

# STRAIGHTWAY

“And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.” (Mark 1:18)

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## America: An End-Time Nation

Dr. H. T. Spence

“The powers that be are ordained of God.” Thus are the words of the apostle Paul in Romans 13:1. The apostle wrote his epistle to the Romans around AD 58, ten years before his execution under the hand of the Emperor Nero (reign, AD 54–68). Within this epistle Paul unfolds principles concerning Christians living under world governments on earth. In chapter 13 he designated government as a “higher power.” He also declared the divine appointment of governments to bring law and order to people and nations.

Since the fall of man, the concept of government has been imperatively needed, whether in families, cities, nations, kingdoms, or empires. Romans 13 also reveals that civil government is for both the purpose of restraining evil and the promotion of natural righteousness for the benefit of the people. With this intent and purpose, God requires that men obey those that have the rule over them (Rom. 13:1–7; 1 Pet. 2:14). When there is no presence of government, anarchy is inevitable because of the sin and selfishness of fallen man.

### God’s Law Versus Man’s Law

The true role of government is to maintain peace and order in this wicked world, to punish evil, and to reward righteousness. While God desires His people to obey civil government, there is a limit concerning how far the government can declare laws and control its people. When the government through its powers requires disobedience to God and His Law, then another principle steps forward as found in Acts 4:19, 20:

But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Additionally in the next chapter Luke records, “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

When a Persian law was passed against prayer being made to God (or any god) by anyone in the Medo-Persian Empire, we read of the highest

president in Babylon, Daniel himself, responding:

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime (Dan. 6:10).

God does not require obedience to man's laws if the Christian is forced to disobey the Scriptures, the law of God.

### **Spiritual Powers Influencing Human Governments**

Rising above the governmental powers of any age have been the continual influences of the spirit world. History at times examples governmental powers promoting the good of the people. Yet at other times the gov-

ernmental powers are evil, corrupt, and filled with godless leadership, which terrorize God's people and their desire to live righteously. Whatever a government is in its character, the authority for ruling is ordained by God. Does God and His providence influence governments and their leaders through history? Yea, does the Devil and his demonic forces influence the same in history? The answer to both questions is an unequivocal yes. The Bible is replete with examples of kings and governmental leaders who were profoundly influenced by the powers of the spirit world.

Amidst the many narratives found in Scripture, one of the classic and insightful examples is found in the true story of Cyrus and his proclamation of the Jews' return to Jerusalem. God had prophesied through Jeremiah (Jer. 25 and 29) that the Jews would be captives in Babylon for seventy years. Nearing the end of the seventy-year captivity, Daniel (Dan. 10) was praying concerning this promised return. There was a twenty-one-day delay in the answer to his prayer. It was revealed that the prince of Persia (Satan), in battle with holy angels, was endeavoring to thwart Gabriel from bringing the answer to Daniel's prayer for the return to Jerusalem. Gabriel fought with Satan in the air; God then sent Michael to take up the battle. As Satan tried to keep Cyrus from giving the command for the Jews' return to Jerusalem, Michael came to influence Cyrus to do so. The outcome of this

## **STRAIGHTWAY**

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struggle is recorded by Ezra:

The LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, the LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah (Ezra 1:1, 2).

There were other times when it was evident that leaders were being led by the powers of evil through the direct influence of the Devil and his angels. This principle becomes clear in Luke 4 when we read of the wilderness temptation by Satan to Christ. In one of the three temptations, the Devil took Christ to an exceeding high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time and stated, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it" (Luke 4:6).

How did Satan gain the power and the glory of these kingdoms of the earth? How did he have the ability to give such power and glory to an individual? It is because proud men throughout history have submitted their power and allegiance to Satan in order to gain his help to strengthen their authority and glory. Amidst the truth of this matter, it must be declared it is God Who ultimately brings the rise and fall of men in history; always His permissive will must be

present even in the workings of Satan.

Every movement of governmental leaders throughout history must have the permissive will of God, as every move is in the plan of God. Providence and the power of God's Word and Will have been ever moving moment by moment throughout the thousands of years in history.

## **The End of Present History**

Often in these *Straightway* articles we have expressed our strong belief in our present existence in history: that we live in the end of the End Time of the Last Days (Matt. 24:9-14). And thus, we must look for passages from God's Word dealing with End-time words and warnings.

One of the important prophecies for the End Time of the Last Days has been Daniel 2 in the revelation of the great image of a man. This image was prompted through a dream by the most illustrious leader in Gentile human history. It was a dream given by God to a world leader who was deeply concerned with the future days, especially following his own reign. This man we know as Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, the beginning ruler of the "times of the Gentiles."

This dream was given to this world ruler of Babylon. The prophet Daniel gave not only the detailed content of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar but also the interpretation of his dream. Another insight the prophet gave as part of his interpretation of this image was a *time* concept of its unfolding. It is

very clear that at least from the “head” to the “legs” of this image of a man, other world powers would follow in almost rapid succession.

Let us note the unfolding of this dream. The head of the image is clearly identified as Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon: “Thou art this head of gold” (Dan. 2:38b). Then we read, “And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee” (Dan. 2:39a), referring to the Medes and Persians, or the breasts and arms of silver of the image. This empire overthrew Babylon literally in one night. Then we read of another empire that would come after the Medes and Persians: the Greco-Macedonian Empire under Alexander the Great, which became the belly and thighs of brass (Dan. 2:39b). Next, it would be the Roman Empire, the legs of iron (Dan. 2:40), that would overthrow the split parts of the Greek and Macedonian empire.

This leaves a final part of the image: its feet and ten toes. We have yet to know the finality of the feet and the ten toes. Perhaps we could say that we at this present time are in the ankles period of the image, a transition from the legs into the feet. The dream of Nebuchadnezzar revealed that the feet and ten toes would be composed of iron and clay, or brittle, hard clay. This iron will vainly try to mix with the incompatible clay.

