

Sister Shelbia opened our session with a prayer, asking that God would give each person something he wanted them to have in Jesus name. Amen.

Zoom Telephone Number: 312-626-6799

Meeting Number: 3774392350#

Participant code: #

While Studying PROVERBS, Pastor Eddie Bone, who used to be the pastor at Libertyville Methodist Church found this 'life application topic' about PRIDE and humility. He shared it with us and I would like to share it with you. *"Pride is arrogance and conceit and manifests itself when we delude ourselves into thinking we operate under our own power. We assume and live as if the world revolves around us instead of our will and way revolving around God. Pride was the downfall of the first man and woman in the Genesis account. Pride always comes before a fall!! On the other hand, humility looks to God, admitting we don't have all the answers or solutions, but we submit to God's will and way knowing God knows best. "This is wisdom and the wise always find joy and lasting fulfillment with God and others." Humility is a wonderful virtue that we can strive for, nurture and enhance as we seek the most excellent way and follow Jesus. Come join us as we seek to follow the Master!!!*

WHEN GABRIEL BLOWS HIS HORN! Robert Jeffress, Pastor

Conservatives in the media get many things right, but not everything. In fact here is one truth you will never hear from right-wing pendants or conservative news outlets. And that truth is this: Environmental problems like ozone depletion, rising and falling temperatures, floods; environmental problems in the world are real and they are really the result of human activity. I know what some of you are thinking, Pastor, what have you been smoking? Have you really been watching MSNBC? How could you make such an outlandish statement that there are environmental problems and they can be traced to human activity? Because I read my Bible, that's how!

The Bible says in *Genesis 1:2 that God created this world and everything he created was good.* The animals, the atmosphere, everything, the seas, the rivers, was good.

But then Adam and Eve rebelled against God. And thru that human activity of rebelling against God, sin entered the world and it infected every part of this world including the environment.

Romans 8

1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because

of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Roman 8 says right now nature is groaning in birth pains that waits for the final redemption of the world. And these wild fires, the changing temperature, everything we are seeing is a result of nature waiting for the return of Jesus Christ. Yes, environmental problems are the result of human activity, sin; but the greatest threat on the human environment, the greatest result of the world will not come from the hands of mankind. The greatest assault on the environment is yet to come, and it will come from the hand of Almighty God. And its the event we are going to look at today.

If you have your Bible, turn to Revelation 8 as we discovered **whats going to happen to the earth when Gabriel blows his horn.**

Revelation 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour.

2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up.

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

If you've just joined us in this study, we are in the great tribulation. The rapture of the church has already occurred and believers are in heaven; and we've begun the final 7 years of earths history that will culminate in the literal, visible return of Jesus Christ. Remember what the tribulation is? Its that 7 year period of time that will begin when the antichrist signs a peace treaty with Israel and 7 years later it will end with the return of Jesus Christ at the climactic battle of Armageddon.

What is the purpose of the tribulation? It is God's judgment on the earth. Specifically, it is for the condemnation of the unbelievers but it is also for the salvation of the elect. Interestingly, there will be a number of people who will be saved during these 7 years of tribulation.

Gods purpose is always redemptive in nature and so the 7 years of God's judgments actually come in the form of 3 series of judgments.

First of all there are the seal judgments: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7. (Revelation 6)

Then there are the Trumpet judgments. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7. (Revelation 8:2-11:19)

Then there are the Bowl judgments. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7. (Revelation 16)

What is interesting is that you need to understand these judgments is, the 7 seals judgments actually include all of the trumpet judgments; and the 7 trumpet judgments is actually all of the bowl judgments.

We've already gone thru the first series of judgments in Revelation 6. The seal judgments. We've already looked at 6 of those and they're found in Revelation 6. Remember the first one is the appearance of the antichrist, the world leader, who assumes power (not with any war - but the world turns to him voluntarily because of the chaos on the earth). And we've looked at the other ones - famine, destruction, and the martyrdom of the saints.

Revelation 6:1-17 NLT

[1] As I watched, the Lamb broke the first of the seven seals on the scroll. Then I heard one of the four living beings say with a voice like thunder, "Come!" [2] I looked up and saw a white horse standing there. Its rider carried a bow, and a crown was placed on his head. He rode out to win many battles and gain the victory.

[3] When the Lamb broke the second seal, I heard the second living being say, "Come!" [4] Then another horse appeared, a red one. Its rider was given a mighty sword and the authority to take peace from the earth. And there was war and slaughter everywhere. [5] When the Lamb broke the third seal, I heard the third living being say, "Come!" I looked up and saw a black horse, and its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand. [6] And I heard a voice from among the four living beings say, "A loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley will cost a day's pay. And don't waste the olive oil and wine." [7] When the Lamb broke the fourth seal, I heard the fourth living being say, "Come!" [8] I looked up and saw a horse whose color was pale green. Its rider was named Death, and his companion was the Grave. These two were given authority over one-fourth of the earth, to kill with the sword and famine and disease and wild animals. [9] When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of all who had been martyred for the word of God and for being faithful in their testimony. [10] They shouted to the Lord and said, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you judge the people who belong to this world and avenge our blood for what they have done to us?" [11] Then a white robe was given to each of them. And they were told to rest a little longer until the full number of their brothers and sisters-their fellow servants of Jesus who were to be martyred-had joined them.

And the sixth seal judgment. Cosmic disturbances - that's Revelation 6.

[12] I watched as the Lamb broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake. The sun became as dark as black cloth, and the moon became as red as blood. [13] Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind. [14] The sky was rolled up like a scroll, and all of the mountains and islands were moved from their places. [15] Then everyone-the kings of the earth, the rulers, the generals, the wealthy, the powerful, and every slave and free person-all hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains. [16] And they cried to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb. [17] For the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to survive?"

