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**Publisher:** Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

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**Have a Great  
Feast  
Everyone!**

## Implications of the Gospel of the Kingdom (Copyright 2023) by David C. Grabbe (Charlotte, North Carolina)



The first chapter of Mark records that after John the Baptist was imprisoned, “Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).

The word *gospel* means “good news,” but conflicting ideas exist about what the good news is. Most who call themselves Christians consider the good news simply to be that Jesus died for the sins of humanity, which is definitely good news. But the good news that Jesus brought was about the Kingdom of God, as it says (see Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 16:16). It was about the dominion of God, both present and future.

Matthew 9:36 includes a helpful detail in the context of Christ’s preaching of the gospel: “But when [Jesus] saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” Simply put, the people of Judea and Galilee were in a wretched state. They were exhausted, discouraged, and despondent.

Similarly, in Luke’s account of the inauguration of Christ’s ministry, He quotes from Isaiah about His being anointed “to preach the gospel to the poor; . . . to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:16-19). Jesus preached to a downtrodden people.

Ample evidence exists that much of what was troubling the people were the leaders, the lawyers, the ones loading them with burdens they could not bear. The people suffered largely because of the mismanagement of the various power structures that held sway over them and against which they were powerless. The gospel of the Kingdom of God, then, is good news because it is a message of divine governance, where the governed finally have righteous leadership.

Revelation 11:15-18 shows the fulfillment of the gospel:

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Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned. The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great, and should destroy those who destroy the earth.”

The first-century people of Judea and Galilee are not the only ones who have become wearied and discouraged because of failed governments. Corruption has characterized human government from the beginning. Mankind’s fundamental problem is that he will not even govern himself within the limits of God’s standards, let alone govern others in righteousness. The records of the Bible and secular history both show humanity’s inability to solve its problems because they originate in the human heart, which is out of alignment with the heart of the Creator. The carnal heart is incurably sick (Jeremiah 17:9). The gospel teaches that the real solutions must and will come from above because humanity simply cannot produce good and just societies that last for any length of time.

The Olivet Prophecy reveals that humanity’s mismanagement will get so corrupt that, if God allowed matters to run their course, no flesh will be saved alive (Matthew 24:22; Mark 13:20). But for the sake of His elect, He has already determined to cut short the days at the end and intervene by taking His great power and reigning. He will claim rule over all the kingdoms and nations of this world, much to their anger and great dismay. Only when Jesus establishes His Kingdom on earth and judges from Jerusalem will the world finally experience peace and prosperity.

#### **Implications for Us**

This good news is the essence of the gospel Jesus brought, but what are the implications for us right now? Our worldview and response to the prevailing culture will change when we truly believe the gospel and its practical ramifications.

Notice how the apostle Peter describes the church:

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:9)

Peter refers to the church by several descriptors, including “a royal priesthood” and “a holy nation.” Consider the latter for a moment. God’s holy nation stands in contrast to the nations of our birth. As called children of God, we are not entirely removed from our birth nations, even as Paul refers to Judah as “my nation” (Acts 24:17; 28:19; see Acts 26:4; Galatians 1:14).

But the spiritual, holy nation carries far more significance than our physical nations. The holy nation stands in a privileged state before the Most High God, and He bestows far greater favor on His spiritual nation than on the physical nations that oppose Him. Though He sends rain on the just and the unjust, He also acts to benefit those who are in Christ in ways that He does not act for those in the world. The heavenly citizenship we have because God conveyed us into Christ’s Kingdom is one of the most precious gifts that He has given. If we truly value it, we will prioritize the holy nation and its peace far above our opinions of what is happening in our birth nations.

However, because we still have connections to our physical nations, we have concerns about their well-being and direction. Thus, Paul says we should make supplications, prayers, and intercessions for kings and all who are in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Admittedly, our human nature may resist his advice, depending on who is in power. But the reason for those prayers, the apostle says, is so that “we [the holy nation] may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.”

We can combine his instruction with the reality to which God opened Solomon’s eyes: “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes” (Proverbs 21:1). Although God has not yet established His Kingdom on earth, He is still sovereign, and He intervenes to direct events according to His purpose. We should pray for the authorities because God can work through them to provide us with a peaceful environment.

