

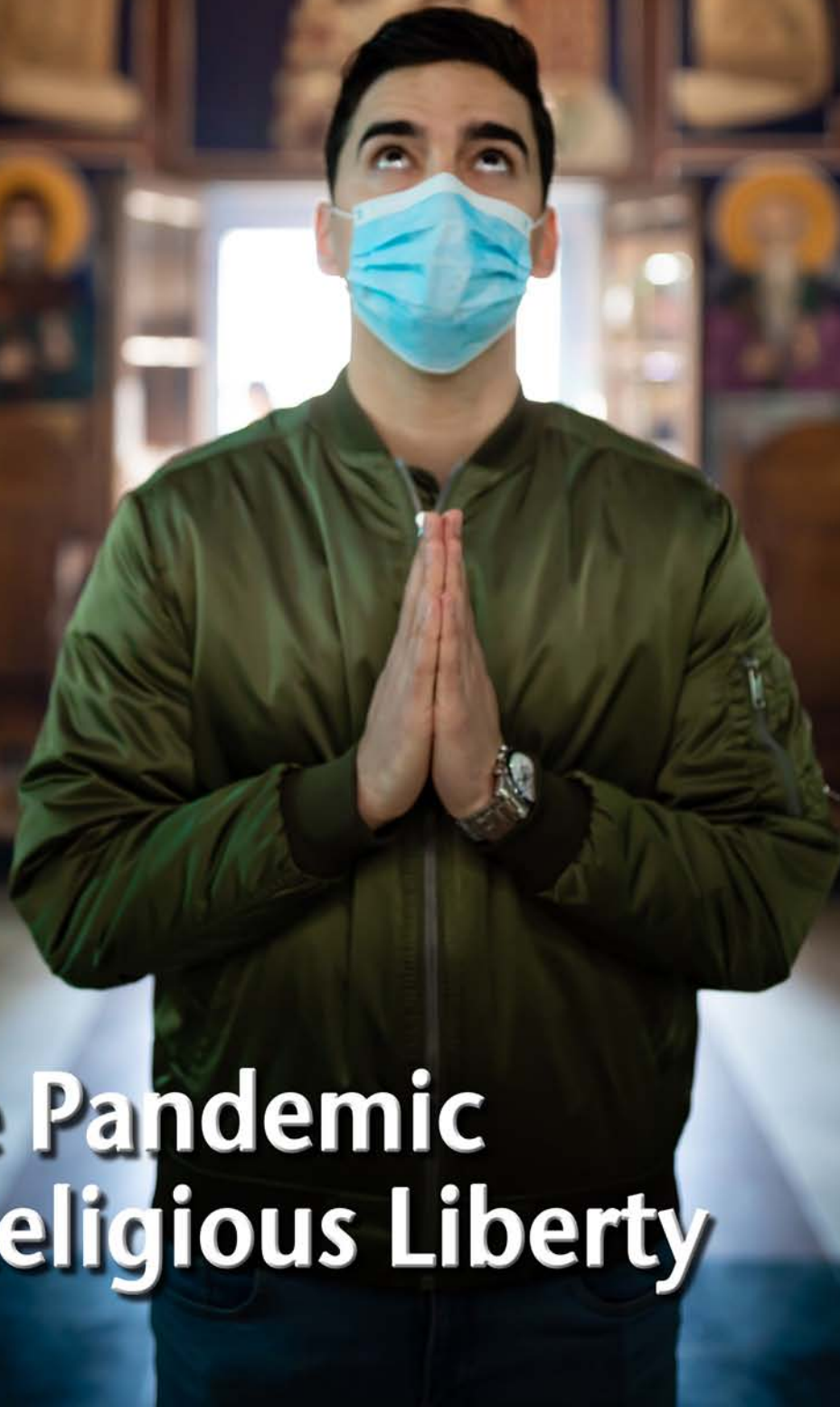
LAMPLIGHTER

"Prophecy is like a lamp shining in a dark place." - II Peter 1:19

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The Pandemic & Religious Liberty



Observations by the Editor

Liberty!

Dr. David R. Reagan

A friend of mine recently sent me a text message that contained a profound insight. It read, "The response of the American people to the pandemic has proved that they are so fearful of death that they are willing to stop living."