Possibly an additional word needs to be said concerning the two legs of iron of the Roman Empire. Is this division the eastern and western parts of political Rome? Or are the two divi-

sions referring to a political Rome and a religious Rome, the latter seen in the power of Roman Catholicism? We know that Rome was destroyed by the Goths in AD 476; but what were these two legs? We read that part of the legs of iron will endeavor to make it down into the feet. What will this be? Again, will it be the iron of Rome politically, or Rome religiously—that of Roman Catholicism? Both are iron, trying to control humanity in absolute authority.

### **The Birth of America**

This unfolding now brings us to the feet and ten toes of the image. Two thousand years have passed as we have waited for the final part of this prophetic image. Surprisingly, at the end of the legs, or ankles, or just before the feet is the birth of a country late in history—the United States of America. Though it was historically birthed near the end of the image, it has become one of the greatest nations in human history. The nation America was birthed, not in the time of the Reformation but in the contemporary time of the Revivalist movement. It became the greatest product of both the Reformation legacy and the deeper-life legacy of Methodism. It has become in its zenith the most powerful, the most gifted, the most influential worldwide country of any End-time nation. It has had the greatest influence for Christianity around the world as well as the greatest promotion of missions in history.

Although America has become the

nation of the End Time, it does not seem to be mentioned in biblical prophecy. There are some who believe that Revelation 18 is dedicated to America's downfall and, there are a number of similarities to be acknowledged. However, we believe Revelation 18 refers to the final global city of Babylon, the finality of the cities of prophecy at the open coming of the Lord with His saints to earth, declared in Revelation 19. Though there does not seem to be any direct prophecy concerning the United States in the Bible, yet perhaps indirectly our nation may be found within the Scriptures in several areas.

The first indirect reference is in Genesis 12:3 concerning the words of the Lord to Abraham: "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." America has been a country that has blessed and supported the Jews. We believe that this is one of the reasons God has blessed our nation. Yet in more recent years many of

our nation's leaders and citizens have cursed the Jews and their leaders. Because of this increasing hatred, God will curse us as a nation. The return of Donald Trump as president may delay this judgment of God, because he is a close friend to Israel.

The second indirect reference is in Matthew 28:18–20. Here we read of the

Great Commission to the apostles that certainly has become an example to God's people throughout history, and especially to biblical Christianity in America. As God sent His apostles into the world, we as a nation have sent more missionaries into the world than any other nation on earth.

A third indirect reference is Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." America has been a nation that in the past promoted and uplifted righteousness in principle and living. God has exalted us for this. Though it is evident that Israel is warned by this verse, yet did God have our country in mind when these words were divinely inspired?

A fourth indirect reference is Psalm 33:12: "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD." Because America early identified itself with the true Lord God and His Son, we have known His blessings.

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**The most simple and basic perspective of what is right and true versus wrong and error is now the battleground. It is basically the battle fought on the final frontier between what is a truth and what is a lie.**

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A fifth indirect reference is Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Our nation, in its later history, is found in this prophecy. It is clear that God is turning us as a nation into hell: hellish living in all the forms of sin. We fear a hellish end also will come to our country. Will there be a

delay in this final destruction under the administration of Donald Trump in a brief return to a “natural” righteousness of law and order and some form of truth and principle to our government (as far as he can do so)?

A sixth indirect reference is in Revelation 13:7: “And it was given unto him [Antichrist] to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.” God has permitted the Antichrist spirit to prevail over our national leaders in the immediate past, and we as a nation have been taken by the power of the Dragon. Oh, how the righteous and the godly have been greatly persecuted under the mandates and authorities that hate true Christianity!

A seventh indirect reference includes the fact that many of our forefathers came from European nations that are included in biblical prophecy.

And perhaps an eighth indirect reference is simply the fact that there are true saints in America and that there are prophecies and promises given to saints in the Bible.

Where are we as a nation in history and more specifically as God’s remnant observing this time in history? How will this presidential election play a part in the coming days, and what are we to expect in the future? America is part of the Gentile nations that have been given by providence to the global ruling of history since the days of the Babylonian Captivity. The United States of America has become

the greatest melting pot in history of ethnicity and assimilation of nations. In the past four years, with the open-border policy of Washington, this observation has immensely accelerated. Once this nation is destroyed, evil nations will rise to pave the way for the Antichrist and his nation.

The *republic* principle of government has long been discarded in our country. The republic was the highest form of government conceived by man for man. We are now told by both Democrats and Republicans that our country is a *democracy*; however, this word is not mentioned in the United States Constitution. Unlike the stability of a republic, a democracy is most susceptible to the whims and passions of the immediate. We are in the days of growing individualism, which is Existentialism and its new cloak of Postmodernism. With such a philosophy man lives by the passions of the moment; his existence at any given moment is based upon what he feels and what he is presently thinking. Truth and absolutes are not only intentionally discarded but also intensely hated by the woke powers that rule the insanity of a non-real world of thought.

The Founding Fathers wanted to protect us from such instability in government. They wanted the laws to be made by elected representatives to prevent laws being made in the heat and passion of the moment. Sadly, this is the way laws are being written and passed today. The pressures of riots,

revolution, and the burning of cities have forced our country's leaders and citizens to yield to oppression, even to the diminishing of the police force in many cities. Three years ago, over 1,000 cities in America were burned, but the news of these atrocities was suppressed by the media. These liberal, atheistic segments of society became manipulating authorities forcing their desired changes through intimidation and fear.

In 1984, a radical change was implemented in how American law was to be interpreted. The Supreme Court declared that "public policy" was to be the presupposition for the interpretation of the Constitution and American law. They passed this interpretive law just a few days before they passed the ruling against Bob Jones University, depriving it of its non-profit status.

## **Conclusion**

We are witnessing in America a war of extreme hatred that has catapulted our country into a global inferno between two powers. The battle is not true Christianity against atheism, for both public Christianity and old atheism have died. A new Christianity and a new perspective of atheism have taken over our nation. The battle now in our country is more between natural right and overt wrong, between common-sense truth and irrational error. The most simple and basic perspective of what is right and true versus wrong and error is now the battleground. It is basically the battle fought on the final frontier between what is a truth and

what is a lie.

King Cyrus of Persia was neither a Christian nor a monotheist; however, he did seem to be a man of some character and a discerner of right and wrong. And thus he finally made a decree that brought the Jews back to Jerusalem and the freedom of worship in the newly constructed temple.