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Interestingly, Paul does not say to pray about *who will be* in authority but that we pray for whoever *is* in authority. God can easily direct any king’s heart to do things for His holy nation. God stirred the heart of Cyrus, a pagan king, to command the exiled Jews to return to Judea and rebuild the Temple (II Chronicles 36:22; Ezra 1:1). His sovereign dominion includes even the most carnal of those in authority. But His focus is the apple of His eye, and He wants us to bring our concerns to Him in prayers of faith and not draw back in fear of what men can do.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego feared God more than the Babylonian government, and God responded to their faith by standing with them in the furnace, defying the heat and even the smoke. Daniel feared God more than the laws of Medo-Persia, and God responded to his faith by closing the mouths of the lions until they could devour the schemers. The machinations of mere men mean less than nothing to Him. Instead, He wants to see whether we trust Him.

#### **Ambassadors for Christ**

Before Cyrus, God raised another pagan king, Nebuchadnezzar, to chasten His people, yet He also humbled him when his pride reached a tipping point. God says He did that “in order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men” (Daniel 4:17). In another striking example of God’s power over human hearts, He transformed the worst human persecutor of the early church—Saul of Tarsus—into the church’s most prominent advocate and supporter. Is anything too hard for God?

God also inspired Solomon to write that “when a man’s ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” (Proverbs 16:7). This proverb teaches us to pay more attention to our own ways than to the actions of those who oppose our way of life because God determines how and even if their opposition affects us.

Solomon supplies more wisdom in dealing with human governments in Proverbs 24:21-22: “My son, fear the LORD and the king; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?”

The Bible is full of stories of kings, some good but most evil, which again speaks to the need for a divine Kingdom not corrupted by the human heart’s sickness. Yet God’s Word also shows that, even under the worst leaders, the righteous wait on God because they know those leaders could not be in their positions without His permission. He said as much when He humbled Nebuchadnezzar. And because the righteous trust in God’s sovereignty, they understand that trying to change the leader is tantamount to attempting to overrule God. This does not preclude evaluating the leader’s actions. Indeed, we must assess them to recognize when we must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29).

But Proverbs 24:21 warns against associating with those who agitate against the established order God has seen fit to allow at least, if not directly install. Nobody steals elections from Him. It is doubtful that any of us will take to the streets, yet we can give the appearance of associating with “those given to change” through what we post, like, tweet or re-tweet, and share. It is easy to give the impression online that we are among those given to a change in government.

However, we are called as ambassadors—representatives—for Jesus Christ, the King who will end all factions when the Father says it is time. *When we believe the gospel of the Kingdom, we endure the politics of physical nations but do not get caught up in them because they are not where our hope or confidence lies.*

So, we may cry for the beloved country, and rightfully so, even as Jesus lamented over Jerusalem. But He mourned because of her moral state and rejection of God, not because the Pharisees had more power than the Sadducees or vice versa. He was and is above factions. Similarly, the crisis in this nation is moral, developed over generations of turning from God. *The spirit of this world has infected all politicians.* Some may offer better Band Aids™ than others, but any real solution *must* come from above. That is what the gospel of the Kingdom teaches.

We know this intellectually, but sometimes we forget that the “R” after somebody’s name does not stand for “Righteous.” Instead, it means that he or she has identified with a political faction. However, Galatians 5:20 calls factions and party spirit “works of the flesh.”

Similarly, American conservatism is not the same as biblical morality. There may be an overlap, and we can be grateful that some are trying to conserve what this nation has stood for. Yet American conservatism, as preferable as it may be to the alternatives in various areas, cannot save us. Only the words and way of God lead to life. An ideology of sound principles mixed with humanism will ultimately fail. Spiritual strength comes from meditating on the genuine truth of God

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rather than a human derivative that may well ensnare us in the world’s party spirit.

In dealing with the spiritually immature church members in Corinth, Paul highlights their practice of identifying with and rallying behind spiritual leaders. He writes:

. . . for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not carnal? (I Corinthians 3:3-4)

If Paul identifies this as carnality when it is done regarding godly men—apostles in the church—how much more carnal is it to side with one carnal leader (or candidate) against another? Our identity comes from belonging to and following Jesus Christ, not picking sides in the factions of the day.