It was very similar to a comment I had read the day before in an article by the nationally syndicated columnist and ordained minister, Mychal Massie. He lamented the way in which the American people had so quickly "surrendered essential liberties in exchange for a little temporary safety." He observed, "The fact that we're all going to die escaped the masses out of a fear that they're going to die."

It's amazing how willing we are to surrender our fundamental freedoms in the face of a crisis.

Fortunately, we at this ministry did not have to face this challenge because our headquarters is located in a rural area on five acres of land that was given to us in 1983 by one of our trustees. Although our mailing address is McKinney, Texas, we are actually located seven miles east of McKinney in an unincorporated area.

We are blessed to have a county judge who is endowed with common sense and an attitude of respect for civil liberties. He refused to issue a stay-at-home order, and he refused to command businesses to close. Instead, he simply asked people to play it safe through social-distancing, hand washing and the use of face masks, where appropriate.

It was the mayors within the county who issued draconian orders for people to stay home and for businesses to close.

Since we are not located within any city limits, only the county judge's broad guidelines applied to us. We continued, therefore, to operate as usual, except that we have practiced social-distancing, and we regularly disinfect door handles, light switches and common surfaces. One of our staff members with underlying health issues and another with a new baby decided it would be best for them to work from home, and we have allowed that. But otherwise, we have continued to



Dr. Reagan is shown above with Rachel Houck, who is the Chief Operating Officer of the Ministry.

come to work each day, and we have continued all our normal activities.

I'm thankful that we did not have to violate any orders that applied to us because, otherwise, I would have done so because no one was going to tell me that our operation was "non-essential." We may be considered irrelevant from a pagan or secular viewpoint — as was the case in many areas of our nation — but from a spiritual viewpoint, I consider our operation to be absolutely essential. Furthermore, the Bill of Rights is not a list of recommendations.

In response to the pandemic, we immediately geared up to provide special services to help people deal with the pandemic. We published a special edition of this magazine to help people understand the pandemic from a spiritual viewpoint. We prepared a special TV program designed to do the same. And we started producing brief daily videos for our website that were designed to give people hope.

I was appalled at how quickly people were willing to surrender their basic freedoms of movement, assembly and employment. And the worst is yet to come because I believe the cure is going to prove to be worse than the virus. That's because we have destroyed our economy, and we have quickly accumulated an overwhelming debt. What freedoms will Americans be willing to surrender in order to get food on their tables?

I can guarantee you that there are tyrants waiting in the wings, licking their chops, ready to pounce and offer "security" in return for allegiance. ✚

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Viral Threats to Religious Liberty

Beware of Power That Corrupts Absolutely



Protestor on the steps of the Michigan Capitol building in Lansing, Michigan, on April 15, 2020.
(www.nationalreview.com)

Colonel Tim Moore

As American Christians celebrated Easter in 2020, they were coping with unprecedented levels of government intrusion into typical worship practices. Most churches in America complied with generalized public health decrees to minimize group gatherings. So, instead of full houses of worship on the most important day on the Christian calendar, they settled for taped services streamed via the internet.

A very few pastors refused to cancel their live worship services. Opening their doors to any who felt led to attend, they claimed that their allegiance to God outweighed their fealty to Caesar. Other churches decided to host “drive-in” worship services where the faithful could gather corporately, while honoring social distancing guidelines from the comfort of their cars.

Even that option was deemed too risky by some elected leaders. In Kentucky, the mayor of Louisville banned drive-in worship — only to have his decree ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge. Kentucky’s Governor, Andy Beshear, who mandated the closure of all churches but declared Kentucky’s abortion clinic and liquor stores to be “essential” services, sent state police to record the license plate of every vehicle that attended unauthorized church services. And in Mendocino

County, California, overzealous local officials prohibited churches from singing and playing wind instruments in their online services. Talk about tyrannical overreach!

Striking a Balance

Much debate has ensued over the right balance for Christians to strike in the midst of a public health crisis. A real desire to “love others as ourselves” by taking reasonable measures to safeguard public health seems necessary and prudent.

