filled with "the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (2:14). Oh, what a soul-stirring consolation to know that there will be a day when evil will be overthrown, and that God's Truth will rule as a song over the earth. Yet, (3) the Lord clarifies that there is to be a chain of events over time in-between these two assurances.

For this in-between period the Lord tells Habakkuk, "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith" (2:4). This declaration is thus: "Behold the proud! His soul is not right within him; but the just [or the righteous] shall live by his faith." This declaration is where we find ourselves today. The proud control the world's leadership; they rule and judge by their pride and self-ambition; there is no desire or consciousness of God in what they do or say. In the light of this, God's remnant will see no evidence of the triumph of truth, or of that which is right and noble. *The Christian will have to live his life during this season of global history simply by faith alone.*

If we walk only by sight, today

we see no thread of hope that the right and the true will triumph. We cannot existentially pretend the deep, diabolical evil of this present age does not exist; rather, we must acknowledge it. The Word of God declares what the age to come will be; God will bring to naught all of the evil, and truth and holiness will become the watchword of the new world.

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Rising in Scripture is the fourfold view of this phrase given in Habakkuk 2:4; each of the contexts is important for specific seasons of our lives. Here in Habakkuk the first emphasis seen is upon *his* faith. Our living as a Christian in this generation cannot be upon *another's* faith; each needs a biblical, personal faith. We are in a critical time in history when families are being divided; the Devil is working to draw children away from "the faith" of their godly parents. Oh, how the Devil and the world collaborate and conspire to draw the hearts of children away from the God of their fathers! We must pray that God will settle this personal faith in the hearts of the children of the remnant at a time when lukewarmness seems to have become the greater characteristic of children.

The second emphasis of this biblical phrase is found in Romans 1:17, when Paul speaks of the Gospel and declares, "For therein is

the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" In this context the emphasis is upon the word *just*. Only God can declare a man just or righteous before Him. It is through the Word of God alone "in faith" that we come to believe this declaration of righteousness for our lives. Professing Christians tend to constantly question whether God has justified them. The apostle Paul cries out, "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth" (Romans 8:33). We must believe we have been made just by God Himself according to faith in His Word.

The third emphasis of this phrase is found in Galatians 3:11, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, 'The just shall live by faith.'" The emphasis in this passage is upon the word *faith*. It is not by the *law* that we are justified; it is not by the *law* we live this justification, but it is by *faith* in contrast to the works of the flesh. A living faith in the human heart is forever in obedience to the Word of God, for hearing in obedience is what creates that faith in the believer.

The final presentation of this phrase is in Hebrews 10:38, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Here, the emphasis is upon the word *live*. Yes, there is the act of faith to be justified; nevertheless, justified people before

God must *live* by faith. We dare not go back on God! This *living by faith* is one of the evidences of the Elect: they will not draw back unto perdition, but will continue to *believe* (in the present tense, Heb. 10:39) to the saving ultimately of the soul. There are three tenses concerning our salvation: we *have been saved* from our sins; we *are being saved*; and, we *shall be saved* in the end.

The Prophet's Prayer and Resolve

Habakkuk 3 gives the prayer of this dear prophet. He gave it upon the *Shigionoth*, a word meaning "loud crying." He knew inevitable judgment was coming. He prayed:

O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.

This cry for revival must be our hope at this time in history. There can be no turning back of America, no matter who is elected its president. The wound of this country has become incurable. In a previous *Straightway* article entitled "Wherefore God Gave Them Up" (January-March 2014, Vol. 42, Number 1), we gave the following observations:

One of the passages of Scripture that rises in condemnation of our time in history is Romans 1, the presentation of one of seven New Testament apostasies. This passage concerns the apostasy of the natural man through

immorality. Though individuals may be found in various sins of fornication (the general term for all sexual acts of uncleanness), a line can be crossed where one goes beyond the acts of fornication and enters into a state of those sins, making a supreme ruling choice to never leave that state of sin. Only God knows when this line is crossed and when He has given an individual up to the state and power of that sin.

The three stages leading to this apostasy are found in the first chapter of Romans. (1) The first stage (Romans 1:24, 25) is where God gives them up to uncleanness. We acknowledged in the article that "we believe the first giving up of our country took place in the 1960s, the most demoralizing decade in our country's history."

(2) The second stage (Romans 1:26, 27) is where God gives them up unto vile affections. For this stage we made the following observations:

I believe we witnessed this giving over by God in the early days of President Obama's administration, when the floodgates were opened to make lawful such inverted sins. The first stage of "giving up" by God was in the realm of the *perverted* sin of fornication. In contrast, this second stage is in the context of the *inverted* sin of fornication....

