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Declaration of Kingdom Standards for the United States of America

It is painfully clear that the United States of America is on the verge of judgment from God. As believers in the God of the Bible, we have accepted our responsibility to come together to address our nation regarding the standards of the Kingdom of God which, if broken, result in national judgment. We are citizens of the United States of America, some by birth and some by naturalization. However, we are also citizens of the Kingdom of God, called to unite in His purposes and reveal His standards to our nation. You may call us Christians, Messianic Jews, Catholics or Protestants, but we identify ourselves as the Body of Messiah (His agents on earth) and, for the purposes of this declaration, the National Kingdom Council.

We repent before God and apologize to our fellow American citizens for allowing ourselves to be divided by politics, race, gender, ethnicity, ideology and denominations, because these divisions have only served to distract us from clearly sharing the standards of God for this nation, which are found in the Holy Bible, the Word of God. The Bible is an instruction manual for our individual lives and governing our nations, as none of us has enough information or experience to make the best choices for ourselves, our relationships and our society apart from God. In fact, our lives were not designed to be lived separated from God. Hence, Kingdom standards in the Bible are for all people all over the world in all eras of human history. However, in this declaration, we will specifically apply them to the United States of America, as we have been directed to do by the Holy Spirit of God. Our repentance in this matter includes convening as the National Kingdom Council, creating this document, sharing it with our countrymen and women, and following God's leading to continue this work.

We will no longer allow ourselves to be divided into political parties or ideological camps, because we choose to unite as Kingdom citizens and stand for God's will in this nation, regardless of who is executing God's will. We will also speak out when God's standards are broken and stand against those who oppose God's will and seek to destroy our nation, regardless of their identity. We will inform our leaders and elected officials of the standards of the Kingdom of God, and we will hold them to this standard.

We do not stand in judgment of any human, however. As the Creator of all things, only God can judge people, and He will make a final judgment about every person who has ever lived at the end of this age.¹ Our responsibility, though, is to judge the actions of humans, to include our own actions, by whether or not they adhere to or oppose the Kingdom standards of God. We must also judge human intentions and motivations to reveal whether they have been inspired by God or by Satan and other evil spirits—very real spiritual beings who seek to rob and destroy humans and attack all things that are healthy and productive for humanity. Satan and other evil spirits present themselves in many forms, even as gods, but their intentions toward humanity are always evil all the time.

¹ Bible Reference: Revelation 20:11-15

The judgments we make in this declaration are all based on God’s Kingdom standards. Every human action falls into one of two categories—adhering to or opposing the Kingdom standards of God. Likewise, every human intention or motivation falls into one of two categories—inspired by God or inspired by Satan. As Kingdom ambassadors, we must make clear distinctions between the two, to give our fellow countrymen and women the opportunity to choose for yourselves whom you will serve in every decision that you make. As for each of us and our households, we will serve the Lord God.² He demands exclusive worship to protect us from the destructive tactics of Satan and other enemies of our souls. Thus, to choose to worship God alone leads us to life in every area for individuals and nations.

Our God cares about the lives of every American and the future of this nation as a whole. So do we! We will no longer accept the lie that we must choose which groups of Americans and Kingdom-worthy causes we will support, because our national political structure will not allow us to simultaneously support them all. Our allegiance is first to the Kingdom of God and all of His standards, rather than to the flawed and limited political structures of people. The Kingdom of God does not lack resources, and God can supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory,³ as we support His standard completely and without compromise. Hence, we have no need and accept no pressure to choose between groups of Americans and Kingdom-worthy causes. Additionally, our God is no respecter of persons, loving everyone equally without favoritism,⁴ and He does not have a hierarchy of sins. Everything that goes against His standard is sin, which leads to death in some form,⁵ and the consequences of sin are all devastating. For these reasons, we have come together and stood in the divine council⁶ of God to compile and declare His Kingdom Standards for the United States of America.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for God’s people to disassociate from the political bonds which have caused division between citizens of God’s Kingdom and citizens of our nation, standing in the divine council of God requires that we should declare the causes which created the division and commit to being a unifying force working toward the dual and interconnected purposes of advancing God’s Kingdom and saving our nation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that God gave both life and choice to all people, with the express intention of endowing us all with His creative ability to bring life and healing to other people, situations and the earth itself.⁷ However, the liberty we have to use this gift of choice often results in a selfish pursuit of pleasure and comfort that have released death, destruction and division into our nation.⁸

As the National Kingdom Council of the United States of America, we respect the God-given right of every human to make his or her own choices. Yet, as God’s ambassadors on the earth, we urge you, with every decision you make to choose life and healing.⁹ Hence, we have

² Bible Reference: Joshua 24:15

³ Bible Reference: Philippians 4:19

⁴ Bible Reference: Romans 2:11

⁵ Bible Reference: Romans 6:23

⁶ Bible Reference: Psalm 82 & Jeremiah 23:21-22

⁷ Bible Reference: Romans 8:19-21

⁸ Michael V. Hernandez, J.D. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2015382

⁹ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

convened and stood in the divine council of God to reveal that which leads to life and healing in various areas of our shared human experience in this nation, as they relate to the following 7 issues:

- The Founding Documents of the United States of America (ie. the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights)
- Women's Rights and Abortion,
- Family Values and Gay Rights,
- Race and Social Equality,
- Foreign Policy and Immigration,
- Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement, and
- Economics and Poverty.

As a citizen of the United States and/or the Kingdom of God yourself, we humbly ask that you read our entire declaration and consider its truths to bring life and healing to this nation, uniting us under God to provide liberty and justice for all.

Issue 1—The Founding Documents of the United States of America (ie. the Declaration of Independence, Constitution and Bill of Rights)

The Founding Documents of the United States of America (ie. the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights) were influenced by Biblical principles, as many of our Founding Fathers—the framers of these documents—were Bible-believing Christians and others respected the God of the Bible and were influenced heavily by the Bible. Our National Founding Documents must then be interpreted and applied to contemporary national life and governance in accordance with our framers' intent and their original Biblical influence. Failure to do so results in disorder, division and destruction, as we are currently experiencing.

The Founders of this nation also stood against monarchical oppression, as revealed in the Declaration of Independence. For this reason, the framers of our National Founding Documents placed a great emphasis on establishing a government that would respect the rights of individual citizens who are considered equal under the law. To sustain a government that respects individual rights, the Constitution gives specific responsibilities to the federal government. All other responsibilities are then left to the citizens and the states. For fear that this was not enough to limit the reach of the government, the Bill of Rights was created to protect the rights of each individual citizen from government oppression. Hence, the Bill of Rights limits the powers of government, not the rights of individuals. In the foresight that God provided for our Founding Fathers, these amendments were created to protect the rights of the people.

Many of the rights we see listed in the Bill of Rights, such as the right to freely exercise religion and freedom from search and seizure without warrants or probable cause, are systematically being taken from the citizens of the United States. All of this is happening slowly, in succession, and will continue until we no longer have a Constitution, and this nation becomes unrecognizable to us all. For example, the current crisis caused by COVID-19 is being used to remove many individual rights under the guise of public safety. Yet, no American is safe if the foundation of our nation is eroded. We have noticed all of this, and we are taking a stand.

In fact, the misapplication of Thomas Jefferson's statement about "a wall of separation between Church & State" in an 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association in Connecticut, has and continues to be a tremendous assault against our First Amendment rights. Thomas Jefferson wrote those words to assuage the fear of believers in the Danbury Baptist Association that the newly formed government would strip the Church and parishioners of their religious rights. Here is what Thomas Jefferson responded: "Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, **that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship**, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should 'make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,' **thus building a wall of separation between Church & State**, adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend **to restore to man all his natural rights**, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties." In essence, Thomas Jefferson explained to these concerned citizens that the First Amendment protects their religious freedoms by building a wall of separation that prohibits the government from interfering in religious matters, not the other way around. Hence, there is no statement in any of our Founding Documents limiting religious expression as it may influence the government. To do so would deny us of our First Amendment right to freely exercise our religion.

When the Founding Documents of this nation were written, the general populace was aware of the laws and principles therein, because our Founding Fathers made sure of it, so that there would be a united effort in establishing this nation. Yet today, most Americans have never read the Founding Documents of this nation, are unaware of the many laws that affect their daily lives and are uninvolved in the decision-making political processes that determine the course of this nation. Our nation will continue on its current path to destruction, if this is not addressed. For this reason, the National Kingdom Council chooses to educate our fellow Americans, so that you can make informed choices about the issues that affect your life. We are also making you aware of the Kingdom standards that undergird our national Founding Documents, so that you will have enough information to choose for yourself whether you want to elect officials who uphold Kingdom standards or even become an elected official who upholds Kingdom standards.

Both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution list a hierarchy of rights for the citizens of the United States. The first right being life. The second being liberty. In the Declaration of Independence, the third right is listed as the pursuit of happiness. In the 5th Amendment to the Constitution (in the Bill of Rights), property is protected and listed as the third right. This hierarchy of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness/property is foundational to our national existence and completely Biblical. Life is listed first, because without life, liberty and pursuit of happiness/property are meaningless and impossible; and without life and liberty, one cannot pursue property, happiness, or any other tangible, temporal thing. Life is the first and foundational right. If it is not protected fully, our foundation is undermined. Hence, liberty, property and happiness must never be valued higher than life. Likewise, property and happiness must never be valued higher than liberty.

However, our nation has in fact rearranged our foundational hierarchy of rights, with the pursuit of happiness (or comfort) of some being valued more highly than the life and liberty of other Americans. We have also redefined liberty as the right to do whatever one wants to do, without regard for the effects of one's choices on other citizens, which erodes every social contract we have with each other in this nation. Of course, this redefinition of liberty without bounds has also only been applied to some, as it is not possible for all US citizens to live by this definition without immediate disorder and chaos. Hence, this perversion of our national values, which is displayed in our laws, their enforcement and interpretation, also reveals elitism—the likes of which existed in the oppressive caste system that our Founding Fathers, and every other immigrant to the United States, sought to escape. Additionally, every time we have allowed this perversion of national values, we have unleashed disorder and destruction into our nation for generations to come.

As we examine the remaining six issues, we will reveal the national devastations that have resulted from such a reordering and redefining of our foundational hierarchy of rights. We will also provide Biblical solutions that are commensurate with the intent of the framers of our National Founding Documents. This return to God, His standards and the inspiration of our Founding Fathers is the only solution to our current national crises. This is also the only way to “form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity”, which are the national goals listed in the preamble of our Constitution.

Hear what the Lord says to this nation: ***“I have given you ample opportunity to turn to me, to repent of your sin and to be my people. Instead, you reject my love and my grace. How long must I suffer your unwillingness to receive my covering? You continue to trust in creation. I have told you, it will pass away. How long will you reject me? The hour is near. Even now, I am knocking at the door. Will you answer? I have given you my blueprint for righteous government. Will you execute it?”***

Issue 2—Women’s Rights and Abortion

As we continue to reveal Kingdom standards that lead to life, we must address the rights of those who have been created by God to bring life into this world—women—and the rights of the unborn and recently born. In the beginning, God created the universe, to include the earth, humankind and all living things in creation.¹⁰ He made both men and women in His image, giving us dominion on earth and a responsibility to populate the earth.¹¹ Thus, women are infinitely valuable (as are all people) endowed by God with creative ability, love and hope, which bring life and nurturing into our nation. Women are the mothers of humankind given the special gift to bear babies and birth them into this life. That God-given role is essential to the survival of all humanity and this nation. The role of “mother” is only one God-ordained role that women fulfill, and women are not defined by any role. The identity and purpose of each individual woman comes only from God and is not dependent upon her performance or the pleasure or profit someone else could receive from manipulating her. A woman’s worth cannot be measured, and her identity and purpose can only be revealed by God through intimate

¹⁰ Bible Reference: Genesis 1:1-31

¹¹ Bible Reference: Genesis 1:27-28

fellowship with Him. Like men, women have also been given creative ability from God and authority on earth, which leads to innovation and leadership that has been invaluable in establishing and sustaining this nation. Hence, women must be cherished and protected. Yet, to demand such treatment, women must also be educated and supported.