We are at the final battle between what is logically right and wrong, and between some semblance of truth versus error and evil. The battle now is not even true religion versus false religion. The most basic principles of human living are at the forefront of the philosophical battle of our time. As true Bible Christians, do we pray for a reprieve from this irrational, ludicrous thinking that has so permeated human living? Do we long for a reprieve from imminent judgment of God on our nation? Or do we pray for God to hurry on and speed our country into the final judgment of the Great Tribulation? Such an answered prayer would certainly bring us sooner to the coming of Christ for the final battle against error and the powers of Antichrist and thus bring us into the hope of His millennial reign.

It was evident that with one presidential candidate our nation would have been thrown into the final abyss of total destruction, being swept quickly into an oppressive, demonic captivity before the rapture. Yet the presidential candidate who won hopes to bring us as a nation to a certain degree of sanity and liberty for human living. What laws will he have to im-

plement in order to bring about what he believes is needed? Barack Obama left enough land mines scattered throughout the massive web of government, to enable the further installation of the Deep State, and it has become further entrenched with greater complexity and intensity of evil since 2020.

We see in prophecy no hope of recovery in our country. Our only hope for the remnant is the secret coming of the Lord before a final global takeover. Until then we must do what we can do for the best of the worst and strengthen what precious things remain. Even the wicked Nero permitted the preaching of the Gospel up until AD 64, when an imperial law was established in an attempt to destroy Christians and Christianity. Amidst the next imperial persecutions unfolding all the way to Diocletian and the final legalization of Christianity in 313, reprieves for Christians were fewer and farther between. Similar reprieves in our times will become rarer as we near the coming of Antichrist.

We must ever remember the words of Daniel 2:20–22:

Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that

know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

The prophet concluded his words to King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:45, with the following resolve:

Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: *and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure* (emphasis added).

As of this writing, Donald J. Trump has won both the electoral and popular vote in our country. Yet is our country so far gone into its intentional complex abyss of evil and wickedness that no human power of the flesh can extract us from the mire? Our wickedness is far greater than any other nation on earth. For we have mixed our wickedness with the apostasy of Christianity in all of the absurd intricacies of error. Whatever the outcome of this new administration, whether true or false (or the dark mixture of both), God's Word and plan of history stand forever. We must be ready in heart and home for the final outcome.

Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his (Dan. 2:20).



## **FOUNDATIONS BIBLE COLLEGE & THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY 2025 EVENTS**

Foundations Schools Opening Day Spring Semester — January 8<sup>th</sup>

Annual Day of Prayer — February 21<sup>st</sup>

Bible Conference — April 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>

Baccalaureate & Graduation — May 11<sup>th</sup>

Foundations Day — June 1<sup>st</sup>

Men's Prayer Conference — June 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>

Marriage Conference — July 26<sup>th</sup>

Ladies' Prayer Fellowship — August 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>

Foundations Schools Opening Day Fall Semester — August 20<sup>th</sup>

Founder's Day — September 28<sup>th</sup>

A Congress for the Christian Remnant — October 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

*Please pray for these events as well as plan to attend as many of these events as you are able.*

*More information on any of these events may be had by sending a request to [info@foundations.edu](mailto:info@foundations.edu) or calling 800-849-8761.*

# **The Place of God's Choosing for His Name**

Dr. H. T. Spence

In the last thirty days of his life, Moses both orally preached and penned the Book of Deuteronomy with a burden to the second generation. Thirty-eight years of continued deaths among all who came out of Egypt from the age of twenty and upward have concluded. With the exception of Joshua and Caleb, the first generation has died. A second generation is preparing to enter the Holy Land of promise. Within his many reflections on the past and warnings for the future, Moses includes the following declaration:

But unto the place which the LORD your God shall choose out of all your tribes to put his name there, even unto his habitation shall ye seek, and thither thou shalt come (Deut. 12:5; also 12:11, 14, 21).

This place chosen by God was Jerusalem, finally captured by King David as historically presented in 2 Samuel 5:9–12, and spoken of centuries later by Ezra in 1 Chronicles 11:4–9. Both the land of Canaan and specifically the city of Jerusalem became the divinely appointed place where God chose to place His name in the earth.

## **Recent Events**

In November 2024 the United States of America became one of sixty nations during this year to hold elections for their top national leadership. The election in the United States resulted

in a vote for a new administration that gained both the electoral and popular votes in an unprecedented manner. The nation truly voted for a philosophical mandate of government to do away with the ongoing powers promoting the literal dismantling of America, both politically and economically. A new leadership now is called upon by the majority of Americans to return to principles and values that had placed our country in the forefront of independence, rather than the ongoing pursuance of becoming a third-world country escalating into the dark powers of socialism and communism. Our nation was becoming interdependent upon the globalist authority of the United Nations. For several decades our nation was being forced by its leadership to the precipice of total collapse in every aspect of our national existence. This political vote, however, has brought an existential hope to many that our country's future can be and will be improved. Even a few other national leaders are looking to this hope.

This presidential epochal event is of global proportion, one way or another. It is not only a humanistic hope for our nation but also an ongoing assistance to Israel at this time in history. Considering the past 150 years, one can first observe a lull in the public perspective of prophecy in the 1800s. But around the first world war, God's saints became increasingly

aware of the importance of prophecy. The second world war especially brought to the forefront the Jewish world; six million Jews were killed by one man's influence. The world was suddenly forced to confront this horrific reality. Quickly the word *holocaust* was heard around the world; a holocaust is an offering given to God as a sacrifice from the world—a "burnt offering for humanity."

Another word that arose at the end of the twentieth century is the Arabic word *intifada*, meaning "to shake off." An intifada became a strong denunciation against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. We must remember that the land received the name of Palestine from the Philistines who dwelt on the sea coast millennia ago. It was also called Judea and has been termed *the Holy Land* throughout history.