Then when we get to chapter 7, John says wait a minute. Before we go forward, I want to share another aspect of the tribulation you need to understand. And that is the 144,000 Jews whom Christ saves and he seals them supernaturally to be Jewish evangelists to go around the world sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. And the result we see in Revelation 7 is that a multitude of Jews and Gentiles will be saved.

Now when we get to Revelation 8 we are ready to remove the 7th seal from the book that will unleash all of the trumpet judgments and all of the bowl judgments that are to come. Remember the scroll that has all of the judgments written in it. Remember the 7 sealed scroll that we talked about in Revelation 5. In heaven, God the Father gives Jesus the Lamb, that 7 sealed scroll. The book of redemption that contains a description of how this world was lost to satan and it also identifies the terms by which this world will be redeemed and returned to its rightful owner.

And the 7 sealed scroll - and you break 1 seal and a little bit of its revealed. The 2nd seal and a little more is revealed. When we have finished the 6th seal, almost all of the scroll has been revealed. And then notice what happens.

A. Silence in Heaven for half an hour.

Chapter 8:1 When the Lamb (Jesus) broke the 7th seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

The breaking of the seventh seal means the scroll is completely opened and everyone in heaven can see all the final judgments on earth. They can see all the trumpet and bowl judgments. And when the heavenly residents see what awaits this earth there is a collective gasp that you will hear in heaven. Its as if everyone in heaven takes their hand and puts it over his mouth. They can't believe what the Lord is about to do to the earth.

Zephaniah 1:7 Hold thy peace at the presence of the Lord GOD: for the day of the LORD is at hand: for the LORD hath prepared a sacrifice, he hath bid his guests.

One writer describes the silence in heaven as 'silence in a courtroom'. When the jury comes back after their deliberation, and the foreman of the jury stands up to announce their verdict and people are silent as they await the verdict.

Someone else has described this as the silence that precedes a thunderstorm or a tornado. You know, right before the storm comes the birds quit singing, the insects quit chirping. There's a Erie silence before the storm hits. That's what you have here. There's an Erie silence as everyone waits these judgments.

B. Seven Angels and Seven Trumpets

Chapter 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

Who are these 7 angels that stand before God? We don't know. Its projection. Many people believe its the archangels. People like Michael and Gabriel. Special angels who will each be given one of the trumpets to sound.

Trumpets are very important in the scripture.

THE PRIMARY USES OF TRUMPETS IN THE BIBLE

I've listed 5 primary uses of trumpets in the Bible:

- to announce ceremonial processions
- to assemble Israel for war, journeys and special feats

(Numbers 10:9-10

9 And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.)

- to announce the new year

(Numbers 29:1 And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.)

-to regather Israel at the second coming of Christ

(Matthew 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.)

-there will be a trumpet that will announce the rapture of the church

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first)

(1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.)

Believers are going to hear this one day - the blast of the trumpet that announces that rapture of the church.

The trumpet that signifies the beginning of a war. These angels are going to sound the trumpet to announce God's war on planet earth.

C. THE ANGEL WITH A GOLD CENSER

Each one has a trumpet. But before the angel blows the trumpet, notice something else takes place with the angel who has a golden censer.

Revelation 8:3-4

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

You are probably wondering what in the world is this talking about? Remember in the Old Testament temple, there were two altars. One was called the altar of sacrifice, the braisen altar; and it was busy day and night. Priests were continually offering animal sacrifices on that braisen altar.

But there is a second altar, a golden altar called the altar of incense. It was in the holy place. In fact it stood right before the veil that separated the holy place from the holy of holies. That was the altar of incense and the priest would go up and to the burning coals on the altar, he would add incense that would waft its way to heaven signifying how pleasing the sacrifices were like a pleasing aroma was in the nostrils of God.

Now what John sees in heaven is an angel standing before the first altar (Altar of sacrifice) and like the priest would do, using some tongs to remove the burning coals from the altar of sacrifice and placing them in a gold receptacle. It was called a censor. This was just a golden receptacle that was on a golden chain. And he would use the tongs and put the coals in the golden sensor and take them to the altar of incense. And he would mix with those burning coals incense and he would mix that burning coals with incense and this time John sees the angel mixing hot coals with the prayers of God's people that are again wafting their way to the presence of God like a fragrant aroma. The angel gathered the prayers of all the saints. That is he has collected all the prayers of God's people for all time and he is offering them as a sacrifice to God.

You know, this tells us something about the importance of prayer to God. God values the prayers of His saints. God values your prayer. There is not one prayer you offer that goes unnoticed by God. In fact over and over again, the Bible describes the fact that Jesus values your prayers as incense, a fragrant aroma to God the Father. And sometimes one of our greatest sacrifices is thru our attitude of prayer. Our prayer is like offering a sacrifice that is pleasing to God.

You say, in what sense is our prayer a sacrifice to God? Christian philosopher Peter Craft puts it like this, He writes, Prayer is a kind of death. Its a rehearsal for death. In praying we die to ourselves, our wills, our ordinary consciousness and desires, our concerns, even our ordinary world and we enter God's world, aligning our minds and will with Gods. We die to our time. We sacrifice our loaves and fishes to Him and He multiplies them.

Isn't that insightful? When we pray not my will but your will be done, we are offering a sacrifice to God.

Listen to me, you may not have 2 nickels to rub together, you may feel like you can serve God in any tangible way, Some of you listening on radio or TV - maybe you are in the hospital, maybe you are home bound and you think I have nothing to offer to the Lord, but you have the best gift of all to offer to Him; and that is your prayers. God treasures your prayers and every Christian can pray. That's the picture we see here. But the particular prayers that God sees the angels gathering, are the prayers of the tribulation saints, who have been praying for relief from the terrible calamity that's been going on for 7 years. And I want you to notice what this angel does. It's really strange. After he has taken the coals and mixed them with incense; and taken them up to the altar of incense. Look at what happens in verse 5.