Yet, rather than being cherished, protected, educated and supported, women are often abused and manipulated by the men who claim to love them, family members and friends and even by our society as a whole. This has never been the will of God. Though many people have misused Biblical Scriptures to oppress women, the Bible actually provides dignity, liberty, security and protection for women. In the Bible, God rebukes even His priests for abusing and abandoning their wives.¹² There are also various examples of women who served in vital leadership roles that changed the course of their nations,¹³ and a beautiful example of a virtuous woman that is shared by a queen mother with her son the king.¹⁴

In all of this, we see that the Kingdom standard for women's rights is the same as the Kingdom standard for men's rights. In the same way, the hierarchy of rights for female citizens of the United States is the same as for male citizens of the United States—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness/property—which is in alignment with God's Kingdom standards. As the bearers of life, we implore women in this nation to value life, even the life of an unborn baby in your own womb, above your own liberty, expressed in your right to choose.

Unborn and recently born babies have the right to life and must be considered American citizens as well. Just as the Bible protects the rights of women, the rights of unborn babies are also protected. In Exodus 21:22-25, the Biblical law requires that anyone who harms an unborn baby in the womb must be punished by the exact same injury that has been done to the baby, "life for life, eye for eye." This reveals very clearly that the Kingdom standard for unborn babies is that they have the same rights as humans who are already born and the same protection under God's law. What this means, then, is that abortion is murder, as determined by the Creator of all life Himself!

There are various Biblical Scriptures that make it clear that each unborn baby is specifically formed by God, known by God and loved by God. God said to Jeremiah, "***Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.***"¹⁵ David said to God in Psalm 139:13-16, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."¹⁶ Because God sees each unborn baby as precious and each one bears the image of God fully in the womb, He then will avenge the murders of the innocent, for He hates

¹² Bible Reference: Malachi 2:13-16, Matthew 19:3-9

¹³ Bible Reference: Exodus 15:20, Judges chapters 4 & 5, the Book of Esther, 2 Kings 22:14, Luke 8:1-3, Romans 16:1-3

¹⁴ Bible Reference: Proverbs chapter 31

¹⁵ Bible Reference: Jeremiah 1:5 New International Version

¹⁶ Bible Reference: Psalm 139:13-16 New International Version

hands that shed innocent blood¹⁷ and vengeance belongs to God.¹⁸ Additionally, the blood of aborted babies cries out against us as a witness to murder.¹⁹ Some of us have heard their cries while in prayer. This is not just a testimony against individuals but also against a society that sanctions the shedding of innocent blood, as God calls us to account as individuals and communities for all bloodshed.²⁰

“The fetus in their mother’s womb is alive, and I have heard their cries. Several years ago, I was at an abortion facility with a friend who opted to abort her child. While praying in the waiting room, I felt a heaviness unlike I have ever experienced before, and I heard the audible cries of children who were being aborted. My heart was broken, and I felt horrible for some time after that. I knew God was grieved as well, not only because innocent blood was shed but for the deception that has blinded so many into not seeing abortion for what it truly is.”—Jacinta Featherston

We have long debated about the rights of the unborn, especially when the mothers of unborn babies choose to abort their babies. The fact that this is even a debate once again reveals a great perversion of the foundational values of this nation. If the liberty of one (the mother) is valued more highly than the life of another (the unborn baby), we as a nation have eroded our value system and are headed for destruction. To value death is to court destruction.²¹ The destruction we have seen is the medically-performed execution of 57 million unborn babies since the United States legalized abortion in 1973.²² This is not the result of empowered women making educated choices for their bodies. It is the planned goals of a nation-wide abortion agenda that targets ethnic minorities and young women when they are most vulnerable and afraid.

“I was taught in health class in high school that Planned Parenthood was a place to receive resources for young women who thought they might be pregnant. In my senior year in college, my fiancé and I believed I was pregnant, so I found a nearby Planned Parenthood to take a pregnancy test and receive some guidance and resources. The woman who greeted me there gave me a form to complete that asked whether or not I wanted to be pregnant. I asked her, ‘Why is this question on the form?’ She replied that it could affect the outcome of my pregnancy test. I knew that wasn’t true, but I checked the ‘yes’ box and continued to complete it anyway. After taking the test, she said I was not pregnant. However, I really believed I was. On the way home, I purchased a home pregnancy test that immediately tested positive after I had taken it.

“For the next 10 years, I wondered why the woman at Planned Parenthood would tell me I wasn’t pregnant when I was. It wasn’t until I learned about the abortion agenda that I realized that the hope was that I would engage in risky behaviors that would still end my child’s life, since I clearly wasn’t interested in an abortion. I took care of myself during that pregnancy and immediately began to receive a doctor’s care. However, despite my clean bill of health, I went into complications early on. Every system in my body began to shut down, and my baby had to

¹⁷ Bible Reference: Proverbs 6:16-19

¹⁸ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 32:35, Romans 12:17-19

¹⁹ Bible Reference: Genesis 4:10

²⁰ Bible Reference: Genesis 9:5-6, Deuteronomy 21:1-9, Habakkuk 2:12

²¹ Bible Reference: Galatians 6:7-8

²² <https://rtlofholland.org/abortion-statistics/>

be delivered by emergency cesarean section in her 28th week of gestation. She was almost 3 months early and 2 lbs. exactly. She and I both almost died, as Satan had not given up his attack against us. However, my entire family and many others prayed intensely for us, and God answered our prayers. My daughter is now 22 years old and in better physical health than anyone else in our family.”—Markita Brooks

Abortion is big business in the United States, and it is fueled by many political agendas. From a 2012-2013 Annual Report, Planned Parenthood performed 327,166 abortions and their revenue exceeded \$1.2 Billion. Only 2,197 patients were referred to other agencies for adoptions (that’s nearly 149 to 1). Planned Parenthood accounts for over ¼ of all abortions performed in the United States.²³ Additionally, there are private financial donors who will pay large sums to ensure that black and brown babies are killed in America.²⁴ This is why minority babies are aborted at a disproportionately higher rate than white babies in the USA, and it explains the increased number of abortion clinics in low-income areas than in other areas of our nation. There are also many industries, to include the pharmaceutical industry, that profit from the use of aborted fetuses. Americans then receive products, like inoculations, that have aborted fetal tissue in them, thus injecting the cells of aborted babies into the general populace of America without our foreknowledge and consent. This will most likely be the case with a COVID-19 vaccination as well.

Abortion violently ends a sacred life, degrades women and denies fathers of their rights. Our society’s contemporary view of abortion and women's rights promotes sexual irresponsibility rather than healthy family values on which a strong nation is built. Abortion reflects a self-centered and sex-driven culture that objectifies women, rather than cherishing and protecting women and absolves men of sexual responsibility. Our culture has accepted the lie from Satan that we all are defined by our sexual behavior, leading to a proliferation of sexual immorality, pornography, and the degradation of women and male/female relationships. Women are then seen as sex objects or commodities, not precious bearers of the image of God. Additionally, the women's liberation movement has exhorted women to embrace the lie that free and open sex is liberating (but only if it doesn't involve responsibility for any resulting pregnancy). This sexually driven culture has sadly led women to view pregnancy as a curse and not a blessing²⁵ that is part of God's redemptive plan.²⁶

All of this violates God’s standard for sexual relations to be experienced within the confines of marriage between one man and one women, which protects a women’s self-image, virtue and emotional health in the committed relationship of marriage and provides a secure environment in which to rear children, who are the God-ordained result of intercourse.²⁷ It also violates Kingdom standards against adultery, fornication and all manner of sexual immorality, which are destructive to the individual and society as a whole.²⁸ God’s Kingdom standards are not created

²³ <https://rtlofholland.org/abortion-statistics/>

²⁴ https://www.npr.org/sections/newsandviews/2008/04/planned_parenthood_accused_of_1.html

²⁵ Bible Reference: Psalm 127:3-5

²⁶ Bible Reference: 1 Timothy 2:15

²⁷ Bible Reference: Genesis 2:21-25, Malachi 2:13-16, Matthew 19:3-9, Hebrews 13:4

²⁸ Bible Reference: Exodus 20:14, Matthew 15:19-20, Acts 15:29, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 2 Corinthians 12:21, Galatians 5:19-21, Hebrews 13:4

to burden us with rules, but rather to guide us into choices and behaviors that will produce healthy families and communities.

God also makes it clear in the Bible that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and we are to glorify God with them.²⁹ When God dwells in us by His Holy Spirit, we are empowered to demonstrate good character³⁰ and become positive contributing members of our society.³¹ This happens in our ongoing personal relationships with God and it begins in the lives of children as God forms them in the womb. Hence, during pregnancy, a temple for God's Spirit is being formed within another temple, which makes the wombs of women sacred. How then can the temple of the Holy Spirit be a place of butchering innocent children? To turn a woman's lifegiving body into a place of death (as the abortion occurs inside the woman's body), leads to physical, spiritual and emotional effects that are very rarely understood by women prior to abortions. Women who have had abortions frequently suffer from anxiety, guilt, pain, depression, irritability, anger, sleep difficulties, nightmares, withdrawal from relatives and friends, pessimism, drug or alcohol abuse and suicidal thoughts or actions. Additionally, the universal consequences of murder then begin to manifest in the lives of the mother, the father and the society that has sanctioned it.

The perverted standards from our sexually driven culture and the abortion agenda have also resulted in the silencing, coercion, kidnapping, molestation, rape and mishandling of women of all ages and from all walks of life in this nation. Women have been coerced and manipulated, sometimes even by those they love and trust, into life-altering decisions that they would never make for themselves if fully informed. Women have also been forced into lives of sexual servitude and made to feel less than human. For this reason, we demand that women be informed of all of the choices available to them in every area of life and the consequences that result from those choices. This could not be more important than in the areas of sex and procreation. We also stand on the Kingdom principle of education and full disclosure, as people perish for the lack of knowledge.³² Deceptions fueled by the agendas above have led to the breakdown of the family unit, which produces children with low self-esteem, low standards and who are unable to create and sustain healthy relationships themselves, thus perpetuating this destructive cycle.

It is also important to note that abortion is merely a contemporary form of an ancient Satanic ritual of child sacrifice.³³ The enemies of our souls seek our destruction. Satan and the evil spirits that work with him want to devastate individual lives and destroy entire nations. Child sacrifice surrenders our familial and communal future to Satan, as our posterity is our future. The offering of innocent blood gives evil forces reign in our nation and in our lives. We can no longer pretend that the spiritual forces behind abortion are not also behind many other destructive occurrences in our nation (to be addressed in this declaration), as the sacrifice of our children gives them spiritual access and rights to operate freely in our nation.