But as the crisis continues, voices have sounded a legitimate alarm over the long-term consequences of an economic catastrophe — something that will impact mental, social and physical health. One Tennessee county official lamented eight recent suicides, arguing that social isolation was having a much greater impact on his community than the coronavirus.

Even as I write, national, state and local officials are weighing the risks of continued shutdown against the virus itself. Inevitably, some states and regions will emerge from the crisis more quickly than others. Sadly, precedents are being set as some officials exhibit autocratic tendencies and undermine the Constitutional primacy of religious freedom.

Among the important lessons to be gleaned from this experience is an awareness of the corrosiveness of power wielded

without restraint. The sinful nature of mankind means that absolute power really does tend to corrupt absolutely. That is why our Founders created a system of checks and balances — ensuring that power was never consolidated in one branch or one office. As John Adams wrote: “Power always thinks it has a great soul and vast view beyond the comprehension of the weak; and that it is doing God’s service, when it is violating His laws.”

So, although we are commanded to pray for those in authority, we should never place all our trust or faith in them. Times like this demonstrate the importance of placing our hope in the One who is omniscient and omnipotent.

Lessons from the Passion of Christ

The Bible consistently describes kings and rulers as imperfect. Even David — Israel’s greatest king — was flawed and prone to error. Every king’s rule was deemed righteous or evil based on their consistent adherence to God’s Word. When a king strayed, the nation suffered the consequences.

That truism is not limited to the Old Testament. It is an axiom that has been proven time and again around the world. In the New Testament, various authorities involved in Jesus’ crucifixion offer indelible examples of power wielded irresponsibly.

1 The first group of officials Jesus encountered consisted of the chief priest and members of the Sanhedrin (Luke 22:66-71). Their collective animosity toward Him was already apparent. Because they could not discern the truth of His claims and because He threatened the status quo of their authority, the Bible says that they looked for an opportunity to condemn Him before the people (John 11:47-53). In the end, they bribed Judas to deliver Jesus over to them. Then, they violated their own judicial process to rush a pronouncement of guilt.

2 The second individual who stands out in Jesus’ conviction is Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1-7). He was appointed by Caesar to represent Rome in Judea. As such, his responsibility was to impose Pax Romana (Roman Peace) on a resistant population — quelling uprisings, ensuring the collection of taxes and maintaining the status quo. Scripture makes it clear that Pilate had grown cynical. He scoffingly dismissed the very concept of truth (John 18:33-38). Pilate was more interested in balancing the expectations of Caesar, the demands of the Jewish religious leaders, his own wife’s clear misgivings and his sense that Jesus was undeserving of death. But in the end, Pilate did not have the moral fortitude to do what was just and right. Instead, he sought to appease the loudest voices and absolve himself of responsibility (Matthew 27:17-24, Mark 15:9-15).

3 The next individual who stands out in the narrative is Herod Antipas — the same Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded. This was not Herod the Great — the great builder who ruled with an iron fist. This son of the former Herod was a sycophant who ruled the region of Galilee. Instead of taking seriously his role in reigning and administering justice, he had a reputation as a hedonistic pleasure-seeker. He was mainly interested in Jesus as a curiosity and a worker of miracles. It is telling that Jesus never responded to Herod’s inquiries and pleas to see a miracle (Luke 23:8-11). Although Herod saw no reason to condemn Jesus, he joined his soldiers in mocking Jesus.

4 The next group of individuals who played a part in the passion of Jesus Christ was composed of the various guards and soldiers who were “just following orders.” Both the Jewish temple guards and the Roman soldiers treated Jesus with great contempt, mindlessly following the edicts of the men appointed over them (Matthew 27:27-31, John 18:12-13). In both cases, they demonstrated a sadistic callousness that offends our senses



Business shut-down protester in San Diego, California. (cbs8.com)



Pictured above is the drive-in Easter worship service of the Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, Kentucky. Meetings like this were condemned by governors and mayors across our nation as being a threat to public health. (<https://christianindex.org>)

to this day. But, mankind has produced millions just like them throughout history. The Nazis in Germany, the Soviets in Russia, and the hate-filled racists in our own nation's past could not have perpetrated their evils without huge cadres of men wielding power in an ungodly manner. Every dictator to this day has a throng of unquestioning secret policemen to fulfill their authoritarian decrees.