Revelation 8:5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

He takes hot coals, he was just at the altar of incense, uses the tongs, puts them back in his censor. He collects the incense (prayers of the saints), puts them back in the censor and he empties that censor (the hot coals) and the prayers on the earth. And what happens after that? Peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake.

The tribulation is in full force at this point. What is the relationship between the prayers of God's saints that have been poured out on the earth? Here is the picture - the great judgment of God against the earth is the result of the prayers of God's people. What have God's people been praying for thousands of years? **THY KINGDOM COME (GOD), THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT'S BEING DONE IN HEAVEN.**

Christians of every age have been praying for justice. Been praying for an end of suffering. They've been praying for the return of Jesus Christ. That is the prayer of every true Christian. And now the angel is pouring out those prayers on the earth and saying **those prayers are about to be answered.**

Lightening is the sign of a thunderstorm. Thundering, the sign of an earthquake. These are all the direct result of the prayers of God's people through all the ages.

Walter Waite, the theologian said, "The message is clear, history belongs to the intercessors who pray the future into being". That's what these Christians through the ages have been doing. They have prayed the future, God's future judgment and Christ's future return, into being. And now we are ready for the sounding of the first 4 of those trumpet judgments.

II. THE SOUNDING OF THE FIRST FOUR TRUMPETS

Revelation 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Something I want to say about the trumpet judgments before we look at the first four of them. **You will notice how all 7 of these trumpet judgments closely parallel the plagues God sent against Egypt during the time of Moses. And there's a reason for that.**

Remember, Pharaoh hardened himself against God and said, who is this God that I should obey Him? God said, oh I can answer that's for you. He sent those plagues and demonstrated who He was to the hard heart of Pharaoh. In the same way during these final 7 years of earth's history, men and women will be living rebelliously. They will say, who is God that I should submit my will to Him? **And God demonstrates the answer to that thru these 7 trumpet judgments. You will notice that the first 4 of these trumpet judgments are against the earth. Against nature, and the final 3 are against mankind.**

And people say, well do we take these literally? They are so fantastic...do we take them literal? Well, the plagues against Egypt were literal plagues that resulted in the people's release. There's no reason not to take these literally. Especially with the specificity that we will find in just a moment.

The first 4 trumpet judgments are very short. these are like the staccato verse of the trumpet. They don't take long to unleash. And notice the destruction of the earth is measured in fractions, a third or a fourth. Its not total destruction. Not yet anyway.

Let's look at that first trumpet - fire on earth. Beginning in *Revelation 8:7 The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of the earth was burnt up, and 1/3 of the trees and all green grass was burnt up.*

We don't know for sure what John is describing here. Perhaps its a volcano that is in the atmosphere. Perhaps it is human and animal blood of animals that are caught up in this destruction for sure. Dr. Henry Morris, the father of our Henry and John Morris speculates this might be the earth passing thru a meteor shower, but whatever it is, the devastation is real. Notice the results. 1/3 of the earth was burnt up. Can your mind comprehend what it would be like to have 1/3 of this world burnt up? We've seen the tremendous devastation of Australia. That's localized. Imagine if that were world wide? A third of the earth was burnt up. Just imagine the draught of having the earth burnt up, the mudslides with all the topsoil removal would occur. Not only that, a third of the trees were burnt up.

There's about 3 trillion trees in the world. Imagine a trillion trees, the rain forest being devastated. What that would do to our ecological system. Imagine no wood for construction. Imagine what it would do to animal life. And not only that, but all the green grass is burned up.

Again, later on we're going to see that some of the grass is going to be protected. In this trumpet judgments, all of the green grass is going to be destroyed. Think again about the tremendous damage to our eco system. Think about losing 1/3 of the green grass in the world.

You know as I read about this first trumpet judgment, with the natural world (1/3 of the world) burned up, the trees destroyed, and 1/3 of all marine life destroyed. Think about all of this ash and smoke going into the atmosphere.

I can't help but think about the current situation in our country and world regarding the environment. Let me be very clear. I believe we ought to take care of the environment. I think we are stewards of the world that God has given us. I have no argument with that. Its Biblical. But today, there seem to be those that have put so much emphasis on the creation they have forgotten the creator. They are making the same mistake they did in

Romans 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Paul says they worship the creature rather than the creator.

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

Paul talks about people today worshipping the creation instead of the creator.

I read this week, Elizabeth warren said the survival of our planet depends upon the 2020 election. No it doesn't. **The survival of our planet depends upon Almighty God.**

And the greatest danger this world faces is not what the hands of man do to the environment, the greatest threat to this environment is what the hand of God is going to do to this world.

A. THE FIRST TRUMPET: FIRE ON EARTH

Don't get alarmed by all these people that say we only have 12 years left as a planet if we don't do this or that. Don't believe any of this!

II Peter 3:7 says But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Very clearly the present heavens and earth are being preserved for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. God is preserving this planet for the time he is going to destroy it by fire. And that is not going to happen one second sooner than God has already ordained.

Listen to what the word of God says. And you know its going to be interesting in those final 7 years for people to see - for those who have worshipped the earth and put so much concern in this world, to see God destroy the world.

One of the patterns you see in the old and new testaments is that God loves to destroy idols. An idol is anything you love, you focus on more than God himself. An idol doesn't have to be a figurine. Your career, family, money or be an ideal. Its anything you like more than God. And many times God will destroy that idol thing right before your very eyes. He'll take away that relationship, He'll end that career, He'll consume your money, not because he hates you - because he loves you. He wants you to know that there is only one person worthy of your worship and love; and that's God Himself.

In these final 7 years those that dwell on the earth are going to see the idol they've made of the world and mother nature. They're gonna see that idol destroyed before their very eyes.

But thats just the beginning. There's a second trumpet and it results in blood in the sea.