### **A Royal Priesthood**

During the recent election, many commentators opined that it was the most important election of our generation. Others said the same thing about the previous election. And the one before that. They will surely make the same pronouncement about the next one. Every few years, the country is roiled by elections corrupted by deception, selfish ambition, and pragmatism on all sides because that is what carnal human nature does. This is precisely *why* God must intervene.

While the human government we are under consists of cyclical turmoil and transitions, Christians, Peter writes, are a royal priesthood under Jesus Christ, who is High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek. Hebrews 7:3 gives the defining description of Melchizedek as having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but He remains a priest continually. In other words, the order of Melchizedek means the High Priest is eternal. No new High Priest will ever be necessary. There will be no transitions or turmoil, only eternal stability. Think about how different that is.

A new human high priest might enact different policies or carry out his duties differently, so people always wondered what might change. In later generations, the high priesthood was for sale, giving rise to factionalism and political maneuvers within the religious sphere. Different groups wanted to get their guy installed as high priest so things would improve for them. First-century Judea had power struggles for religious office, just as we see today in politics.

But none of that is relevant to the eternal, unchanging Melchizedek priesthood. The One at the top never dies, so there are no transitions. His character is perfect and unchanging, so His rulership is supremely stable, unlike the table tennis matches of elections.

Peter states that a purpose of our royal priesthood is to “proclaim the praises of Him who called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Our words and lives should point to the One who called us from the wranglings of men and their failed attempts to govern and into an understanding of God’s way that transcends anything men can devise.

God *will* shake the kingdoms of this world (Isaiah 2:19-21; 13:13; Haggai 2:6-7, 21), but we are inheriting a Kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:27-28). However, our allegiance to that Kingdom requires letting go of this world’s deficient solutions and placing our hope and confidence only in the true King because we believe in His sovereign dominion, both now and in the future.

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**See David C. Grabbe’s other articles at:**

**[Grabbe, David C. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)**

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## Getting to Know God (Copyright) by Rhoda Foust (Lehigh Acres, Florida)

Despite all the bad news, the negative attitudes of the world, our nation, our families, and neighbors, there's a positive solution to all mankind's problems IF, and it's a big IF; IF we get and stay close to God. First, we have to get to know Him. He promises to protect us, supply our needs, love us, and give us eternal life. However, there is a catch - He demands our love in return. How can we love Him if we don't know Him?

Many do not know HOW to get to know him. Many people who think of themselves as Christians know little about God and even less about His plan. Most Americans say they believe in God, but to believe in God means you believe what He says, accepting the Bible as His word. We have to believe Jn. 1:1-5. Do you believe Jn. 1:1-5? After finding it read it out loud to yourself, then tell yourself, in your own words, what you just read.

Do you believe the Bible is a road map to God? Some people refuse to accept the Bible as God's word because they say it has too many contradictions and mistakes. There are ways to prove that the Bible is the very word or message from God. When God communicated His word to man there were no mistakes made. God doesn't make mistakes. However, any time humans become involved they are prone to make errors. The O.T. was originally recorded in Hebrew and later translated into other languages. The N.T. was recorded in Greek, later translated into other languages. Last of all the Bibles we have were translated into English. This has been done by imperfect men. God has miraculously preserved the Bible in spite of men's efforts to destroy it. Man has lost some of it, but there is still enough preserved for us to find our way to God through its pages.

Some believe the Bible is a combination of many different talented authors who wrote about events and experiences of their time, based on their own viewpoints. Some minor mistakes have been made in translations; they can and have been corrected by reputable sources. One popular source is Strong's Complete Concordance which is a complete dictionary of the Hebrew and Greek words found in the King James Bible. If one, simply reads the Bible without understanding that some words may be mistranslated it can cause confusion. For example, the word "world" can also be correctly translated from the same word as "time, age, and generation".

In 2Thes. 2:7 Paul used a word translators gave as "letteth and let" which sounds as if something is being allowed. But actually, when we check Strong's Conc. we find the original Greek word means to "restrain" or "prevent".

The word "hell", in the original Greek simply means "sheol, grave, pit, no return."

The word "Easter" in Acts 12:4 was translated incorrectly. Again, look up the word in Strong's Concordance. You will find the original word is "Passover".

It is good for a first-time student to read the whole bible from front to back once or twice to get introduced to it before beginning serious studies, even if it doesn't make a lot of sense to the reader. It will become more interesting as the reader progresses.