In this stage of apostasy men are given over unto "vile affections," or passions of dishonor. Romans

1:26, 27 is a clear description of sodomy, of homosexuality, of lesbianism, and all evil, inverted forms of that realm of darkness. Paul calls it, “that which is against nature.”

(3) The third stage (Romans 1:28) is where God gives them over to a reprobate mind:

I believe this has taken place in the past three years. Now insanity rules the leadership, the courts, the schools, the businesses, the music, the art world, the economy, and every part of the government. Our country is in the final judgment; it must, apart from a miraculous delay of providence, go under overthrowing itself. Such a people had some kind of God-consciousness at one point; now they have turned away from Him....They rejected God, and they rejected Him for every part of their lives. Therefore, God will reject them and give them over to a reprobate thought life. Our nation’s leadership hates God; it refuses to acknowledge God in anything or for anything. Because of this and the evils of the first two judgments, God now has given them over to a mind void of judgment. At this time in our country, we cannot expect leadership to think rightly and rationally; God has now made them incapable of sane judgment.

We concluded the article with these observations:

The average American does not know how severe these judgments

of God have become in our country. And any restraint by the remaining conservatism of our country is merely a hand trying to keep back a tidal wave of destruction. The only reason we have not totally collapsed into ruins is the mercy of God for His remnant. Will we as true Christians experience the full collapse of this country before the secret coming of Christ for the Elect, or will we go through it as a prelude to the coming Tribulation Period? America, as we have known it, must die. And its death will be the worst in history, for we have had the greatest light of biblical truth through many stirrings of awakenings and revivals. But alas, those days are both gone and despised by the present generation, yea, even the present generation of the institutional Church. To be a “true” Christian today makes us a prey for the government and for the nominal church. To be a “true” Christian makes one an enemy to society and to the new age of man to come.

The Prophet’s Final Words

As Habakkuk realized the inevitable judgment, he stated in 3:16,

When I heard, my belly trembled; my lips quivered at the voice: rottenness entered into my bones, and I trembled in myself, that I might rest in the day of trouble: when he cometh up unto the people, he will invade them with his troops.

This condition is where we stand today in the light of what is coming

to America. It is now impossible to pray, “God bless America,” for we would be praying for blessing upon its sins. There may be a cry for God to “save America,” but it is beyond the will of man to change the sins that have been woven into the warp and woof of the very fabric of present society. Perhaps we could pray for God to have “mercy” on the remnant within the divinely-appointed judgment. In the days of this prayer by the prophet, the impending judgment quickly followed.

We think of the words of the English poet Shelley, who was expelled from Oxford for writing the pamphlet *The Necessity of Atheism* (1811). He espoused in this work that “mankind had only to will that there should be no evil and there would be none.” We have come to that hour in America when the leadership has tried to will evil out of existence. We also remember the words of Marquis De Sade: “The goal of humanism is the death of God. Man will not be free until God is abolished, until there is total freedom to believe and live anything and everything contrary to the Bible.” This has become the heart of America.

Yet, we must see the fixed heart of God’s prophet in all of this sobering message from God to him.

*Although the fig tree shall not blossom,
neither shall fruit be in the vines; the
labour of the olive shall fail, and the
fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall
be cut off from the fold, and there shall*

*be no herd in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice
in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my
salvation. The Lord God is my strength,
and he will make my feet like hinds’ feet,
and he will make me to walk upon mine
high places (3:17–19).*

May God grant to us the spirit, the heart, and the vision of these last three verses for they become another cry of the remnant, revived and coming to know that in God all of our springs will be found.

Oh, how great the difference between the opening and the closing of this prophet’s burden! He begins as a man in a holy anger over a city in deep sin, a man bewildered, confused, and in a great perplexity. But, it is evident that he closes as one who has found the answers to all of his perplexities, coming to rest in God Himself.

Yes, the soul cries, “O Lord, How long!” God will answer prayer in bringing the worst judgment we have ever known through the destruction of all that made America great. But no matter what happens when it comes, when God strikes the natural resources, the economy, the national heritage, the banks, the businesses, and the past “great American dream,” may we come to a revival of heart that *although* all of the greatness of America collapses and comes to nothing, *we will rejoice in the Lord God of our salvation*. May we rise to live above this mess of hopelessness—we are seeking a city whose builder and maker is God! [S]

America and Its Ideological Demise

Dr. H. T. Spence

Global governments are increasingly gathering in the symbolical waiting room of the world's hospital where "nations in perplexities" go to die. The news of America's tragic decline over recent years has taken the country to the brink of its national death. What has happened to this once vivacious, vibrant nation of historic and world renown, a nation that seemed to have known the hand of God upon it? Its diagnosis is clear: the righteous foundations that so magnificently supported its greatness have been carefully dismantled, forcing both the infrastructure and the superstructure to rapidly implode.