²⁹ Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

³⁰ Bible Reference: Galatians 6:22-23, Romans 8:6

³¹ Bible Reference: Titus 3:1-2, Romans 13:1-7

³² Bible Reference: Hosea 4:6

³³ Bible Reference: Leviticus 18:21, Leviticus: 20:1-5, Deuteronomy 12:31, Deuteronomy 18:10, Ezekiel 16:20-21, Psalm 106:37-38, Jeremiah 32:35

Abortion absolutely is murder. Some of us have heard the cries of the unborn as they are slaughtered in the womb. Others of us have felt the physical pain the babies feel while being aborted. Others have experienced lifelong holes in our families left by babies who were aborted. Still others of us have had miscarriages and prayed desperately to God for children. He hears our cries, and He mourns with us when we mourn, filling us with hope for parenthood and guiding us to ways that we can bless children right around us. Yet others of us have had abortions ourselves, experiencing pain, shame and guilt, but also the overwhelming forgiveness of God once we came into agreement with Him that our abortions were murder. He is able to forgive all of the mothers and fathers who are responsible for abortions and heal our souls, and even heal the soul of our nation. This is only possible when we come into agreement with the Kingdom standard that abortion is murder and ask the Creator of all life for forgiveness. Though we may have forgotten those babies, our God will not forget us as we turn to Him.³⁴

With the willing and sacrificial death of His own Son, God paid the price for every murder and every other sin that any person will ever commit. Within the Kingdom standard and laws of the universe created by God, death is the only atonement for murder and any other sin, as sin releases death into the universe. There must be life for a life. However, the Son of God came to earth, was born of a virgin, lived as a human, died willingly to atone for all of our sins, rose to life and is sitting at the right hand of God praying for each one of us right now. He is praying for you. He paid the price for your sins to be forgiven, and He wants to restore our nation. The choice to accept His sacrifice is yours.

Hear what the Lord says to this nation: ***“My people have broken my heart for too long. When will you stop believing the lies and grab hold to My truth? I yearn for you . . . I yearn for you to return to Me to return to My ways . . . to believe that the plans I have for you are good. Stop being so easily swayed to the left or to the right. My way is the narrow path and not many will find it. You’re so easily moved by the desires of your flesh, but what I have for you would satisfy you so much more.”***

Issue 3—Family Values and Gay Rights

It is the deep desire of God’s heart to connect with every person individually. He also wants us to form healthy relationships with each other, and to see more of Him and His ways in those relationships. God designed the family unit to reveal to humanity His nature and unity in God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. Our Creator is one but manifests in these three persons who work beautifully together in all things. In God, we see family, and in family, we should see God. In our fathers, God wants us to see the headship, provision, protection and direction of God the Father. In our mothers, God wants us to see the nurturing, comfort and guidance of the Holy Spirit. In our children and siblings, He wants us to see the eternal love, fellowship and sacrifice of Yeshua our Messiah (Jesus Christ), God the Son.

Our family environments provide our first educational experiences, as parents are responsible for the education of our children, according to Kingdom standards.³⁵ Our families also instill

³⁴ Bible Reference: Isaiah 49:15

³⁵ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 6:6-8, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4

important qualities into us, like self-discipline, as disciplined children grow to be self-disciplined adults who are able to delay their gratification to achieve goals or until appropriate situations and timing arise. The vulnerability, trust and dependence of a child reveals how each of us should relate to God.³⁶ Similarly, the provision, protection, nurturing, training and unconditional love of parents should reveal how God cares for each one of us. Marriage and family are immensely important to God, as He created them both to help us rightly relate to Him and to each other. They are also foundational to the future success of our nation.

Marriage between one man and one woman is the first institution ordained by God,³⁷ and the family is the core structure of society. When a man and woman are equally yoked³⁸—walking in agreement concerning their beliefs, values and roles—and God has joined them together in marriage, a covenant is created that has power in every realm of our existence. In the spiritual realm, they are guided to also walk in agreement with God, and they experience a supernatural covering (protection and comfort) from Him. In the natural realm, their lives, finances, bodies and extended families are united. God is then able to use the man and woman to sharpen each other through challenges and loving reflection. He also helps them to balance and complement each other. Hence, there is a refining for both the husband and wife that occurs only in holy matrimony. These two people who are continually learning from God and each other and growing in maturity and virtue, then create a secure, loving home environment into which they can bring children and train them together. Therefore, marriage and parenthood are powerful institutions designed by God to remove selfishness from us, as we are drawn continually to place our loved ones' needs above our own. In this way, we learn to apply Kingdom standards to every area of our lives and to keep our rights properly prioritized.

To have healthy relationships, we must employ Kingdom standards for marriage and family. The Kingdom of God operates in sowing and reaping³⁹, seedtime and harvest. This means that we must invest good things in order to receive a pleasant and beneficial return on that investment later. This principle must be applied in all of our interactions. For example, young people must be self-controlled, mature and compassionate during courtship to prepare for healthy marriages in the future. This is not like the dating scene we see all around us, with people using each other to meet immediate needs, wounding their own souls and those of their dates. Once these same people choose to commit to lasting relationships, their souls are already wounded and their minds are full of unrealistic expectations that are the result of various attributes of people they have dated. Courtship, on the other hand, is about investing in getting to know someone to truly discover if you're compatible with them, without physical intimacy. This protects both parties from making a strong attachment that won't lead to a lasting commitment and keeps their souls intact for the time when they will make a lasting commitment in marriage. The proper investment in courtship also protects against disease, emotional brokenness, financial devastation, unplanned pregnancies, abortion and a host of other occurrences that could result from inappropriate investments of self and time in insecure relationships.

³⁶ Bible Reference: Matthew 18:2-4

³⁷ Bible Reference: Genesis 2:18-25

³⁸ Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 6:14

³⁹ Bible Reference: Galatians 6:7, Hosea 10:12, 2 Corinthians 9:6

The same is true in building our families. We must choose carefully those who will co-parent with us, ensuring that we're in agreement on important issues and share values. Children should always be considered in the equation, even before conception, by coming to agreement on parenting strategies and praying for future children. We should also dedicate our children to God in the womb and at birth, as the Spirit of God can begin to build an intimate relationship with our children before they start to encounter challenges in this world. This type of foundation in a child's life can make him/her tremendously more resilient and mature than his/her peers encountering many of the same challenges.

Intergenerational influences are also important, as grandparents leave an inheritance for their grandchildren.⁴⁰ Financially, spiritually and emotionally, grandparents can help provide those things that parents may not be able to provide.⁴¹ Grandparents also share a special relationship with their grandchildren that helps the grandchildren to learn to respect authority and see the world and their families from a broader perspective. This contributes to a healthy self-esteem and compassionate worldview. Despite this and many other benefits, our society has not only devalued babies and children, but it has also devalued our elders. We have forfeited the wisdom, guidance and support that we and our children need from them. We have also abandoned them to die alone in nursing homes and institutions, rather than caring for them and continuing to live life with them as God requires.⁴² This has created holes in our family relationships and brought curses upon us as individuals and nations, for a nation that discards its elders destroys its own foundation.

Disregarding Kingdom standards in our marriage and family relationships has led to disorder and disfunction, both of which create unrest and confusion in children. Additionally, separation, desertion and divorce in families can leave children lacking an essential family role, one that would help them form a healthy sense of their own identity. Other challenges that lead to the death or incarceration of parents can also do tremendous damage to the family structure and emotional development of children. However, God has made provision for such loss or unavailability, as He Himself can fill every role in our lives left vacant by a family member or death. He also heals the brokenness of abuse, molestation, neglect and other trauma when we come to Him in vulnerability and need. He then provides family members for us in the Body of Messiah who can teach us His ways and fill roles that are desperately needed.

The Kingdom standards in the Bible teach us to commit to marriage and family as covenants that never end. We then find and provide security in our families, and this security gives us a foundation upon which we can face the challenges of life together. For this reason, marriage and the family unit must be honored. Parents must be supported in the roles they play in their children's lives, not undermined. Our society should also seek to support families and keep them united as much as possible, considering the safety of all involved. Reconciliation must always be the goal within the family and from all sources outside of the family, for God hates the sowing of discord in a family.⁴³

⁴⁰ Bible Reference: Proverbs 13:22

⁴¹ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 4:9

⁴² Bible Reference: 1 Timothy 5:4

⁴³ Bible Reference: Proverbs 6:16-19

Disfunction and discord in our families has serious effects. We often accept lies about God and ourselves, as we are formed in God's image, due to disfunction in our families. As in all other areas of life, selfishness and sin have brought disorder and loss into families, which has unleashed destruction into our nation. Placing a higher value on financial wealth and professional ambition over rearing children and creating healthy relationships has damaged many families. Addictions, abuse, incarceration, and so many other factors have also ripped apart many homes. Sexual immorality, such as adultery and pornography, have led to divorce and splintered families. Additionally, poverty and racial discrimination have added pressure to many families. When many of these challenges comes to a head in a society, the result is children who are estranged from their parents; parents who are supposed to represent God to them and prepare them for life. Educators are then given the responsibility of rearing the children in our nation, a responsibility that is not theirs and for which they are not prepared. Young people are left unsupervised as they make choices that will affect their lives and the lives of others forever. Then Satan and other evil spirits step in to educate our children and give them false senses of identity and family. False families show up in the form of cliques, gangs and cults. However, false identities can manifest in various ways to include identifying oneself as homosexual.

In contemporary society, we see more and more people identifying as homosexual. Homosexuality is defined as "the quality or characteristic of being sexually attracted solely to people of one's own sex."⁴⁴ As stated earlier, all people are made in the image of God. It is profoundly dehumanizing for any image bearer's identity to be based on how he or she has or desires to have sex, as if sexual behavior defines humanness. We should define all peoples as image bearers of God, and believers as the Body of Messiah. Neither God's image nor Messiah's Body is defined by sexual behavior, temptations, or tendencies.

Every person is tempted to sin,⁴⁵ to do things that oppose God's Kingdom standards and His will for each one of us. With regard to homosexuality, the Bible identifies as sin the act of sexual intercourse between a man and a man or a woman and a woman.⁴⁶ The Bible also states that men and women should not wear each other's clothes.⁴⁷ These, of course, are not the only sins concerning sex and gender roles. However, they are the sins that we attribute to homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, transsexuality, transgenderism or being gay, and they are the only sexual sins that, in modern times, can still result in people being kicked out, abused and even murdered by family members and by those who supposedly represent God.

However, Messiah Yeshua (Jesus Christ) loves and died to save all. The Body of Messiah is then called to embrace everyone, including the sexually sinful, spiritually broken, misguided, and deceived. Our job is to share the truth in love, as we are doing now, and pray in hope of their full redemption and liberation from sin.⁴⁸

We must also, however, clearly reveal that sexual immorality in all forms, to include same sex intercourse, is sin. This is not something we can compromise on or refuse to share, as the

⁴⁴ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/homosexuality?s=t>

⁴⁵ Bible Reference: Romans 3:23, Romans 11:32

⁴⁶ Bible Reference: Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:26-28, 1 Corinthians 6:9

⁴⁷ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 22:5, Psalm 145:4, 2 Timothy 1:3-5

⁴⁸ Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 6:9-20

consequences to individual souls, lives and our nation are too high. Instead of encouraging the sexually sinful to embrace their brokenness like the world does, we must minister the power of the Gospel to them by word and deed and actively war in the spirit,⁴⁹ with fasting and prayer,⁵⁰ for their deliverance. In this way, we will fight for them, rather than against them.

There are spiritual forces of wickedness at work. All people are tempted to commit various types of sins throughout our lives. We are predisposed to sin,⁵¹ as everyone around us sins and those who have come before us have sinned. Satan and other evil spirits tempt us to sin in various ways on a daily basis. All evil spirits imitate the ways of God but pervert them. Then they tempt people to sin and train us to be proficient at that sin, building entire lifestyles and communities around sin. When being tempted to sin, we experience tremendous pressure in our thoughts, emotions and bodies. Evil spirits do this to influence humans and connect our identities to sin. However, freedom from sin and deliverance from lifestyles of sin can be found in Jesus Christ (Messiah Yeshua) and in Him alone.

“I was delivered from the spirit of homosexuality after I received Jesus Christ on September 11th, 1992. I knew something was wrong with me from an early age in my life, and I didn't understand what it was called, but I was drawn to the same sex. I began to seek the Lord, and He revealed to me that my sin was through a generational curse on my father's side of the family. Also, my mother told me that my father wanted another boy when she was carrying me. The Lord also revealed through deliverance that I was terrified of men after my oldest sister was brutally murder by her husband. This event traumatized me when I was a child, so the very thing I hated, I wanted to become in order to protect myself, which was acting like a man and liking the same things men liked.