B. THE SECOND TRUMPET:

Revelation 8:8-9

8 And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

9 And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed.

This is something John says looks like a great mountain coming to earth. It doesn't take much imagination to know what that is. He's probably talking about a great asteroid that hits the earth, all assigned by God Himself.

Do you remember 2013 there was a large meteor that went thru the Russian sky? It was 55 feet in width and measured to be 20-30 times larger than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It can have a devastating consequence. If you have a large meteor in the atmosphere that strikes the earth, and the Bible says when this happens and it hits the sea, a third of the sea became blood. We don't know if He's speaking figuratively or literally. The water turned to blood. Losing a third of all marine life. We don't know what that would look like. Or the lives of human beings that are lost at sea. ***It became like blood; it became blood.*** price the results. 1/3 of creatures in the sea were killed. Again, if these meteors hit, it will result in title waves and Sunami's happen.

Because of the Iranian tension, our government is concerned about the straight of passage near Iran. Imagine if 1/3 of the 55,000 merchant ships were destroyed. This would be a major catastrophe for the world. And then

C. THE THIRD TRUMPET - CONTAMINATION OF FRESH WATER

Revelation 8:

10 And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.

The word star doesn't have to mean a literal star. The word can refer to a meteor or asteroid. Some type of heavenly body that breaks up apparently when it enters the atmosphere. But instead of striking the seas, the star is directed (divinely so) to fall on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. This is an attack on the fresh water our world enjoys. There are about 165 major rivers in the world along with their contributories. Imagine if 1/3 of those fresh water supplies were removed from the earth.

The World Health Organization tells us 900,000 people die each year from contaminated drinking water. Imagine what would happen if you lost 1/3 of fresh water supply.

By the way this star that breaks up and falls to the earth has a name. Did you know God has named every star in the universe? If you husband or boy friend tells you he's named a star after you, don't fall for that. The stars already have a name.

Isn't it amazing that God has named every star, he knows the name of trillions of stars and knows the number of hairs on your head. That's the kind of God we serve. *This star is called wormwood.* Wormwood refers to bitterness, a bitter plant. Exodus 15 where the children of Israel came and the water was bitter tasting.

Exodus 15:

22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

27 And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters.

And God, thru their prayers, change the bitter into sweet. But this water isn't only bitter tasting, it becomes poisonous and results in the deaths of millions of men, women, and children.

D. THE FOURTH TRUMPET

And then the fourth judgment. Darkness of the heavenly bodies.

Revelation 8:12

12 And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Darkness is always symbolic of evil and Gods judgment. This is literal. The light from sun, moon, and stars is reduced by 8 hours a day. Its really not hard to figure out. When you look at the first judgment, think of 1/3 of the world being destroyed by fire; ash in the air from the unusual volcanic activity. What would this do to block or diminish the sun that comes to earth? Smoke and ash can have such an impact on earth that temperatures decline by 5 or more degrees.

Global temps were reduced in 1990, due to the Persian gulf war. As Saddam Huessen was driven out of the Persian gulf, he set the oil wells on fire. It took 9 months to extinguish those fires and the average temp in the Middle East decreased by 20 degrees. That's what we are seeing here. The results of all the judgments, the smoke, ash, and volcanic activity could easily block the sun. Think about the effect the loss of 8 hours of sunlight would have on our eco system and growing food. What would that do to have 16-20 hours of darkness every day. Think about the violence, looting, and rioting that would take place and the things that would happen with that much darkness each day. God sets against the natural world and yet, the worst is yet to come.

III. THE HEAVENLY WARNING OF WOE

Revelation 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

As I said a moment ago, These final three trumpet judgments will be against man himself. And these are going to result in some of the worst human suffering the world has ever known.

The Bible says its gonna last for 5 months and people who are affected by this judgment will be in such agony and pain that they will cry out to God to be able to die, but God won't allow them to die. Its an agonizing judgment that is yet to come. That word woe is always an announcement of Devine judgment. He didn't say it once, but he said it 3 times.

Woe, Woe, Woe, There are three coming judgments to those who are unfortunate enough to dwell on the earth.

I want you to think about that phrase for just a moment.

To those who dwell on the earth. Whose going to receive those judgments? To those who dwell on the earth. Pastor, thats pretty obvious, talking about people who are living on the earth. That's not all he's talking about here. To dwell on the earth, there are two Greek words used to describe earth dwells.

1. PAROIKOS - a sojourner, one who lives on earth as a stranger, of Christians whose home is in heaven

Just passing thru this world. Its a word used to describe Abraham. He lived in tents and was always ready to go where God sent him. He was an alien who dwelled on this earth but was focused on the new heaven and earth. He was focused on that city whose architect was God. This judgment isn't against those who just geographically live on the earth.

Revelation 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

2. KATOIKO. Refers not just to our geographical location but to the location of our heart. The focus of our life. It refers to people whose whole life and focus is centered around this world. Their family, bank account, entertainment, sports activity's, career; that's all they think about and talk about; and its those who dwell on the earth and have made this world their home,

and are so focused on the temporal they haven't taken care of the gift of Gods forgiveness. They have neglected the most important gift of all. The gift of Gods forgiveness.

Hebrews 11:9-10

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Let me ask you an all important question. What is the focus of your life right now. What do you talk about. Think about. Give your energy to? Is it the things of this world or next world. Are you focused on the temporal or are you focused on the eternal? The best indicator of your future eternal destination is your presence focus.

Sister Shelbia loves what he says about our prayers. Also the final closing point of our focus needs to be thought about and reviewed frequently because its very important where our focus is.

Chapter 8:7 judgements begin to fall very quickly. 1/3 of earth is burned up and 1/3 of earths waters are polluted. Until recently most commentators interpreted these acts to be supernatural acts of God. They could be, but God often relaxes his restraint on human Bahia or.