With such an implosion, in its place other governmental ideologies continue to arise, vying for a global supremacy that will discard capitalism and whatever remains of any resemblance to democracy.

The Economy of America

Before observing these global ideologies, and America's own "heart failure," we must acknowledge that this nation has known greatness beyond its national peers. Though it may be said by some that there is no such thing as a world currency, the America dollar has been the dominant or reserve currency of the world since World War II. The United States became the world's

largest and most powerful economy on the earth during the post war years. Therefore, other nations agreed for the dollar to become the predominant currency. As a result, all major commodities were quoted in American dollars. Countries had to first purchase American dollars in order to pay for commodities from other nations. Because of this, America has made money from its money in that countries must first buy our currency to make transactions with other countries. America has had a leading edge on the rest of the nations in that we purchase commodities with our own currency. Yet, in being the current world currency, we are able to do what other nations cannot do—we simply print more money to pay for what we buy.

However, the nations of the earth are now rising up against America. The most recent years have revealed even to the atheistic nations of the world that we have lost the character and quality of life we once had. Imbecility marks the leadership; our natural life has been lowered to the level of many third world countries; and we are bankrupt not only economically but also in every virtue of life. The world is now looking to other ideological standards of leadership.

Three other global currencies are

rising to take the place of the dollar: the euro of the European states, the Japanese yen, and the Chinese yuan.

More recent years have revealed that government in America has taken hold of a new economic ideology based on the postmodernism delusion that has yielded an out-of-control financial experiment. We have expanded our money supply over 400% in just the past six years. And alarmingly, we have doubled our national debt since 2006. Economic records indicate that it took our nation 216 years to bring us into the overwhelming debt of \$8.5 trillion; but in just the past eight years we have more than doubled that amount to \$19 trillion (May 2016).

Manipulation of many financial sources has kept inflation amazingly low in the public eye. It is also nothing but the sheer mercy of God that the bottom of our country has not turned into sawdust. Our government has kept its printing presses rolling non-stop, 24 hours a day, printing more than \$4 trillion new dollars and yet we still have had to borrow an additional \$9.4 trillion. It is only a matter of time when the façade will fall and we will find ourselves under the rubble and debris of it all.

Our country's own economic failure has produced a growing disdain for the economic concept of capitalism throughout the

world. This has been perpetrated intelligently by those who are desiring to destroy America and its spirit of independence, free enterprise, and moral responsibility. It is not that capitalism does not work; rather, "the powers that be" have manipulated capitalism with widespread corruption, pride, and greed to intentionally sabotage this ideological method of business. They seek to parade the failure of capitalism in order to demand it be cast aside so that America will embrace a different ideological method of socialism or a coming new method.

Western Thought Leading Up to the Birth of Communism

We need to take a brief journey through history to view the subtle rise of philosophical thought that led to the birth of global communism. The 1600s revealed a weakening of the Roman Catholic Church's supremacy and influence in Europe. But before the Protestant movement could lay hold of Western culture, we must remember that a number of nonreligious movements began to pervade European thought. These ideologies are found in the writings of René Descartes and Baruch Spinoza. From their writings arose rationalism. Rationalism (which elevates the human mind above any consideration of the supernatural) birthed philosophies and concepts of ethics that promoted the belief that man is "god-like." The power of the mind in rationalism was

now the center of man's universe; this contradicted the place of God that the Church for centuries had promoted. At the same time, Deism had arisen portraying God as only the Creator and therefore not in any way involved in His creation after its beginning. Then the Enlightenment came with the rationalistic thinking of a number of men who stepped forward in boldness of words attacking the God of heaven. François Marie Arouet was the atheist who wrote under the pseudonym of Voltaire; he was against all religious expression. Jean Jacques Rousseau did not believe in the depravity of man; he proposed that every human is possessed with a spark of deity that simply needed to be fanned into a flame through greater human liberties. He promoted the idea that there was a "noble savage" chained inside of man who needed to be set free, and that man could become his own god.

Out of these men's writings (and others of their day) came the revolutionary ideas that birthed the French Revolution. The revolution began with a defiant hatred for the established political order, including the Roman Catholic Church (and their belief of God), and declared that for man to be free politically he must also be free from Christianity. This belief destroyed the Church's central role in European society even unto this day.

