THE UNITED STATES IN PROPHECY

THE LITTLE HORN OF DANIEL 7, AND 'BABYLON THE GREAT' OF REVELATION 18

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PROLOGUE: THE 'MARK OF THE BEAST' IS HERE!

In the past, at the beginning of each page in the Prophecy Section of this journal, I used to ask this question: 'Do you know what time it is?' I then explained the 70th Week of Daniel, and how close at hand the second coming of Jesus Christ truly is.



I explained how that, after examining Daniel chapter 9 and Jesus' Olivet Discourse, we can realize that the <u>MIDPOINT</u> of Daniel's 70th Week is Rome's destruction of Jerusalem in <u>70 AD</u>. And then I explained that, after examining the <u>FOUR VISIONS</u> of John's Little Book (Revelation 11-13), we can fully understand the entire Week:



But now after more recent Bible study, and my continued monitoring of world events, I have concluded that another aspect of 'the last days' <u>has come</u>; the 'Mark of the Beast'. It is a 'Mark' that the False Prophet will impose upon the entire world:

The False Prophet causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a Mark <u>FROM</u> their right hand or <u>FROM</u> their foreheads. And that no one may buy or sell except one who has the Mark, or an official name from the Beast, or an official number associated with his official name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number from the Beast, for it is the (identification) number of each man. That number is 666. Revelation 13:16-18

Until recently I had suspected that the 'Mark of the Beast' might be a bar code or QR code tattooed upon a person's skin. Or that it might be an RFID chip inserted underneath a person's skin. But with more recent study I have discovered that, in the original Greek of Revelation 13:16, the words 'forehead' and 'hand' were <u>not</u> written in the <u>DATIVE</u> case (indicating that something is being done <u>TO</u> them). Rather they were written in the <u>GENITIVE</u> case; indicating that something is being taken <u>FROM</u> a person's forehead or hand.

And the Greek word translated 'mark' can also be translated as an 'image' or 'impression' of something. And so I now believe that the Beast's 'Mark' is actually a <u>scan</u> taken <u>from</u> people's faces and hands. These comprise the <u>biometric data</u> being collected <u>today</u> by many nations. And it will all come together in a worldwide system of human registration.

This registration of people will be comprised of three things; all three of which are described in Revelation 13:17:

- 1) Biometric scans (markings or images) taken from faces and hands.
- 2) An official legal name assigned by the system.
- 3) An official number connected to the person's official name.

And that no one may buy or sell except one who has 1) the scan (mark, image or impression), and 2) an official name from the Beast, and 3) an official number associated with his official name. Revelation 13:17

I have not yet identified the Beast's official numbering system, based upon a 6-6-6 format. But God is just and fair. And so when the Beast's 'number' does come, I trust that it will be obvious.

My concern, however, regards the fact that all of us are already accustomed to using facial recognition and fingerprint technology. And so the Mark (SCAN) of the Beast will just seem like a harmless improvement upon the status quo. For a further discussion of the False Prophet and his 'Mark', I refer my visitor to my page titled 'Understanding the False Prophet'.

In Revelation God has warned that those who embrace this 'Mark' will suffer <u>never-ending</u> torment in the 'Lake of Fire and Brimstone'. And so I am placing this prologue regarding the 'Mark' at the beginning of every page in this web site. What each of us does now in response to the False Prophet's 'Mark' will determine our eternal destinies:

Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice "If anyone worships the Beast and his image and receives his SCAN, taken from his own forehead or from his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God; which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

And the smoke of their torment ascends <u>forever and ever</u>. And they have no rest day or night, who worship the Beast and his image, and whoever receives the SCAN associated with his own name." Here is the patience of the saints. Here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Revelation 14:9-12

And so combining a knowledge of how close the second coming of Christ is, together with a better understanding of the 'Mark of the Beast', my message is...

DO NOT SUBMIT TO THE MARK (SCAN) OF THE BEAST!

So what is it that God is calling Christians to do in this hour? To prepare for death. God now calls upon Christians to follow the three young Hebrew men who went into the fiery furnace (Daniel 3), and Daniel who went into the lion's den (Daniel 6). He calls upon Christians to understand the choice that now confronts us:

Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested. And you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death (the Lake of Fire and Brimstone). Revelation 2:10-11

And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Revelation 12:11

As I explain in my four pages on 'The Beast and its Three Allies', the rise of Constantine to conquer the world under the banner of the Cross was seen by many as THE triumph of Christianity. It represented God finally exercising dominion over the world; taking His great power and reigning (Revelation 11:17) through specific people and institutions chosen by Him.

This was the 'great falling away from the faith' that Paul said would accompany the rise of a 'man of sin' (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). And so a simple choice still confronts us. Do we want to share in Constantine's 'victory', or will we share in Christ's sufferings?

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. And if children, then heirs. Heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Romans 8:16-17

THE BEAST AND ITS THREE ALLIES

This page on the United States is the <u>fourth</u> in a series of four web pages, in which I explain four 'prophetic characters' in the book of Revelation: the Beast and its three 'allies'. The Beast's three allies are the False Prophet, the City of Rome (the Roman Catholic Church) and the United States. Given these allegiances, I encourage my visitor to read my page on the Beast first, so that each 'ally' can then be understood within context.

The Beast's cooperation with the City of Rome is by far the oldest alliance of the three. This connection goes back to 70 AD, the rise of Vespasian's Flavian Dynasty, and Rome's transition from an 'iron' military capitol to a 'clay' religious capitol (see Daniel chapter 2). And the church+state tactics of Rome are depicted as an evil woman riding upon the back of the Beast in Revelation 17.