Romans 1:18-32 where we are told when a society rebels against God and refuses to repent, the Lord will step back and lower his hedge of protection and allow evil to take its course.

Romans 1:18-32

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

30 Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

31 Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:

32 Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them

Reagan says he believes God's restraint is what keeps us able to tell others about Jesus- we are the only generation that's ever lived with the capacity to bring on ourselves "the destruction of ourselves". The power of these weapons is breathtaking. One nuclear sub contains more fire power than all the fire power used during WW II. 9 nations have bucks enough to to kill every person on earth 10 times over.

Dr. Reagan says Revelation 8 is a description of a nuclear Holocaust. Sun, Moon and Stars are blocked out. This is exactly what would happen in a nuclear a Holocaust. The dense cloud that would be produced would cause people to freeze to death and the same cloud would be carrying nuclear radiation, which is why we are told in 16:2 that peoples bodies will be covered with sores that will not heal.

After nuclear Holocaust the living will envy the dead. Jesus may have been referring to the age of nuclear weapons when he talked about the characteristics of men fainting from fear in the expectations of the things coming upon the world in Luke 21:26.

Shelbia states "I saw an interview that Tim Moore (new director of Lamb and Lion Ministries) did with Dr. Reagan" (Wrath and Glory book), Lion and Lambs Ministry are calling those who have eyes and ears to WAKE UP!

Dr. Reagan stepped down as director June 1, 2021. Dr. Reagan got married 11 days after June 1 to a lady named Linda. He's known her for 45 years. Her husband died May 22, 2020 and Dr. Reagan's wife died August, 2020, so Dr. Reagan and Linda started talking in December and they had a whirlwind honeymoon in New Mexico after being married in the middle of June, 2021.

Dr. Reagan was born in 1939; but he is looking for the Lord to come. They started talking about God's prophetic voices in America. Dr. Reagan wrote **Gods Prophetic Voices in America**. David Wilkerson was talking about the repentance of this nation. Dr. Reagan was looking for people who were focusing on sins and repentance and this nation – most were pastors. Prophecy people were focused on details of prophecy; but these new prophets mirrored the Old Testament prophets who were long suffering and full of patience.

Psalm 103:8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Nahem 1:7, 7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

1:2-3a 2 God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Psalm 2 1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's

vessel.

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Hope is part of wrath. Nobody wants to preach about the wrath of God. All they want to talk about is Gods love.

Joel 1 - talks about locust coming. They destroy crops and people starve. God sent them to make people repent but they didn't.

Joel 1

1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel the son of Pethuel.

2 Hear this, ye old men, and give ear, all ye inhabitants of the land. Hath this been in your days, or even in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.

4 That which the palmerworm hath left hath the locust eaten; and that which the locust hath left hath the cankerworm eaten; and that which the cankerworm hath left hath the caterpillar eaten.

5 Awake, ye drunkards, and weep; and howl, all ye drinkers of wine, because of the new wine; for it is cut off from your mouth.

6 For a nation is come up upon my land, strong, and without number, whose teeth are the teeth of a lion, and he hath the cheek teeth of a great lion.

7 He hath laid my vine waste, and barked my fig tree: he hath made it clean bare, and cast it away; the branches thereof are made white.

8 Lament like a virgin girded with sackcloth for the husband of her youth.

9 The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD's ministers, mourn.

10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.

11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: because joy is withered away from the sons of men.

13 Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar: come, lie all night in sackcloth, ye ministers of my God: for the meat offering and the drink offering is withholden from the house of your God.

14 Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry unto the LORD.

15 Alas for the day! for the day of the LORD is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come.

16 Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God?

17 The seed is rotten under their clods, the garners are laid desolate, the barns are broken down; for the corn is withered.

18 How do the beasts groan! the herds of cattle are perplexed, because they have no pasture; yea, the flocks of sheep are made desolate.

19 O LORD, to thee will I cry: for the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness, and the flame hath burned all the trees of the field.

20 The beasts of the field cry also unto thee: for the rivers of waters are dried up, and the fire hath devoured the pastures of the wilderness.

1974-David Wilkerson talked about the 'wound that's incurable is part of no return'. God sent prophets and remedial judgments in the Old Testament but the people would not repent in Joel 1.

1975 - God sent Francis Schaeffer who wrote **How should we live Then.**

1977 - Donald Wildman who made known how bad television programs were becoming immoral. Donald pointed out immorality; he founded American Family Association and American Family Radio.

1979 -Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was kicked out of Russia for not succumbing to the government and came to America. He saw the lack of worshipping God and criticized America for forgetting about God. He said America was forgetting about God like they did in Russia.

1980 - David Reagan rose up on the scene. A graduate of U of Texas in 1959; God called him to ministry when he decided to wait on more education cause he couldn't decide exactly what he wanted to do, international law or politics; so God called him to a little church with 2 families that hated each other. They set on opposite side of the church and wouldn't do anything. Dr. Reagan had to pray, preach, and lead music. It was the kind of place where he prayed here I am Lord, send anyone but me. Reagan ran from God for 20 years. He was a slow learner. It took Noah 3 days but it took Reagan 20 years; meanwhile he had all kinds of achievement and awards and was very successful but miserable.

When he was Vice President of a university, he went to the president and told him he was going to resign. The president offered a new car and a membership to the country club, but to each Reagan said no. He told the president he was called to preach. The president asked 'where you going'? Reagan didn't know. So president asked when he says going to do this. Reagan said in two weeks, which would have been April fools day. President told David, you've chosen a very appropriate date, so he left without much encouragement from president of university.

Reagan was very educated in politics and he began to talk about the return of Jesus. He referred to the prophet Amos, who told the King his family was going to die if they didn't repent. They all died. Dr. Reagan said it was almost impossible to convince anyone that prophecy was being fulfilled. Reagan went to Russia and saw how bad it was. No food on the shelves. People were in the street bartering with each other. Dr. Reagan told the people this is coming to America. People thought God would not touch us. Jeremiah 7:14 This interview was in mid-July of 2021. Things are getting increasingly dark and immoral - its getting worse and worse as far as turning against God.

