Question: Does the Bible give American Christians the ability to ask God to bring those who are part of our non-denominational compact-covenant government back in line when they have broken the bonds of that compact? Do we, as Christian leaders, have the ability to turn over those politicians who profess Christianity to be buffeted by our enemy when they refuse morality by codifying murder into law, especially as a result of sexual immorality?

When Wrong Looks Right and Right Looks Wrong

OR

What Hosea, Zephaniah and Zechariah Tell Us

About America Now

By Rev. C. Meier

Zechariah: 10:2, 3: "For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd. Mine anger was kindled against the shepherds, and I punished the goats: for the LORD of hosts hath visited his flock the house of Judah, and hath made them as his goodly horse in the battle."

Let me state, unequivocally from the start, that I am not espousing violence, but prayer and sharing the gospel; in other words, what will affect the spiritual realm, thus seeing the effect in the natural realm. Let me state as well that, as Christians who founded America, it is high time American Christians started to understand the unique gift our covenant-compact has in the spiritual realm, as well as in the natural. The thrust of which, and the proof of it has been written and researched in a book I published in 2016. This is not some fly-by-night floozy idea, but documented, and well

¹ Pick up a copy of my book, "70 Years of American Captivity: The Polity of God, The Birth of a Nation and the Betrayal of Government." We send out a free paperback or ebook if you sign up with your email for our newsletter. If you want a paperback, you will have to send us a snail mail address where a book containing 692 pages can be sent. We do not sell or collect personal information or addresses, except to send receipts for donations. < https://www.ccm4worldwideworship.org/ministry-materials.html > Or, head on over to Amazon for an ebook, or hardcover copy.

supported legal understanding that was our legal precedent for the first 150-plus years of American legal theory, until socialists commandeered our legal system.

Let me also state unequivocally from the start that Hosea, Zephaniah and Zechariah were all written for the Jewish people, her leaders and their country, Israel, sometime around 785 to 520 BC, or 'before Christ,' commonly referred to now as BCE, or 'before the common era.' (I still prefer BC.) Let me share with you the slight conundrum I felt as the Lord was sharing with me what He wanted said through this platform. Sometime before Christmas I remembered those portions of Scripture where Joshua, the high priest, was brought before the Lord in filthy rags and satan— no, that's not a typo, I refuse to capitalize his name— stood by to accuse him (Zechariah 3). So I started to read those three books. I had remembered the command of the Lord for Hosea to take a wife "of harlotry" as a symbol of what God was experiencing as His people prostituted themselves worshipping idols instead of the God who delivered and kept them (Hosea 1:2). I heard the Scripture passage in Zechariah 13:7b: "Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered."

That passage in Zechariah is what is called a *Messiah prophecy* because it foretells what we, as Christians, believe Jesus experienced and fulfilled when He came to earth the first time. I want to be quite clear that theologically, these passages should not be taken out of context. They were written for Israel, and especially in Zechariah, for a people to come who would experience the Messiah. They were written so when He came those passages in Zechariah would help them recognize an individual we Christians view as Messiah— Jesus— to have fulfilled each and every one. There are approximately 400 Messiah passages or prophecies in the Old Testament. When we realize the odds of Jesus fulfilling all of them is astronomical— and yet He did fulfill them— we can be assured of His legitimacy as the Jewish Messiah. I will also be sharing from the New Testament.

For me, personally, as I hear the word of the Lord, or get a sensing of what it is He wishes to convey, I try to get the whole of what He is sharing. I do that by prayer and meditating upon what He is saying. I was taught, as a minister, we should seek the Lord's counsel before we blab what it is we feel He is saying. There are many reasons for that. First, that's because it is an honor

and responsibility to share God's word with God's people. How we minister is as important as why and what we are to minister. Another reason is because as finite beings, to think we can individually share the whole of our infinite God is ludicrous, haughty and outright insane. This is the Being who flung stars into the heavens, yet created creatures so small to perform "clean-up" duty on our planet that we need microscopes to see them. Because I know how fleeting we are as humans, I feel a burden to wait before the Lord to make sure I'm sharing as complete a word as is possible for a mere human to share. Sometimes there is a timing for a word, as well. Just because I receive an inkling of what is in the mind of the Almighty, doesn't mean I'm to blurt it out, or assume I know what's in His mind or Council. Not all messages take that long, but some do.

Some messages are never shared, but remain before the Lord in a constant attitude of intercession until He tells me He has answered it or the answer is on the way. Of course, this is somewhat different from sharing prophetically in the midst of a congregation when the anointing of the Lord is present for such ministry. That is spontaneous, and it flows in a far quicker way. Nevertheless, it must be judged as true or false by the elders and the congregation, just as a pulpit or other sermon must be judged. There are, of course, parameters for doing that which this article is not meant to address, per se. I ask you to judge for yourselves whether or not what is shared here is supported by Scripture, as well as our present three governing documents, or what has been called our compact-covenant.

At the same time I sensed the Lord highlighting those three Old Testament books, I also had a real sensing that our Lord was displeased with many leaders and pastors in America. My sensing had to do with their desire in dismissing President Trump, refusing to pray for him and ridiculing any who would stand up for him. How do I know there are such leaders and pastors? I've experienced my fair share of ridicule for supporting many of our president's policies and for making it well known that we as a congregation, as well as individually, will continue to pray for him, his success and the success of his team, as they fulfill the plan of God in restoring this nation to its compact-covenant governing documents. I sensed quite clearly our Lord's patience was not infinite when it came to our disobedience as a nation, as well as the defiance of the American church, in particular.