“When I went to my pastor to tell him that I was struggling, that I had a problem with homosexuality and I wanted to stop it, his words to me were, ‘Well, it's a choice.’

“I said, ‘But what is my choice? What do I need to do?’ He couldn't tell me what I needed to do. At that time, I didn't hear the plan of salvation, so I left there broken and I stayed out there for 10 more years wandering. I just felt like God made me this way, this was the way it was supposed to be, but I still didn't like myself. I knew it was a problem, but I didn't know how to get out.

“One day, my college roommate told me that Jesus died on the cross for homosexuals. I thought I hit the lottery that day, because I'd never heard that before. That was the beginning of my change, knowing that God loved me and died for me. I had felt like He didn't love me and made a mistake with me. I thank the Lord Jesus Christ for dying for my sins and delivering me from the spirit of homosexuality.

“One of the questions I asked the Lord when I got saved was ‘Why did you let me stay out there for so long, and you saw me looking for you?’

⁴⁹ Bible Reference: Ephesians 6:10-19, 2 Corinthians 10:2-5

⁵⁰ Bible Reference: Matthew 17:21

⁵¹ Bible Reference: Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12-13

“He said, ‘I had to prepare the people to receive you. I had to get the people ready in the Body of Christ to receive you, those who were going to be able to help you, but I kept you, because I knew you wanted to change.’”—Debra Clark

We must clearly identify the sin, but we must also begin to separate the sin from the person, so that we can address the spiritual forces of wickedness at work and souls may be delivered. Some of us have been delivered from same sex relationships. Others of us have children who have chosen homosexual lifestyles. Others of us see the works of Satan clearly in the spiritual realm and understand how strong the forces of wickedness are behind not just the temptation but also now behind the LGBTQ Movement. Because many have been expelled and attacked by those they loved and by the Body of Messiah, an entire community has now emerged to gather them. Satan presents it as a safe-haven for those who would otherwise be rejected and abused, but we must understand that there is a demonic plan to attack the family unit, individual identity and the sanctity of marriage to stand in opposition of God Himself.

Satan always reveals his tactics. The Spirit of God forces Satan to do so, allowing the Body of Messiah an opportunity to address the spiritual forces of wickedness in high places.⁵² The Pride mantra of the LGBTQ Movement literally puts sin on display and in the face of God. This is done under rainbow banners, brazenly rejecting God’s covenant. Satan knows that the rainbow is God’s sign of mercy to every person and creature on earth. It is a reminder of God’s promise never to destroy the entire earth again by a global flood to address the sin of mankind.⁵³ This is a promise that reminds us of God’s mercy to withhold from us the destruction our sins deserve. In the mantra and banners, Satan arrogantly flaunts rejection of God’s covenant while hiding under God’s mercy. Though people in the LGBTQ Movement may not be aware of all that is transpiring in the spiritual realm, as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God, we are, and we are called to address it in God’s presence while calling Satan to account.

The Body of Messiah has long since ignored this topic and even embraced this sin, because it is rooted in sexual perversion, and sexual perversion runs rampant in the Body of Messiah. Leaders and other believers are addicted to pornography, commit adultery and fornication, and engage in all manner of sexual perversion to include crimes against children. This behavior neutralizes us spiritually, as we cannot war against something that is within us. As God’s people, we must agree with God that sin is sin, no matter who commits it, and address our sins first, honestly and vulnerably. We must trust God for our own personal deliverance and commit to lifestyles of holiness in public and private. Only the power of God’s Spirit can do this within us, but it is the same Spirit that we should allow to guide us in all areas. Our surrender in this area is the first and best way for us to address sin in our nation.

Our next responsibility, then, is to reveal the deceptive and destructive tactics of the evil spirits that are tempting people into sins concerning same sex intercourse and an exchange of gender roles while we demonstrate the powerful and eternal love of the God who created us all. Those of us who have been delivered from these sins, and many others, know personally that our God is infinitely patient, overwhelming loving and powerful enough to deliver us from anything that is outside of His will for our lives, if we choose to come to Him. He can reveal the brokenness in

⁵² Bible Reference: Ephesians 6:10-18

⁵³ Bible Reference: Genesis 9:12-17

our souls that draws us to specific sins, and He is able to heal those places by being for us everything we have ever needed. Though that is more than enough, He also connects us to people who have been where we are and will love us more closely than family.⁵⁴ If you are in need of His deliverance, healing and love, simply ask Him for it today. God will show up to personally minister to you. He will then surround you with people who will demonstrate His love to you.

To fight for the souls of our brothers and sisters, we must address why same sex intercourse and an exchange of gender roles is an abomination in the eyes of God. First, the evil spirit behind these sins says to God's face that He did not know what He was doing when He created each person male or female.⁵⁵ Second, the evil spirit behind these sins guides people into sexual acts that cannot produce life, one of God's purposes for creating sex, but instead releases death into the spiritual realm, due to sin, and puts natural lives in danger.⁵⁶ Third, when these sins are not addressed and continue into Satan's full plan for sin, they can lead to the degradation of relationships and God's natural order, for which cause God had to destroy ancient cities.⁵⁷ Fourth, the spirit behind these sins seeks to steal, kill and destroy a person's identity as God created them and debase their thinking.⁵⁸

As a nation and society, we have sinned by normalizing sexually immoral behavior and lifestyles that are in rebellion to God's design. Legalizing gay marriage has caused confusion as well, making people believe that God approves what is sinful, as marriage is a covenant between two people, their families and God. A shift in the nation must begin in the Body of Messiah. We must begin to humble ourselves before God, pray, seek His face, turn from our own wicked ways; then God will hear our prayers in heaven, forgive our sins and heal our nation.⁵⁹ The Lord convicts us of not standing for His righteous standards and not teaching all of the Bible. Judgment will begin first at the House of God,⁶⁰ so we must desire His holiness and not live in fear of being persecuted for His Name and truth.⁶¹ God has placed in His Body believers with powerful testimonies and those who are equipped to minister deliverance to people who are bound in sin and lifestyles that oppose His Kingdom standards. Now is the time to move forward in this new season, before our Messiah returns.

Issue 4—Race and Social Equality

As we look at the issues of race and social equality, we must acknowledge that this is another area in which the Body of Messiah has sin that must be addressed first, as our sin makes it impossible for us to incite change on this issue. Let us first establish that the concept of "race" is manmade and completely unbiblical. In fact, it does not exist in the Bible or in God's Kingdom standards. The only two groups identified in the Bible are Jews and Gentiles, whom Messiah

⁵⁴ Bible Reference: Psalm 68:6, Proverbs 18:24, 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

⁵⁵ Bible Reference: Genesis 1:27

⁵⁶ Bible Reference: Romans 1:26

⁵⁷ Bible Reference: Genesis chapter 19

⁵⁸ Bible Reference: Romans 1:27-28

⁵⁹ Bible Reference: 2 Chronicles 7:14

⁶⁰ Bible Reference: 1 Peter 4:17

⁶¹ Bible Reference: Matthew 5:10

came to unite by making us one in Him.⁶² Other distinctions among people in the Bible are based upon ancestry, nations and ethnic groups. No Biblical groupings of people exist based on physical qualities like the color of one's skin. With that being said, racial groupings should not exist among us as well, as Kingdom citizens or American citizens.

However, to adequately establish this Kingdom standard in our nation so that there may be lasting repentance, healing and reconciliation, we must understand the history of the concept of race in the world, the Church and especially in the United States and debunk it. The word "race," as we use it to mean "a grouping of humans based on shared physical or social qualities into categories generally viewed as distinct by society"⁶³ was not widely used or legitimized until the 17th century by Europeans who were in need of a labor force in the lands recently colonized.⁶⁴ Hence, the scientific motivations for such classifications are clear. However, the scientific community followed the leading of the Church which validated slavery in the 15th century, when Pope Nicholas V issued the papal bull (an edict by a pope) called *Dum Diversas* in 1452 that granted Portugal and Spain "full and free permission to invade, search out, capture and subjugate unbelievers and enemies of Christ wherever they may be ... And to reduce their persons into perpetual slavery."⁶⁵ This approval of slavery was reaffirmed and extended in his Romanus Pontifex papal bull of 1455. These papal bulls came to serve as justifications for the near genocide of First Nations people (American Indians), the Trans-Atlantic slave trade and the European colonization of Africa.

With a new economy built upon institutional and generational slavery and plans to seize more land and natural resources from First Nations for expansion, the perpetuation of racial classifications and the assertion of the superiority of "whiteness" became essential in the United States. This also made racism foundational. Racism is defined as "prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized."⁶⁶ The United States Census still classifies Americans by racial groups and most Americans still hold to these concepts and classifications in our interactions today, though many other nations that participated in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade have long since put these ideas to rest. Hence, racism in America is a very specific challenge that we face, as it goes against our foundational values in the Declaration of Independence, yet it was created even as our nation was being formed.

The Declaration of Independence, one of our Founding Documents, declares all men to be created equal and the Constitution, another Founding Document, protects the rights of American citizens. Unfortunately, slaves and Native Americans were not included as people protected under the law when these documents were ratified. At the United States Constitutional Convention in 1787, a slave was determined to count as 3/5 of a person for the purposes of taxation and representation⁶⁷ but denied any rights whatsoever and considered property. This

⁶² Bible Reference: Ephesians 2:11-22, Galatians 3:28-29

⁶³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_\(human_categorization\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Race_(human_categorization))

⁶⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historical_race_concepts, https://www.pbs.org/race/000_About/002_04-background-02-09.htm and <https://www.britannica.com/topic/race-human/The-history-of-the-idea-of-race>

⁶⁵ <https://doctrineofdiscovery.org/dum-diversas/>

⁶⁶ <https://www.google.com/search?q=racism+definition>

⁶⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/three-fifths-compromise>

reveals that at the very time that our nation was being established, institutional racism was also being established in our nation. Because this stands in opposition to Kingdom standards and it even violates our own national values, it places our nation into the position of God's judgment until we come back into alignment with both. There must be a national acknowledgement of this hypocrisy, repentance for breaking God's standards, policies of restitution created, and reparations for centuries of damage that has been done and is still being done to restore God's blessings on our nation as a whole. This will provide validity to those who feel their pain is unseen, repair to relationships that have been broken and opportunities for forgiveness and healing. However, Kingdom citizens who have been the victims of racism are being called by God to extend forgiveness and a release of debt within this nation, which will heal the soul of our nation and bring individual souls into the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom requirement of forgiveness and release from debt remains whether or not apologies, restitution and reparations are given. May the healing of this nation begin with each one of us!

This revelation of God judging the United States because of racism is one that President Abraham Lincoln believed very strongly to be true after seeing the effects of the Civil War firsthand. In his Second Inaugural Address, he shared that the blood of countrymen killing their brothers and the loss of property and finances may be God's requirement to atone for the blood shed of the slaves and the finances acquired through their enslavement. In that address, he said the following: "One eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the Southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate, and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the government claimed no right to do more than to restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war, the magnitude, or the duration, which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces; but let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered; that of neither has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offences! For it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!' If we shall suppose that American Slavery is one of those offences which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South, this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offence came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a Living God always ascribe to Him? Fondly do we hope -- fervently do we pray -- that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bond-man's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash, shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord, are true and righteous altogether.'"