Oh, the Jewish people! They have a 3,700-year history with the land of Israel, or Palestine, and a 3,000-year connection with the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is mentioned 812 times in the Bible. Every world power that has attempted to control and occupy the land of Israel has become a former world power or has lost power (such as Britain). Israel first became a nation when God delivered them from the bonds of Egypt. Israel became a nation a second time on May 14, 1948. Her neighbors have instigated wars against her in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, and during the Intifada of 2000–2004. In all these wars Israel has pro-

videntially won. In 1967, God performed a miracle for Israel in the conquering of all the land, including all of Jerusalem. After the war much of that land was eventually given back by Israel to those Arabs who resided in the land, eventually leading to a Palestinian Parliament. The notorious Hamas took control by its founding in 1987 with the intent to overthrow Israel's right to even exist. Remember, Israel is a very small nation, the size of New Jersey, and makes up less than one percent of the land of the Middle East. From present hostilities, leading back to 1948, it is evident that the ongoing conflicts of Israel will be unending until just before the public coming of Christ to earth (Zech. 14); Israel and Jerusalem will be a perpetual hotbed of history.

### **The Holy Land**

Of all the books in the Bible, Deuteronomy speaks more of this promised land than any other book. In speaking to the second generation in Deuteronomy, Moses gives several declarations: "I have set the land before you" (1:8); "go in and possess the land" (1:8); "search ... out the land" (1:22); "a good land" (1:25); "the land that floweth with milk and honey" (6:3); "a land of brooks of water, of fountains" (8:7); "a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey" (8:8); "a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it"

(8:9); “a land of hills and valleys” (11:11); “a land which the LORD thy God careth for” (11:12); “I will give you the rain of your land” (11:14); “the LORD shall greatly bless thee in the land” (15:4); “the LORD thy God ... give thee all the land which he promised to give unto thy fathers” (19:8); and “thou shalt not cause the land to sin” (24:4).

Deuteronomy 12 is a classic chapter presenting the land of Canaan as the place that God will appoint, will choose, and will declare to be His place. More specifically, we know this eventually to be the very city of Jerusalem. Although the land of Canaan will

If we as Christians ever turn away from the Lord ... either we will turn to the world's pleasures and permanently leave any relationship with God, or we will create our own Christianity.

be called “The Holy Land,” can a land be holy? The land upon which Noah’s ark rested after the receding of the Flood is called Mt. Ararat; the very name *Ararat* means “holy.” The ark landed upon a holy mount or land. Mount Moriah is also viewed as a holy mount and, Mount Sinai is called the holy mount of God, the place where God talked to Moses through the burning bush (Exod. 3:5) and the place where He spoke to Israel over a two-year period. Any place where God has manifested Himself, or where He chooses to place His name, becomes a land that is biblically viewed as holy. What makes the place holy? God’s manifested presence.

There is at least one place, biblically speaking, that the term can be used in the light of what God did and what He appointed for this piece of geography. The contrasts between the Promised Land and the Holy Land are like the heavens and the earth co-existing naturally in one realm. Is such a place (the Holy Land) to be called that today? Even amidst the apostasy of the Jewish people?

It must be acknowledged that the Jews are in apostasy today. They are not spiritually better today than what they were before Hitler’s hope of genocide through the Holocaust. They may be more religious but not in heart.

Nevertheless, the land is still a part of God’s choosing, where God revealed Himself, and

also where we know God will be in the prophetic future. In that context the land is *qodesh*, as the Bible calls it. This Hebrew word *qodesh* declares something or someone that has been set apart, or separated unto God for His specific use and ownership. And though the thing or person is separated unto God, it or he may not be holy in heart. Though Canaan today is modernized in many ways, it still is filled with many sights of antiquity that are ever declaring and pronouncing a purpose of its past. The technological advances of the kibbutz in the Negev region have made possible the

arid desert to miraculously bloom, which is part of the prophecy for that land in the End Time. There are groves of hundreds of millions of trees. Though a land of death and desolation, yet the springing up of life is vividly evident in parts of this Holy Land (Isa. 35).

Canaan today is also the land where three historic monotheistic religions call their home: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This land is where Abraham, Jesus, and the early followers of Muhammad all lived and walked. It is a place of revered shrines and prayer, of minarets and steeples that act as a human invocation to heaven. Over the many centuries, deserts have been chosen as a place for religious ascent of professed worship, and this land has become one of the most visited destinations for pilgrims.

Simultaneously, it has also become a land of epochal wars, which have seen the encountering of swords, the spilt blood of Crusaders and Ottomans, sieges and massacres, conquests and destruction. This is true even leading up to and including the most recent painful conflicts that are still without solution.

Yes, the Holy Land has become today known as "the front door of humanity," and even the door that Western civilization must go through to understand the mysteries and complexities of the East, and vice versa. For thousands of years the East and West have met between the Nile and

the Euphrates, either as warriors or merchants, and even as pilgrims.

In Roman times, the spice route leading to China began here, and this tradition has continued into the last century. The Suez Canal opened a new, revolutionary commercial corridor for the world in a variety of ways. Yet, the coming together of these three religions all converge at the Holy Land, and more specifically, this converging in tension and at times in oppression has taken place at the Holy City named Jerusalem.

How often throughout the centuries Jerusalem has become the commentary of not only the Jew but also of the Gentile world and even Christianity. We must remember that Jerusalem was birthed into Israel at a precious time of revival. Early in its history it was possessed by the Jebusites. We first read of Jerusalem in Genesis 14, with Melchizedek as its king; he becomes a type of Christ (Heb. 7). The name of Melchizedek's city was Salem, the "city of peace." We then read in Joshua 10 of the ruler named Adonizedek; he is declared as the king of Jerusalem during the time of Joshua and the entrance into Canaan. This is the first mention of the city by the name Jerusalem.

This city of peace eventually is taken by King David at a time of the unification of the tribes into one name, one kingdom. It is at this time that the city becomes the fulfillment of God's place where He would put His name. Born in revival, the city became

the capital of David's kingdom, continuing to the end of Zedekiah's reign. It became the resting place of the Tabernacle Ark and eventually where Solomon's Temple was built on one of its hills—Moriah. This is where God chose to place His name and the fulfillment of the prophecy of Deuteronomy 12. It is here that *Hashem*, "The name" would be placed. The city would also be known as *Ariel*, in Isaiah 29:1, "the Lion of God," and eventually as *Jehovah Shammah*, meaning "the Lord is there." It was the *qodesh* place—separated; it is the center of the earth and will be so for all of eternity.