I also sensed His blessing upon those who would stand, in the midst of this battle for what God considers good, holy and just. But, I also had a sensing that something else was coming. Besides being busy with the holidays and not being able to write, I just didn't feel like it was "time" yet; that God's timing was not entirely complete, or that I didn't specifically have the totality of what it was the Lord was saying. Sure, I could easily get upset over the unrighteousness I could see played out around the nation— and I, as well as many other believers can get angry and sin not when we are angry over this ungodliness (Ephesians 4:26-32)— but that there is another side to the Almighty; one which wants to restore and forgive. The reality is that I'm not seeing the whole, but sharing from a glass dimly— that perfection would come when love is applied (1 Corinthians 13:12).

Remember though, our human idea of love is not always in sync with God's reality of love. The Scriptures declare unequivocally that God, Himself *IS* love (1 John 4:7). He is not some grand idea of love. He embodies and is the manifestation of what love is. God IS the definition of love. Love—believe it or not— is not based on human emotions. It is based on God's holiness in providing a sacrifice for human sin. It is why He sent His only begotten Son to die for us. While human emotion can imagine love, human emotion does not always embody this love.

Let me also lay down another theologic reality:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

We are to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). Proper exegesis and hermeneutics should be applied when sharing any pulpit message, or on any other forum where God's word is shared. I will not be deviating from those boundaries. Our New Testament writers used the Old Testament to lay a clear foundation for what they saw as a change to the Temple system and the direction of the religious practices to come. Jesus, Himself, made it clear in many instances, but especially as recorded and written by Matthew in his gospel (Matthew 5-7), that He did not come to abolish the Law or the prophets, but to fulfill them (Matthew 5:17). As a result, the practice for New

Testament believers is to leave aside those Old Testament practices that have been updated by the New Testament. Otherwise, like any other Scripture, we may apply what can be learned by what the Old Testament reveals.

In fact, Jesus says concerning the Old Testament:

"For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:18-20).

What does it mean for our righteousness to "exceed" the righteousness of the former Jewish leaders? Understanding this is a key foundational principle in what I am sharing through this article.

First and foremost, when we accept Jesus as Lord, and agree to His sacrifice on the cross as payment for our sin, His righteousness is imputed to us (Philippians 3:9; Romans 4:1-11; 4:20-24; 5:13, 17-19; 9:30-33; 10:4; 2 Corinthians 5:21). No longer is my idea of right standing with God at work, but I take on His righteousness, based on His sacrifice for sin. This is why we can understand God's desire to forgive sinners; yet, at the same time, with the same understanding, we know God will not tolerate continual defilement, nor reside and co-habitat with it. We understand there is a clear line within society of punishment for murder, rape, thievery and the like. This is not because a country is following some archaic idea of Old Testament practice.

If someone wanted to stone someone because they saw it practiced in the Old Testament, we know this to be in error because Jesus died to set sinners free. Our practice now is to share God's word of repentance and salvation, not murder folks because they don't do what we believe the Bible says they should do. One of the key and overriding principles of New Testament governance is liberty and freedom in Christ. "For whom the Son sets free, is free indeed" (John 8:36). This isn't relegated to the spiritual, solely and only. The context of this passage is seen in service; in other words, what we do for

and to others. John 8 starts off with the Jewish leaders bringing a women caught in adultery to Jesus. They tell him the Law— as if He didn't know it—that Moses says she should be stoned to death for her crime.

"This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:6-11).

Our land and its laws were developed by Christians, assuming a Christian nation. The perfect law of liberty was understood by the multitude of our fore-parents in America as a concept in understanding that our righteousness is imputed to us by Christ. Because of this, we love our brethren in perfect love, just as Jesus loved us (John 13:34); and, because of that love, we no longer desire to commit criminal acts, to harm another—force others to do as we command—but to convince them of the perfect law of liberty. It becomes quite clear and obvious that freedom of conscience is a key element of our personal governance within church doctrine. I am not condoning lawlessness, nor advocating against the death penalty. The early church understood that society had consequences for murder, rape, incest, theft, etc (James 1:12-16; 1 Timothy 1:9-10).

Yet, we are also commanded to allow our minds to be renewed (Romans 12:1-3). In this way, the perfect will of God is revealed. We are also exhorted to allow or "let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"... (Philippians 2:5-11). That word mind is the Greek word *phroneo*. It means mind, but it means to allow or let a certain mindset or attitude prevail. By using it, Paul was telling us that it must be our own desire and will to appropriate what is displayed by the humility of Christ. There must be a place where we can repent and be restored, even while we must pay the consequences to society for real crime, not imagined peccadillos or politically

motivated persecutions. In so many places within the New Testament, we are told to come in agreement with God's word concerning ourselves and the atmosphere around us. This is our authority as believers. We are commanded to fast, pray, read the Bible and worship by giving of our finances, as well as our talents. There are too many New Testament passages telling us how to govern and behave in Christ that if I were to enunciate and comment on all of them, several large volumes could be written.

Our nation viewed one another as, not only citizens, but brothers and sisters in Christ— brother-and-sister patriots— of a new group of states, united. Church governance through compact-covenant translated to communities which weren't governed by church doctrine, like New York, Georgia and Virginia. Even Virginia— which was a royal colony, as opposed to other colonies who developed their charters as compact-covenant, or self-governance on steroids— eventually developed more of a compact-covenant governance model. In fact, this form of government was considered so superior in bringing freedom "sovereignly" to citizens, that other colonies followed it.

In the beginning there was no separation between church and state. So we developed a tendency to bring Godly understanding— as seen within the pages of the Bible— into government. In fact, it is a clear understanding within our present compact-covenant that our government is limited. It is limited not only in economic scope but in its desire to curtail all our liberties. Each aspect of the third dynamic of our compact— the Bill of Rights— is seen as a limiting authority upon government, not the other way around. Individuals are not limited in speech or religion or where we may engage in our healthy and proper application of, let's say our Second Amendment right; but government is limited in telling us where and how we can practice our rights.