If President Lincoln was right and God did use the American Civil War to judge this nation for slavery, what then are we to expect from God for the racism that persists beyond slavery? We

must look even deeper into the soul of this nation to understand the heart of God in this matter and rightly apply Kingdom standards for our restoration. Let us now compare the Biblical standards for slavery and the American standard. The Biblical concept of slavery speaks specifically about what we would identify as indentured servitude, which is obligated service to pay off a debt, or capture in times of war. Biblical slavery was not based on physical or social qualities, it was not torturous nor was it generational. In fact, Kingdom standards protect slaves. God commanded that slaves be freed after 6 years of service, whether or not the debt was fully repaid.⁶⁸ He sent Judah into exile for 70 years in Babylon for failure to obey this commandment.⁶⁹ The Bible also commands that a runaway slave not be returned to his/her master. God specifically says, **“Do not oppress them.”**⁷⁰ This law reveals God’s check on abuse. Only an abused slave would run away. The Kingdom standard was such that a slave would be so well cared for that he/she may even choose to remain with his/her master for the rest of his/her life.⁷¹ If a man slept with his female slave or allowed his son to do the same, she was to become the man’s wife.⁷² At the time of a slave’s release, the Kingdom standard required that they not be sent away empty-handed.⁷³ However, when American slaves were freed in the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, and the last slaves actually received their freedom on June 19, 1866⁷⁴, all of them were sent away empty-handed creating an economic underclass that this nation has never addressed according to Kingdom standards. The situation among First Nations is not dissimilar in this regard.

Additionally, America has continually cursed African Americans. Lynching, a demonic tool of intimidation that still occurs in America by white supremacists, is in fact the exercise of a curse that the Bible warns against because it curses the person and defiles the land. “If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.”⁷⁵ How much defilement has occurred on American soil and still occurs?⁷⁶ Also, the curse that Noah spoke over Ham’s son Canaan in the Bible, after Ham dishonored his father Noah,⁷⁷ was used to not only justify American slavery but to also justify the torturous treatment of slaves in America,⁷⁸ as Ham is the Biblical ancestor of African nations and some nations in the Middle East. Of course, we know that God fulfilled the curse against Canaan when He brought Israel out of Egypt and gave them the land of Canaan to conquer and settle. That truth was conveniently omitted from sermons during slavery.

Similar atrocities were committed against First Nations people with supposed Biblical justification and in the Name of Jesus. However, this is not common knowledge, as Native

⁶⁸ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 15:12-15, 18

⁶⁹ Bible Reference: Jeremiah 34:8-22

⁷⁰ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 23:15-16

⁷¹ Bible Reference: Exodus 21:5-6

⁷² Bible Reference: Exodus 21:7-11, Deuteronomy 21:10-14

⁷³ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 15:12-15, 18

⁷⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Juneteenth>

⁷⁵ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 21:22-23 New King James Version

⁷⁶ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/06/22/black-victims-hanging-suicide/>

⁷⁷ Bible Reference: Genesis 9:18-27

⁷⁸ <https://time.com/5171819/christianity-slavery-book-excerpt/>

Americans are excluded from mainstream American culture, and First Nations issues are suppressed and hidden, as is true for many issues of minorities and immigrants in the United States. After the papal bulls of the popes validated the subjugation of “savages,” missionaries among the colonists sought to convert Native Americans. However, these conversions came with the same cultural assassination and degradation that was being experienced everywhere else in the world. In addition to the brutal and deceptive treatment of all First Nations people, the children of Natives were forcibly removed from their families and taken to “Indian schools” for their Christian or industrial educations. Rather than receiving education on Kingdom standards and marketable skills, these Indian schools became assimilation camps to strip the children of their languages, culture and family ties and assimilate them into Western culture. For example, the Carlisle Indian school’s motto was “Kill the Indian to save the child.”⁷⁹ If this were not damaging enough, Native children at these schools were raped, abused, murdered and placed into mass unmarked graves, at which many of us pray regularly in present times. May God forgive the innocent blood shed in this nation!

On the issue of race and social equality, the Body of Believers has blood on our hands. Many believers have certainly given their lives to take the Gospel all over the world and to stand against various forms of injustice throughout history. However, believers have also been responsible for terrible acts of racism historically, to include the Crusades and Spanish Inquisition, as Jews have also be categorized into a racial group. In fact, the Holocaust itself would not have been possible without the Church. Martin Luther, a venerated father in the faith, reintroduced the western world to the Gospel of grace by faith and pioneered the movement to ensure that believers would all be able to read the Bible in our own common languages. However, his evangelism to Jews was met with rejection, and his doctrine later in life revealed the offense. Hitler often stated that he was only doing what Martin Luther said to do, making reference to Martin Luther’s book On the Jews and Their Lies, in which Luther recommended that Jewish sacred texts be destroyed, synagogues burned and Jews subjugated, actions that were all a part of the Nazi Holocaust.⁸⁰

In contemporary media, the Body of Believers in America has watched in horror as African Americans have been murdered, Native Americans have been dislodged from lands, and racial slurs have come out of the mouths of US leaders. We must unite and stand against racism in the United States, as Kingdom standards require us to do.⁸¹ However, as we stated in the previous issue, we cannot stand against something that is in us! We must first address racism among believers.

This is a part of the Great Commission, to follow our Lord’s model and share God’s ways and Kingdom standards from city to city.⁸² In the Great Commission, the Lord tells us to, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you.”⁸³ The word “Go” is the primary word of purpose concerning the social construct of

⁷⁹ <https://erenow.net/common/the-inconvenient-indian/6.php>

⁸⁰ <https://www.against-antisemitism.com/>

⁸¹ Bible Reference: Isaiah 58:1, James 4:17, Leviticus 5:1

⁸² Bible Reference: Luke 4:43

⁸³ Bible Reference: Matthew 28:19-20a New King James Version

justice for the Body of Believers in the 21st century, simply because the word “Go” in its Greek operative transliterated form means to engage in the everyday doings among human populations.⁸⁴ The word is meant to be a reference point for our “everyday doings”. We have often relegated preaching or discipleship in an American context to our weekly worship services and Bible studies. When our engagement is in the business and busyness of everyday life in our context, we should be penetrating culture with our Kingdom lifestyles, love, and livelihood. This suggests that where there is an engagement of injustice, inhuman treatment of others and idolatry around us, the believer should be engaged and involved to extend God’s Kingdom into these situations.

Yet rather than standing on Biblical truth, we have been complacent and even resistant to address injustice in this nation. In the last 15-20 years, we have seen an astronomical rise in the injustice experienced by African American men and women, the abductions of Native American women and girls at alarming rates, the displacement and maltreatment of Native people for pipelines and other government agendas, and a startling rise in anti-Semitism. Rather than standing on Kingdom standards and standing with persecuted groups (that include more than the three just mentioned), the Body of Believers has been divided along polarized racial lines and political positions without an adherence to the commands of our Messiah. This reveals that the religious justifications necessary to establish slavery and commit so many other atrocities across the globe in the Name of Jesus still exist at foundational and leadership levels in the American church, a church that still sees Jesus as an American. Failure to acknowledge His identity as an Israeli Jew who fulfilled and revealed the Torah (Old Testament) empowers every other cultural assassination attempt that the enemy would perform through us. Again, racism must first be removed in us, because racism is a sin!

The Body of Believers must choose to become informed and stand against injustices against African Americans and other minorities in the United States. These injustices include racially motivated attacks, police brutality, the goal of the abortion agenda to target black and brown babies, white supremacism, and others. The success we saw from the Civil Rights Movement 50 years ago and the abolition of slavery 150 years ago was only possible when people united from various cultural backgrounds to take down systems that brought destruction to our nation as a whole. Abolitionists were largely Christian and from various ethnic groups, and so were those who stood with Dr. King in the Civil Rights Movement, recognizing that “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Dr. King’s legacy of change in this nation came out of his understanding of the God of all creation. His faith and commitment to Kingdom standards above all else fueled his fight to speak truth with love and even his sacrifice and ultimate price of laying down his own life. ***“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”***⁸⁵ This must not be overlooked. Not only must we see him as a civil rights leader bent on equality, but understand him, and his message, through the God he served. The God of Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr., is

⁸⁴ The word is Strong’s Concordance G4198 *poreuō*, which is meant to be a reference point for our “everyday doings”.

⁸⁵ Bible Reference: John 15:13 New International Version

the same God whose Word is as true today as it was in the beginning of time. In the words of Rev. King, “we must learn to live together as brothers, or we will perish together as fools.”⁸⁶

God is calling each one of us to be true to our design; we are made in His image.⁸⁷ As new creations⁸⁸ operating in His spirit, we must be examples to all, demonstrating the character that comes from His Spirit with good fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.⁸⁹ We must make this demonstration at all times and in our interactions with all people, as His unseen Spirit has no color. He is love, and love has no color. True love will then result, absent any hypocrisy. Then, our nation will see from God’s view what it means to love Him and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.⁹⁰

To address this issue of race and social equality apart from God creates the results we have already seen through contemporary movements like Black Lives Matter: further division, pain and disorder. Instead of championing Kingdom ideals described in this declaration, which are expressed to harmonize with the Founding Fathers ideals of a “more perfect union,” Black Lives Matter serves as a subversive influence within the African American community to further polarize various people groups. Much of their agenda is counterproductive to Kingdom unity and further incites discord under the guise of promoting “restorative justice,” while quietly infusing socialist ideals, heavily promoting transgender and homosexual agendas, and aiming toward a dismantling of the Biblical family structure that is essential to the very lives it claims it seeks to protect, all clearly revealed in formerly publicly distributed affirmations.

Apart from God, we are all broken people seeking our own good. This leads to the detriment of the whole. The Body of Messiah has the answer to these challenges, as we saw in Rev. Dr. King’s example, but we must reject the “manmade” notions and solutions, many of which actually oppose God’s Kingdom and reject Kingdom standards. This will cause any movement to be more destructive than constructive. Hence, we must repent of our best thinking and return to Kingdom standards for wisdom and character that will provide justice for all.

As we allow God to minister deliverance and healing to us, among us, we can then unite to be a force for change in our nation. We must hold our nation to the words of the Declaration of Independence, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” If this was understood as true when our Founding Fathers sought freedom from oppression, it must be upheld as true as we move forward in establishing the America that our God originally ordained. To establish such a nation will require that same commitment and sacrifice that birthed this nation. However, this time, we must do so without compromising Kingdom values, as each compromise has led to the very issues we are addressing today.

Native Americans must be brought out of the shadows and to the decision-making tables. As the original stewards of this land⁹¹ and current gatekeepers, sustained prosperity for the United

⁸⁶ <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/hypocrisy-regarding-black-lives-matter-senseless-hate-arthur-l-/?fbclid=IwAR1Ev1V2qPHlIXgBsArFdMfIFw6SucW9R4YkO7cGQSCuYILf0xYcrbxDgNY>

⁸⁷ Bible Reference: Genesis 1:26-27

⁸⁸ Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:17

⁸⁹ Bible Reference: Galatians 5:22-23

⁹⁰ Bible Reference: Luke 10:27

⁹¹ Bible Reference: Genesis 1:26

States is impossible without input from First Nations. The Original People can even help us address the cultural norms we have adopted from the West that laid the foundation for division and racism in the first place, as Native culture is much more inclusive. This accounts for the assistance the colonists initially received from the Natives they encountered.

As God's ambassadors on earth, we are government agents. It is our responsibility to get involved in political matters and represent Kingdom standards when doing so. We have already established that the "wall of separation between church and state" serves to protect religion from government, not the other way around. Our faith should be incorporated into every aspect of our lives, and we should actively pursue the inclusion or restoration of Kingdom standards into the governance of our nation. With that being said, we must actively work toward the removal of institutional racism in America. Sharing our testimonies and lives with each other, across lines that divide us, will undoubtedly convince each of us that institutional racism still exists in America. Once we have all come to know the truth, we can actively stand against the deceptions of the enemy.