A student who simply begins studying the Bible for personal knowledge only, without a desire to know God and to follow His instructions, will never achieve the knowledge that will develop into a close relationship with Him. Many brilliant minds have studied the scriptures (1Cor.2:8-11) without understanding God's word because their purpose wasn't to have a relationship with, or to please, Him. 2Cor.4: 3-4

This writer assumes that the reader has already accepted that the Bible is the preserved word of God and that Jesus is the son of God. This is essential to understanding God and His plan. A person can think to accept Christ, but still not believe Him enough to practice His teachings. A person can claim to believe the Bible is the word of God but still not know what it teaches. Most religious people don't know exactly what they do believe or why they believe what they say, or think, they believe. Most people's beliefs come from tradition or what they've been taught by others. To follow God's word many

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people would have to abandon tradition and their preconceived ideas, totally change their way of thinking and their whole lifestyle, even to going against many of his loved ones.

One of the most common mistakes people make is going to other people whom they think is biblically knowledgeable, not checking the scriptures for themselves. If the person they put their confidence in is teaching error, they may accept error and be led astray (2Cor.11:11-13). Many people accept other people's version of scriptures because they are unwilling to check it out for themselves. Some are just not interested enough. Others are too involved in their own physical activities to take the time. Many are “turned off” because of the hypocrisy of religious organizations and decide against getting involved with religion altogether.

There are many “religions” that are mere organizations for profit. The point is one cannot rely on another person, group, or organization for their salvation, and truth without going to God’s word and proving it for themselves. God knows our thoughts; He reads our attitudes. If we have the attitude to study to know what He requires of us and to do it, then He will respond to us, opening our minds to His plans. Along with studying we must spend time communicating with God in prayer and fasting. We will realize that God may not answer our prayers right away; He may want to test us or give us time to learn some necessary lessons.

If after considerable study of the scriptures one decides he understands enough basic principles to be satisfied, and goes no further, his spiritual knowledge and spiritual growth will stagnate. If a person finds changes God requires of him and refuses to make them his growth and understanding will pause. If one lingers too long he will eventually lose interest and lose the knowledge he has been given. God, knowing his attitude will leave him to his own interests, spiritual growth stops.

If on the other hand one realizes he needs a constant contact with God through His word and makes the changes as God shows him, God will continue molding him. God will gradually reveal more and more of His plan, opening up more understanding of exciting events to occur in future ages, but only if one studies in their pursuit of pleasing God; any other self-interest studies will fail. If we study from curiosity only, or for human knowledge, we put ourselves before God which becomes sin. Sin separates us from God (Is.59:1-2). He no longer hears our prayers.

When studying God’s word, one must NOT study to prove what they have already accepted as truth without finding scripture to back it. Many “ministers” will make statements as though, “the Bible says” but do not give the location where the Bible says it. God wants us to “prove” what we accept as truth (1Thes.5:21, Rom. 12:2). It is vital that one clears his mind of all preconceived ideas and dwell on God’s word while studying.

However, IF you continue searching God’s word for a deeper relationship with Him, for spiritual growth and change you will also change the way you study. As you read each verse concentrate on each word and its meaning. If you have a problem with a word look up its meaning in its original language with a concordance such as “Strong’s”. Then re-read the verse replacing the English word with the original Hebrew or Greek word.

One may think this is too much trouble, but God expects us to be persistent and seriously dig into the depths of His truth, proving all things.

To get the most out of God’s word is to read a verse and then tell yourself what you read in your own words. It is easy to read the words but overlook the depth of their meaning. Another good way to study is “word study”; look up an important word and study every scripture in the Bible that deals with that word. You may be surprised how many different ways that word is translated and misused.

For instance, the word, “month”. The original Hebrew word is “Chodesh” which also means, “new moon” and always refers to the first day of the month in God’s calendar. There are many such translations that most readers overlook.

My favorite type of study is more complicated, but much more informative: It is to study by “subject “. The deepest studies usually relate to prophecies. Most deeper studies start with unanswered or difficult questions. Some interesting ones are: “Who Fights during the Battle of Armageddon?”, “Are there any People now in Heaven?”, “How Many Ages are Allotted to Mankind?”, “How do We Know When the 7th Day Sabbath is?”, “When Will God’s Temple be Built?”, “Who are the



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Two Witnesses?”, “What happens After Death?”, “Where are we in Prophecy Today?” “How can we prove the Bible is God’s word?”, on and on it goes. God’s word deals with and answers all important serious questions relating to mankind.