### **Land in History Where God Chose to Place His Name**

God has chosen to place His name in a number of places throughout history. Harvard College, named after John Harvard (1607–1638), was one. Mr. Harvard was an English-born clergyman who bequeathed his library and half of his estate to this struggling college at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He came to Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1637, where he became the teaching elder of the small congregation at Charlestown. Sad to say, he lived only one year in the New World, dying of tuberculosis as a young man of thirty-one. He left his 400 books and half of his inheritance and possessions to the new college started only two years prior. Harvard was founded upon the need for preachers in the New World. It was a place where God chose to place His name; but alas, by

the 1700s it had become a noted institution infiltrated with Unitarianism.

Because of the eventual apostasy of Harvard, Yale College was established. It originally began with the founding of the New Haven Colony in 1638 by a group of 500 Puritans who fled from persecution in Anglican England. It was the hope of Reverend John Davenport, the colony's religious leader, to establish a theocratic colony with a college to educate its leaders and to prepare young men for the ministry. The school officially became Yale College in 1718, when it was renamed in honor of the Welsh merchant Elihu Yale, who donated much of his money to this institution. During the Second Great Awakening in America (1780–1840), several educational institutions experienced a move of God in spiritual revival. One of these schools was Yale College under the presidency of Timothy Dwight.

Eventually, Yale drifted into apostasy. This decline led J. Gresham Machen to depart and start Westminster Theological Seminary on the outskirts of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Sadly, Westminster today is Neo-Evangelical at best.

There was also the Methodist movement of England in the 1700s. Although Methodism contributed much to the spreading of the Gospel throughout England and during the 1800s in America, by the time of the late 1800s, Methodism had become a spiritually desolate land; it still is so today.

There have been other places that experienced a move of God. The Keswick movement in England during the 1870s knew the preaching of great revivals, camp meetings, and godly living. Such "holy ground" revivals also include Northfield, Massachusetts, and its conferences over the latter part of the 1800s. Although Keswick continues today in rank contemporary Christianity, Northfield closed down a number of years ago after ending up in Neo-Evangelicalism.

The Fundamentalist movement was another movement in which God chose to place His name, especially in its stand against Liberalism, Modernism, and even the compromising powers of Neo-Evangelicalism. Many of its citadels of learning, however, have gone the way of all flesh. Would God leave the places that He had built in the past? Or have these places left the God that built them?

In Scripture, a nation is different than an individual. A nation's history is made up of many generations, whereas an individual's life is only one generation. A nation can enter apostasy when a whole generation falls into a national rejection of God. This does not mean that every citizen must become a rejector of God; however, the leadership and majority of its citizens enter that rejection. There is a possibility, though, of a later generation of that nation returning to God through deep repentance. If this happens, He in turn will visit that land

again. Prophecy has declared this possibility for Israel. A generation of Israel, sometime in the future (as foretold in Romans 11) will return to their God; they will not always remain in unbelief. An individual, on the other hand, has only one life to live; it is how that individual ends his life that determines his standing before God. If that person leaves the Lord, will he come back to God? Or will he remain away from God to the end of his days? The end is most important in an individual's and a nation's existence, according to Scripture.

## Conclusion

Some fourteen years ago, my wife and I were part of a tour group that traveled to the Holy Land for 10 days. Our tour guide was an impressive, knowledgeable young man, perhaps in his late thirties or early forties. He was raised in a strong orthodox Jewish home; sixty-seven of his relatives had died in the Holocaust. As we spent some personal time with him over the course of our days together, he revealed that at seventeen he had left his Jewish orthodox legacy and had gone into the ways of the world. As the years unfolded in progressive waywardness, he eventually saw he needed to save himself from a permanently damaged life into which he was heading. His solution was to return in some degree to his orthodox legacy. As I inquired about his return, he claimed that he decided to create his own form of Judaism. Thus, his religion became a

synthesis of old Judaism with his own personally forged-out religion. He returned somewhat to his Jewish roots while creating his own form of Judaism. Perhaps this is the perspective of the End-time Jewish religion and the understanding of Jerusalem today. Sad to say, this has become the perspective of contemporary Christianity as well.

If we as Christians ever turn away from the Lord, we will do one of two things. Either we will turn to the world's pleasures and permanently leave any relationship with God, or we will create our own Christianity. Any newly created Christianity will not be a Christianity of the Scriptures; it will be a created Christianity by self. Man tends not to make full repentance and recovery; therefore, he tends to create doctrine that permits his leniency to not fully return in heart to God. Oh, the diversification of present-day Christianity! It is the most elastic religion on the earth today; of all world religions, it has the broadest acceptance of sin and carnality.

Among the three major religions in Jerusalem today, modern Judaism has had its own religious mongrelization. Things that should be dead from the past have only contributed to dead orthodoxy and outward forms of Judaism. In contrast to the Scriptures, mere outward form is what is preeminent in Judaism.

Also prominent in Jerusalem is the religion of Islam. The word *Islam*

means "submission." It is a submission to what its mutating religion has created; it is a submission to Mohammed's "self" religion that is ever mutating. Islam has become a part of the religious structure of Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

And finally in Jerusalem, there is the contemporary mixture of modern-day Christianity. Such Christianity is based on an existential philosophy, mainly the Charismatic and Neo-Evangelical mixture that includes contemporary Christian music, its worldly dress, its broad compromises with the world, the apostasy, and all the trappings that have been interwoven by the world and its identification with the Christ.

However, a biblical Christian life can only be of God's choosing. Within God's Promised Land, there is a Holy Land. It is in the Holy Land where God wants His people to live. This land is a land of great spiritual provisions, and yet a land that is His, a land of His grace, a land of the life of His Son, His Spirit, and a temple to His glory.