Therefore the thing that distinguishes the Beast of Revelation from all of the other major world military powers of the past 1950+ years is its uniquely close cooperation with the city of Rome. However, in this web site I do not present these 'alliances' in their <u>historical</u> order, but in their Biblical order:

- 1) The Beast (First half of Revelation 13)
- 2) The False Prophet (Second half of Revelation 13)
- 3) The City of Rome (Revelation 17)
- 4) The United States (Revelation 18)

A STATUE CALLED 'BABYLON'

The first question that we need to answer is this:

WHY ARE BOTH ROME AND THE UNITED STATES CALLED 'BABYLON' IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION?

And the answer is 'Because Babylon brought an end to Israel's kingdom of David in 586 BC'. And so in the Bible the name 'Babylon' doesn't just represent the Babylonian Empire of Nebuchadnezzer (which ended David's kingdom in 586 BC), but a series of Gentile empires that would <u>EXTEND</u> what Babylon began: the displacement of David's family and the kingdom of Israel <u>until the second coming of David's promised 'Son'</u>, Jesus Christ.

Roughly 3000 years ago, around 1000 B.C., God made a promise to King David of Israel, telling him that someday one of his sons would establish David's Kingdom on earth forever:

The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you. When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you; your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Your house and your kingdom will endure <u>forever</u> before Me; your throne will be established <u>forever</u>.' 2 Samuel 7:11-13, 16

But after David's reign the nation of Israel moved steadily farther and farther away from God. It became increasingly evil. And so God finally allowed King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to first dominate Israel around 605 BC, taking some of the Jewish people back to Babylon as captives. And then 20 years later Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Israel completely in 586 BC.

One of the Jewish people who was taken captive to Babylon was a young man named Daniel. And as Daniel began to serve in the government of Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which Daniel was able to interpret for him. In his dream Nebuchadnezzar had seen a giant statue representing four Gentile empires.

The statue had a head of gold, symbolizing Babylon. It had a chest and arms of silver, symbolizing Persia. It also had a stomach and thighs of bronze, symbolizing Greece. And then finally the Roman Empire was symbolized by legs of iron, followed by feet made of a mixture of iron and clay.

Finally Nebuchadnezzar saw a 'Divine Stone' which was cast upon the feet of the statue, and destroyed the entire statue altogether. This stone symbolized the second coming of Jesus Christ.

There are two things that we can deduce from Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

- 1) God sees all four of these Gentile empires as ONE THING; they are all Babylon in His eyes. This is why He portrayed them as one statue. Persia, Greece and Rome have merely extended what Babylon started; the end of the David's kingdom in Israel. And so this is why the city of Rome is called 'Babylon' in the book of Revelation; because when John received the book of Revelation, the 'Roman Phase' of the statue had already begun.
- 2) We can deduce from Nebuchadnezzar's dream that the second coming of Christ will occur <u>LATE</u> in the history of Rome. Since time moves forward as one moves from the head of the statue to it's lower parts, the stone falling upon the feet signifies that the second coming of Christ will occur late in Rome's existence. And this will bring the 'Roman Phase' of Babylon's domination over David's kingdom to an end.



NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

THE FOURTH BEAST OF DANIEL 7

After Nebuchadnezzar died, Daniel was given another vision of these same four Gentile empires (Daniel chapter 7). But in this vision they were not portrayed as one statue, but as four separate beasts. Babylon was symbolized by a lion, Persia by a bear, Greece by a leopard, and Rome by a beast unlike any known animal. It was dreadful, terrible and powerful; having great iron teeth and trampling and devouring the whole earth.



Daniel observed that this Roman beast had 10 horns. Horns symbolize concentrations of power in Bible prophecy. Daniel was told that these 10 horns represent 10 kings (or kingdoms) that would arise out of the original Roman Empire (Daniel 7:24).

The original Roman Empire ruled most of the then-known world. From its center in the city of Rome, Roman domination radiated outward in a 360 degree circle, dividing the world into 10 primary areas. I believe that these 10 regions, beginning with the Italian peninsula itself, might be divided up as follows:

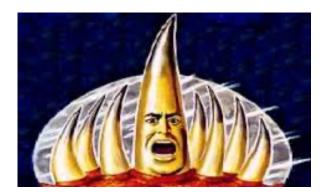
- 1. Italy
- 2. Achaia (Greece and the surrounding region)
- 3. Asia (an area now called Turkey)
- 4. Syria (an area including what is now Israel and the greater Middle East)
- 5. Egypt
- 6. Africa (northern Africa)
- 7. Spain
- 8. Gaul (now known as France)
- 9. Germany
- 10. Britain

The statue of Daniel 2 and the four Beasts of Daniel 7 all represent ONE THING; the prolonged displacement of David's promised kingdom, which was first begun by Babylon in 586 BC. And this is why now, in the 'Roman phase' of these prophecies, both the Roman Whore of Revelation 17 (the Roman Catholic Church) and the lead nation of the Roman Catholic world in Revelation 18 (the United States) are called 'Babylon the Great'.