But when the 1800s unfolded in

the rationalist's history, there were other men who arose with powerful influence. The German theologians stepped forward on the heels of the French Revolution with the intent to destroy the Bible, denying God and any belief of the supernatural. They strongly promoted the theory of evolution, producing their own rationalistic theory of man from a non-God rationalistic perspective. Salvation was now through the new sciences coming into vogue, the new technologies of the Industrial Age. To them the Bible became a mythological book with an absence of Christ. Man was declared to not be in the image of God.

At the height of World War I, the intellectualism of man brought forth another revolutionary mood that came in the guise of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. We must remember that out of this revolution emerged a country and a government that would be based not on a religion, but openly for the first time in history exclusively on atheism. Only a band of about 17,000 people brought forth the horror of communism and this new government in the Soviet Union. Yes, from its beginning it was brutal and built upon the aggression of terrorism, as deep as the terrorism of Islam. This ideology of communism was based on the belief of collective ownership of property, a monstrous dictatorship of the proletariat, and the suppression of the desires and the ambitions of individuality. It

would sweep the world in power and influence.

The Rise and Fall of Communism

This ideology was first spread by subversive groups in Europe. Then after World War II it forcefully took over Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, the Baltic States, Romania, and Bulgaria, and overwhelmingly the great nation of China. It so quickly pervaded countries that nearly half of the population of the earth fell under the heel of this system of atheism.

Communism may be simply defined as an economic and social system in which all property and resources are collectively owned by a classless society and not by individual citizens. This definition is based on the 1848 publication entitled the *Communist Manifesto* by two German political philosophers, Karl Marx (1818-1883) and his close associate Friedrich Engels (1820-1895). This manifesto promoted their ideal of common ownership of all land and capital as well as the doing away of the power of the state. According to communistic principles, the society would be regulated on the fairest of all principles: (1) From each according to his ability; (2) To each according to his needs; (3) Differences between manual and intellectual labor and between rural and urban life were to disappear; (4) This is to open up the way for unlimited development of human

potential; (5) Communism would mean that everyone at the company received the same pay regardless of their ability, how much they produced, or how hard they worked.

Nonetheless, it must be declared that there has *never* been a truly communist state in communistic history. This type of economy results in poor production, mass poverty, and little advancement for the individual. We witnessed this in the 1980s when the Soviet Union had become the product of widespread poverty and rebellions which caused the dissolution of the nation. By 1992 there were only ten nations under the banner of Communism; in that one year five dropped communism and became a dictatorship. Only five nations today identify as being communist: Cuba, China, Vietnam, Laos, and North Korea.

But we must remember that when communism is abandoned it is only a matter of time before dictatorship takes control. Communism always leaves a political, economic, and religious vacuum among the people that must be quickly filled. We witnessed this when the Berlin Wall came down beginning in 1989. Some of us may remember that the people in East Berlin were told that the wall was built to protect the population from the fascist elements conspiring to prevent the will of the people in building a socialist state in East Germany. But in fact the

wall was built to prevent the massive emigration and defection from the East. Once the wall came down a lot of money was given to the east Berliners. Sadly, exactly half the money spent by the East Berliners crossing into the West (during those first exciting months of 1989 to 1990) was spent on pornography. They did not know morally how to live with no restrictions. Communism has truly left its mark of an absolute moral void among its people; it truly has failed in every aspect of society.

Yet “socialism” still reigns as the ideological persuasion taking the place of communism, and we are witnessing this almost daily in the takeover of America.

Socialism shares similarities to communism but to a lesser extreme. It does share social and class equality as the main focus. Instead of the workers owning the facilities and tools for production, workers are paid and allowed to spend their wages as they choose, while the governing body owns and operates the means of production for the benefit of the working class. Each worker is provided with necessities, so he is able to produce without worry for his basic needs. But advancement and production are limited, and because of this there is no incentive to achieve more.

This is where America presently is, and the leadership is driving us more and more into the deep

quagmire of socialism. Both communism and socialism are near opposites to capitalism, with no private ownership and class equality, and thus eliminating social classes, genders, and sexual discrimination. A true capitalist environment in a country facilitates competition, and the result is unlimited advancement for opportunities. It must be said that the capitalists have time and time again bailed out the failures of communistic nations since the 1950s. America sent sizable amounts of money to China and Russia in those early years; but now these countries are toying with capitalism in other parts of the world to gain a foothold in other countries’ economy, including our own.