A wonderful and interesting way to study God’s word is to study the many “types” referring to the future. This is a sure way to prove that the Bible is truly God’s word. Three of the most apparent types of Christ are: Isaac, Joseph, and the sacrificial lamb. These types prove that no mere man could fabricate these types of Christ and see them materialize thousands of years later. “Types” are filled with hidden information and mysteries that only God would know about; many are dual, as well. But one must rely on God’s holy spirit to reveal them.

There is no one place to find many answers in the Bible (Isa.28:9-10).

Many subjects require long time study. One must mull and contemplate over the subject, in privacy and prayer, when no interruptions are expected. One will often find that the holy spirit speaks to his mind and reveals many mysteries one has often wondered about. Sometimes sharing a topic with another person, of like mind, can be very helpful. But make sure both have the attitude of wanting to use their knowledge to please God.

There is no better way to get to know and unite with God and His son than to study His word through prayer and meditation. The more we learn about God and His plan the closer we become to him and learn how we fit into His plan. Study and submitting to God’s word is a lifetime pursuit of joy and eternal happiness. The hardest efforts we will find along the path toward knowing God is striving against our own lusts, bad habits, and weaknesses (1Jn.2:15-17). Satan is the god of this world, always ready to prevent your spiritual growth, but if you resist him often enough, he will finally lose his power over you. We can do all things through Christ who will strengthen us. He stands at the door waiting for you to knock. He wants you to know Him. To know Him is to love Him.

## **Same-Sex-Marriage Blasphemy: Child Sacrifice** (Copyright 2022) by Richard Frates (Easley, South Carolina)

Young Minds Divorced from Innocence and Reality. **Diabolical Result of honoring same sex marriage:** Justifies sexual pervers, adopting children perverting innocent minds and imposing depravity on children in public school sex-ed. Children - Forced to accept the fraud and perverted concept that a child has two daddy’s or be ridiculed. Adopted children of sexual pervers’ minds - castrated - from honoring God’s word. Teach a child to honor sexual pervers - before puberty - **twist their minds for life**. Resulting in psychological - eunuchs - whose concept of male and female, brother and sister, father, and mother - desecrated, and God’s law “honor your father and your mother” revoked. Diabolical: Sexual perversions normalized in a child’s mind. Anciently - boys were made eunuch by castrating them very young - before puberty - and when adults - used by kings with many wives to guard their harem; example - Esther 4:5.

Devil-Media - High priest of Lawmakers and Judges: Take to themselves authority to dictate - Evil is Good - Submit and worship the Devil. Psalm 12:8 NIV “The wicked freely strut about when what is vile is honored among men.” Two men or two women, publicly mock God, parade their sin, and call themselves married - Why? To recruit others and accuse the innocent who will not bow the knee and honor their depravity! Honoring what God decreed evil is - Devil-Worship!

Devil Evangelist: Talk Show Host and political snakes, who publicly boast of love for same sex marriage pervers flaunting their sins - are being used by Devil-Media as a Flashing-Light - pointing toward hell in the minds of Americans, especially the young. Why would a wise man or men in congress do that? To please Devil-Media, his wife or both! Honoring Same sex marriage is endorsing and licensing: Sexual pervers to recruit children, pervert their minds and also Virtue-Signal what good parents they are.

“The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” Wisdom absent, God’s Anchor of Truth is a self-righteous snare. Search for wisdom - you may find some, but Absent “believing God and the “fear of God” you will prove yourself a fool, in the end. Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of God is the beginning of knowledge.” If God’s word is Not your Anchor of “knowledge” your own opinions will be an - Anchor that drags, you to hell. Proverbs 18:2 NIV “A fool finds no pleasure in understanding (believing God) but delights in airing his own opinions.”