AMERICA, THE LITTLE HORN

After being introduced to these four Beasts, Daniel's attention was drawn to the 10 horns on the fourth Roman Beast, and to a 'Little Horn' rising up among them:

I considered the (ten) horns, and behold there came up among them another Little Horn, before whom three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And there in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great (pompous or boastful) words. Daniel 7:8



My belief is that the appearance of the 'Little Horn' in this prophecy is a picture of the rise of the United States upon the world stage. I propose this idea based upon the six traits of the Little Horn that this one verse in Daniel 7 describes:

1) IT WAS BEAST-LIKE: The Little Horn arose upon the head of the fourth Beast. It was therefore a part of that Beast, and shared its nature:

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast; dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth, and it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. Daniel 7:7

- 2) IT HAD ROMAN ROOTS: The United States was established by people of European descent who had a western, 'Roman' heritage. The founding fathers borrowed a great deal from the government of the ancient Roman Republic; seeking to build a representative form of government that would improve upon the original Roman one. They even took Roman pennames as they communicated their thoughts publicly in the media of the day. Their love of Rome is also reflected in the Roman architecture of Washington D.C.
- 3) IT WAS LITTLE: It arose as a little horn (Daniel 7:8). The United States began as 13 sparsely populated colonies in the 'new world' of the western hemisphere. It began as a very weak and insignificant nation within the world.
- 4) IT DISPLACED THREE HORNS: The 'Little Horn' displaced the three 'Roman horns' of France, England and Spain. The history of the United States has its roots in the European conquest of the Western Hemisphere. When the original thirteen American colonies came into existence, North America was dominated by three major world powers; France, England and Spain.

The people of the colonies first joined the British in fighting against the French in the 'French and Indian War'. Then they fought against the British in the wars of 'Independence' and '1812'. Finally the United States pushed Spain from the Florida peninsula and the southwestern United States; all ultimately defining the territory of the continental United States. The Little Horn did not destroy the other three Horns. It essentially removed them from the Western Hemisphere.

5) IT HAD THE EYES OF A MAN: These 'eyes of a man' symbolize the idea of seeing things as mankind sees them. It represents the humanism that underlies the government and worldview of the United States.

The concept of democracy is based upon the idea that governments should rule through 'the consent of those who are being governed'. It is a belief that mankind, in its collective strength and wisdom, has the ability to govern itself and to overcome every problem and challenge that confronts it. We see this perspective in popular American phrases:

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

E PLURIBUS UNUM (FROM MANY ONE)

UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL

YES WE CAN!

America's humanism harkens back to the Garden of Eden, and mankind's unified decision within Adam to disobey God and build its own 'just society' (Romans 5:12). And so American 'democracy' has been a 'dog whistle' to nations around the world ever since; calling them back to a concept of mankind's unity that many instinctively respond to.

But no government, democratic or otherwise, can function without an 'expert class'. Legislators, governors, presidents and kings may govern. But unless they have the benefit of people with military experience, accounting and banking experience, medical and engineering knowledge, and with legal experience their governments will have no chance of surviving. It is one thing to decide. It is another thing to 'execute' the decision.

This is why Pharaoh of Egypt chose Joseph as his prime minister (Genesis 41:38-44). And it's why Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon placed power in Daniel's hands (Daniel 2:46-48). Both men recognized the vital necessity of wisdom.

And so America has always had a 'Deep State'. There have always been educated, successful and often ambitious people who have come to various capitols, as both thieves and patriots, to take part in government. And while the common man has been able to vote every two years for legislators or presidents, wealthy and influential people have 'voted' every day in the Capitol building, in the White House, and in private meetings with judges. Democracy is a 'dream', while reality is often a 'nightmare'.

6) IT SPOKE POMPOUS, BOASTFUL WORDS: In previous versions of this web page I have always written a list of the boastful claims of America. But now it seems appropriate to simply be myself; an American.

From the moment I entered kindergarten at the age of 5 (in the Fall of 1955), I was taught that America was the greatest nation in the world at that time, or ever. And as we memorized the 'Pledge of Allegiance' and recited it at the beginning of every day, I was told that America was 'one nation under God', providing liberty and justice for all.

And so when for the first time, in the Fall of 1980, I considered the possibility that Daniel chapter 7's 'Little Horn' was the United States, it hit me like a punch in the stomach. Being told that America might persecute me someday for my Christianity was a wrenching idea that turned my world upside down. And so I can relate to how this idea might impact others. It is not something that children raised in America can readily accept.

I cannot argue with the claim that America is great. It is, and more greatness lies ahead for it. I cannot argue with America's wealth, its natural beauty, and its high standard of living. In fact, God obligates me to recognize it.

America being 'the exceptional nation' does not negate the word of God. It confirms it. Eight times in Revelation God Himself refers to America as 'Babylon the Great'! And if God says that something is great, IT TRULY IS GREAT.

We must recognize this, and realize that <u>greatness does not equate with goodness</u>. The actual nature of America's greatness is seen in the story of Babel. Babel was the location where mankind first came together after Noah's flood:

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. And the Lord said, "Indeed the people are <u>one</u> and they all have <u>one</u> language. And this is what they begin to do. Now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

Come, let <u>Us</u> go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth. And they ceased building the city. Genesis 11:5-8

What was wrong with mankind uniting and making progress? It was because of where that progress would inevitably lead. Mankind had not changed from before the flood, and so no good could come from 'progress':

Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was <u>only evil continually</u>. Genesis 6:5

In scattering mankind at Babel, God was buying time for His salvation to be announced to all the world. God was putting off mankind's 'progress', and achieving salvation at the same time (2 Peter 3:15). And we see this in the fact that God gave the power of 'tongues' to His 'church' during the apostolic era; to spread the gospel of Christ with unprecedented speed across the world (Acts 2:1-12).

This is why the zenith of mankind's greatness in Babylon counts for nothing. Because today the world is confronted by the same simple <u>BINARY</u> that we encountered in Eden:

BELIEVE GOD AND LIVE. DISBELIEVE GOD AND DIE.

THE LITTLE HORN: PART 2

In the first part of Daniel chapter 7, after first seeing the Little Horn, Daniel was shown that the Beast upon which the Little Horn sat would eventually be judged by God and destroyed with fire. And Daniel was told that God's saints, led by 'the Son of Man' (Jesus), would rule the world from that day onward (Daniel 7:9-14).