We know that this will not be easy for any of us, as American citizens and even as Kingdom citizens. However, as we discovered while convening the National Kingdom Council for 7 consecutive nights at 3 hours each, our God will show up to reveal His ways while challenging our misconceptions and healing our hearts if we commit to Him. We came together—male and female, African American, European American, Hispanic American, Native American, Jewish American, Americans by birth, Americans by naturalization, young students, older professors, entrepreneurs, mothers, fathers, elders, youths, pastors, lay people, apostles, bishops—from various perspectives and experiences, yet God has been able to reveal to us His clear Kingdom standard on 7 issues that are vitally important in our nation. When we committed to pray together and honestly and vulnerably share with each other, despite offense and real pain, God moved among us and revealed His heart. We have all been blessed by this experience and look forward to God doing even more through us and adding to our number.

This coming together must happen in the Body of Believers across our nation, so that we can begin to embody the unity of God as His Kingdom representatives. We must reject the manmade notion of "race" and see ourselves as God sees us. Our interactions, language and gatherings must all begin to reflect the Kingdom standards of unity and love. Our Messiah Yeshua (Jesus' original Covenant Name given by the Father) died for all. Hence, the Body of Messiah is whole in Him,⁹² and we must demonstrate this oneness in our daily lives and interactions. Only then can we really make a difference regarding social equality in our nation.

We know the truth: our Messiah is soon to return. When He comes, He will return as a Jew and rule the world from Jerusalem (not Washington, DC, Los Angeles or New York City). We are then called to prepare the way for His return, which includes making earth look and feel a lot more like heaven. The book of Revelation makes it very clear that people from every tribe, tongue and nation will be gathered around the throne of God in heaven worshiping Him together,⁹³ as God delights in the diversity that He created among us, all of it representing an aspect of Himself. Those who believe the image of God is confined to their own likeness will

⁹² Bible Reference: John 17:20-23, Galatians 3:28-29, Ephesians 2:11-22, Romans chapter 11

⁹³ Bible Reference: Revelation 5:1-10, 7:9-17

receive a rude awakening at the time of Messiah's coming. Yet if we continue to misrepresent Him, that too will be our fault. Let us begin now to value and celebrate our diversity, which also requires that we stand for equality under the law, with each person protected and affirmed, as racial division and superiority are antithetical to God's Kingdom.

Issue 5—Foreign Policy and Immigration

In addressing the topics of foreign policy and immigration, the imminent return of our Messiah is paramount. The Bible is the constitution of the Kingdom of God on earth, and the founders of this Kingdom on earth are all from among God's people Israel: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles. The Bible is also the book of Kingdom policy, and God's policies are intertwined. They are all connected and must all be followed together or any system built upon them will collapse. This is essential to note as we reveal Kingdom standards for US foreign policy and immigration.

There are two international relationships that the United States must handle according to Kingdom standards in order to fulfill our purpose as a nation and to retain the blessings of God: our relationships with Israel and First Nations. When the US handles these two relationships according to Kingdom standards, we will also see a divine model to use in all foreign policies and immigration. Israel is the Biblical model for a nation established by God, and the American Indians that were here when the colonists arrived are God's original stewards of this land. When the colonists arrived, American Indians were separated into distinct Native nations, with governing structures, leadership, policies and culture. Both Israel and First Nations were models that influenced our Founding Fathers when building this nation, and our Founding Documents are full of principles and language that came from the Bible and confederations of Native nations.⁹⁴

For God to deal favorably with us, we must deal favorably with Israel. God has an eternal covenant with Israel, the people and land, and He expects the nations of the world to relate to Israel in accordance with His covenant. When we uphold God's covenant with Israel, we experience blessings as a nation.⁹⁵ However, when we attempt to violate the covenant He has with His people and His land Israel, our people and our land experience dire consequences. A violation of that covenant through foreign policy typically manifests as international pressure upon the leaders of Israel to divide the land for the formation of a Palestinian state or to dislodge Israeli citizens and deem that land Palestinian territory.

White House Correspondent William Koenig describes such covenant-breaking acts in his book Eye to Eye, where he shows 127 events of US anti-Biblical politics against Israel by espousing the division of the land, the two-state solution and the defining of borders by US Presidents. In every one of those cases, within 24 hours, a terrible catastrophe or a storm happened in the USA that cost billions of dollars in damage and loss of life as well. Some of these are well-known events such as 9\11 and Hurricane Katrina, both after the US committed itself to support the

⁹⁴ <https://www.pbs.org/native-america/blogs/native-voices/how-the-iroquois-great-law-of-peace-shaped-us-democracy/#:~:text=In%201988%2C%20the%20U.S.%20Senate,incorporated%20into%20the%20constitution%20itself.%22>

⁹⁵ Bible Reference: Genesis 12:3

Palestinian cause by dividing Israel or uprooting Israeli settlements (like in the case of Gush Katif in Gaza). Within 24 hours, disasters hit the USA.

In a talk show hosted by Pastor Sam Rohrer from Stand in the Gap Today, Bill Koenig was the guest speaker on Passover Eve, April 8, 2020. He mentioned the following: “On January 28, 2020 President Donald Trump presented the Middle East Plan that he called the ‘Deal of the Century.’ He also presented a map defining the borders of Israel under his plan. In this map, 70% of the Biblical land of Judea and Samaria would be under a Palestinian State. Within hours of him presenting his peace plan to divide Israel, Miami was hit with a 7.7 earthquake on the Richter scale. ‘A powerful magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck south of Cuba and northwest of Jamaica on Tuesday,’ the U.S. Geological Survey said. The quake was felt in Miami, and police said some buildings were being evacuated in the city.”⁹⁶ Within 24 hours, the US administration was discussing what to do concerning the Coronavirus Pandemic that was developing since being discovered in Wuhan, China on December 31, 2019. On January 30, the outbreak was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization; this was only two days after the peace plan to divide Israel was submitted on January 28, 2020 and was accepted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

At the same time, the EU and the international community reiterated their allegiance to the division of the land of Israel. They insisted on Israel returning to the pre-1967 borders prior to the Six Day War. The International Community was insisting on defining the borders of the Promised Land that the God of Israel already defined thousands of years ago. The COVID-19 Pandemic became a judgment to the whole world, quarantining most of the world population and affecting the economy of all - especially of the USA and Israel, as Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed to a plan that is contrary to God’s covenant with Israel. If the United States and the International Community do not learn this lesson soon, we will continue to see catastrophes that increase in intensity, as we seek to divide the covenant land of Israel. Our Messiah is returning soon to rule the world from Jerusalem, and judgment will be released on any nation that would seek to divide His land.⁹⁷

The United States was established, protected and blessed by God to do two things: take the Gospel to the four corners of the earth and lift Israel up on our shoulders. We have supported Israel in various ways, such as being the first nation to recognize the newly re-established nation on May 14, 1948. However, we continue to fall short in respecting the covenant land. With regard to sharing the Gospel, we have sacrificed and risked our lives to take it all over the world, but it was not the original Gospel revealed 2,000 years ago by our Jewish Messiah and taught by the Jewish apostles. Instead, it was a Roman syncretized Gospel that was fueled by the imperial spirit of conquest of the Roman Empire. The spirit of conquest is behind the Gospel we brought to these shores, and we conquered in the Roman name of our Messiah, who is actually a Jew. In so doing, we also brought a cultural assassination to the original stewards of this land, rather than a message of liberty. Conquest still characterizes the US federal policies in dealing with Native nations. This spirit of conquest must be addressed so that we can operate according to Kingdom standards in this area.

⁹⁶ Jan. 28, 2020, 4:04 PM EST / Updated Jan. 28, 2020, 8:15 PM EST by Janelle Griffith nbcnews.com

⁹⁷ Bible Reference: Joel 3:2, Zechariah 14:1-15

It was the foreign policy of First Nations to welcome foreigners. Chief Powhatan gave a portion of land to Captain John Smith and provisions for him and all those with him that should have lasted through the winter season. However, because the colonists were not used to rationing food, they quickly went through all the provisions and, rather than returning to Powhatan for additional aid or direction in being sustained through the winter, the colonists began to raid the other tribes under the Powhatan Confederation. Powhatan then returned to the settlers to ask them why they were stealing what was being given freely to them. No reparations or apologies were made. This began the tensions between Natives and colonists and revealed what would continue to be the trend in relationships between First Nations and this nation.

Since first landing on these shores in 1607 and establishing our nation in 1776, the United States has not kept one treaty, covenant or promise made to First Nations. From 1778-1871, the US government entered into over 500 treaties with the Original People of this land. None of them were kept. Over 370 ratified treaties that helped the United States expand have also been broken. For example, the treaty of 1677, also known as the Middle Plantation Treaty could have provided the halting of the controversial King William Reservoir being constructed. However, because it was cited that a clause that provided a three mile buffer would have included the area in question and the tribe involved (Mattaponi) had never invoked the clause, this clause was rendered moot because there were already dozens of buildings within that parameter. Again, the Pickering Treaty, also called the Treaty of Canandaigua, was signed in 1794 between the US government and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (or the Six Nations) based in New York. This treaty was broken.

On 3/3/1871, with the passing of US Code title 25, chapter 3, sub chapter 1, section 71, pre-existing treaties with First Nations were grandfathered and further agreements were made under domestic law, to allow for them to continue in existence. First Nations have kept their agreements and compromised when asked. However, the United States government has not kept any of these treaties. Before we can commit to being fair, equitable and honest in our policies with other nations abroad, we must recommit to our covenants with the nations that were present when our Founding Fathers were the foreigners and immigrants on these shores and when our fledgling nation was desperate for survival.

Our foreign policies must incorporate integrity to do what we have promised, wisdom to discern the motivations of others, and a focus on upholding Kingdom standards in other nations. We have certainly given much aid to other nations. Yet we have also interfered in the politics of other nations purely for financial gain without regard for Kingdom standards. We must be careful when making judgments about foreign relations that our judgements are based on Kingdom standards that apply universally to all people inciting compassion and equality.

Hear what the Lord says to this nation: ***“You know what it is like to escape oppression and come to a new land in search of freedom. How dare you bring oppression with you, the very thing you sought to leave behind? How dare you persecute and attempt to annihilate my original stewards of this land? How dare you deny protection to those seeking asylum as you were? How dare you perpetuate oppression to this very day? For this, and for many other sins, my hand is still upraised, yet you do not see it.”***

Coming into alignment with Kingdom standards in our relationships with Israel and First Nations will guide the United States into a Kingdom worldview that will aid in all of our foreign policies. Biblical relationships with Israel and First Nations will challenge us to keep God's will first. These relationships will also remind us that, like Israel, our National Founders were once foreigners in someone else's land,⁹⁸ so compassion will become a guiding force in foreign policy and immigration.

Consulting First Nations leaders will also help us to create fair and equitable policies concerning immigration, as First Nations policies toward foreigners have always been to welcome and aid them. However, First Nations have also experienced welcoming foreigners who had selfish and deceptive motives for coming to the land, which they would fulfill even through violence. This experience and wisdom are vital going forward, so that we can avoid having done to us as a nation at this time the exact thing our Founders did to First Nations 400 years ago. We are called to welcome the alien in our midst, but at the same time, to maintain legal standards for the common good. Our foreign policies should further peace and protect those who are oppressed and cannot help themselves. We must come together as a nation to balance the Kingdom standard of welcoming foreigners with the responsibility of protecting our citizens.⁹⁹

Issue 6—Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement

As in all of the previous issues, Kingdom standards must guide our criminal justice system and law enforcement. A just criminal system requires fair processes and procedures, as well as punishments proportional to the crime¹⁰⁰ with the end goal of an overall healthy society in mind. Sentences out of proportion to the offense are unjust. Yet, rather than focus on justice, our criminal justice system focuses more on incarceration. Both thieves and murderers are incarcerated, without regard for the severity of the crime, the effects on the families and children of the offenders, which affects society as a whole, nor for the rehabilitation of the offender or reparations to those who were wronged.