America’s Leaders Call for Another Revolution

America is now in the throes of another revolution, and it is not a revolution to declare independence from another country. It is a revolution to overthrow our national Constitution.

In these most recent years there have been books written cultivating affinities between the American Revolution of 1776 and the French Revolution of 1789. We are told that they were the “incarnations of the same dynamic force.” *But this is not true!* Our national history is being rapidly rewritten and reinterpreted by the postmodernists of our times.

In the light of this, we must

carefully review the facts. The American Revolution, after declaring its independence, produced a Constitution and a government based on the principles of the Bible and under the fear and reverence of Almighty God. To the contrary, the French Revolution was based openly on everything that was anti-Christian and anti-God. It was strongly and publicly motivated by rebellion against the Church, and it was established upon the ideas of the Deists and the so-called “free-thinkers” such as Descartes and Rousseau. History is very clear that France sought to remove God and to crown the reason of man in God’s place. The French Revolution was a product of the Enlightenment, and thus was exclusively based upon the glorification and deification of man. In contrast, the patriots in America at that time were humbling themselves before God, crying out to Him and beginning to witness the Second Awakening of revival from Heaven.

There is another clear distinction between these two revolutions. The Declaration of Independence (1776) was a list of grievances against the King of England, and it intended to justify an honorable separation from the rule of Britain. Our Constitution (1787) was a charter of government that had to be ratified by the states in order to become the supreme law of the land. Both of these documents were signed in Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

The English statesman Edmund Burke made a trip to Paris in 1773 to see what was taking place there. When he returned to England, he warned the British parliament that the political theories of the contemporary philosophers could only produce tyranny. Burke predicted to his constituents that the coming revolution in Paris would be “the most horrid and cruel blow that can be offered to civil society through atheism.” When the Bastille fell into the hands of the revolutionists in 1789, and the Reign of Terror ensued, Burke placed directly the blame for France’s atrocities and ensuing miseries upon its people on the philosophy that denied God. He called it “the terror, an orgy of hate and revenge,” and that it was the product of the writings of the Enlightenment. Yet, the Enlightenment declared that if man was left to himself he would inevitably behave in a rational and just way. But oh, the contrary! Man left to himself will destroy himself.

Yes, the Reign of Terror and its outpouring in France was the outpouring of what Rousseau had called “The General Will,” and as expressed through what John Locke had called “The Social Contract.” This was the belief that a moral consensus among men would be for the good of man. The French Revolution provided a clear and most striking example of humanism unchecked, of man given unlimited

power apart from God controlling his evil nature. This same spirit is taking place in America today; man's nature is being released to do anything he wants, with no restraints, and no God to tell him what to do. David prophetically declared:

Why do the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us (Psalm 2:1-3).

But David also states, "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision."

What took place during that Reign of Terror? Among the first items on the agenda of the revolutionaries was the open rejection and the desecration of the Church. It taught the people to scoff the Church, to mock God, and to reject religion altogether. The intellectuals of the time portrayed the churches as reactionary enemies of progress. It is amazing that in public statements the leaders of our country are now defiantly attacking the Christian world. The Christians are now being viewed as the subversive, homeland terrorists, who are wanting to "turn back the clock" on progress to what they think was a better time. Yet, the liberals who control the leadership of our country, the courtrooms, and the educational halls of our land, believe that great social advances have been made with abortion-on-

demand, homosexual and lesbian liberation, same-gender marriage, no-fault divorce, and the dissolution of the biblical perspective of the family. France's "Reign of Terror" is coming soon to America.

The French Revolution quickly turned into religious persecution. The government embarked on a systematic de-Christianizing campaign. Churches were closed and converted to profane uses, like stables for horses. Religious schools were destroyed. The religious press was outlawed. All religious services were forbidden. Priests and nuns were rounded up in large numbers and sent into exile, imprisoned, or executed. The aim of the government was to wipe out every remaining vestige of Christianity. The motto of the French Revolution was "liberty, fraternity, equality." And it became the proto-communist motto.

Conclusion


During that horrible time in France, God sent a spiritual awakening to America preparing for its birth in 1776. Later when George Washington took his oath to the office of President he added, "So help me God." This was the spirit, the mood, and the hope of America's revolution. In England, just across the English Channel from France, God sent the Revivalist movement which dominated the 1700s and kept England from being swept into the vortex of the atheistic philosophies

of the French Revolution. Revival held back the tide of the destructive powers of France.