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God’s Rebuke to America: Joe Biden’s Depraved Idolatry: Sexual Perverts must be honored - all bow the knee. Will you join that Depraved Idolatry? And Biden demands the madness of sexually perverted boys must be allowed in girls restrooms and showers in public schools. President Biden’s White House is flooded with -Queer as can be sexual perverts on parade. His cabinet-member Mayor Pete flaunts his evil and boast of being married to a man. Biden’s health official Delusional Dr Levine is a man who pretends to be a woman. Media, all Biden’s cabinet and dimwitted republicans, Honor Levine as if He was a woman. Which ones are Mentally Deranged? Cowards are mentally intimidated and bow the knee. The really mentally deranged - President Biden and Devil-Media - treat a man pretending to be a woman as if he was a woman. President Joe Biden: Life is brief, but - Hell is forever - your sunset is on the horizon! Repent or - Hell Fire will welcome you.

God’s Judgment: Leviticus 20:13 “If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.” Instead, Educators are teaching - children to honor that depravity. Defend innocent children: Governors - Ban sex-education K-12 in public schools in your State. Send a boy or girl to school and Dr Frankenstein’s child comes home! Non-Discrimination Law - Why? Mind-Control: Accuse and legally - Discriminate against those who believe God and force believing Devil-Media instead. 1 Corinthians 5:9-10: The God fearing and wise, living in this world, treat evil politely in the workplace, and show love for them by praying they will repent. Not joining in praising depravity.

Judges made same sex marriage legal in America and force - Devil-Worship on the nation. Regarding Social Matters of sex, marriage, male or female: State governors, lawmakers and Judges reject the - Supreme Court taking upon itself - Authority to Dictate “good and evil.” And reject all federal judges doing the same. Or become fifty Mind Slave States. Submissive-Children - to the unholy union between - Washington and Devil-Media. Moses warned: Leviticus 19:17 - NIV “Do not hate your brother in your heart. Rebuke your neighbor frankly so you will not share in his guilt.”

Proverbs 24:11 - NIV “Rescue those being led away to death - hold back (children) staggering toward slaughter.” Brothers and sisters repent or - Hell Fire - will be your final demise. Judgment Day is the day of your death: You will not remember being dead. Death of those who love and believe God: Will be their - Salvation Day - Colossians 3:4 “When Christ appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.” Praise God, our Father in heaven paid our debt of sin. Christ Jesus Crucified is light that shines beyond the grave.

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**See Richard Frates other articles at:**  
**[Frates, Richard – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)**  
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## Getting to the Root Cause of Gun Violence in America

(Copyright) by Eddie Hyatt (Grapevine, Texas)

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris have emphasized that enforcing immigration laws will not solve the problem of illegal immigration. They insist that we must deal with the "root cause" of the problem. Kamala Harris travelled to Central America, she said, to explore the root causes illegal immigration.

I strongly urge Biden and Harris to apply the same approach in dealing with gun violence in America. There are root causes feeding the problem and another gun law will be nothing more than a political band aid on the moral rot that is eating away at the soul of America.

### **The Tragic Consequences of Removing Moral Restraints**

For generations American children attended school without incident and without even the thought that their lives might be in danger. When I attended high school in the 1960s the major problems were chewing gum, talking in class, being out of your seat without permission, or being late with an assignment.

Those were the days, however, before the anti-Christian purge, beginning in the 1960s, that has secularized the public

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school system of America. Through an endless string of lawsuits, this purge has succeeded in removing almost every vestige of Christian influence, such as prayer, Bibles, and displays of the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule from the public schools of America.



This purge, based on a distortion of the First Amendment, has played a major role in the violence engulfing America, and this was recently confirmed by a scientific study on the power of religious symbols.

The sociologist who led this study was interviewed by the liberal TV host, Charlie Rose, and one thing he said I will never forget. He said they discovered that a person sitting in a room with a Bible in view is less likely to tell a lie than if there is no Bible in the room. They found that the very presence of the Bible exuded a moral restraint.

This scientific study confirmed what many of us already knew. The forceful eviction of prayer, Bible reading, and displays of Scripture verses and the Ten Commandments has opened the door to all kinds of evil into the schools and culture of America. Without these religious and moral constraints, our culture has become rude, crude, and violent.

#### **America’s Founders Understood This**

America’s founders did not want a government-sanctioned church like the nations of Europe, but they all agreed that only Christianity provided the positive impulses and moral restraints for a stable and prosperous nation. John Adams made this clear when he said,

We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion . . . Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious [Christian] people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other” (Hyatt, [1726:The Year that Defined America](#), 168).