Matthew 24:36-41

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Dr. Reagan said there is no hope for us getting better. Jan Market says the pieces are falling into place.

Dr. Reagan is working on a new book - may call it America's Destiny, but thinks he'll call it America's Suicide. He says it's wonderful to put our hope in Jesus.

Reagan's parting words are we have run out of time. Time is short. Jesus is at the very gate. The rapture could be any time. Don't be left behind. Jesus is the only hope! Not political parties. Jesus is the only hope! This was the end of his interview but Shelby repeats what she's heard many times. **WE ARE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME.**

Shelbia gives another 'think you're having a bad day story'. Check it out these are actual cases. A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking in a dancing frenzy's with a wire running from his waste toward the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from this, she whacked him with a piece of wood and broke his arm. Until that very moment, he had been happily listening and dancing to his Walkman. His arm was broken.

Shelbia has something from Dr. Jeffress called **The Political and Cultural Engagement of the Believer**.

Most people know that I am fairly optimistic, at least in the short term. Some of the positive things that are happening in our country are 1) Conservative judicial picks, 2) an administration with a pro-life position, There are many positive things happening in our country.

But that doesn't change my overall prediction about what is going to happen to America eventually. I believe America's collapse is inevitable.

Now people will say, why would you say such a pessimistic thing that America's collapse is inevitable?

One reason is I read the Bible. In our church I'm preaching thru the book of Revelation and if you believe what the Bible says the final 7 years of earths history, a time we call the tribulation will be characterized by a one world government, precisely overruled by a person we commonly refer to as the antichrist and during those final 7 years there will be no freedom of commerce, no freedom of speech and no freedom of religion which means by that time America will have ceased to exist as we know it today. One reason is I read the Bible. In our church I'm preaching thru the book of Revelation and if you believe what the Bible says the final 7 years of earths history, a time we call the tribulation will be characterized by a one world government, precisely overruled by a person we commonly refer to as the antichrist and during those final 7 years there will be no freedom of commerce, no freedom of speech and no freedom of religion which means by that time America will have ceased to exist as we know it today.

So scripturally we know America's collapse is inevitable, whether that's next year or in 1,000 years. But there is a more practical reason I've come to understand why America's collapse is inevitable. And its something that happened in our church a few years ago. The church I pastor, first baptist in Dallas, has been in downtown Dallas for 150 years. We occupy 6 blocks of downtown Dallas and a few years ago we decided to completely recreate our campus. And God was gracious enough to allow us to raise 135 million dollars in the midst of the Great Recession. It was going to be the largest church building program in modern history. But after the money was raised, we had the task of deciding how do you bring down all of these buildings? All of the square footage and do it in a safe way? And so we met with the explosive people, the demolition people, and they said the best way to do this is with an implosion. And they said they would take hundreds of pounds of dynamite, attach them to key structural supports in the buildings, in specific places and the implosion would take over and the buildings would collapse under their own weight.

So one Saturday morning they closed off downtown Dallas for the implosion of the First Baptist Church and it was a pretty exciting event. All the media was there and Fox and Friends was there. 17 million people watched it.

I stood with the mayor and we counted down and I pressed a big red button, which was followed by the exploding dynamite and nothing, absolutely nothing happened. I was very upset. And I thought a lot of unkind things. I wanted to fire someone. I could imagine this scene being replayed on YouTube, endlessly. *Pastors implosion, a dud!*

But what I forgot, was what the demolition people said. They said between the explosion of the dynamite and the collapse there would be a pause. And what seemed like eternity was actually only a few seconds. We suddenly felt the ground vibrate and the buildings began to sway back and forth and within 30 seconds those buildings became dust.

I learned something that morning about implosions. They are sudden, they are dramatic, they began with a series of seemingly unrelated explosions followed by a pause and then a sudden collapse.

I believe that over the last 60 years in America there have been 3 explosive decisions by our United States Supreme Court, that have so weakened the moral and spiritual infrastructure of this country that our collapse is inevitable.

The explosions have already occurred. The implosion is coming and were just living right now in that pause that is between time before the final collapse.

What are those 3 explosive decisions?

1. 1962 - Engel v. Vitols - removed prayer from the public schools.

1963 - removed Bible reading from school

1980 - Stone vs. Graham - it is no longer constitutional to post the 10 commandments in a school room.

What was the reason for this? **“If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the commands...it is not a permissible state objective under the Establishment Clause of the constitution.” *Supreme Court of the United States***

Can you imagine such a thing? The Supreme Court of the United States says we can't post the 10 commandments because if we post them children might actually read them. And if they read the commandments they might actually begin to respect them. And God forbid, if they respect them, they could actually obey those commandments.

What's amazing it when you compare what the Supreme Court said in 1980 to what it had said 118 years earlier. In a similar case about whether or not the Bible should be read in school; and in the case of the Supreme Court of the United States *Vidal v. Girard's Executors* (1844, “Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament be read and taught as divine relation - its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained a nod its glorious principles or morality inculcated? Where can the purest principles of morality be learned so clearly or so perfectly as from the New Testament?”

Now, what is it that changed with this decision and the one in 1980? Why is it that you could read the Bible and teach it as God's revelation in 1844 and then 118 years later, you can't even display the 10 commandments? Did the constitution suddenly change and nobody told us about it? Of course not. What has happened in our country is we've allowed the humanist, the atheist, to seize control of our courts and pervert the first amendment of the constitution into something our forefathers never envisioned it would be.

The first amendment of the constitution simply says that congress cannot establish a state religion. We're all in agreement with that. There should be no state religion or state church that everybody is forced to worship in.