Our government continued compact-governing documents from our Declaration of Independence, through the Constitution and into our Bill of Rights. Those three form the compact, which is the same type of governance seen within early colonial church governing documents. The final type of

document was seen in every colony and developed in this country *originally* by church governing documents.²

This type of governing worked so well because it was coupled with a likeminded freedom and liberty type of economic policy similar to the Bible's understanding of the perfect law of liberty. (Capitalism espouses individual freedom and ownership in economics as opposed to socialism, which espouses total state control.) Did ungodly people function as well? Of course, they did; but the ability to preach the gospel was such that all knew thievery and criminality when they saw it. "But let none of you suffer as a murderer or thief or criminal or as a troublemaker" (1 Peter 4:15; NET Bible®). The covenantal understanding of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you" was taken to heart and codified in our laws. This comes from Leviticus.

Quite often we quote Leviticus 19:18 as, "love your neighbor as yourself," and that is correct. But the verses before it translates from the Hebrew like this:

"You must not deal unjustly in judgment: you must neither show partiality to the poor nor honor the rich. You must judge your fellow citizen fairly. You must not go about as a slanderer among your people. You must not stand idly by when your neighbor's life is at stake. I am the Lord. You must not hate your brother in your heart. You must surely reprove your fellow citizen so that you do not incur sin on account of him. You must not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the children of your people, but you must love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord. You must keep my statutes. You must not allow two different kinds of your animals to breed, you must not sow your field with two different kinds of seed and you must not wear a garment made of two different kinds of fabric" (Leviticus 19: 15-19, NET Bible®).

In other words, if you don't tell your fellow citizen when their life is at stake, you actually hate your brother. Do we really think the Lord was worried about clothes made of wool and cotton? While there was a need in the Old Testament for these laws, the New Testament makes it clear there are spiritual reasons involved. The Lord was referring to our duplicities and/or allowing duplicitous ideas to weaken our righteousness. We will keep quiet about the

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² Ibid.

potential for the death of other citizens when they involve themselves in potentially unhealthy behavior, but we won't say anything because we don't want to offend them. Or worse, we may have a vengeance against them, so it's okay to ignore their sinful behavior and let them rot in it.

Because the immutable laws of covenant are at work in our country, it is obvious from this passage when we refuse to warn about the danger of others' actions, we all suffer: "You must surely reprove your fellow citizen so that you do not incur sin on account of them." In other words, there are physical ramifications to spiritual actions. We all experience *something* in the spiritual realm when covenant is broken. If we warn our fellow citizen, then it would seem from this and other portions, we are relieved (see Ezekiel 3:17-21; 33:1-20; Luke 6:31; Matthew 7:1-5, 12; 1 Corinthians 5:1-19; Galatians 6:1-2; James 5:19). This is why it is dangerous when the church refuses to speak up about the evils in society, or worse, condones it through behavior or complicit actions. Neither Paul, who wrote 13 of the 27 New Testament epistles, or Jesus, who clearly spoke to those in power in such a way as to make them so angry with Him that they crucified Him, shied away from declaring truth to power.

On an individual level, and on a church-governance level, Paul tells us that we are to remove from fellowship and turn disobedient believers over to be buffeted of satan (1 Corinthians 5:1-5). He later spoke of turning disobedient church "leaders" over to satan as well for spreading heresies (1 Timothy 1:19-20). He did this for a reason. One, perchance that the believer would repent and be saved from eternal hellfire, and two, that the church of God would remain clean and holy. Paul spoke of those "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things" (Philippians 3:19). We are told to refuse to support those who are lazy and idle (1 Timothy 5:11-13). We are also told to expose those leaders who sin to the whole congregation (1 Timothy 5:19-20).

I would ask you to remember that Americans have always considered their Christian service as functioning in two realms, the ecumenical and the civic. Early Americans viewed civic leaders, like governors, politicians, teachers and businesses as serving— as Christian brothers and sisters serving the nation, or individual communities— just as if they were church leaders serving the church. So they are responsible to adhere to similar consequences

as those who function within ecumenic service only. It is where we get the common understanding to "serve God and Country." The lie that the church has swallowed since Lyndon Johnson enacted the "Johnson Rule," that church leaders and the faithful are not allowed to talk about, rebuke or otherwise "get involved" in political dialog and matters affecting society is a clear lie. It is not in our founding documents and is not incorporated in our compact-covenant. In fact, we are supposed to speak truth to power. We are supposed to stand up to sin codified in law and practiced, especially when no actions are taken to stop it.

But what happens when we have whole denominations of leaders who refuse to turn pedophile leaders over to satan? What happens when we have whole denominations who refuse the counsel of God and the work of half the body of Christ because they are women— and use the Bible to do so— regardless of the fact that the New Testament Greek does not condone nor support such practices? In other words, women functioned as pastors, apostles and prophets in the early church. Romans 16 names Phoebe, Mary and Pricilla. The name Junia was changed from female to male by an early manuscript scribe. She is named as one of the apostles. John wrote to "the elect lady" in his second epistle. To me there seems to be only two possibilities as to who this woman was. Either he is writing to Jesus' mother, Mary; or he is writing to a householder, who is a woman, who is the leader of the church where they meet. Either way, we are dealing with a leader in the body of Christ.