In his Farewell Address, after serving two terms as America’s first president, George Washington warned the fledgling nation to cling to religion and morality, saying, “Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are *indispensable* supports.”

When the founders speak of “religion” they are referring to Christianity, and Washington does not say religion should be “tolerated,” but that it is “indispensable” for political peace and prosperity. Thomas Jefferson agreed and made Washington’s Address required reading at the University of Virginia, which he had founded.

Benjamin Franklin, considered one of America’s least religious founders, believed strongly that the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament were necessary for a stable society. When Thomas Paine, who had been influenced by the atheistic French Revolution, sent Franklin a manuscript in which he attacked belief in a prayer-answering God and other Christian doctrines, Franklin’s response was harsh.

Franklin refused to print the manuscript and suggested to Paine that he burn it before anyone else could see it. Franklin then said to Paine, “If men are this wicked with religion [Christianity], what would they be if without it.”

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Yes, the founders all agreed that only Christianity provided the moral and intellectual framework for a stable society. This is why the well-known Catholic scholar, William Novak, wrote,

Far from having a hostility toward religion, the founders counted on religion [Christianity] for the underlying philosophy of the republic, its supporting ethic, and its reliable source of rejuvenation (Hyatt, [1726: The Year that Defined America](#), 171).

**Mr. President, Address the Root Cause**

If President Biden and his administration are serious about wanting to stop gun violence, they must deal with the root causes. They must return to the "In God We Trust" principles on which this nation was founded and encourage religious expression once again in all our public and private institutions.

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**See Eddie Hyatt's other articles at:**

[Hyatt, Eddie – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](#)

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<http://www.godswordtowomen.org/>  
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## Digital Identity

(2023) Sent by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

**"Digital Identity in America in less than a year" per Michele Bachmann, former presidential candidate turned dean of the Regent University School of Government.**

I receive emails from Mat Staver, LC Action Chairman on hot topics.

Liberty Counsel Action  
PO Box 540629  
Orlando, FL 32854  
407-875-1789

This is one from Aug. 12th, 2023. Staver got the information from:

**Source:**

"The Coming Digital Society: Blessing or Curse? – Michele Bachmann." Understanding the Times Radio with Jan Markell. Olive Tree Ministries, August 4, 2023. [Rumble.com/v34elql-the-coming-digital-society-blessing-or-curse-michele-bachmann.html](https://www.rumble.com/v34elql-the-coming-digital-society-blessing-or-curse-michele-bachmann.html)

**James's note:** I selectively copied and pasted from the Staver email, but it contains all of Bachman's quotes. I could have "sent to a friend" but Laura, you may have gotten on his email list.

"Digital identity is already in effect in various parts of the world – 80 countries in EU area, Denmark, London & parts of Africa! Bachmann says it will happen in America in *less than a year!*"

The globalists are "implementing and operationalizing a global government," says Michele Bachmann, former presidential candidate turned dean of the Regent University School of Government.

In May of this year, Bachmann attended the WHO meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, and returned with a dire warning for America:

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“It won’t be a year from now our lives will be completely upended. Absent a miracle or an intervening hand from the Lord, we’re looking at less than a year at this point of having this full digital passport enforced and actually out in play for everyone in the world.”

In June 2023, the European Union issued a press release stating that **80 EU (European Union) countries have ceded their sovereignty to the WHO, giving the United Nations agency full administration and control over Europe’s “digital passport.”**

The EU chose not to wait until the WHO’s May 2024 meeting where member countries were to vote on such a breathtaking seizure of countries’ sovereign rights, not the least of which is freedom to travel. “They aren’t waiting for May of 2024. ... They’re going ahead and implementing global government now,” Bachmann says.

It turns out that throughout the three years of the COVID pandemic, the EU was beta-testing its digital ID and passport. But the pandemic is over, so why is the United Nations pushing this now? Bachmann says that it’s a clear signal that the globalist cabal intends the United Nations to become the global world government.

“If you think of the QR code on your phone, that’s what global government looks like,” Bachmann says. “It’s a QR code with an individual digital identity.” And with that “individual digital identity,” the WHO will “determine if you are able to buy, sell, move on transportation, in other words, conduct your life.”