The Kingdom standard for theft and other property-based offenses is restitution, which allows an offender to restore that which has been stolen directly to those wronged. When unable to pay immediately, the debt must be worked off over time, but it is still paid directly to those who experienced loss. This system provides for repair done in the lives and businesses of those who have been offended, the rehabilitation of the offender (without the influence of much more deviant criminals) and lessons to children from within the families of the offenders while working to repay the debt. This also keeps families of minor offenders together. Though the consequence of the offense would certainly affect the family unit, a return to Kingdom standards is then present for everyone and the effects of the loss of a family member, which we discussed in Issue 2, are avoided. This Kingdom standard is not only rehabilitative, restorative and reconciling, but it is also redemptive, allowing people the opportunity to repent of their crimes, which means to turn away from their crimes, while continuing their lives.

⁹⁸ Bible Reference: Exodus 22:21, Exodus 23:9, Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 24:17-18

⁹⁹ Bible Reference: Isaiah 62:6, 1 Chronicles 9:23, Nehemiah 7:1-3, Ezekiel 33:6

¹⁰⁰ Michael V. Hernandez, J.D. This is "lex talionis", and it is reflected in Genesis 9:5-6, Exodus 21:24-25, Exodus 22:1-31, Leviticus 6:1-7 and in many other places in the Biblical Law of God.

The Kingdom standard for capital offenses is also very clear, as our God is a God of justice. He requires an accounting for the blood of any person, and all pre-meditated murder incurs the penalty of death.¹⁰¹ This includes acts that would lead to the deaths of many, like treason and terror plots. Our God takes sin seriously and knows the damage done to families and societies when a person is murdered and life is not valued. As life is our first and primary right, to protect life, we must employ God's standards. The death penalty is debated by many as inhumane and uncompassionate. However, God's standard requires an accounting for blood, which creates a clear standard in our nation that every life matters. With that being said, as Kingdom citizens, we rightly appropriate the shed blood of our Messiah, so that God may forgive individual transgressors and save their souls. This is, of course, our highest goal, as the eternal life of each person is paramount.

Mandatory sentencing for non-violent offenses, such as drug charges, have filled our prisons beyond capacity. This is unjust, as the punishments do not fit the crimes, and it is imbalanced as the laws tend to target ethnic minorities, who disproportionately fill our prisons. Many feel this is a result of disfunction in minority communities. However, a deeper look reveals perversions of justice and racial motivations, which violates Kingdom standards. Our incarceration-based criminal justice system then becomes merely a continuation of many of the evils of slavery, which we have already discussed. Prisons being disproportionately filled with the free labor of minorities is another violation of our national values and Kingdom standards.

Reform of this system will take changes on many levels then, as incarceration is also big business in America. Though, in 2019, the United States spent \$7,141,000,000 on our prison systems,¹⁰² ploys for votes lead politicians to promise to "round up the criminals" and "make the streets safe again" to appeal to the fear of constituents and gain popularity. This is clearly a submission to mob mentality, and it is creating a criminal underclass that is destroying families and many other aspects of our society. Additionally, our prisons have become recruiting grounds for gangs, training grounds for the criminal underground and breeding grounds for immoral sexual behavior (to include rape and forced sodomy). Inmates are attacked, brutalized and murdered in prison, while those who survive are used as prison labor, which is referred to as insourcing, and make about 90 cents to \$4 a day. Employers receive a tax credit of \$2,400 for every work-release inmate they employ as a reward for hiring "risky target groups" under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC). These prisoners are not only cheap labor, but they are considered easier to control and tend to be ethnic minorities. Additionally, the "benevolent" employers avoid providing benefits, like health insurance or sick days, and dealing with unions or employee demands. According to the Left Business Observer, "the federal prison industry produces 100 percent of all military helmets, war supplies and other equipment. The workers supply 98 percent of the entire market for equipment assembly services; 93 percent of paints and paintbrushes; 92 percent of stove assembly; 46 percent of body armor; 36 percent of home appliances; 30 percent of headphones/microphones/speakers; and 21 percent of office furniture. Airplane parts, medical supplies and much more: prisoners are even raising seeing-eye dogs for blind people."¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ Bible Reference: Genesis 9:5-6

¹⁰² <https://www.justice.gov/jmd/page/file/1033161/download>

¹⁰³ <http://maltajusticeinitiative.org/12-major-corporations-benefiting-from-the-prison-industrial-complex-2/>

If we employ Kingdom standards in our nation, only criminals who are serious threats to the community would be incarcerated, regardless of ethnicity or net worth, and their production of “free labor” would not be a factor. Though there are very few Biblical references to prison, we see this concept revealed in Biblical banishment.¹⁰⁴ Only those offenses that God deemed damaging to society as a whole required banishment.

With regard to trials, Kingdom standards protect those who have not yet been found guilty through Levitical towns called cities of refuge.¹⁰⁵ There, a person could await a fair trial or even be protected from vigilantes out for revenge. Additionally, no one could be convicted of a crime based solely on one witness’s testimony, as this is unjust and opens the door for corruption. In the Bible, all matters must be established based on the testimony of at least two witnesses,¹⁰⁶ not just one. Our criminal justice system has convicted many based on the testimony of only one witness, which has resulted in countless wrongful convictions. Of course, certain physical evidence, such as DNA, would then count as a witness as well by Kingdom standards. However, more than one eye-witness should always be required to ensure justice and avoid any mistakes or ulterior motives.

The Bible is very clear that justice should not be perverted for any reason: not because a person is rich, not because a person is poor,¹⁰⁷ not for favoritism,¹⁰⁸ not for bribes,¹⁰⁹ not for political agendas, or any other reason. Judges in the Bible were admonished to remember that they were making decisions on behalf of God, as if God was judging through them.¹¹⁰ Corruption in the criminal justice system erodes the foundation of our nation. Hence, everyone who serves in the criminal justice system should adhere to Kingdom standards, as they require much more care and precision in every aspect of justice proceedings.

Addressing Kingdom standards in our criminal justice system requires that we address law enforcement as well. As Kingdom citizens, we are thankful for police officers and other law enforcement officers, as we understand that law and order are essential in any healthy society and important to God.¹¹¹ Law enforcement officers should be committed to and respected by the communities they serve. As a society, we must stop furthering the narrative of division between the people and the police. Instead, we should see each other as fellow citizens furthering and serving the common good. This shift will require change from all parties. Citizens must respect and cooperate with law enforcement officers who are performing a dangerous and challenging duty for substandard compensation and appreciation. Law enforcement officers also need to see themselves as part of the communities they serve and make serious efforts to become a visible and active part of the community. Most tragedies we see involving law enforcement stem from fear, either on the part of the citizenry or law enforcement officers. Long-term relationships will address this fear and replace it with mutual respect and cooperation.

¹⁰⁴ Bible Reference: Leviticus 18:1-29

¹⁰⁵ Bible Reference: Numbers 35:6-15

¹⁰⁶ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 19:15

¹⁰⁷ Bible Reference: Exodus 23:6

¹⁰⁸ Bible Reference: Leviticus 19:15

¹⁰⁹ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 16:19, Exodus 23:8

¹¹⁰ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 1:15-17, 2 Chronicles 19:4-11

¹¹¹ Bible Reference: Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13-17, 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Our Kingdom standard is clear: we are all brothers and sisters, made in the image of God. We understand that creating a sense of brotherhood among law enforcement officers is essential to their safety and comradery. However, when that brotherhood becomes an elite group that even excuses injustice that occurs from within the ranks, it becomes a source of division and a potential danger to the general populace. Instead, we must see ourselves—citizens and law enforcement—as a part of God’s family and brethren to each other. To address this challenge and others, more funding and resources must be granted to law enforcement, not less. Additional funding could increase officer pay, which would attract more skilled applicants, and provide body cams and other essential equipment. It could also provide more thorough psychological evaluations and resources, additional training on sensitivity in dealing with citizens of diverse backgrounds and/or with mental illnesses, and specific programs to increase community involvement. More funding would also mean that more law enforcement officers could be hired, allowing our police force to more adequately address challenges in our communities while caring for their own health and families. If we make these changes, then injustice will not be the norm, so the instances of injustice won’t divide us as communities and as a nation. Instead, we’ll stand together in our communities against injustice—citizens and police alike.

We have certainly seen many recent criminal justice reforms, but much more are needed, and these reforms must be according to Kingdom standards to ensure that we move forward, not backward. As citizens, we must require our leaders to go farther in criminal justice reform by placing God’s Law and our national values first, then enforcing our other statutes and ordinances.¹¹² Our laws must be clear and communicated with those they affect, with the consequences of breaking those laws understood, so that the standard is consistent. People must be educated on laws that are applicable to their daily lives.

Though we elect our leaders, they should represent God, not us, as we are tremendously flawed and selfish. If representing the general populace is the standard for political leaders, then our nation will continue to flow in accordance with the prevailing thoughts of the day, which brings us right back to the mentality of the mob.¹¹³ Our leaders must be held to a higher standard, to God’s standards, as they are making judgments on behalf of God in the earth. As our leaders represent God’s ways, the favor, blessings and power of God will flow from our leaders down to the citizens of this nation. The more of a heart for God our leaders have, the more they will demonstrate God’s ways throughout this nation by righteous laws, rather than compromising ones, as God does not compromise His Word. A righteous and just nation draws people not only to revere God but also to know Him!

If you are a leader in our nation, seek first to get to know God’s ways and to please Him, then to please your constituents. Our God promises to those whose ways are pleasing to Him, He will make even their enemies live at peace with them.¹¹⁴ For all American citizens, especially those of us who are also Kingdom citizens, the Kingdom standard requires that we pray for our leaders,¹¹⁵ whether we voted for them or not, whether we agree with their policies or not, and even if they offend us and cause us harm. We encourage you to pray for all leaders in our nation,

¹¹² Bible Reference: 2 Chronicles 19:4-11

¹¹³ Michael V. Hernandez, J.D. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2015390

¹¹⁴ Bible Reference: Proverbs 16:7

¹¹⁵ Bible Reference: 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Jeremiah 29:7-14

as God can guide their hearts if we pray.¹¹⁶ Our failure to pray for our leaders, because we disagree with them or are offended, reveals idolatry, as we are looking at the human and forgetting the power of God to move in any situation, working all things together for our good.¹¹⁷

Issue 7—Economics and Poverty

On the issue of economics and poverty, the Bible tells us that “money answers all things.”¹¹⁸ This does not mean that we should look for money to solve all of our problems, treat it as a god guiding our lives or be willing to forsake Kingdom standards to acquire money. The Bible clearly warns against this.¹¹⁹ Instead, we understand this to mean, especially as applied here, that many of the issues presented in this declaration could be more adequately addressed with additional funding, as we stated with law enforcement earlier. The blessing of the Lord makes one rich,¹²⁰ as our nation has experienced in these 400 years since the English settlers first landed on the shores in Virginia Beach in 1607, erecting a cross and burying a Bible in the sand to dedicate this land to God. When the United States chooses to do things in accordance with God’s will, we experience His blessings. However, we must repent for redefining wealth, neglecting the needs of the poor and making money our god, rather than using financial wealth to serve the purposes of God. This repentance will restore and secure our financial stability as a nation.

We must first address with the definitions of “wealth” and “money”. Finances are mentioned over 2,300 times in the Bible. This reveals that wealth and money are important to God, as resources He has given us. Hence, we must teach on this subject in the Body of Believers. In Luke chapter 16, our Messiah shares a parable about a shrewd manager, and in verse 9, He says, ***“I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”*** Here, He very clearly reveals that Kingdom wealth includes all resources that empower us to advance God’s will on earth, to start with each person and to include all other resources. Money, then, is wealth that should fund the highest Kingdom goal: bringing souls into the Kingdom of God. So then, what is money? There are no dollars or other fiat currencies in the Bible. Fiat currency is government-issued currency that is not backed by a commodity. These are merely promissory notes. Instead, the currencies we see used in the Bible are coins made from precious metals, like gold. This Biblical system has never failed, and it never will. Man’s financial system of fiat currencies is only hundreds of years old and has a track record of a 100% failure rate. However, every person who owns physical gold increases in wealth, as the value of gold steadily increases. Neither the stock market nor business ventures nor real estate markets can make such a claim. In just the last 100 years, gold has risen in value by over 8000%.