5 The final group we must observe from Jesus' experience is the mass of sheep-like people who tolerated injustice. They represent an authority in themselves because the religious leaders and Pilate alike were wary of their collective will — or at least the threat that they might start an insurrection (Luke 22:2, Matthew 27:24). Many of those common people were part of the fickle crowd that had hailed Jesus as the "Son of David" less than a week before — a clear recognition of His Messianic title. But by the morning of His crucifixion, they had either been swayed against Him, caught up in the mob, or cowed into silence. After an initial burst of resistance in the Garden of Gethsemane, even Jesus' own disciples were frightened into despair.

The Gospel Shines Through

Recognizing the behavior of sinful men does not take away from the orchestrated plan of God that led to Jesus' death. As He said, no one took His life from Him. He laid it down and took it up again — both of His own authority (John 10:17-18). Even Pilate was only able to exercise authority over Him because he had been given that authority from above (John 19:10-11).

The good news is that God did send His Son — offering Him as a perfect sacrifice for the sin of the world. The shortcomings of man did not lessen the magnitude of God's great love for

mankind which was manifested at the Cross. Nor did it restrain the power of God which was demonstrated by the empty tomb.

2020 Applications

The same character traits manifested by all the authorities leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus are evident around us today. I make that assertion as someone who has served in the marbled halls of a state capital. Here are some modern observations and applications:

1 Like many on the Sanhedrin, there are some in authority who have no discernment. Lacking a moral compass, they resent any threat to their power and authority. The Communist leaders of China and North Korea clearly fall into this category. They reject Christianity not because they have weighed its truth claims and found them lacking, but because embracing Christian faith would inevitably impose limits on their own power. And they despise Christ most of all because He asserts His Lordship over them.

While American elected officials were seldom so brash in the past, a growing number share the same animosity toward Christianity. I personally witnessed Democratic legislators in Kentucky disparaging Christians, and the Christian faith in general, on numerous occasions. Believers impose too great a restraint on their secular agenda. In America today, we have many officials who prioritize their support for abortion, abomination, and apostasy above any respect for God or His Word. Why else would they take advantage of a crisis to dictate the closure of churches but defend abortion mills at all costs? New York Mayor Bill de Blasio even threatened the permanent shuttering of churches who did not heed his every order.



Unidentified protester against pandemic rules. (cgtn.com)

2 The next type of leader that is far too prevalent is the one who wrings his hands and is unwilling to buck a vocal but wrong constituency. Desperate to preserve their own power and eager to please the masses, they stick their finger in the air to determine which way the wind is blowing in every circumstance. These officials are dangerous because they bend to every ungodly influence. Like Pilate, they scoff at truth. Unlike President Harry Truman who famously said, “the buck stops here,” they avoid any responsibility that might cause people to blame them for anything. Dithering indecision and weak ingratiation mark their tenure. Leaders like these have allowed our national debt to explode and unfunded liabilities to multiply in most states and major cities.

3 Following in the footsteps of the lesser Herod are those shallow-minded officials who wallow in the pleasures of power and position but do not really serve the people they represent. We’ve all known people who wanted a position more than a job. In government and in every other sphere of human activity, these people are a drain on society. Once again, every legislature and bureaucracy has far too many people like this. As Jesus demonstrated before Herod Antipas, Truth doesn’t even bother speaking to them.

4 The next category of people is those who know better but do not speak up or resist ungodliness. They prove the adage that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. Like the Thyatirans, they tolerate the intolerable (Revelation 2:20). In the context of this pandemic crisis, they enable violations of the Constitution by elected officials that are sworn to defend the Constitution. In that regard, keep in mind that elected officials at every level swear an oath to support and defend the Constitution. Faithfully doing so allows citizens to safeguard their own lives and livelihood.

Claiming to protect people from themselves by trampling on their Constitutional rights violates that oath, undermines those God-given rights and forfeits their lives and livelihood — a trade-off none of us should tolerate. And, as military members are taught, unlawful orders should never be obeyed.