We have Philip's four daughters "who did prophesy" (Acts 21:9). We forget that these daughters grew up. Eusebius tells us that they became the next generation of apostles who traveled and started churches. He mentions Philip's daughters in a passage that describes a prophet by the name of Quadratus. Eusebius regards the daughters as well as Quadratus as a hallmark

of prophetic ministry in the early church. He says these prophets took over from the apostles in much of their ministry to the church.³

When we see obvious evidence of women preaching, serving and teaching in the early church, we must realize that we have misunderstood the dynamic where Paul does tell women to be silent (1 Corinthians 14:33-35; see where he gives commands in praying and prophesying to women in 1 Corinthians 11:5, which would contradict an all-encompassing edict). This is where we miss what was going on in Corinth as a city. It was on a bay, and the city across from it was Delphi. This is where the Delphic Oracle, one of three priestesses, sat over the vapors from a fissure in the chasm of the lower level of the temple, the Adyton, or the inner shrine. By the way, no women were allowed in the temple, only the priestesses. They would then mumble or spout incoherent words, which would be "translated" as speaking future fortunes from the God Apollo. These priestesses were called pythia.⁴

Most scholars now believe that the practices within the Corinthian church, who had to be addressed on many issues, not just this one, resembled this

^{3 &}quot;AMONG those that were celebrated at that time was Quadratus, who, report says, was renowned along with the daughters of Philip for his prophetical gifts. And there were many others besides these who were known in those days, and who occupied the first place among the successors of the apostles. And they also, being illustrious disciples of such great men, built up the foundations of the churches which had been laid by the apostles in every place, and preached the Gospel more and more widely and scattered the saving seeds of the kingdom of heaven far and near throughout the whole world. For indeed most of the disciples of that time, animated by the divine word with a more ardent love for philosophy, had already fulfilled the command of the Savior, and had distributed their goods to the needy. Then starting out upon long journeys they performed the office of evangelists, being filled with the desire to preach Christ to those who had not yet heard the word of faith, and to deliver to them the divine Gospels. And when they had only laid the foundations of the faith in foreign places, they appointed others as pastors, and entrusted them with the nurture of those that had recently been brought in, while they themselves went on again to other countries and nations, with the grace and the co-operation of God. For a great many wonderful works were done through them by the power of the divine Spirit, so that at the first hearing whole multitudes of men eagerly embraced the religion of the Creator of the universe. But since it is impossible for us to enumerate the names of all that became shepherds or evangelists in the churches throughout the world in the age immediately succeeding the apostles, we have recorded, as was fitting, the names of those only who have transmitted the apostolic doctrine to us in writings still extant." Eusebius, Church History, 3.37. translated by Rev. Arthur Cushman McGiffert, edited by Drs. Philip Schaff and Henry Wace, NY, NY, 1890. Digital version published by Christian Life School of Theology, Columbus, GA, pp. 248 & 249.

⁴ Please see the Tab on the Home Page, "The Eye of the Lord in Current Events" as I will be sharing a word we received many years ago in intercession in the ministry. It will connect the article this month with "pythia" and other demonic attacks against the Trump Administration.

Delphic temple assembly far too closely for Paul's comfort. Is it any doubt that the demonic personality functioning across the bay could have easily found a home and root in the Corinthian church's practices had Paul not intervened and made the pronouncements that he did for how to function in a service? Even the commands of the plaiting of hair, as well as other symbols and examples of womanhood that he talks about come into play with the Delphic temple (1 Corinthians 7; 12:13; 11:2-16). We cannot ignore how the very action of hearing God and speaking to the body of Christ what we hear (1 Corinthians 12-14) would have been in jeopardy if the Corinthian church would have assimilated some of what they saw across the bay in Delphi.

What has crept into the body of Christ today? Are we immune to the new requirements in New York concerning infanticide/abortion, and the attempts in Virginia of the same, creeping into the church? Are we developing a cynical and demonic cheapening-of-life attitude, where we vote for, and refuse to call out those politicians who readily light buildings emblazoning their demonic celebration for all to see? Who is next in line for death after unwanted or deformed infants? Will it be Christians, Jews or grandma? What are we to do when Sunday is actually the most segregated day in the nation? Why are we so squeamish in talking about these practices of European socialism with infanticide, euthanasia, and its obvious control over the Democrat party in America? Why won't we talk about the racism of socialism and its mirror image to satan's seduction of mankind in the garden of Eden? Why do we talk about or prosecute corruption when one political party allegedly commits it, but ignore it when a different party commits even worse crimes, and practices witchcraft openly? Why do whole denominations neglect telling their flocks about fasting, baptisms, healings, signs and wonders? Why are we so hesitant to talk about speaking truth to power?

^{5 &}lt; https://www.foxnews.com/faith-values/ob-gyn-rejects-ny-abortion-law-absolutely-no-reason-to-kill-a-baby-in-third-trimester

⁶ https://www.ccm4worldwideworship.org/page-2.html See both subtitles: Economics & the Bible, and, The Lie

⁷ https://www.infowars.com/spirit-cooking-clinton-campaign-chairman-invited-to-bizarre-satanic-performance/ There is no proof that anyone but celebrities and other democrats attended this woman's "services;" nevertheless, the email-invitation was sent to Clinton campaign boss, Podesta. There seems to be no evidence he attended.

Is it because we are afraid; is it the fear of money and man? Is it because of our own denomination's malfeasance in those areas? Is it because we don't know? Is it because we don't understand the ramifications? Is it because we think there are no consequences to our sin? Do Hosea, Zephaniah and Zechariah have something to tell us about ourselves and the nation we live in? Are there any similarities in this history we can learn from? Let's take a look and see.

We have to understand a little Jewish history in order to see a more complete picture as it relates to America. A world power in her day, Babylon kept vassal states in and around the Asian continent. Egypt was its own power and none too happy when she saw many around her coming under Assyria and Babylon's influence. This is why you see referenced warnings among the Old Testament prophets not to rely on Egypt to protect them, but to rely on their God (Isaiah 30:3). Instead, many Jews developed a penchant for sacrificing to, and seeking answers from idols belonging to various warring lands over the course of her history (Micah 1:5-7). Some of those idols required sacrificing children to them, not just wine and animals (2 Kings 16:3; 17:31; 23:10; Jeremiah 7:30-32; 19:3-5).