But after receiving this initial picture of the future, Daniel sought more information about the 'Little Horn', beginning in Daniel 7:15. In Daniel 7:21-22 Daniel saw that the 'Little Horn' would be making war against God's saints and prevailing against them; right up until the second coming of Christ. And then Daniel was given a summation of the Little Horn's behavior in its very last days:

He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, <u>shall persecute the saints of the Most High</u>, and shall intend to change times and law. Then <u>the saints shall be given into his hand UNTIL THE END of a time and times and half a time</u>. Daniel 7:25

This verse presents four basic facts:

- 1) The Little Horn will speak boastfully against God.
- 2) The Little Horn will persecute God's people.
- 3) The Little Horn will desire to change times and law.
- 4) God's saints will suffer until the end of 3.5 times (the end of the second half of Daniel's 70th Week).

What the changing of 'times and law' represents is uncertain. It could mean the removal of Christian reference points, such as A.D. (Anno Domini, the 'year of our Lord), from the dating of history and everyday commerce.

Some English translations of Daniel 7:25 use the word 'FOR'; indicating that the saints will be persecuted FOR A TOTAL DURATION of 3.5 times. But the original Hebrew word translated 'FOR' can just as easily be translated as 'UNTIL'. And so Daniel 7:25 can be understood to indicate that the Little Horn will be persecuting God's people UNTIL THE END of 3.5 times. In other words, the Little Horn's persecution of Christians will occur in the last days of the second half of Daniel's 70th Week.

I believe that the disrespect that conservative protestant Christians in the United States have experienced <u>increasingly</u> over the past few decades, is not worthy to be compared with the rage that lies shortly ahead. As Christians continue to warn people about the Beast and its 'image' (scan), many who are convinced of the inherent goodness of man and the hopefulness of scientific progress will respond with rage. This is what we are shown in Daniel 9:21 & 25.

A CHIP OFF OF THE OLD BEAST

As pointed out above, the Little Horn's primary trait is that it arises upon the head of Daniel's 4th Beast. And although I am being repetitive, I will again present God's description of that Beast:

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast; <u>dreadful</u> and <u>terrible</u>, <u>exceedingly strong</u>. It had <u>huge iron teeth</u>, and it was <u>devouring</u>, <u>breaking</u> in pieces, and <u>trampling</u> the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. Daniel 7:7

Does this represent a fair description of the United States? I invite my reader to consider America's history. In just the first 65 years of America's history, beginning with the ratification of the Constitution in 1788, this nation went on to conquer Mexico and menace Japan.

Through the Mexican-American War the United States annexed what is now the southwestern United States. Then America sailed steam-powered warships into Tokyo Bay in 1853, under Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, demanding that the Japanese open their country to our businessmen, and that they provide coaling stations for our new steam-powered merchant and naval vessels.

In the following 45 years, the industrialized Northern states conquered the agricultural Southern states in the Civil War. Then Americans crushed the native Indian people of the western states, and seized Spain's colonies in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines; in the Spanish-American War. In a total of 110 years, America went from 13 colonies to a world power with colonies of her own. The rest, as they say, is history.

AMERICA BECOMES THE BEAST

America went on, after World War 2, to become one of two 'superpowers' in a bipolar world; dominated by Russia and the United States. And after Rome's cooperation with the Axis powers (Germany, Spain and Italy) fell apart at the end of World War 2, the Roman Catholic Church looked to the United States as its primary 'ally'.

As I explain in my page titled 'Understanding the Beast', it is not military power alone that defines the Beast of Revelation. That military power must be also closely cooperative with the Roman Catholic Church. And so due to its combination of military and economic might, along with its increasing closeness to Rome, the United States <u>alone</u> has been the Beast of Revelation since 1945.

During that era the toppling of Iran's legitimate government in 1953, and America's replacement of that government with the Shah of Iran, exemplified American foreign policy. The Shah was someone who would put his own interests and the interests of the United States above the welfare of the Iranian people. And he was typical of many dictators put in power by the United States. Trampling and devouring the world was a mainstay of American strategy during the cold war.

And then in 1991, with the fall of the communist Soviet Union and America's deployment of smart weapons in the conquest of Iraq, the world recognized America as the <u>one and only</u> superpower in a <u>unipolar</u> world.

Boastful American leaders began to talk about the 'Project for the New American Century' and 'The End of History'. And because projecting military power to the other side of the world is very expensive, America also turned to the 'soft power' of USAID, and the 'National Endowment for Democracy' (NED); to foment political upheaval and 'color revolutions' wherever it desired.

With its hundreds of military bases scattered across the earth, and its nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers dominating all of the oceans of the world, America proceeded to trample upon Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq (for a second time in 2003), Libya, Syria, Eastern Europe and now Russia. But America's 'unipolar moment' has now come to an end (2025).

Now the world is again multipolar, and many nations throughout the world are rejoicing to have options other than the America's 'rules-based order'. For Americans, the question is this:

IS IT BETTER TO BE GREAT OR TO BE GOOD?

Is 'Making America Great Again' (MAGA) a worthy goal? Does might truly make right? What is America's true nature? Of course people respond saying that it's a 'dog eat dog' world, and that America is only defending itself against 'hostile actors'.

God makes a distinction between greatness and goodness. He says that both the great and the not-so-great will stand together before Him in judgment. And the only basis upon which they will all be judged is whether or not they were good:

And I saw the dead, small <u>and great</u>, stand before God. And the books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Revelation 20:12

In his first general letter to Christians, the apostle Peter wrote:

But let none of you suffer as a murderer, as a thief, as an evildoer, or as a meddler in other people's matters. 1 Peter 4:15

Peter's words sum up much of the foreign policy of the United States since the end of World War 2. Any thoughtful study of recent American history will find an endless trail of political meddling and military aggression, often on behalf of business interests, resulting in the theft of the wealth of other nations.