Before we continue in this vein, we must also address the deception by Satan and other evil spirits to influence us to serve money, not God, as individual citizens and as a nation. Our Messiah shares a Hebrew idiom in Matthew 6:19-23 that sheds light on this. The Hebrew idiom

¹¹⁶ Bible Reference: Proverbs 21:1

¹¹⁷ Bible Reference: Romans 8:28

¹¹⁸ Bible Reference: Ecclesiastes 10:19

¹¹⁹ Bible Reference: Matthew 6:19-24, 1 Timothy 6:10

¹²⁰ Bible Reference: Proverbs 10:22

asserts that a stingy person is said to have an “evil eye,” as they are always coveting the possessions of others or looking for someone to defraud. Conversely, a generous person is said to have a “good eye,” as they are always looking for someone to bless. The Lord then says in this Scripture, ***“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”*** His statements reveal that we will shine like stars in a dark world when we go against the norm and give to others, even sacrificially. This blesses not just those who receive but also those who are encouraged and influenced by our example. Conversely, stinginess is like a black hole, a star that has died out; it provides no light, but rather adds to the darkness. In fact, like a black hole, stinginess sucks up all of the resources around and even draws in others, causing them to implode (self-destruct). Hence, stinginess is destructive for our entire nation, as it is rooted in selfishness and leads to many other offenses, such as murder, injustice, lack of resources for those in need, etc.

As you may have surmised in the recount earlier of the settlers with Captain John Smith, a selfish and insatiable misuse of resources led to conflicts with Native nations and fuels many of the battles we see happening among groups in our nation today. We fight over resources in all areas of life. This is the result of the deception from Satan, as we are either pushed into a fear of lack, thinking we will not have enough resources for ourselves and those we love, or we are influenced to become greedy with appetites that are never satisfied. The result of these two are the same: hoarding, which leads to scarcity.

The Kingdom of God is not in lack, so neither should His people be. When we are in alignment with Kingdom standards, to be willing to give rather than receive,¹²¹ God continues to supply us with more.¹²² However, when we are afraid to give to others or refuse to do so because our appetites have grown so large, we release destruction into our nation for generations to come. This is why the Bible says that “the love of money is the root of all evil.”¹²³ Money is not evil. It is simply a resource with which we have been blessed. However, to love money is to be greedy. That leads to all manner of sins, which we have certainly seen in this nation, as evidenced in some of the issues discussed above.

Our greed and fear of lack has caused us to sin greatly in economic matters. This is, of course, true in our treatment of the poor, but it has proved disastrous in our redefining of wealth. In 1971, the United States abandoned the gold standard, which meant that our banknotes (currency) represented gold held by this nation. In 1920, a \$20 US bill literally read, “Twenty Dollars payable in gold coin to the bearer on demand.” All other US bills read similarly. This means that a US bill was literally a bank note that one could exchange for gold. This is important because the Kingdom standard in the Bible reveals that wealth is precious natural resources, like gold and silver.¹²⁴ Yet, since 1971, the US dollar is no longer representing any natural resource at all. Instead, it has become a promissory note, with no resources behind it, that has led us into astronomical international debt.

¹²¹ Bible Reference: Acts 20:35

¹²² Bible Reference: Matthew 7:7

¹²³ Bible Reference: 1 Timothy 6:10

¹²⁴ Bible Reference: Genesis 2:11-12, Genesis 13:2, Exodus 11:2, Matthew 2:11, Acts 3:6, Revelation 21:18-21

Debt can be used as a tool of Satan to put people into bondage,¹²⁵ but Yeshua our Messiah (Jesus Christ) came to release us from our debts and set us free.¹²⁶ He has also come that we might have abundant life,¹²⁷ which positions us to be blessed by God so that we may be a blessing to others. However, our intense appetites in this nation demand products at all times, which requires continual work, so that the consumer has products to consume and income to pay for them. All of this is a tremendous distraction from every value we have shared here. Therefore, God is ignored, our families are neglected and our character corrupted. Our nation clearly has a problem with the love of money and making money our god.¹²⁸ The only solution is to turn to the one true God for deliverance and redirection.

Kingdom standards demand a drastic reordering of our priorities. Everything in the Bible makes it clear that God must be first in our lives. He will then help us to set everything else in our lives and society in proper order. The first three of the Ten Commandments are all about God. ***“I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”***¹²⁹

The fourth commandment tells us to honor the Sabbath day. ***“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”***¹³⁰ Again, He is ordering our priorities. Our society has pushed us into a perverted work ethic that rejects rest and health. Ignoring the Sabbath confirms that we are slaves to money and deceived by the enemy, dismissing God’s freedom. This also causes our children to grow up in environments that reveal the wrong priorities. They are seeing generations serve money and not God. They are being pushed to an unbiblical standard. We must allow God to heal our souls, bodies and relationships on the Sabbath. We have been depleted emotionally, drained mentally and our relationships are strained. On the Sabbath, God ministers healing in all of these areas to us. The Sabbath brings everyone back to a central focus, as everything must be put to the side on the Sabbath, so that we can focus on God, family and fellowship.

¹²⁵ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 15, Proverbs 22:7

¹²⁶ Bible Reference: Matthew 6:8-13, Isaiah 61:1, John 8:36

¹²⁷ Bible Reference: John 10:10

¹²⁸ Bible Reference: Matthew 6:24

¹²⁹ Bible Reference: Exodus 20:2-7

¹³⁰ Bible Reference: Exodus 20:8-11

This reordering of priorities will also lead to good stewardship of our finances and a drastic reordering of our lives and society, which is what it is designed to do. That is why we are commanded to worship God alone. As we return to giving God one day per week, we will also be drawn to return to giving God one-tenth of our income, called the tithe, and additional freewill financial offerings. Giving tithes and offerings to God is one of few commandments in which the Lord actually tells us to test Him in this, ***“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”***¹³¹ Additionally, on the Sabbath day, we are required to fellowship with others in the Kingdom of God.¹³² These gatherings are led by men and women who have dedicated their professions to honoring God and leading His people. Hence, a return to the Sabbath will lead to a return to financially supporting the men and women of God through the tithe, which will provide additional moral guidance within our nation. Lastly, the tithe is also set apart by God to help the poor.¹³³ This pooling of resources positions us collectively to be blessed to be a blessing.

In our best thinking, we designed welfare systems to care for those in need. However, because these systems were created apart from God and ignore Kingdom standards, they have only shifted the slave plantation to being owned by the government itself, incentivizing people to stay in cycles of poverty, which contributes to an economic underclass. Our welfare programs do not support the development of contributing citizens by moving those in need from a state of dependence on the system, then to financial independence, then to interdependence as a contributing member of a community.¹³⁴ However, this is exactly what they should do.

When we really look at it, our educational systems fail to do this as well. Student debt cripples many young people who should be moving into financial independence, so that they can soon become contributing members of society. The number one asset of the United States is student loan debt. So instead of helping students, loan debt pulls them back into the cycle of overworking in which they saw their parents. Both our welfare and educational systems should teach and support our most vulnerable populations (youth and the poor) to become productive, prosper and contribute to the common good. This has not been possible, however, because the selfish priorities of our nation create cycles of bondage for everyone. For the first time in recorded history, our children will be less wealthy than their parents.

Although we will always have the poor among us,¹³⁵ we are called to care for the poor.¹³⁶ The foundation for poverty eradication is education and empowerment, not furthering a perpetual underclass by undermining the family, discouraging learning and hindering social and personal development. Social welfare should be a safety net for those who truly cannot care for themselves. For all others, we need school choice and economic empowerment policies. This should include a shift from public/subsidized housing to property ownership, which is our third foundational right in our nation. We can begin by transitioning all able-bodied citizens into

¹³¹ Bible Reference: Malachi 3:10 New International Version

¹³² Bible Reference: Leviticus 23:3

¹³³ Bible Reference: Deuteronomy 26:12

¹³⁴ [https://challengingcoaching.co.uk/stephen-covey-interdependence-the-deeper-facts/#:~:text=The%20first%20three%20habits%20surround,i.e.%2C%20working%20with%20others\)%3A&text=I%20interdependent%20people%20combine%20their%20own](https://challengingcoaching.co.uk/stephen-covey-interdependence-the-deeper-facts/#:~:text=The%20first%20three%20habits%20surround,i.e.%2C%20working%20with%20others)%3A&text=I%20interdependent%20people%20combine%20their%20own)

¹³⁵ Bible Reference: Matthew 26:11

¹³⁶ Bible Reference: Proverbs 14:31, Proverbs 19:17, Isaiah 58:10, Acts 20:35, 1 John 3:17-18

ownership of their housing units. We must also provide more educational choice and opportunities for poorer communities, as well as job training and employment opportunities, which is possible if we stop outsourcing work to other countries, where workers are treated and paid poorly, and instead move those jobs back to the United States.

An economic shift in our nation, and every other shift we have suggested here, will require individual transformation. As we present ourselves to God, He will transform us by the renewing of our minds and reveal His will for our lives and nation.¹³⁷ Without transformation, we are neither able to understand nor apply Kingdom standards to any of these issues.¹³⁸ However, once God reveals truth to us and begins to transform us, we will start to experience restoration in our individual lives and in every area of national life.¹³⁹ We have a great task before us: to lead our nation in restoration of its original values and God-ordained purpose. Apart from God, it is impossible.¹⁴⁰ Yet we can do all things, as He strengthens us.¹⁴¹ Let us come together, as Kingdom citizens and American citizens, to transform our nation and lead it in a great return. This is our responsibility, and the stakes could not be higher. Now is the time!

This declaration is the beginning of our work, and you can join us. Visit <https://nationalkingdomcouncil.org/> to sign our petition to share this declaration with our national leaders and add your name to the list of Standard Bearers who are in agreement with these Kingdom standards for our nation. Subscribe to our email list, so that we can remain in contact with you to share prayer points, update you on developments concerning this declaration and invite you to join us when we reconvene the National Kingdom Council, as the Lord directs. Join other Standard Bearers in the Invitation Movement, in which we invite God into our nation, one city at a time, through Healing Circles, Peace Strategies and Justice Acts. More information can be found at <https://invitationmvt.org/>. As a Standard Bearer, we also suggest that you continue in prayer and study of the Word of God, so that He can build you up in your faith and character, as you seek to bear His Kingdom standard. Connect also with an assembly of believers in your local area or online, so that fellowship and training can support your continual transformation. More resources are available at <https://nationalkingdomcouncil.org/>. May the blessings of God remain upon you and our nation forever and ever. Amen.

Declaration Contributors

Apostle Markita Brooks
Maja Corlett
Apostle Lawrence Nichols
Rev. Debra Baisley
Rev. Alan Baisley
Evangelist Debra Clark
Evangelist Windell Osbourne
Minister Sadie Osbourne
Apostle Jacinta Featherston

¹³⁷ Bible Reference: Romans 12:1-2

¹³⁸ Bible Reference: 1 Corinthians 2:14-16

¹³⁹ Bible Reference: John 8:32, Hosea 4:6

¹⁴⁰ Bible Reference: John 15:5-8

¹⁴¹ Bible Reference: Philippians 4:13, Matthew 19:26

Archbishop Dominique Bierman, PhD
Deanna Inclan
Bishop Dr. Raymond Johnson
Rev. Arthur L. Hunt, Jr., D.D.
Elder Sara Miles
Donna Gatling
Chareese Westberry
Tenisha Press