Israel was split as a country in those days between Israel proper, or the northern country, and Judah, who had specific oversight of the Temple and Jerusalem. Israel becomes a "client" state, or what we would view as a vassal of Assyria. She paid tribute to her and sought protection, or common ground in battle, if another country came to pick a fight. Judah refuses allegiances which compromise her sovereignty, but not Israel. God, Israel's husband, is not pleased with this. He did not make his people to become pawns in other nation's fights, nor to be looted by them in national agreements.

He sends Hosea to start preaching to them his displeasure with their national "arrangements" by telling Hosea to take a harlot and raise children of harlotry. He did this to let them know how he felt when they offer idols worship and make allegiances with foreign nations which impact their sovereignty. Is He doing this to be mean? Is He doing this because He doesn't want them to "have friends"— to be a meaningful part of the global community— Or is it because He raised them up as a free nation and where

they go in captivity, He goes in captivity? We know God Almighty will not be taken captive, so Israel will be left destitute and on her own.

Hosea preaches primarily to Israel, the northern country, as opposed to Judah in the south, from 785 BCE. He starts some 180 years before a battle in 605 BCE takes place. That battle, known as the battle of Carchemish is when Judah starts paying tribute to Babylon. It is long before that battle that Hosea warns Israel not to become cozy with the Assyrians. This is because Babylon will come on the scene and overtake what the Assyrians had formerly controlled. Little Israel, instead of listening to the prophets— to God Almighty— will become a pawn, a pinball in a grasp for power and territory.

As we can see from the Bible, Israel doesn't listen and is taken into captivity. Before Israel, in the north is taken captive, Judah is mixed in her opinion. Some in Judah say they should side with Egypt and seek protection there, others say no. King Josiah spearheads the temple revival in Judaea, but is killed in battle in 609 BCE in Megiddo with the Egyptians. These battles set up the defeat of Pharaoh Necho's army in 605 BCE, which precipitates the beginning of captivity for Judah.⁸

There are many years dividing Hosea's preaching and final captivity for the whole nation. The son of Beeri, a contemporary of Isaiah and Micah, he prophesied to Israel during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Jeroboam, the son of Jehoash of Israel. God gave them plenty of time to repent and change their national ways, but they did not. We should view God sending a few of the prophets in a concurrent fashion at various different times in this history. He doesn't always send just one. Our Old Testament is full of what Christianity has called major and minor prophets; all sent with one goal in mind: to spare God's people from the consequences of their sin, if they will but listen.

One of those prophets, sent to Judah in around 630 BCE is Zephaniah. He is a direct descendant of King Hezekiah, prophesying during King Josiah's reign, probably before the temple revivals. He calls for repentance and, barring that, the eventual and future glory of Israel once they realize their mistake (2)

⁸ Remember when dealing with BC or BCE history that the numbers count down instead of up when recording events. So Josiah will be killed in 609, and then the 605 battle will begin Judah's captivity.

Kings 22-23; Zephaniah 1:1; 2:1-3; 3:14-20). The revival must have seemed like a fulfillment for those who remember his preaching. It is, but it is not the totality. Remember, Josiah will be killed in battle within 25 years and Judah will begin her captivity.

Zechariah comes on the scene around 520 BCE, some hundred years later. Israel has already failed, been taken captive and has come back to the land to rebuild. He is the son of Berekiah (1:1) and is a contemporary of Haggai, both writing some of the Psalms together. He joins with him in prophesying repentance to the Jews when the Temple was being rebuilt. He is honored with penning several important Messianic Scriptures (Zechariah 9:9-10; 12:10; 13:7). Yet, there is still more history to come. A wall must be built and Nehemiah is sent by King Artaxerxes to accomplish this task. This is because the Jews who had been sent back with the first two expeditions would become distracted by those around them, and complacent in their own lives. There had been three groups of Jews sent back from the captivity to rebuild Jerusalem. Nehemiah is the last, warning them that their own sovereignty as a people will be in question if they do not act to remove what is distracting them and complete the building of the wall around the city.

What parallels, if any can we draw to our own time as a nation? We have to remember that God does not see time as we do. Hundreds of years passed from Hosea to Zechariah, the destruction and the rebuilding of the Temple, and eventually, the wall. What sent Israel into captivity was, first and foremost the neglect to follow the Lord's commands. Have we done so in America, as a church? Yes, we have. We have neglected to teach our compact-covenant design of government to our children. So much so that today we have people who actually believe that the foreign ideology known as socialism is more compassionate, prosperous and "just" than our original economic and governing design. This is not just factually incorrect, the

⁹ See my article from April 2017, where I compare Nehemiah's building efforts to what I saw as emblematic of America's possible future < https://nebula.wsimg.com/1 1 e 0 2 c 8 b 3 1 2 b a 6 2 1 3 0 d 4 1 0 4 e 6 9 a 0 9 7 7 b 5 ? AccessKeyId=D1B765CBBC658EF49FE8&disposition=0&alloworigin=1 > For a broad history surrounding the Babylonian captivity see < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonian_captivity > While Wikipedia is known for errors, in this article, the exact dates are not as important for me as the events and behind the scenes attitudes of the participants. Wikipedia gives us that in a concise way with one click.

science was proven by Ludvig von Mises in, around and after 1920.¹⁰ As I've already mentioned, you can read a book I published in 2016, proving this from our own national history, as well as biblical evidence.¹¹ I also wrote a concise article concerning the unscientific and unscriptural nature of socialism, without the extended history.¹²

Creating a safety net for marginalized people is not truly helpful with socialism (please review the science). First, the church, the body of Christ is to be that safety net. When we will not or cannot do so, and America develops systems whereby we pay into the safety net, this is not socialism. I would argue that we would be better off in free market stocks than Social Security or Medicare, but neither program is socialistic. We also have pastors and church leaders who refuse to recognize when political leaders support our country and when they do not. When a president promotes American ingenuity, economic freedom, religious freedom, especially for Christians and Jews, and these same leaders fight against this president, we are in open rebellion to Godly counsel.