Ezekiel's description of the glory of the Lord departing from Israel reveals it was not an immediate departure. With the Babylonian Captivity there were three deportations. In 606 BC, Daniel and the choicest of the children were taken away down into Babylon. In 597 BC, workmen such as Ezekiel were taken and scattered across the Babylonian Empire as slaves. And, in



586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar came and destroyed both the Temple and the city. In Ezekiel's prophecy the glory of the Lord made its exodus from Jerusalem gradually. The first stage of departure was from the cherubim in the Holy of Holies to the threshold of the Temple (Ezek. 9:3; 10:4); then, it departed the threshold of the Temple (Ezek. 10:18); and finally from the Temple and the city, it departed unto the Mount of Olives east of Jerusalem (Ezek. 11:23).

We will not read of this glory returning until the Millennium (Ezek. 43:2–5). This is how apostasy comes to a ministry; the Lord lingers and withdraws gradually until finally He is gone for good. This has been the pattern of denominations that began on a biblical foundation; it is also seen in the decline of churches and local ministries, including Christian institutions. We must be warned as remnant churches of this potential in the End

Time, amidst the shiftings and shakings of God now taking place. The remnant, its churches and parishioners, and its academies and colleges, will all be affected by the powers of the End Time just before the secret coming of the Lord.

Jerusalem—the center of the earth—is a city where God chose to place His name, a city of peace, of righteousness, and where He is! I, too, must keep myself in His love, and abide in Him, or else my life will become a contemporary Jerusalem. Sad to state that when a place that once knew God's dwelling—a place where He chose to put His name—leaves the principles that made it such a place, and gradually compromises and eclectically blends with the contemporary, it will be lauded for becoming such a place. Yes, the great danger to our lives is the danger that Jerusalem knows today.

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# The Radical Change of End-Time Culture

Dr. H. T. Spence

One of the great declarations of absoluteness found within the biblical Gospel is that it is a universal Gospel to be preached in all generations to all peoples, kindreds, tongues, and nations. The Great Commission given to the apostles before Christ's ascension is found in Matthew 28:18–20:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

These verses clearly declare that all power was given to Jesus Christ: all authority both in heaven and earth. The disciples were appointed to take this Gospel to all the nations (Gr., *ethnos*, the ethnicities) of the earth. This declaration excludes no nation. The command was to teach them all things whatsoever Jesus had commanded them. There would be a "baptizing" or a common identification of all Christians. Jesus also promised He would be with them to the end of the age. Paul gives his personal testimony of his conversion and his calling in Acts 9, 22, and 26; his calling included being sent to the Gentiles, or all other ethnicities and nations outside Israel.

There are enough writings in the

New Testament to bring us to the understanding that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to be taken to all the nations. No nation or ethnic group is to be excluded from this universal Gospel! Note Revelation 5:9:

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

In the second chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians, Paul gives a description of depravity throughout all humanity. In 2:14, Christ Jesus is declared to be the power that broke down the middle wall of partition that existed between the Jews and all the ethnic groups of the Gentiles.

When the Bible speaks of the nations, it takes the reader back to Genesis 10 and 11. It was the city and the tower of Babel begun and led by Cush and his son Nimrod that brought the judgment of God. God forced a scattering of the people by diversifying their speech and vocabulary in many languages. However, we should note the perspective provided in Deuteronomy 32:8, "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." Acts 17:24–31 reveals that God made all mankind, and He is the God of every nation, of every ethnic group. There is only one God for all the human race.

Abraham was called out of Ur of the Chaldees (Gen. 12) and dwelt among other nations while maintaining his distinctiveness. Even in the New Testament, Jesus was among His own, though now and then He met with Greeks and Phoenicians. Paul ministered among the nations bringing the Gospel while also partaking with them in their living and provisions of life.

### **The Distinction of Cultures**

A most identifying distinction of nations is their culture. It is important to consider the biblical topic of culture at this time in the history of the world. One of the great influences being used today in postmodernism is this matter of culture. It is an integral part of the mindset of postmodernism.

The word *culture*, from a secular perspective, can be defined as "the fineness of feelings, thoughts, tastes, manners, etc. of an individual or of a civilization of a given race or nation at a given time or over all time." This includes a people's customs, arts, and conveniences. Culture also includes the development of the mind or body through education or training. This indicates that culture makes up a very real part of a person's life in many facets. Postmodernism declares that all cultures must be accepted and tol-

erated by all. Often in history when certain cultures were transplanted by conquering powers into a foreign country, these cultures isolated themselves in a geography within the country in order to continue their culture. This is seen both in the Old Testament and New Testament of colonies of Jews coming into another province. Large cosmopolitan cities often have, for example, a Chinatown or some other ethnic community within the larger city community. Even today in the city of Jerusalem, there is an Arabic, an Armenian, and a Jewish section of the city. City-states like Singapore have many ethnic groups that maintain their cultural identity. This cultural preservation throughout history is natural and appointed of God.

However, if a people choose to adapt to a foreign culture in which they find themselves, they know they must somewhat adopt this new country's culture. They must learn their language and explore their foods, manner of living, and local business practices. In years gone by, when one came to America he had to learn some English; he had to become American to a certain degree. If one travels to Mexico and desires to live there, he becomes Mexican in culture and learns their language. The same would be true whatever country one chooses to move to. This is both proper and often necessary.

Postmodernism, an atheistic, anti-God, antichrist philosophy and mindset, now pervades America and the

rest of the world. It seeks to destroy cultural distinctions in an attempt to bring about a single worldwide culture. But beyond our normal view of culture is a growing culture of mindset, lifestyle, and philosophy. Postmodernism is out to destroy the individualism and cultural distinctiveness of all countries by forcing a blending of all. It forces everyone to accept the language, music, and living of all cultures, especially the sins of cultures. It is one thing to accept a culture's foods, clothing colors and modest designs, formal protocols, ethnic music (to a degree), and architecture. It is another thing, however, to accept false views of God (or gods) and Jesus Christ, of unbiblical laws governing a community or nation, of unbiblical standards of right and wrong, and of the lifestyles that promote iniquity and anti-God living.

### **The Contemporary View of Culture**

The definition of culture in some countries includes the powerful interweaving of the religious lifestyles as found in Roman Catholicism or Islam. This potential interweaving is why separation was needed in Genesis 4. Cain had to leave the rest of his family. His lifestyle, feelings, thoughts, and manners would draw other family members away from God and potentially set them against God. A culture that promotes a lifestyle set against God is dedicated to a destruction of any belief in God in a society. Thus, there arises a clear and needed demarcation of a culture of an ungodly with

a culture of a godly line.