But we are in the throes of French thinking now in America. Though we know that Revelation 18:2-5 is referring to the coming city of Babylon, the Antichrist's city at the end of the Tribulation Period, we believe the words are appropriate now concerning the collapse of our country. The world will witness with great mocking our demise, and cry,

[America] the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of

the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

May God have mercy on us for what is ahead. We claim once again the ending prayer of Habakkuk. 

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America: Reading Its Obituary

Dr. H. T. Spence

What will be the final death stroke for America? From one perspective, only God knows what instrument of death He will use to bring about America's demise. There are a number of powerful international leaders (along with some in our country) who are collectively working untiringly to bring about the final death blow to America. For America seems to be the last bastion of morality, truth, absolutes, and the dignity of liberty remaining on the earth. It is the final obstacle against a long-desired New World Order. Many ideological diseases have been inflicted upon this nation to weaken its strength. The strong man has been bound from within; we are now witnessing the death of this strong man. But amidst the counsel of the wicked, only God will bring the final death blow to America. His judgment will be because of our overwhelming sins and our covenant with the Prince of Darkness.

We have observed the rise and fall of communism, and the implementation of socialism within this country. We have also observed the trilogy of God giving up a society according to Romans 1. But another aspect to be addressed is the acclimatization of America to secularism.

The Rise of Secularism

When Liberalism and Modernism made their debut during the mid-

1800s, they created a destructive force against the Bible's literalness; this attack in return destroyed the authority of the Bible in man's thinking. Thus, in time it destroyed the place of God's presence and authority in man's living. These were the early stages of secularism. Once such a reality was evident among the leaders of the Church, the momentum of secularism overwhelmingly increased.

Charles Robert Darwin brought another dimension to the process through his presentation of evolution. Although evolution had been known through the writings of Lamarck, Darwin added a philosophical context to the view that went on to permeate not only science but also all of the social sciences. By the mid-1900s, after the forces of Neo-Orthodoxy through Existentialism kept pounding away at the literalness of the Bible, Radical Theology gave its contribution to secularize the secular. It called for the "death of God" in everything including religion. Even John Robinson in his writing *Honest to God* called for a secularizing of religion. Neo-Evangelicalism brought the conservative church closer to the world's thinking by doing away with biblical separation. Following hard on its heels was the Charismatic movement which made the feelings of man equal or even

synonymous with the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

We cannot blame the world for secularism; it has been the mutating of error within the Church that has cast God out. The Laodicean Church Age, because of its emphasis upon prosperity and physical health, has become a Christless church; its embrace of the secular has become more powerful than the spiritual. Most Christians today have no vision for God; such a vision certainly is not evident in secular society. Western civilization no longer has any remote concept of who God is, what He is, and how He acts. Outside the walls of the church God is absent and obviously omitted. People are crying out today that if God did exist why would He allow all of the violence that is found throughout the land. Well, we must remember the courts banned God from our schools; therefore, we cannot blame Him for what is happening. The daily newspapers have their society pages, their sports page, their entertainment section, and even the religious section. But nothing is said about God. The media through television and cinema are conspicuously silent in their treatment of God. Such silence about God reigns in all of the sit-coms while the sodomy theme pushes the envelope of the final frontier of immorality in the media.

The contemporary view of the supernatural is now through the eyes of Harry Potter, where it is

evident God is not to be found in his supernatural world. The primer of God consciousness that was found in most children is now being interpreted through the occult. The present generation is allowing nothing to have the presence of God; nothing is allowed to speak of God unless it is in a damning way. Everything in our contemporary which speaks in the schools, in the medical world, in the entertainment world, the science world, the art and music world, and even from the religious world have all labored at keeping God out of the conversation. America has been secularized in its lifestyle and philosophy. The secular world has become secularized. We are in the final throes of its acclimatization before the coming of Christ and Antichrist.

The contemporary church is found in Revelation 3:14–22, the Laodicean church. Lukewarmness is the norm of Christians today in their profession of and stand for God. This is becoming evident among the most conservative of professing Christians. One of the evidences that the institutional Church has become secularized is its emphasis upon the visceral or the physical: “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing” (Rev. 3:17a). This church age, a Christless Church age, is void of insight to the spiritual world of God: “And knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor and blind, and naked”

(3:17b). Generalities now rule about God; no specifics are being given from the pulpit anymore, no specifics are being prayed anymore, and no specifics are being thought about God anymore. Such secularized thinking makes void our thinking of the spiritual: “and knowest not...”