Why is it that billions come to America to escape their own country's socialistic-communistic economic policies? Is it because capitalism and compact-covenant republican government must somehow be mean, inept and unproductive? That's what the socialists will try to tell you. In 2013 Venezuela took her citizens' guns, and by 2017 Venezuelans were eating their dogs. 13 Freedom in liberty always goes hand in hand with economic freedom.

 $^{^{10} &}lt; {\rm https://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2018/HorwitzSocialism.html} > < {\rm https://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/mises-selected-writings-of-ludwig-von-mises-vol-1-monetary-and-economic-problems-before-during-and-after-the-great-war} >$

^{11 &}lt; https://www.ccm4worldwideworship.org/ministry-materials.html > Scroll down and see the Amazon link under the image of the book. You can get a very reasonably priced ebook or a hardcover copy on their secure site as well. If you would like a paperback, you can contact the ministry.

¹² < https://www.ccm4worldwideworship.org/page-2.html > This is page two, scroll down to the titles "Economics and the Bible" and "The Lie" to read a concise reason why socialism cannot succeed from both natural science as well as the biblical record.

^{13 &}lt; https://www.foxnews.com/world/venezuelans-regret-gun-prohibition-we-could-have-defended-ourselves >< https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/05/18/venezuela-food-shortages-cause-some-hunt-dogs-cats-pigeons/84547888/ >

By the way, Europe is bankrupt and the Danish countries socialists tout are not funded by socialism but by capitalism.¹⁴

Israel allowed other nations to dictate her worship, attitude and laws. This led to her economic downfall. First, she worshipped their idols, then she dressed and acted like they did. Finally, they captured her resources and stole her economy. There are always steps to this encroachment. Barriers keep many problems out. But barriers/walls alone can't help a people who worship idols. Socialism weaves and sends miscues all in an effort to hide its true intentions. God exposes all intentions and, if you will look at the multitude of footnotes, the science proves the true intentions of socialism. When we, as His people, refuse His counsel, we are doomed to repeat the history of failure.

We do have a lifeline. It is the Bible, God's word; it is the Holy Spirit, the precious third member of the Trinity who was sent to lead and guide us into all truth. While our national covenant is between believing and non-believing peoples, we, as God's people still have the responsibility to cry out to Him when our covenant partners are placing us in jeopardy. Let me refer you to 1 Peter 4:17: "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

The understanding in the Greek is threefold. One, if God's judgment begins with God's people, and they are barely saved, what will become of the sinner? Two, "at the house of God," can be translated "from the house of God." In other words, we must see the church or saint judged first and since we are not seeing that now, then it is not time for the unbelieving to be judged. There is a third sense here from the context of the epistle. It is clear Peter is talking to a group of Christians who are not being attacked for doing ungodly or criminal behavior, but for following God. They are being attacked

^{14 &}lt; https://www.express.co.uk/finance/city/662052/Britain-set-for-BANKRUPTCY-amid-1-85-TRILLION-of-HIDDEN-debt >< https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/nhs-uk-now-has-one-of-the-worst-healthcare-systems-in-the-developed-world-according-to-oecd-report-a6721401.html > https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/european-debt-crisis-not-just-greece-drowning-debt/ > https://www.thelocal.dk/20151101/danish-pm-in-us-denmark-is-not-socialist > https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm? abstract_id=514242 > The last link only records privatization to 2004, the previous statements by the president of Denmark to Sanders would indicate they have become more capitalistic.

by unbelievers. This attack is in violation of the brotherhood of mankind seen from Genesis (Cain and Abel) and its covenant, mankind to mankind. So the church, as the plaintiff in petitioning God, can begin to speak with the word of God and command realignment (hence judgment beginning from the house of God). I believe all three aspects of translation are seen here, especially in light of other passages in the New Testament of the church being light and salt and a hindering force to satan (Matthew 5:14; Matthew 5:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-8). In secular or non-sectarian terms, the covenant of mankind to mankind can be religious. Even when it is not, we can still function with covenantal attitude.

Concerning those who claim Christianity but still vote Democrat or socialist and refuse Godly counsel, they must be brought before the Lord and turned over to the enemy, perchance their own souls might be saved and they may repent. You cannot claim Christianity while you support and condone infanticide. Of course, their respective church leaders are directed to do this by Paul. For those of you who say this was for sexual immorality only, let me ask you a question. Why do you think so many abort babies in this country? Is it because as husbands and wives they decide killing their children is easier? Or is it because we have rampant groups of people—many claiming to be Christian—having sex outside the marital covenant? I am not saying there cannot be exceptions to rules. Obviously, no one should demand a woman give birth to her rapist or abuser's child—even though this is not the innocent child's fault—adoption is a better outcome; but, as in the case when a mother's life is at stake, this must be a private decision between her support system.

Some would disagree at my calling for the same treatment for political leaders who espouse socialism and abortion on demand, and all manner of immoral practices. Remember, we as church leaders who are filled with the Holy Spirit in this nation are directed to lead many to the Lord. We are directed to teach and disciple them in the ways of Christ. If and when they continually refuse this counsel as politicians, their very souls and the soul of a nation is at stake. We have no other recourse but to turn them over to the

https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/dr-manny-alvarez-late-term-abortion-in-new-york-and-virginia-an-ob-gyns-take

enemy, perchance they may be saved and repent, thus bringing the nation back from the precipice of annihilation.