By Genesis 6, these two different and divided cultures began mixing themselves with each other. From this mixture arose a more destructive culture. This is why Paul warns us in 2 Corinthians 6:14–18 that we are not to mix such cultures and ideologies together. We are to “come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.” The Book of Psalms opens declaring this needed separation from the culture of the ungodly. “Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.” What is the culture of the ungodly, of the sinners, of the scornful?

Today, we are told we must accept the culture of these many, many people who are being brought into our country; we must accept their ways, their religions, their languages, their customs, and their laws (even if these laws are against our country and our God). Postmodernism strongly believes that the birth of America was based upon a colonialism of the past, forged by certain men's perspectives that were forced upon the rest of society. They declare that now we have come to a generation that must do away with all previous laws of America, the colonialism, the Constitution, its morality, and become a nation of a diversification of the concepts of law.

The Islamic culture, for example,

goes beyond clothing, food, and architecture; its culture is based upon its false religion. It is against a republic, a democracy; it is against the American ideal. It is against the God that gave the basic principles that birthed this government.

Our Supreme Court, as it was first

tensity of belief or lifestyle, although the Bible demands this. Postmodernism declares that such people must be permitted to live according to their all-encompassing regulations, sharia law, foods, holy days, prayers, governments, courts, clothing, and family polygamous marriages.

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**The pastor of a church ... must preach against the powers of sin that pervade the cultures of that country or the ethnic population. To the Christian, biblical culture must always triumph within the culture of the nation.**

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Who is to say that the killing of a child is not permitted in certain cultures? Who is to say the oppression of women is

instituted, was for a unified country; it was established to interpret a unified view of right and wrong, God versus heathenism, and the God of Christianity versus the gods of other religions. Though the country permitted the presence of differences of opinions and beliefs of religion, there were still unifying principles of right and wrong that must rule the new nation. America was born with a conceptual belief of natural righteousness in society.

Now our leadership declares this can no longer be. All cultures within this country must be permitted to live with their unique laws and lifestyles. Yes, it may be debated that Islam is a religion; but also it is a way of life, a culture that controls its people. This concept is far more intensified within that religion today than is found in the mongrelization of contemporary Christianity. Sadly, the public face of Christianity gives no evidence of in-

wrong? Who is to declare that if one leaves the life of Islam that he cannot be put to death? Who is to say that Jihad is wrong? Who can define what is a terrorist? Post-America is forced to accept them with open arms and without one word of condemnation or any law of restriction. Thus, through postmodernism the cities must get in harmony; the prison menus must do away with anything intimidating (such as pork); the public schools must accommodate the teaching of the culture of Islam.

### **The Bible's Condemnation of Certain Cultures**

We must remember that rape, sodomy, pedophilia, polygamy, rock music, Satanism, pornography, etc. all have their own culture. These cultures are demanding and non-discriminatory in every aspect. Now we are witnessing new breeds of postmodern cultures that demand no distinction of

genders, public restrooms, marriage, and family concepts. It is not only that we must permit them to live their culture publicly, but also that we must provide them public benefits to assist them to give no offense to their mindset and culture. God's Word condemns certain lifestyles; in fact, they must be extricated from the culture of humanity.

Dear reader, this is where we are today: a total destruction of anything that does not permit the abnormal or the wickedness of sin within a nation. We are being forced both to accommodate and to believe it is all right. Yes, God made the races, the ethnic people, and all have their manner and ways of living in the light of their geographies, their nativity, and their peoples. But sin can pervade any culture, no matter who the people are. The Christian must preach not only the Gospel to *all* men, calling them to Christ the singular Saviour, but also the life-changing power of that Gospel to be conformed to the message that Gospel proclaims. Cultures may continue with those redeemed people, but any sin found within those cultures must cease! These sins may arise in dress, principles, concepts, addictions, mindsets, images, signs, proclivities of thought, laziness, strains of religion, the occult, and music. The Christian culture must triumph in all national cultures as true Christianity. A Christian does not do certain things; he does not go to certain places; he does not give allegiance or permissibility to sin. The pastor of a

church, no matter the nation where that church is located, must preach against the powers of sin that pervade the cultures of that country or the ethnic population. To the Christian, biblical culture must always triumph within the culture of the nation.

## **How Cultures Change Over Time**

The globalist culture of postmodernism has resulted from a long journey of existential wandering. It is beyond reason. Honorable reason was a friend to truth, though it came to a point in the Enlightenment of the 1600s and 1700s that it rejected God and His revelation, the Bible. World history has gone through several cultures that have been the product of ideologies and philosophies. The culture we are now in is one that is without foundation, without truth, without absolutes, without right or wrong. In this present culture of the End Time, man lives for the existential moment.

Postmodernism is capable of confronting a truth and simply calling it a lie, and replacing the truth with a lie. Yet they angrily refuse any attack about their changing truths into lies. A great danger of living in postmodernism is the eventual loss of sight concerning what is truth in one's culture and society.

An old Chinese proverb says, "If you want to know what water is, don't ask a fish." Why is this? Because the fish does not know any other kind of life. It is submerged in the monotony and single vision of a watery existence. To

the fish no other existence is possible; hence, one cannot conceive of anything by which to measure its own existence. It is the same with our present society: men have become blind to what is happening all around them, and they have no understanding of what they are becoming in this present philosophical culture. Sometimes a culture can be imperceptibly absorbed and then interwoven into the consciousness of its people. When this happens, it is difficult for those within the culture to be objective. When you have known another culture, comparisons can be made. One can be in a context of a culture, move away for a season, and then a year later return and see the changes; those living in it day after day will not see the changes. This is the sad reality of the times in which we live. After a while one becomes accustomed to his environment (both naturally and philosophically) and over a process of time accommodates it in his thinking.

One can observe such environmental effects over time within countries. Certain countries are known for being impeccably clean. Other countries are known for the trash on the side of the roads; over a period of time there is so much trash that most ignore the grievous sight.

This is the way political cultures begin—a man or woman thinks a certain philosophy should be the correct one and the best for the people. That one will believe so strongly as to go to any length to bring that mindset to every-

one, even to the point of destruction and murder in order to get it enacted.