The Intolerance for God

Russia's 1917 Bolshevik Revolution changed the history of the world, affecting millions of people. When Czar Nichols II dragged 11 million peasants into World War I, the Russian people became discouraged with their injuries and the loss of life they sustained. The country of Russia was in ruins, ripe for revolution. In the 1930s, the communists began pouring into America through the influence of powerful media personalities such as William Hearst; these Soviet writers and teachers began to infiltrate the American public education system. The Great Depression also opened the door for a greater emphasis on socialism rather than collectivism of communism. In the 1940s less than 5 million Americans actually completed four years of college; by the mid-1960s that number swelled to 12 million.

The mid-1960s also witnessed the rise of radicalism in America. More and more, open mindedness became the way to destroy honorable thought and sound reasoning. The closing of the American mind brought the

country to what was called “value-neutral” thinking in the public school system as well as in the halls of higher learning. Secularism now declared that “truth is relative.” Both teachers and students were now indoctrinated with the belief that *truth* is a word identified with *absolutism* and therefore must be done away with. To them, there is only one truth: truth is relative. As René Descartes declared, “I think, therefore I am.” Friedrich Nietzsche wrote, “God is dead, God remains dead. And we have killed him.” Albert Camus announced, “There are truths but no truth.” Jean Paul Sartre boldly wrote, “We have neither behind us, nor before us in a luminous realm of values, any means of justification or excuse. We are left alone, without excuse.” Upon this heap of rotting thought, men now live without hope uttering, “Life is hard, then you die.”

We are in a focused, overt de-Christianizing of America. It began with pluralism, tolerance, and relative values. As we have observed, this is the way the revolution started in France. At the beginning of secularism's inroads into a society, the intellectual allure was intriguing. Educated men and women were tantalized by promises of the humanist dream, and it was no great leap of faith to swallow the absurd logic of Darwinism, Freudian psychology, or even of Marxist-Leninist social theory. As secularism flourished,

society became infatuated with new ideas and possibilities without God. It truly became a hunger for the forbidden fruit of Eden all over again. The lust for the knowledge of good and evil, with the absence of God, became the insatiable thirst, believing the promise of Satan: “Ye shall be as gods.” Secularism, through its social scientists (i.e., Carl Jung, B. F. Skinner) has led us to the belief that “if it feels good, do it.”

Jung told us that collective conscience of the human race determines our values and our beliefs. Skinner taught that we practice norms of right and wrong by simply learning the natural behavioral patterns acceptable to the greatest number of people. (We are deceptively told that the majority believed this; in its earlier years, this was not true.) Such men taught that anything that gives man freedom to do what he wants to do should be accepted. But the reality of it is that sin is ever mutating, and getting deeper, darker, and more intense as we near the coming of Antichrist.

God Must Be Acknowledged in All Things

Secularizing the secular world will bring the wrath of God down upon this generation. Note Acts 12:21–23:

And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. And

immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

We are in such days when men refuse to acknowledge God in any subject of life. But to the contrary we must speak more and more of Him as the age quells His name in conversations. We cannot talk about origin without Christ as the centrality of the conversation:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (Col. 1:15–17).

We cannot talk about history without Christ being the centrality of the conversation. God, for His Son, has already written history.

Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds [the ages].

We cannot talk about languages without acknowledging God in their original diversity (Gen. 11:1–9). We cannot speak of the nations divided and their geographical inheritance without acknowledging God:

When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel (Deut. 32:8).

Such a truth is also found in Acts 17:26,

And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation.

Daniel acknowledged God in the rise and fall of kingdoms and their rulers:

And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings (Dan. 2:21).

Nebuchadnezzar, the great king of Babylon, tried to secularize his thinking and conversation. But such an insane thought brought a curse from God; God made the great monarch like a beast of the field for seven years. Only afterwards was God's great mercy extended to him.

And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? (Dan. 4:34–35).

Even our own individual life cannot be spoken of without the acknowledgment of God (Psalm 139; Hebrews 9:27). The saints will sing such a truth in heaven:

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive

glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Rev. 4:11).

God will bring this secularized Day of Man to an end at the Battle of Armageddon; we long for that day.

The Islamic Takeover of America

We have faced the threat of communism; we are facing the pervasion of socialism; we are facing the bankruptcy of secularism in our country, and there are new dangers rising in America. This year's presidential candidates can make no difference concerning the death of this country, other than to solidify its permanent death. Will it come through the deceptive business pragmatism of a Trump, or the sleazy, dark manner of a Clinton, or the surprising rise of an Obama bringing another scenario to America's funeral parlor? Only God knows, and He will appoint the final providence for this death and our nation's "scattering to the winds."