Obviously, this is for those politicians who claim Christianity. They claim both leadership and Christianity, as a result of our unique American understanding. That means they are subject as any leader in the church would be subject to correction. For those who claim Christianity but are not politicians, then their individual church leaders must convince them of unrighteousness and if they refuse Godly counsel, they must be turned over by their respective church leaders to our enemy, perchance their souls may be saved. Our only hope for the unbelieving among them, is for us to cry out to the Lord in prayer that our compact-covenant partners are in violation of our governmental agreement and in asking the "Supreme Judge of the world," and "with a reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence" as did the signers to the Declaration of Independence—which is compacted with our Constitution and Bill of Rights— to come into this disagreement and bring them back in line with freedom, liberty and justice for all.

Why do I encourage this type of action? Am I being vindictive or promoting some kind of control and manipulative interpretation of the Scriptures? First, as I have already shared, the Lord is the one who highlighted the Old Testament to me. Then He highlighted Paul's admonition to turn folks over to our enemy to be buffeted. Actually, 48 hours before calls for the governor of Virginia to be removed, our Lord encouraged I pray as I have shared. I came in agreement with other believers as well. While Virginia was highlighted to us, I felt New York was going to be different in the sense that we needed to reach out to many more in the body of Christ who would come in agreement with our prayer. That is probably due to the fact that Virginia's attempt failed, but New York passed the law with a majority support. Now, I believe when the Spirit asks you to pray a certain way, and He has already gone behind the scenes to bring about the answer, we are seeing His direct desire. This is not my desire. I could never have known exactly what was coming back in December when the Lord took me on this journey.

¹⁶ Our Library of Congress has a site in which you can click on either the Declaration in the Journals of the Continental Congress of 1776, or a Broadside. That site is < https://www.loc.gov./rr/program/bib/ourdocs/DeclarInd.html > One site for many of our federal documents < http://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/18th.asp > for the Declaration in particular < http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declare.asp>

We must remember the goal here is not pain and suffering, but repentance so souls may be saved, and for the cleansing of our land and/or the house of God. I am encouraging spiritual action, not physical retribution. First, spiritual action must be reserved for specific congregations and their leaders by those in spiritual leadership over them. But, on a national level, because of our non-denominational compact-covenant, believing citizens within that compact may petition heaven to bring their unbelieving counterparts back in line with the compact. They may, as I see it, also reserve spiritual authority to those rulers who claim Christianity, but refuse all Godly counsel in government to be buffeted by the enemy, perchance they may repent and be truly saved. I realize some would say, "Well, if they want abortion and other things you don't agree with, who are you to try and stop that? Even a covenant between individuals can be changed." In that I would agree. However, there isn't a country on the planet who could claim any sense of moral judgment to codify murder of innocent children. This is not some mere disagreement over abortion or the right of free individuals to make changes to governing documents when all involved agree with the change. This is the outright support for and shelter to murderers and those who wish to justify infanticide. There is no medical reason for New York's law 17

Look, there are dangers here for all Americans: we have a national understanding here. It is clear Hosea, Zephaniah and Zechariah were written to the nation of Israel concerning her ability to dwell in her land; yet, it seems clear from the rest of Jesus' teaching in Matthew, that God does not change. In other words, like Israel, blessing could extend to all those who are God's children when they form a covenant government, asking God into it; or conversely, cursing may take place when they disobey that covenant. We must understand God does not desire to harm us. We are doing this to ourselves by our repeated sin. Repeated sin produces spiritual as well as physical results to our land and atmosphere. Where's my proof, you say?

^{17 &}lt; https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/dr-kent-ingle-pro-abortion-bills-across-country-are-inhumane-repugnant-and-vile > < https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/dr-manny-alvarez-late-term-abortion-in-new-york-and-virginia-an-ob-gyns-take > < https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/new-yorks-democrats-think-that-a-fully-formed-unborn-child-is-less-important-than-the-average-house-cat >

We have instances where the Bible tells us that the land will spit us out (Leviticus 18:25-28)— Or, more particularly— there is a defilement which can be brought to any land where there is a breakdown in morality. This breakdown is first seen in the home; hence the laws seen within the Scriptures encouraging the unity of the home in expressing the teaching of Yahveh (Deuteronomy 4:26, 33, 40; 32:46-47). While Israel's captivity was because she disobeyed God, in its infancy, this disobedience was precipitated by a breakdown in the home (Ezekiel 22:7, 15). This is why we see a promise in Malachi where 'Elijah' would come at the end of the age to turn the hearts of the children and the parents— the word fathers is specifically used in Malachi— toward each other again (Malachi 4:1-6). So it would seem this principle must also be seen in the New Testament, and it is.

As is the case with the rest of the Decalogue, this law is applicable to us, but Jesus goes further. In Matthew 5, Jesus refers to laws concerning neighbors. He does the same with the commandment concerning honoring parents: "That ye maybe the children of your Father which is in heaven Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:45). So there is a principle that if we do not honor our parents, for whatever reason, and do not repent of it, as well as ask the Holy Spirit to root out those thought patterns which continue that dishonoring, it can affect our relationship to God. I can't think of any thing more dishonoring of our parents than ObamaCare when it formed IPAB boards to see which elderly among the sick was least deserving of medical care; never mind the theft of \$700 Billion from Medicare to form ObamaCare. 18 Of course, we have the "borrowing" of money from Social Security so it is insolvent by 2034.¹⁹ Add to this hypocrisy the killing of children in the womb up until nine-month's gestation, and we have defiled our land. All of this immorality can be seen as a defilement over our land. In other words, an

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/14/obamacare-death-panels-should-be-ended/ > < https://www.healthinsurance.org/faqs/what-is-this-controversy-regarding-the-ipab-really-about/ > < https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2012/08/14/romneys-right-obamacare-cuts-medicare-by-716-billion-heres-how/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.326f7df34365 > < https://www.amazon.com/Inside-National-Health-California-Milbank/dp/0520270193 >