Looking back to the 1800s, Karl Marx, especially his *Das Kapital*, tried to create classes of people and declare that they were in constant struggle with one another. He also created a struggle against capitalism that he purported was found among the various classes of the people. Thus, communism was considered the only answer to these struggles. His writing contained over two thousand pages. This cultural thinking of the nineteenth century finally took over the world in the twentieth century.

Then, Adolf Hitler wrote *Mein Kampf* ("My Mind" or "My Struggle"). This political manifesto of ideological hatred against the Jews became his hope of taking over the world. From 1925 to 1945 some 12 million copies of his book were sold.

These beliefs above have continued to build over time, changing gradually until they finally have taken over more and more of society's cultural mindset. As its influence deepens into the fabric of social presuppositions, a nation's culture becomes utter wickedness, unconsciously woven both in the thinking and the lifestyle of evil. And when this happens, the culture cannot be changed; the consequences are unalterable. Dear reader, again, this is where we are now in America. Every facet of government is riddled with evil, corruption, lust for money, and deep perversion of moral living. Our nation has gone from morality, to im-



morality, to perversion, to inversion. We have left honorable marriage and entered adultery, sodomy, and transgenderism. What will the next frontier reveal about the postmodern culture of future America?

### **Willful Denial of the Sacred**

We have come to the point in American culture where we have denounced and evicted the *sacred*.

One of the symptoms of modern and postmodern change is our large stock of new words or the redefining of old words: user-friendly, downsizing, multiculturalism, politically-correct, woke (the term taking the place of “political correctness”), homophobic, postmodern, post structuralism, deconstruction, reboot, transgenderism, asexuality, bisexual, climate change, dehumanization, discrimination, diversity, equality, equity, inclusion, environmental impact, global citizen, global change, human rights, inclusion, LGBTQ, marginalize, nonbinary, pansexuality, racism, and social justice.

This ever-expanding pop-vocabulary seeks to destroy the truth of God in our thinking; it seeks to evict anything that is sacred from our inclusion in the living of life. We are now also hearing more and more the terms *secular* and *secularization*. At one time Western civilization led the world in a consciousness of God. Such a denial of Western civilization is declared as a needed emancipation from the authority of the Church and the dictato-

rial powers of God as a higher Being. This is why secularism has taken over the cultural thinking of the world leaders. In other words, secularism asserts that public life is to be conducted without reference to religion or to any notion of a power higher than man. Such a mood of thinking in our contemporary is the first step of coming into the realm of evil, an evil that has become uncontrollable. Secularism has truly systematically eliminated all religious belief from the public policies and institutions of the nations. Even science has fully discarded God and Omnipotence from its conversations of physics and the laws of nature.

### **Conclusion**

Amidst the ongoing compromises of contemporary Christianity, there is the matter of *contextualization*. Contextualization is always a danger when preaching the Gospel to contexts other than Western civilization. Roman Catholicism has contextualized its heresy to the nations and cultures where it has taken its message. The Virgin Mary has been given various names depending on the nation and the ethnicity of the people; Mariology is accommodated to the culture of the varied ethnicities. Even the so-called saints of Romanist history are contextualized to the local inhabitants’ own religions to make their message more palatable and similar. This approach is sadly true with modern Protestant missions. Protestant liberalism has in the past few centuries subtly left out

certain truths from the Gospel and introduced false concepts and cultures in order not to intimidate or offend the native culture. In our travels we have noted the intentional mistranslations of certain hymn lyrics from the English in order to accommodate the ethnic context or to quell any deeper-life implications. Contextualization is often used with the motive of cultural accommodation, creating a false non-offensive Gospel message.

But the Gospel is the message for all humanity. It must be preached and taught in its fullness to every creature, no matter the context or culture. The Christian apostasy of America has contextualized so many areas of lifestyle that it has forged out a pattern to introduce this contextualization in other countries. This is what has brought a new breed of Christian lifestyles, especially since the birth of Neo-Evangelicalism and the Charismatic movements. Even the “culture” of “Christian” carnal living has been forced to be an integral part of twenty-first-century Christianity. Such a culture of carnal living has become theologically acceptable in Christian culture. It is very rare that a culture of spiritual living is presented in preaching and teaching. And it is the same with the culture of worldliness versus the culture of holiness. Postmodernism wants to blur the distinction between these worlds, declaring that worldly dress, music, symbols, contemporary versions of the Bible, and

worship are equally accepted by God in our time of history. Much of sin has been accepted in any context of living. Even sodomy has been contextualized in the Neo-message. It is sad but true: one will find professing Christians in any context of life, any perverted lifestyle—even a contextualization for transgenderism.

We as biblical Christians must not be intimidated by this aggressive world’s attempt to invade true Christianity. Anything created under the guise of Christianity that is not fully Bible-based has no right to use the title. But again, present-day Christianity has become so elastic and so accommodating that there are those that would even go so far as to call themselves “Christian atheists.” Such a person is a Christian in his existential world while an atheist in his real world. This dialectic title is most strongly condemned by the Bible. Note the words of Christ Himself:

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Matt. 7:13, 14).

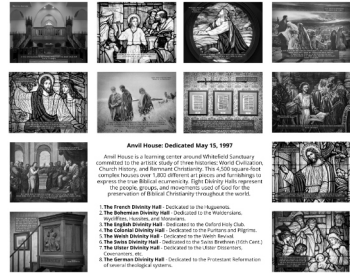
God help us in these days when *The Lie* has become *The Truth* and *The Truth* has become *The Lie* to a world that has left all of the mores of sanity, both in thought and living.

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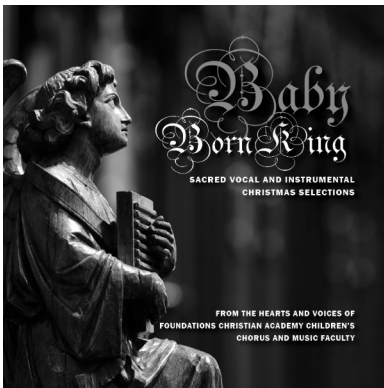
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