THE AMERICAN BEAST IN RECENT TIMES

With the fall of the Communist Soviet Union in 1991, American leaders promised not to expand militarily into the eastern European territories that had once been a part of Russia's 'Warsaw Pact'. These promises were made in exchange for Russia's support for the reunification of East and West Germany.

But after Germany was reunited, America began to recruit more and more eastern European nations into NATO; the <u>military</u> alliance between the United States and Europe. Major eastern European nations that joined NATO included Poland, Romania and Bulgaria. All of this served to bring American military power closer and closer to Russia's boundaries, and to threaten Russia's access through its own 'Volgograd Corridor' to the Black Sea.

Blocking that access might very well have <u>strangled Russia economically</u>, while also turning the Black Sea into a 'NATO lake'. The plan was designed to block the projection of Russia's own military power into the Middle East; thus giving America a chokehold on middle-Eastern oil supplies moving to China and elsewhere. Russia saw this situation developing, and warned America that it perceived these actions as mortal, 'existential' threats to itself. But America kept creeping closer and closer anyway.

But just as America had finished 'installing' cooperative Ukrainian leaders (through a 'color revolution' in 2014), and was preparing in earnest to choke off Russia's access to the Black Sea, Donald Trump defeated Hillary Clinton for the presidency in 2016. And so, with their plans temporarily blocked, the Democratic Party (and its Deep State allies) portrayed Donald Trump as a 'traitorous friend of Russia'. The Deep State's media propaganda machine swang into motion, and then they awaited the 2020 elections and a return to power.

At this point I will just simply and flatly state what happened next. The Democrats and the Deep State stole the 2020 election, and then falsely imprisoned J-6'ers in order to intimidate anybody else who might dare challenge their right to rule.

Then the O'Biden administration set the entire United States on fire by throwing its southern border wide open to illegal immigration from around the world. The Roman Catholic Church was complicit in this; as it encouraged many illegal immigrants to come. Meanwhile Rome put hundreds of millions of American tax dollars into its own pockets in exchange for transporting and settling these immigrants. This was good for both Roman Catholic Church membership, and for Democratic Party membership.

At the same time Big Pharma, Federal medical regulators (CDC, NIH, FDA) and American hospital and physician associations colluded to withhold effective treatment (i.e. Hydroxychloroquine and Ivermectin) against a genetically engineered COVID virus. People were restricted to hospital ventilators in ICUs and deadly Remdesivir infusions.

And the rest were all herded toward a useless, and sometimes toxic mRNA vaccination. All of this brought many billions of dollars to Big Pharma, to its bribed regulators, and to the insurance and medical industries. The death toll in the United States and around the world has been staggering, and brings to mind a warning given by King Solomon long ago:

My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. If they say "Come with us, let us lay in wait for blood. Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause. Let us swallow them up alive as the grave, and whole as those that go down into the pit. We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil. Cast in your lot among us. Let us all have one purse."

My son, walk not in the way with them. Refrain your foot from their path. For their feet <u>run to evil</u>, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. But they lay in wait for their own blood. They lurk secretly for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy for gain; which takes away the life of its owners.

Proverbs 1:10-19

Today America's 'one purse' might well be the stock market. Every day Americans 'play the market', seeking to feather their nest for the future. And if challenged about the ethics of America's companies, they can claim that they know nothing about it. But we should not be deceived. When we throw in with murderers, we join in their crimes.

In February of 2022 Russia said 'Enough!', and launched a special military operation in eastern Ukraine. The only other option was to allow America and NATO to crush Russia and dominate the region.

Because Russia was the first to act overtly, American politicians and their media allies portrayed Russia as the aggressor. But the true situation is like a single woman walking down a dark street at night. She sees a single man, <u>carrying a club</u>, walking 100 feet behind her. She turns around and tells him to keep his distance, and that she is prepared to defend herself. But he doesn't listen.

Now he is 50 feet behind, but still doesn't listen to her warning. And then he moves to 20 feet behind and she screams at him. But he still does not back off. Finally when he is 5 feet away, she pulls out a gun and puts a bullet in his chest. And as he lies in the street bleeding, he accuses her of being the 'aggressor'; of attacking him without provocation. He claims that he only wanted to give her a pamphlet about 'freedom and democracy'.

Apparently she was obligated to let herself be touched before considering defensive action. This is exactly what has happened in eastern Europe since 1991. Russia has indeed shot first. And now America, with a known history of 'rape' and 'murder', claims that both it and its club (its proxy, Ukraine) have been misunderstood; and are the innocent victims of aggression.

Now America and Europe have the blood of hundreds of thousands of Russians and Ukrainians upon their hands. Along with that they have taken the lives of millions of others around the world; who have died from an engineered COVID virus, and from the withholding of cheap and effective antiviral treatments. And all the while Big Pharma has raked in billions of dollars while trampling upon the human race all across the entire planet.

God would not have Christians run in fear from such evil people; who threaten imprisonment or death for exposing their crimes. In fact, any Christian who understands the dreadful judgment of God will encourage such people to confess their sins and seek peace with God through Christ while they still can. What election-stealers, border-breakers, Russian-killers, and Covid-murderers are today, every Christian also once was in his own past. Thus, given God's mercy, it is the Christian's obligation to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all men, just as it was also once spoken to us:

For, behold, the Lord comes out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity. The earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.