But the constitution actually has nothing to say about 10 commandment displays or reading the Bible or nativity scenes.

We've allowed the liberal humanist, atheists to Pervert our laws into something the founders never intended.

That was the first explosive decision that led to governments hostility toward religion, especially the Christian religion.

The second explosive decision came out of the city where I pastor now. It's the case of *Roe v. Wade* (1973). The court ruled that the constitution for the United States protects a pregnant woman's liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction.

This made constitutional the murder of up to 50 million babies.

And we see upwards of 1.1 million children being murdered annually thru abortion.

We hear people saying, we don't care about abortion anymore. We are more interested in economic issues; and if conservatives are going to regain control of this country, they've got to talk about economic issues.

Well let's look at abortion from an economic standpoint.

Did you know one study has suggested that of the 50 million children that had been murdered would have been allowed to live and grow up and become citizens of this country, they would have contributed anywhere from 60-70 trillion dollars to our economy.

If we had these same children part of our society, there would be no Medicare or social security crisis.

The fact is you can't slaughter 20% of your population without severe ramifications, but the economic ramifications pale in comparison to the spiritual ramifications.

If you want to know what God does to a country that murders its own children, just look at what God did to Israel. I mean Israel is the only nation that is God's chosen people and nation, yet when they went into the promised land they engaged in the worship of Molech; and to satisfy Molech's Thirst for blood, they would offer their own children as a burnt sacrifice.

Remember what God said to **Jeremiah in 32:35-36**,

35 "They built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-Hinnon to cause their sons and their daughter to pass thru the fire to Molech, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My Mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.

36 "Now therefore, thus says the lord God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, 'it is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine and by pestilence.'"

Ladies and gentlemen, God is no respecter of people or nations. Maybe some of you watching this right now, but its never the less true, God doesn't get goose bumps when he hears the star spangled banner, God doesn't stand up and salute the United States Flag. God is no respect or of any nation. Any nation that reverence's God will be blessed by God. And any nation, including the US, that rejects God will be rejected by God. And there is no more guarantee of blessing; and this will bring the wrath of God on our nation. Not only to allow, but to celebrate the murder of the unborn.

What is being proposed right now by the democrat party of the United States, is completely uniform and it is evil.

As we are taping this broadcast right now there is a presidential race going on. And there is not one democrat contender for president, not one, that would place any restriction on abortion.

If you want to murder your baby cause you don't like the gender of the baby, go ahead and kill it. If you want to get rid of a child when its in the birth canal of its mother, that's ok. No limit! No restriction whatsoever!

That is not only wrong, it is barbaric and it guarantees the judgment of God. And yet every year, 1.1 million children are being slaughtered thru abortion. That was explosive decision #2.

2. June 26, 2015 - Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) out ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by both the Due Process clause and the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment tot he United States Constitution. This is the case that legalized same sex marriage. Now I know what the conventional wisdom is regarding 'now what's wrong with that'? If two gays want to get married why do you get all hot and bothered about that pastor? It doesn't hurt you. Why should we care about gay marriage? Well the simple answer is because we know how this movie ends. We know what the ultimate sociological outcome is. The Hoover Institute did a long term study on Scandinavian Countries that had legalized gay marriage and what they found after 10 years was very interesting.

They found that not that many gay couples actually got married, instead they saw the rate of heterosexual marriage declined precipitously. You say, well why would gays having the right to marry cause heterosexuals not to marry? Well that's easy. Whenever you counterfeit something you cheapen the value fo the real thing. So if marriage is whatever you want it to be, 2 men, 1 man and 1 woman, 2 men and 1 woman, whatever you want it to be, why bother to marry at all? And that's exactly what's happened in our country. Just recently we've had the lowest rate of marriage that we've had in our country and there are tremendous sociological implications of that.

Whenever you cease to have a nuclear family or a child is raised with only one parent, there are all kinds of effects of that.

Drug addiction rises, SAT scores plummet, juvenile delinquency rises.

God designed us in such a way that we need a father and a

Sarah McClanahan, sociologist, from Princeton University, and she said if we were trying to design an ideal environment in which to rear a child, it would be one in which a child is connected to both its biological parents.

That's a novel idea. That kinda sounds like a family. That's how God designed a family - a father and mother.

Certainly that's not always possible because of death or divorce, but government should be encouraging the environment of how to rear a child instead of counterfeiting it thru gay marriage.

There are social repercussions for veering away from God's definition of the family. Now my point in all of this is very simple. No nation that outlaws the mention of God in the public square, that sanctions the killing of its own children, that destroys the most basic unit of the family, no nation is going to survive that.

The explosions have already happened. The implosion is coming; and we are living in the pause in between.

And that begs the question, what should we do in light of the coming collapse? Now I know some of you are saying this is the most depressing message I've heard in my life. No, it's not depressing at all, as long as you understand what our assignment is as Christians in this decaying and darkening world.

Matthew 5:13-14 Jesus told us exactly what we are suppose to do.

13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Jesus said we are called to be salt, first of all. In Jesus day, salt was something more than what you sprinkled on your steak to increase your blood pressure. Salt was actually a preservative in the days before refrigeration.

Because there was no refrigeration, meat would decay; and although the you couldn't prevent the decay, you could delay it by packing salt onto it. You had to put salt on the meat not to prevent the decay but to delay it.

Jesus said one reason I'm leaving you on this earth instead of taking you to heaven the moment you are saved, is to be a preservative in the culture. Not to prevent the decay by to delay it. To give people a longer time to accept Christ as savior before His return.

How do we do this? To preserve the meat?

Salt has to get out of the salt shaker. As long as its in the shaker it does no good whatsoever. It has to penetrate the meat.