I am not heaping scorn on my law enforcement friends who are expected to follow the misguided orders of governors and mayors and judges. I am challenging all of us who have allowed our nation to embrace abominations — tolerating through our votes and our silence the murder of millions of unborn innocents and passing laws that are an affront to a holy God. Virtually none of us are beyond reproach when it comes to the corporate waywardness of our nation.

5 Finally, what of the fickle sheep who profess faith on Sunday but turn their back on Jesus the rest of the week? Far too many would claim Him as Savior without honoring Him as Lord.

One of the most disappointing experiences during my legislative tenure was witnessing professing Christians — legislators and voters — abandon biblical positions in order to defend their own perceived self-interest. A growing chorus of Christians have been radicalized by our secular society — even pooh-poohing abortion and endorsing abominations in their insistency on embracing the full mantra of liberal ideologies. Some of those would willingly submit to any dictator who could promise sustenance and entertainment (bread and circuses).

How many of us have allowed our witness to be muddled by the choices we make on a regular basis? Does the language you use, the television shows and movies you watch, the media you absorb and the lies you tolerate reflect a life built upon the Lordship of Jesus Christ? Know that you cannot swear allegiance to Jesus Christ on Sunday and then refuse to keep His command-

ments the rest of the week (John 14:15).

Judge a Tree by Its Fruit

It has been said that “the road to hell is paved with good intentions.” Some of the most egregious purveyors of authoritarian overreach have proven the truth of this adage during the current coronavirus crisis by citing their altruistic intentions. Adding insult to injury, for many of them, the tendency to marginalize Christianity and defend abortion has been absolute.

Jeremiah warned that the human heart is more deceptive than all else (Jeremiah 17:9). But Christians grounded in the Word and blessed with discernment should not be deceived — even by wolves in sheep’s clothing.

Instead, we should look at a person's fruit. Does an official's actions erode reliance on and faith in God? Do they honor constitutional restraints on their own power? Or, do they take advantage of every opportunity to grow the scope and intrusiveness of government — even at the cost of religious liberty?

Freedom's Flame is Flickering

Previous generations of Christians fought and bled to lay claim to the religious freedom granted by our Creator and enshrined in the American Constitution. They considered it a sacred duty to exercise that freedom and then pass it on unencumbered to the next generation. Religious liberty is under attack as never before — and is being relinquished by many who ought to know better.

Benjamin Franklin said, “Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety.” Ordered by the high priest to stop teaching in Jesus’ name, Peter and the apostles responded, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:27-29). Flogged as a warning,

“they went on their way rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name” (Acts 5:40-41).

The signs of the times indicate that we are witnessing the fulfillment of Romans 1:18-32 and 2 Timothy 3:1-8 and 4:3-4. Men and women who purport to represent our society show growing animosity toward sound doctrine of the Christian faith. Their hatred for those who love the Lord's appearing will only increase as the Day of the Lord draws near.

We have been posted on the watchtowers of our society. While we still have a voice, let us sound the alarm. When we run afoul of secular despots, we will be warned and may even be persecuted. But some who are groping in darkness will heed our call, repent and turn to Him who will set them free indeed.

In such a time as this, let's heed the advice of the Apostle Paul (Romans 13:11-14):

11) Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.

12) The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

13) Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.

14) But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.

Godspeed! ✚



Protesters in Florida (ft.com)

How COVID-19 Has Become A Constitutional Crisis

Dr. Patrick Oliver



Dr. Patrick Oliver

conferences on any aspect of Bible prophecy.)

(Editor's note: Dr. Oliver is a part-time volunteer evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries. In his full-time capacity, he serves as a professor at Cedarville University in Ohio where he is Director of the Criminal Justice Program. Cedarville is a Baptist institution of higher learning. Prior to coming to Cedarville in 2005, he served for 27 years in law enforcement, including the position of Chief of Police in three Ohio cities, including Cleveland. Dr. Oliver is available to speak at churches and

Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again. — Ronald Reagan

The battle for freedom comes in many forms. Our current battle consists of a horrible health crisis, not just in America, but worldwide. It has resulted in us being told by federal and state political executives, some national and state medical experts, along with the mass media, that the coronavirus threat is so huge that the state governments must be allowed to mandate that we shut down much of life as we know it.