Isaiah 26:21

For Babylon's merchants were the great men of the earth. For by her sorcery (pharmaceutical industry) all the nations were deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets and saints, and of all who were slain on the earth. Revelation 18:23-24

THE FOLLY OF EVOLUTION

Consistent with its foundational humanism, America has essentially made Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution' an amendment to the Constitution. This theory attributes mankind's existence not to God, but to the evolutionary struggles of biological creatures that have lived before us. It replaces an Intelligent Creator with primitive animals, as the apostle Paul described:

Because when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to <u>corruptible man</u>, and <u>birds</u>, and <u>four-footed beasts</u> and <u>creeping things</u>. Romans 1:21-23

Today the discussion of 'Intelligent Design' as an alternate explanation for the universe, our solar system, our planet and biological life is condemned and suppressed in America.

The theory of evolution is 'law' not because it is scientifically valid, but because it is the <u>official narrative</u> about ourselves and the world. It denies that our lives are defined by a moral relationship with a glorious Creator, Who deserves our love and worship. Instead life supposedly had its beginnings in lifeless physical matter and chance events.

And so now we are told that the survival of the earth depends upon mankind's 'evolutionary progress' in knowledge. But the key to mankind's blessedness is not knowledge. It is the acknowledgment of God.

Roughly 2500 years ago God told the prophet Daniel that the last days, before His judgment of the world, would be characterized by 1) an increase in knowledge and by 2) people traveling 'to and fro':

But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book; even to the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Daniel 12:4

This has now come to pass. And this increased knowledge means that today's scientist knows, when he looks through a telescope at the universe or through a microscope at the biological machinery of life, that he is looking directly at the handiwork of an infinitely wise and capable Creator. Increased knowledge is not going to save a rebellious human race in these last days; it is going to damn it.

Some believe that an intellectual 'truth debate' or 'culture war' is still going on between Evolution and 'Intelligent Design'. This is false. That debate is OVER. In allowing mankind to fully explore both the outer universe and the inner quantum universe of the atom and the living cell, God has revealed Himself fully and finally to the world.

And so now the scientist's knowledge leaves him without any excuses at all. This is why many of the most wicked people on earth today are also many of the most highly educated. They know more than most people do about the glory of God. And yet they still persist in their lies and disobedience.

BREAKING GOD'S 'BONDS AND CORDS'

Now, since the end of World War II, with its first use of nuclear weapons and the survivors of Hitler's concentration camps returning to their original homeland in Israel, America has followed a path of ever more pointed rebellion against God; even in the context of these apocalyptic circumstances. American humanism is now shaking its fist in the face of God more fiercely than ever before, as foretold by King David:

Why do the nations rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord (God the Father) and against His Christ (the Son of God), saying "Let us break their bonds apart, and cast away their cords from us". He that sits in the heavens shall laugh. The Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His deep displeasure. "Yet have I set my King upon My holy hill of Zion (Jerusalem)". Psalm 2:1-6

What are these 'bands' and 'cords' that America is determined to cast off?

CORD #1 The 'cord of JUSTICE' and righteous judgment. Beginning immediately after World War 2, and the horrendous crimes that were tried and punished at Nuremberg, a Harvard-trained pediatrician named Dr. Benjamin Spock began to teach American parents that it is wrong to spank children when they do evil things; and that the capital punishment of adults is 'cruel and unusual'.

This attack upon the Law of God and the moral fabric of human society has sent America plummeting on a downward trend toward increasing lawlessness ever since. Now any Christian who contradicts this lawless narrative is himself deemed 'hateful' and a criminal. Capital punishment is foundational to Christianity. Jesus allowed Himself to suffer the death penalty, so that repentant criminals who trust Him might be forgiven through His shed blood.

CORD #2 The 'cord of THE HETEROSEXUAL FAMILY': of respecting our creation in the 'image of a heterosexual God' (Genesis 1:26). The one true living God is an eternal Family comprised of a Father, His Companion the Holy Spirit, and their only Child; the Lord Jesus Christ. This is why the apostle Paul listed homosexuality as 'Exhibit A' in his claim that an unwillingness to acknowledge and honor God leads to twisted sexual relationships with our fellow man (Romans 1:24-27).

America has cast off the sanctity of marriage, has embraced sexual carelessness and adultery, and has destroyed over 60 million unborn children. And now America has <u>officially criminalized</u> anyone who repeats God's declaration that homosexuality is unnatural and immoral. Today the 'transgender movement' is the 'tip of the spear' in this attack upon God's image, 'male and female', placed within us.

CORD #3 The 'cord of ISRAEL', and of God's promises that He will give the land of Israel to Abraham, and re-establish the kingdom of David in it. Even as God is bringing the Jewish people back to His land in startling fulfillment of Bible prophecy, America chooses to oppose these things behind the hypocritical mask of seeking 'justice for the Palestinians'.

The leader of the Palestinians, the Mufti of Jerusalem (Amin al Husseini), visited Hitler during World War 2. He encouraged Hitler to finish his extermination of the Jews in Europe, and to then come and exterminate the Jews in Palestine and the Middle East. He also raised up a Muslim army in Bosnia to support Hitler. When a people group chooses to go 'all in' against the one true living God, they should not be surprised to learn that He is going 'all in' against them.

Thus says the Lord. The Lord and your God, who pleads the cause of His people (Israel). See, I have taken out of your hand the cup of trembling; the dregs of the cup of My fury. You shall no longer drink it. But I will put it into the hand of those who afflict you. Who have said to you 'Lie down, that we may walk over you'. And you have laid your body like the ground and as the street, for those who walk over. Isaiah 51:22-23

The folly of Israel's enemies lies in not learning from God's past judgments upon Israel itself. God spoke long ago through the prophet Jeremiah, as the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon was happening, warning the Gentile nations of the world:

"For behold, I begin to bring evil on the city (Jerusalem) which is called by My name. And should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished! For I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth" says the Lord of hosts.

Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say unto them "The Lord shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation. He shall mightily roar upon His habitation. He shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth, for the Lord has a controversy with the nations. He will plead with all flesh. He will give them that are wicked to the sword" says the Lord.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, nor gathered, nor buried. They shall be refuse upon the ground.

Jeremiah 25:29

In Jeremiah's day the people of Israel were like America is now. They were prosperous, 'progressive', and believed that God was on their side. They had a noble heritage, a great capital city centered around the magnificent Temple of Solomon, and false prophets telling them that nothing but peace and prosperity lay ahead. But God sent Israel a message; 'Your sins demand judgment. A Gentile king is coming to conquer you. You must go out and surrender to him if you want to escape with your lives':

And unto this people you shall say "Thus says the Lord; 'Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death. He that abides in this city (Jerusalem) shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence. But he that goes out and bows to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prize. For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good' says the Lord. 'It shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire'." Jeremiah 21:8-10

Jeremiah's message was hated, and he was viewed as a fool, a coward and a traitor to his country by many of his fellow Israelites. Today God has a similar message for America and the rest of the Gentile world:

'A Jewish King is Coming!'

'You must go out and surrender to Him now, leaving your earthly treasures and loyalties behind, if you wish to escape with your eternal souls.'

Were the two desolations and dispersions of Jerusalem and the Jewish people (in 586 BC by the Babylonians, and in 70 AD by the Romans) justly deserved punishments from God? Yes, certainly. But Israel has been 'the canary in the coal mine' for the rest of humanity.

Now the world treads upon thin ice if we don't think God is going to judge the rest of us as well. In the meantime, having been punished twice for its sins, Israel will soon see and welcome its Messiah and Prince of David:

"Comfort, comfort my people" says your God. "Speak comfortingly to Jerusalem, and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. For she has received of the Lord's hand <u>double</u> for all her sins." Isaiah 40:1-2

AMERICA AS BABYLON THE GREAT

In Revelation chapter 17 we are introduced to an important prophetic figure; a Woman that rides upon the back of the Beast of Revelation. In verse 5 God calls this Woman 'Babylon the Great', and makes it clear that She is the city of Rome; a city that is situated upon seven hills (verse 9), and that ruled over the kings of the earth when John received the book of Revelation (verse 18).

IN REVELATION 17, 'BABYLON THE GREAT' IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

In Revelation chapter 18 we encounter 'Babylon the Great' again. Only in this chapter is it clear that 'Babylon the Great' is not the city of Rome. It is something much greater than a single city in Italy. It is a major, wealthy center of world commerce.

IN REVELATION 18, 'BABYLON THE GREAT' IS THE ROMAN CATHOLIC WORLD

And in Revelation 18 Babylon the Great's destruction comes in one hour, by fire:

The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand at a distance for fear of her torment saying 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon! That mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come. Revelation 18:9-10

The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, and saying "Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nothing".

And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off and cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying "What city is like unto this great city?" And they cast dust on their heads and cried, weeping and wailing, saying "Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her wealth! For in one hour is she made desolate". Revelation 18:15-19

In Revelation chapter 18 we are shown the sudden destruction of those nations that are most closely connected to the Roman Catholic Church; the United States and the rest of the Western Hemisphere.

Close communication between the RCC and American political leaders has always been a part of American life; especially since America's rise to unrivaled wealth and power after World War 2. And so it is accurate to say that America is the preeminent Roman Catholic nation in the world today. Rome has many church members in Central and South America, and throughout the world. But for the RCC, America is vital. America is the source of the vast majority of Rome's wealth and political influence. This is why America alone, since 1945, has been the Beast of Revelation.

In Revelation 17:12 we see 10 horns (nations or kingdoms) that will give their power to the Beast in a final 'prophetic hour'. And in Revelation 17:16-17 we are told that these 10 horns will hate Rome:

And the ten Horns which you saw upon the Beast, these shall hate the Whore, and shall make her <u>desolate</u> and <u>naked</u>, and shall <u>eat her flesh</u> and <u>burn her with fire</u>. For God has put it in their hearts to fulfill His will, and to agree and give their kingdom unto the Beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled. Revelation 17:16-17

I believe that this attack upon 'Babylon' is described by Jesus in His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24:29-30, Mark 13:24-25, Luke 21:25-26), and in the corresponding sixth seal of Revelation chapter 6 below:

And I beheld when he had opened THE SIXTH SEAL. And behold, there was a great earthquake. And the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood. And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together. And every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great DAY of His wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:12-17

The great 'DAY' of God's wrath, mentioned in verse 17 above, is also referred to throughout the Bible as 'The Day of the Lord' (Isaiah 2:12-21, Ezekiel 30:3, Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:7,14, Joel 1:15, 2:31, 3:14, Zechariah 14:1).

As I have read this description of events which immediately precede the second coming of Christ, I have wondered whether or not the stars falling to the earth are not nuclear warheads. After all, a thermonuclear weapon is simply the split second creation of a star.



THE DAY OF THE LORD

And the trajectory of such a weapon is accurately described in this passage. While a ripe fig might fall directly to the ground when there is no wind, the trajectory of a fig tossed from a tree in a storm is very similar to the trajectory of a nuclear warhead delivered by a ballistic missile. In addition, when a nuclear weapon is detonated, the edges of the mushroom cloud roll like the two sides of a scroll, as the fireball and mushroom cloud rise into the sky.