If that sounds crazy, consider this. A businessman recently posted a video of his visit to London. In need of supplies for his extended stay, the businessman traveled to a local grocery store. Just inside the store doors were a band of subway-style gates, blocking entrance to the store unless the shopper scanned an official QR code with their digital identification. If a potential shopper did not have the digital ID, they could not even enter the store, let alone purchase the supplies or food they need.

Unable to shop, the businessman ended his video with a disturbing comment: “This looks to me like the beginning stages of the digital prison that we keep talking about.”

But London isn’t the only place that reduces its citizens to a computer-generated code.

In Denmark, citizens cannot buy anything without a digital ID. “Every purchase has to be verified by digital ID,” Bachmann says.

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**See James Steinle’s other articles at:**  
**[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)**  
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## **Research into British-Israelism by non British-Israel Scholars** **(Copyright 2023) by Craig White (Australia)**

I have now uploaded a selection of theses and papers by various ones that have investigated British-Israelism here:

**[https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/Further\\_Research/Lost\\_Tribes\\_British-Israel/Researchbyothers/researchintobiyothers.html](https://www.friendsofsabbath.org/iframe/Further_Research/Lost_Tribes_British-Israel/Researchbyothers/researchintobiyothers.html)**

The first one is the most interesting and useful.

There are other articles and papers by authors that find this teaching quaint or intriguing.

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Since my youth I have been taught to read widely, think deeply, brood on issues, critique, analyse and read or debate the other point of view. Thus, the reasons for my reading alternative views are as followings for this and other Bible teachings:

1. this strategy helps one to hone up one's own understanding of a doctrine or concept.
2. it also assists in understanding the other viewpoint and to be able to engage in conversation without childish behaviours;
3. often these books and papers contain references or leads that one can follow up on and can lead to additional proofs for the doctrine!
4. any errors found in the particular doctrine needs to be fixed. Improvement is often possible. Digging deeper is an imperative to find more proofs.

NB: All this can be undertaken without changing or undermining one's beliefs.

Anyway, these uploaded theses and papers represent a small number of books, papers, and theses I have in my possession critiquing or simply examining the British-Israel doctrine or movement. Many are rather obnoxious. Others vainly attempt to find the 'lost' tribes of Israel among various African, Asian, or Amerindian peoples - silliness beyond compare.

So, have a look at these items if/when you have the time. I found that such an exercise actually strengthens my faith and doctrinal stances, not undermines them. So, when the winds of doctrine blow, one is well prepared for the false views, armed with proofs and information to dispel the heresies.

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**See Craig White's other articles at:**

**White, Craig M. – Church of God, Bismarck ([church-of-god-bismarck.org](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org))**

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**<http://www.friendsofsabbath.org/>**  
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## Announcements

**Announcement from William P. Goff (August 13, 2023)**

We have now posted August 12, 2023, Kenya Update at: <http://www.khofh.org>

(I accidentally posted the unfinished draft earlier today, but finally got the correct completed "Update" posted at 5pm. So, if you read the first one, please check the correct one.)

**Announcement from Zac Poonen (August 14, 2023)**

**MESSAGES**

The Mystery of Godliness (with Tamil translation)

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/the-mystery-of-godliness>

**THE GLORIOUS NEW COVENANT: 1. The seriousness of sin**

<https://cfcindia.com/series/the-glorious-new-covenant>



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Last Sunday (13 August 2023), CFC Bangalore celebrated the 48<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lord starting the first CFC church (on 17 August 1975). Here are the messages and testimonies spoken on that day by Brother Zac Poonen, Brother Ian Robson and Sister Annie Poonen:

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/13th-august-2023-cfc-bangalore-sunday-church-service>

*[You can fast forward through the times of singing, if you like. You can also play the remaining parts at a higher speed by clicking on the 6-pronged circle at the bottom and choosing “Playback speed” and changing it to 1.25 or 1.5 or 2 times the speed.]*

The afternoon celebration at CFC Bangalore had a challenging drama and a singing of some good songs. You can watch that here:

<https://cfcindia.com/sermon/13th-august-2023-cfc-bangalore-sing-song-session>

CFC Bangalore

<https://cfcindia.com>

## Holy Days 2023

Passover – April 6, 2023 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 6-12, 2023

Pentecost – May 26, 2023

Trumpets - September 16, 2023

Atonement – September 25, 2023

Tabernacles –September 30, 2023 to October 6, 2023

Last Great Day – October 7, 2023

## Notes

## Notes