Therefore, some of our current mandates consist of no more school, no more dining in restaurants, no more going to movie theaters, no more church services, no non-emergency medical care, no group gatherings of any significant size, and only “essential” workers operating at their places of business.

The two crucial questions that emerge are whether these draconian restrictions on our freedoms are really necessary for our safety, and are they consistent with both state and federal constitutions?

Before I address these questions, I think it would be helpful to provide an historical perspective to give some context.



Protestor at the Los Angeles Civic Center (www.dailynews.com)

The Declaration of Independence

The Constitution of the United States is based on the principles articulated in the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration is a non-binding document that expresses the Judeo-Christian principles our constitutional republic is based upon.

The Declaration was signed by 56 men, 29 of whom had seminary degrees. Many of them had graduated from Harvard, Princeton or Yale — all of which were founded as Christ-centered institutions of higher education.

In the Declaration, the colonists indicated their resolve to dissolve their political bands with Great Britain. They stated that their decision was based upon the “Laws of Nature and Nature’s God.” The Laws of Nature are laws that are intuitively and instinctively known to people through their God-created conscience. The Laws of Nature’s God are the moral laws contained in the Ten Commandments.

There are five principles that are affirmed in the Declaration of Independence:

- There is a Creator God.
- God gives certain unalienable rights.
- Government exists to protect those rights.
- There is a Higher Law — the Laws of Nature and the Laws of Nature’s God.
- Below the moral law (things not addressed by the Laws of Nature and Nature’s God), government may make decisions based on the consent of the governed.

The Declaration of Independence, like the Bible (Romans 13:1-7 and 1 Peter 2:13-17), indicates that the purpose of government is to protect the life, liberty and property of all individuals by punishing evildoers and encouraging the righteous. When government officials fail to do this, they themselves are resisting the ordinances of God and are illegitimate authorities. It is then the right of the people to challenge this destructive form of government by altering it or replacing it.

The Response to the COVID-19 by State Governments

In states across our nation, governors and mayors — or their health directors — have issued “stay-at-home” orders and “cease business” orders that represent a degree of authority that has not been given to them by anyone.

Just as at the federal level, each state government in our nation has a constitution that mandates a separation of power among the three branches of government (legislative, executive and judicial). And in each case, the power to create law is vested in the legislative branch alone. This separation of powers exists precisely to prevent the temptation of tyranny due to excessive power being located in one branch of government.

The creation of executive

orders that become mandated directives is contrary to the separation of powers. Keep in mind that such mandates are not laws since they have not gone through the legislative process. A governor cannot create laws. He can only enforce laws passed by his state's legislative body.

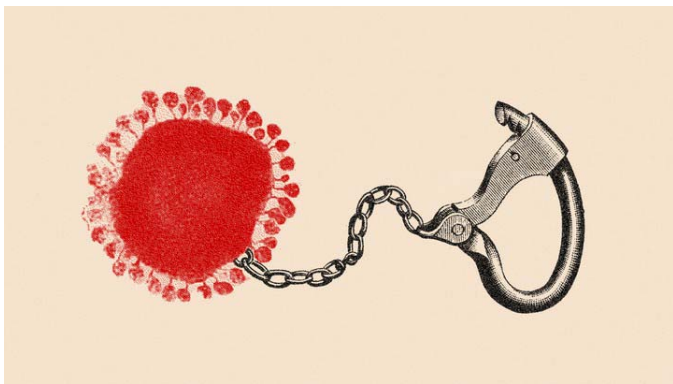
Yet, governors, mayors and bureaucrats are mandating many forms of quarantine as "law." All these mandates are designed to "lockdown" both healthy and unhealthy community members. Normally, quarantine directives are aimed only at the unhealthy population.

In many cases, these executive orders have resulted in stopping people from working, attending church, going to school, and visiting their loved ones in nursing homes. Do they have the "constitutional authority" to issue such mandates? The answer is simply, no.

These state and local officials can suggest guidelines, but they cannot mandate the loss of your God-given freedoms. Under the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights, your unalienable rights to freedom do not cease to exist during a health or any other kind of crisis. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution declares some of these God-given rights for every person. Read it carefully:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The Fifth amendment addresses the unlawful taking of property, which is what happens when you forbid someone to operate their private business. All these actions are not only unconstitutional, they are also manifestations of totalitarianism or tyranny, which is defined as, "An arbitrary or despotic exercise of power; the exercise of power over others with a rigor not authorized by law" (Webster's Dictionary).