We as Christians have to get out of our church and penetrate society so that we can be salt and light in this world. Salt in the salt shaker does no good. Perhaps the most effective way we have to push back against the tide of evil we have in our society is thru the leaders that we select and place into office. I was just recently talking to a reporter from Germany. She represented the largest firm in Germany and she was asking me the question, why do you as a pastor get involved in the political process? Why don't you just preach? Why do you get involved in politics? And I said, you of all people should understand that leaders of a country determine policies of that country. And the policies of that country determine the moral and spiritual attributes of that country.

The reason Adolph Hitler rose to power in your country is because pastors, by and large, remained silent.

They said, we will preach the gospel and let other people take care of everything else.

There were a few exceptions, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer, but they were the exception to the rule.

You know God has called us to influence our culture. And in our day one way that we do this is thru the leaders we select.

You know in the Old Testament times, people didn't get to vote for their king. It was the king who determined the spiritual and moral direction of their country. If it was a good king, like King Josiah, God blessed the nation. If it was an unrighteous king, like King Ahab, God cursed the nation. But the Israelites didn't get to choose their king. **But as John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court said, God has given us the privilege in this Christian nation, of choosing our leaders.**

Actively getting involved in the political process is not only a right, its a responsibility for Christian's. Every time when we go to the voting booth, every time we do, we are casting a vote for righteousness or unrighteousness.

And when we stay at home, as 25 million evangelical voters did in the last election, we are saying I couldn't care less about our election.

You know any time your people say, well I don't think Christians should get involved in the political process, just ask them this question; Do you believe God cares about the rampant immorality that is sweeping our nation right now? Do you think God has any feelings at all when he see's crosses down down from war memorials? Do you think that God has any opinion at all about the murder of 1.1 million children in the womb each year due to abortion?

If your answer is yes to one of those questions then you have just answered why Christians should get involved in politics!

And that is why I am so supportive and why I am happy to partner with American Family Association and American Radio. They are partnering with churches across this country to be salt; to be a preservative, to push's back against evil, so that we have an opportunity to share the gospel with as many people as we can, before the Lord comes again.

Jesus said, you are to salt, but he also said something else.

Matthew 5:14-16

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

I want to be very clear that the mandate for Christians is not to save America. You and I have not been called to save America. We've been called to save American's from the coming judgment of God by introducing them to faith in Jesus Christ.

That is our ultimate goal - our mission. We are to share the light of the gospel. We push back against evil in order to share the light of the gospel of Christ.

I like to use this analogy. Imagine a little village that has a giant dam above it. The dam holds back thousands of gallons of water. The dam begins to leak. The infrastructure begins to crumble so a group of townsmen go up to the dam and place themselves against the dam, holding back the tide of water thats about to engulf their village below. With one hand they are pushing against the dam. Over their shelter, while they push back, they yell. They warn the people below to seek a place of safety.

That's exactly what we are doing as Christians. We are pushing back against the flood thats about to be unleashed, but we are also telling them about the Savior, Jesus Christ.

And we're never to forget that function. AFA and AFR are broadcasting every day the salvation available to all thru Christ Jesus.

You know in Philippians 2, Paul wrote to a group of Christians who were living in a very antiChristian world. Think about what a first century Christian was like. Nero was emperor of the world. He was the most evil emperor in Rome. He would take Christians and set them on fire to illuminate his garden.

And yet, what did Paul say to these Christians? He said in

Philippians 2:14-16***14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:******15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;******16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.***

Paul understood the principal that the darker the background, the brighter the light. The darker his world became the greater the opportunity became to point people to Jesus Christ. The darker the background, the brighter the light.

I learned that lesson the hard way a few years ago. My young daughter had made a really good decision in her life. She had just broken up with the most worthless excuse of a boyfriend; and I told her Dorothy, I'm going to take you to the mall and I'll buy whatever you want to celebrate your decision. She took me to our mall to Dallas into a very expensive jewelry store. As I walked thru the or, I began to get the shakes. The salesman said, its good to see you again. Would you like to look at the ring you were looking at yesterday? He came back with a little ring box. He took a piece of black felt laid down and he opened the ring and put it on the black felt. The contrast almost blinded me to the price. He was an excellent salesman. He understood that principal of the darker the background the brighter the light.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this world, this country is going to get darker and darker and darker; but the darker this world gets the more brightly the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes in this country. If your purpose in life is that of most people -peace, prosperity, pleasure, the avoidance of pain, then these are terrifying times in which to live.

But if your goal is to share Christ with as many people as possible, there's never been a better time to share the gospel as quickly as possible.

Now, I know there are people watching this right now. Pastor Jeffress, I'm not sure what we are suppose to do. Are we suppose to be pushing back politically, saying no to things contradictory to the Bible or are we to share the gospel with as many people as possible.

Well, what did Jesus say? You are to be the salt of the earth but if your not comfortable doing that you can be the light of the world? No, He said you are to be salt and light. It's not either or, its both and if we are going to be obedient disciples of Christ we have to learn to multitask. We have to learn to do both things. Not one thing. We need to be balanced in our approach, but please whatever you do, don't mistake balance with passive. This is no time for God's people to be passive.

I think of the words of William Watkins and his new book, The New Absolutes. He says "it is time for Christians to reject the new tolerance and instead become a people marked by intolerance, not an intolerance that unleashes hate upon people, but an intolerance that is unwilling to allow error to masquerade as truth any longer; an intolerance that is willing to stand up and call good, good and evil, evil."

May God give us the courage to do just that.

Shelbia knows this is heavy and long, but hopes she didn't lose any of us.

*She found a verse I Peter 4:7 **7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.***

Father, we thank you that you've not only saved us but you've selected us to be your instruments in this world. I thank you for the tremendous ministry of American Family Association and American Family Radio who are dedicated to be salt and light; I pray for your leadership may we be thankful to support them in what they odd until you return again. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, who came and died and rose again so that we may have eternal life. Its in his name we pray. Amen.