The Rise of Islam

Another great potential danger is the takeover of Islamic rule in America. Such a shift would radically change the very philosophical and ideological face of this country. The spirit of such a shift in America has already begun. Although eight years ago we would not have suspected the aggressive rise of Islam in the

world, this life-controlling, anti-God religion has steadily been growing internationally. While the national population of many countries has been diminishing, Islamic families in those same countries have been exponentially increasing. Germany tried to warn the world several years ago of the alarming increase of Muslims in their own country and in other parts of the world. But their voice was quelled. Then came the shocking surprise to the world that America elected and reelected the son of a Muslim father and adopted son of a Muslim step-father. While his family was tied into the Muslim Brotherhood, most who surround him in his own Administration are Muslims. Thus, America became the number one target for Islamic powers. As to how many Muslims there are in America the figure is not certain, due to the fact that most censuses do not include religion. But a conservative estimate suggests between seven and ten million Muslims in America.

Paul L. Williams, in his book entitled *Crescent Moon Rising: The Islamic Transformation of America*, candidly declares, "The future of the country, that was conceived by the pilgrims and Puritans as 'the new Zion,' is now bound inextricably to Islam." He goes on to state the following:

The faith of the Prophet Mohammed will continue to impact and transform all aspects

of American life: social, political, and economic. Save for a cataclysmic event that will shatter demographics, Islam by 2050 will emerge as the nation's dominant religion.

Mr. Williams further expresses the reality of Muslims entering our country:

Muslims continue to pour into the country to occupy positions (vacated by aging Americans) as physicians, engineers, and scientists. Others arrived to perform tasks that American workers are unwilling to perform in food-processing plants, agricultural facilities, and telecommunications. In addition to the Muslims who come here with employment visas, thousands more arrive with student visas to enroll in colleges throughout the country. Still others with 'diversity' visas to enrich American racial composition.

Williams goes on to state that due to the immigrants coming into the country annually (legally and illegally), an accurate population count is unknown. Williams continues,

In addition to the legal and illegal Muslim immigrants, eighty thousand refugees enter this country under resettlement programs. Nearly seventy-five thousand from Islamic countries.

As for the various institutions across America, Williams reports,

Islam at present, is the most rapidly growing religion in the

country, with outreach programs on college campuses, in prisons, and within the military.

One final observation from Williams:

September 11, 2001, was not a day that changed everything. It was rather the day that revealed how much had changed. The real shock came not only from the devastation, but also the demographics. The world for many Americans became a place suddenly unrecognizable.

In my continued travels to various countries of the world, I have seen the obvious changes that have come to the European countries where Islam is literally changing their cultural identities. Recently, the city of London elected its first Muslim mayor. We are witnessing Muslims being elected to local leadership positions as well as our own country's House and Senate. More and more the powers of Islam are invading the leadership of the European countries. African nations are becoming predominantly Muslim both in population and leadership. The Eastern nations are also witnessing a takeover of the Muslim faith.

Here in America the number of mosques is over three thousand. The number of concentrated terrorist organizations thriving throughout our country remains unknown. As the media maintains our attention to other countries in regard to the terrorists of Islam, they have quelled the daily events taking place


in America as Islamic religion and Islamic terrorism continue to escalate. But above all of these hidden Muslim movements in America, we must acknowledge the witness of the continuing open cultural changes that are taking place in the major cities throughout America. Only time will reveal if God will use this power to overthrow America completely. At least, at this time such a power has vastly eroded the foundation and infrastructure of this once blessed nation under God.

Conclusion

There are other symbolic powers that may become part of the dismantling of America in the providence of God (which we will discuss in the next issue of *Straightway*). We now face a presidential election like none before, which may plunge us into the final destruction of our nation (as we have historically known it). We will be thrust into a greater global interdependence that could result in a complete global takeover. There is also the total collapse of morality in our country that has become such an aggressive, terrorist force that it is contributing to an emotional retaliation among the grass-roots of society; this unrest could easily lead to a mutinous rise against the government producing wide-spread disintegration of the fabric of America. Yes, there are a number of scenarios that God could use, even the combination of

a number of them, to bring about the final judgment of our once beloved country. The Secretary of State John Kerry pressed in his recent address to the graduates of Northeastern University the hope of the coming New World Order. One of the aspects he announced was the hope of a “borderless world.” The Utopians of our day have promised a “Land of Canaan” in a world without God. This is their vision, their dream, and they are calling upon the world to imagine such a world without God and religion.

May God bring us through these troubled and perilous times. Our only hope is for the Lord to come and take His waiting people home to

heaven, knowing that one day we will return to this earth with Christ Who will rule with His saints. This is the New World Order for which we are watching and waiting. 

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