The apostle Peter also described the coming of God's fiery judgment upon the earth:

But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 2 Peter 3:10

Might not Peter's words about 'elements melting with fervent heat' be a description of the fusion of elemental hydrogen? In the light of this fiery destruction, Peter explained how people should live:

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in all holy conversation and godliness? Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the Day of God. Wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwells righteousness. 2 Peter 3:11-13

And so a rift is foretold between American Babylon, and 10 horns that will join the Beast in the final 'prophetic hour'. How might this happen? It's possible that the final form of the Beast will be the United Nations. Is it possible that America may 'humbly' join this new manifestation of the 'Beast', as just one among many nations? Will Rome lead the world in the pursuit of a comprehensive peace? The apostle Paul warned about such hopes:

For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3

So who are these 10 'horns' (nations) that will destroy Babylon? I expect them to be 10 nations in the Eastern Hemisphere that will have nuclear weapons, and the ability to deliver them to the Western Hemisphere. That list is fairly short, and I leave it for my reader to consider.

COME OUT OF HER MY PEOPLE

In Revelation 18:4-8, before describing Babylon the Great's destruction, God commands His people to come out of Babylon:

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying "Come out of her my people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Revelation 18:4-5

This commandment from God says two things:

- 1) COME OUT OF BABYLON.
- 2) IF WE DO NOT COME OUT, WE WILL SUFFER WITH HER.

It is important to address both of these sayings. What does God mean when He tells people to <u>come out</u> of Babylon? I have already explained my belief that the 'Babylon' of Revelation chapter 18 is the greater Roman Catholic world. So does God want Christians to leave the Western Hemisphere? My answer is 'No'.

God is not talking about coming out of Babylon 'physically or geographically'. He is talking about coming out of Babylon 'spiritually'; completely separating ourselves from Roman Catholicism and the Roman Catholic Church. God is saying "Touch not the unclean thing!":

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be separate" says the Lord. "Touch not the unclean thing, and I will receive you". 2 Corinthians 6:17, Isaiah 52:11

When Christians associate with Rome or take part in its Mass, they are telling everybody else that Rome is Christian, and 'OK'. They are promoting darkness and aiding Rome in its deceptions. This is what God means when He says that Christians who do not condemn Rome are sharing in Rome's sins. There can be no compromise with this 'Mother of harlots, and of the abominations of the earth' (Revelation 17:5).

What does God mean when He says that Christians can partake of Rome's plagues? In Revelation chapter 6, after the sixth seal is opened and the stars fall to earth, we are immediately shown heavenly things in Revelation chapter 7. The seventh chapter first describes the control that God's angels will exercise over the winds of the earth, hindering the nuclear fallout and firestorms that follow the use of nuclear weapons. These angels will control the winds for two reasons:

- 1) To place seals upon 144,000 young Jewish men who will become 'first-fruits to God' from within a repentant Israel (Revelation 14:1-5)
- 2) To remove (rapture) of all of God's people from the earth before they suffer from this nuclear attack.

Then the winds will be released, and the consequences of the attack will be allowed to play out (in the following trumpets and bowls of Revelation). It is this group of raptured people that we see rejoicing before God's throne in Revelation 7:7-17.

But we must understand that in this scenario <u>God alone</u> has the power to remove people from the earth. Whether to rapture someone, or to leave them behind to experience these dreadful circumstances, <u>is completely in His hands</u>. We will have no power in that moment. Therefore we are encouraged to watch and remain faithful:

Watch therefore and pray always; that you may be <u>accounted worthy to escape</u> all these things that shall come to pass, and <u>to stand before the Son of Man</u>. Luke 21:36

When Christians fail to oppose Roman Catholicism (refusing to expose and 'protest' Rome's false claims), and thus also fail to faithfully evangelize Roman Catholic people themselves, they will be left on earth by God; to share in Rome's torment. This is the plain meaning of God's warning.

LOBBYING HEAVEN

What does God tell us to do in this hour? To get involved in the world's political business? No. He tells us to 'TRUMPET' the Gospel to the world. This is the symbolism of Joshua's victory at Jericho. The Israelites did not attack the walls of Jericho. They marched around those walls for seven days, 'trumpeting to the glory of God'. And then God Himself brought the walls down.

The weapons of Christian warfare are not physical, but spiritual; 'Pulling down strongholds and everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God' (2 Corinthians 10:4-6). Do we want to hasten the coming of the Lord? Then we must finish the work that He said must be done before He comes. We must blow our Gospel trumpets endlessly:

And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, as a witness to all the nations. And then the end will come. Matthew 24:14

Christians need to realize that the long-suffering patience of God toward mankind is leading to the salvation of people:

And consider that the long-suffering of our Lord is salvation; as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you. 2 Peter 3:15

There is a purpose in God's patience. The fields are <u>still</u> 'white for harvest' (John 4:35). God is <u>still</u> telling His church to 'let down their nets for a catch' (Luke 5:4, John 21:6), and not to assume that God's saving work on earth is done:

Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky. <u>And those who turn many to righteousness</u> like the stars forever and ever. Daniel 12:3

And Christians must not only 'trumpet' in the world. We must also 'lobby' in heaven. Should we be worried about earthly lobbyists, and their many activities in Washington? No! Christians have access to 'halls of power' infinitely greater than those here on earth.

We are not only encouraged to 'lobby God' through prayer, we are <u>commanded</u> to do so. And whether or not we embrace that opportunity says much about what our treasures and priorities are:

For many walk, of whom I have told you often (and now tell you even weeping), that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. Whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame. Who set their mind on earthly things.

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:18-21

If you then are risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Colossians 3:1-2

The book of Revelation shows God the Father taking His great power and ruling the world <u>only</u> <u>after</u> He has heard the prayers of His people:

Then another angel, having a golden <u>censer</u>, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense, that he should offer it <u>with the prayers of all the saints</u> upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, <u>with the prayers of the saints</u>, ascended before God from the angel's hand.

Then the angel took the <u>censer</u>, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings and an earthquake. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. Revelation 8:3-6