¹⁹< https://www.forbes.com/sites/merrillmatthews/2011/07/13/what-happened-to-the-2-6-trillion-social-security-trust-fund/#1d394a494947 > https://www.forbes.com/sites/merrillmatthews/2011/07/13/what-happened-to-the-2-6-trillion-social-security-trust-fund/#1d394a494947 https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/11/18/social-security-how-much-congress-owes-interest-over-next-decade/38532839/ https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/11/18/social-security-how-much-congress-owes-interest-over-next-decade/38532839/ https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/11/18/social-security-how-much-congress-owes-interest-over-next-decade/38532839/ https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/ https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/ https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/ https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/personalfinance/retirement/2018/ <a href="https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/perso

encouragement for human as well as demonic strongholds to pollute the place we occupy here, as well as the place in our soul where rest and peace could be seen if we would follow the counsel of God.

You would be right if you are reading this thinking I am warning this nation that she could be taken captive by foreign enemy forces. It's not just in the future; she already has been infiltrated. No, folks, it's not collusion with Russia and the Trump Administration I'm worried about. It is socialism; abortion; giving the hard-earned finances of citizens over to illegal immigrants, as well as legal ones. This incentivizes our money being handed over to a new voting block because legal citizens won't do what these immoral politicians want anymore. This encourages poverty among American citizens. This allows a populace who doesn't have a clue what makes America different or special to thwart the will of the citizens. It allows for a cheapening of our society by weakening laws surrounding the sanctity of life. This attitude encourages people coming here from places which do not place a premium on life. Instead, they place a premium on their own needs. It's no longer what can you do for your country, but what can you steal from Americans?

Socialism isn't about making things more equitable. This is how they draw you in. They lie that you can own anything in common, therefore, you can share in common funds. The science proves you cannot.²⁰ But remember, this is the hook. All this "giving"— it really is corruptive stealing— comes at a price. The price is not just an individual's economic freedom— or all individual's economic freedom in a nation— it is the civic and civil liberties and freedoms all individuals in a nation experience as a result of their country's specific governing documents. In America, those are exact and far reaching. This is why it has taken socialists so long to take America captive. It started in the 1900s with Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. The nail is almost in our coffins. We can see where this is headed because many states have enacted many socialistic policies.

California, New York, Michigan, to name a few, have enacted quite a few policies encouraging socialism. Is it possible for California to fall off into the

²⁰ < https://www.ccm4worldwideworship.org/page-2.html > This is page two, scroll down to the titles "Economics and the Bible" and "The Lie" to read a concise reason why socialism cannot succeed from both natural science as well as the biblical record.

ocean and away from America? I would hate to see that happen, but geology shifts and I would never ignore the spiritual ramifications as an early precursor to the captivity of America. We never make the connection between our spiritual filth and the upheaval we see environmentally, ecologically and where we live. Do you know typhus, the disease seen in medieval earth is having a roaring revival in Los Angeles? That's because, as a sanctuary state — these are socialistic policies used to disrupt non-socialistic nation's current laws; once a country becomes totally engulfed in socialism, a "sanctuary" state will no longer be needed (They'll use barriers to trap everyone inside. Is that why Democrats fear a wall, even though we clearly need the barriers?)— California is not as solvent as she seems. Socialistic policies make owning a home impossible in many areas of the state. She spends the money necessary to help the homeless on illegals, and the homeless defecate in the streets; garbage piles up and storm drains carry the filth abroad. This attracts rats as they populate the street camps where the homeless live, spreading the fleas infected with the disease as a conduit to city hall itself.²¹ This is one instance of how attitude translates to policy and policy translates to misery.

John Adams made a similar observation when he wrote an October 11, 1798, letter to the officers of the First Brigade of the Third Division of the Militia of Massachusetts:

"While our country remains untainted with the principles and manners which are now producing desolation in so many parts of the world; while she continues sincere, and incapable of insidious and impious policy, we shall have the strongest reason to rejoice in the local destination assigned us by Providence. But should the people of America once become capable of that deep simulation towards one another, and towards foreign nations, which assumes the language of justice and moderation while it is practicing iniquity and extravagance, and displays in the most captivating manner the charming pictures of candor, frankness, and sincerity, while it is rioting in rapine and insolence, this country will be the most miserable habitation in the world; because we have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a

^{21 &}lt; http://www.foxla.com/news/local-news/city-worker-infected-in-la-typhus-outbreak > < https://video.foxnews.com/v/5998442627001/#sp=show-clips >

whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."22

I talked about God's love in the beginning of this article. His love is in showing us how ugly our sin is. His love is in warning us that covenant is like gravity and spiritual rules put in place at the beginning of the planet have physical components which can play themselves out at any time we're not paying attention to them. We may not consider this "love," but it is true love. It is not a quick welfare check or a smooch behind a closed door. Those are human decisions which don't always display how He shows love. His love is an eternal love that has eternal consequences. My prayer is that we have eyes and ears to see and hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

If you are reading this and you feel the need to ask Jesus into your heart for the first time, please just ask Him. It is simple. If you are a Christian reading this and you feel the need to repent of an attitude or action which the Holy Spirit has revealed to you while you read this article, just tell Him you're sorry, and ask for forgiveness. He will forgive you. Now, ask Him to come into your heart and lead and guide you into all truth. If you need a Bible, just ask. We have them available for free. Hit the "Contact Us" tab and follow the instructions.

²² Charles Francis Adams, "The Works of John Adams, Second President of the United States: with a Life of the Author, Notes, and Illustration." Boston, 1854: Little, Brown and Co. Volume 9. 228, 229. In the public domain.