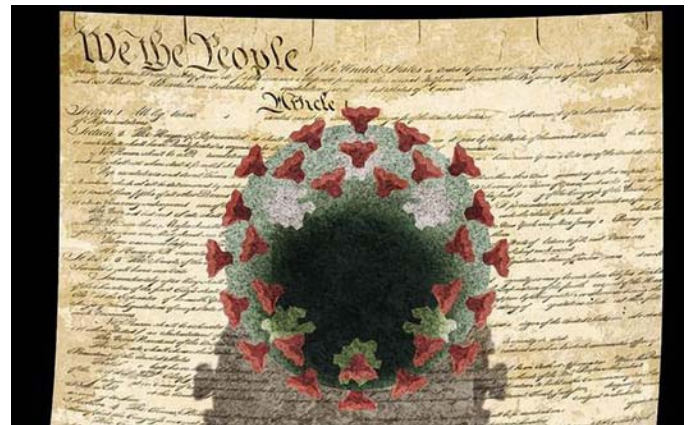
COVID-19 vs. Liberty
(www.theatlantic.com)

This perspective of our constitutional freedoms is articulated by a quote from Michael Peroutka, attorney and co-founder of the Institute on the Constitution (<https://theamericanview.com>):

In point of fact, no governor, in any state, has the authority to suspend the Constitution. And no pretended "Emergency Powers" legislation can give it to him because the legislature cannot give the Governor an authority that

they themselves do not have. And any attempt for a Governor to suspend Constitutional rights is an act of lawlessness and a violation of his/her oath of office.

What Should We Do?



Shall the COVID-19 virus overshadow our Constitution?
(<https://m.washingtontimes.com>)

Stand up and speak out in defense of our constitutional rights! We must not let fear motivate us into being willing to dutifully follow any order given to us, regardless of its constitutionality.

Specifically:

- We need to insist that any rules laid down as law are either legislated by a state legislature or enacted by a city council or a county commissioner's court — and not simply imposed by executive fiat.
- We need to insist that any rules that are legislated do not violate our fundamental freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution's Bill of Rights.
- We need to insist, in particular, that there be no infringement of the Constitution's guarantee of the "free exercise of religion."
- We need to pray for our elected officials that they will be guided by God to be responsible and legal in their responses to crises.

I want to live free; I imagine you do as well. To do so, we must all get acquainted with our Constitution so we can stand on the rule of law, not our opinions, fears or feelings. In our constitutional republic, all laws should be based on God's higher fixed law, and not majorities.

Common sense and, for Christians, biblical wisdom and responsibility, should be our guidelines in responding to this pandemic — and not the surrender of our rights.

Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety. — Benjamin Franklin ✚

Various Responses

Edited by Dr. David R. Reagan

Kay Hedger — Poet and author of a book of poems titled, *The Parched Soul of America* (Lamb & Lion Ministries, 1994).

Killer Virus

A deadly pandemic
Forces in-home isolation
To contain the spread
Of a killer virus

The economy collapses
Under the weight of deflation
The American dream dies
Clutching a stimulus check

With sanitized hands and filthy hearts
The People erase the line between right
and wrong
And subject the land
To the Adamic Curse (Genesis 3:17-19)

Unknown Author —

In three short months, just like He did with the plagues of Egypt,
God has taken away everything we worship.

You want to worship athletes; I will shut down stadiums and
arenas.

You want to worship musicians; I will shut down every venue.

You want to worship actors; I will shut down theaters.

You want to worship money; I will shut down the economy and
collapse the stock market.

You want to worship your own bodies; I'll close down the gyms.

You want to worship your own intellect and pat yourself on the
back with a graduation, I'll close down your schools.

You want to place your trust in your friends and not in Me; I'll
make sure you can't even meet with them physically.

You don't want to seek My face and worship Me; I will make it
where you can't go to church.

"If My people who are called by My name will humble them-
selves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked
ways, then I will hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and
will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Maybe we don't need a vaccine. Maybe we just need to take this
time of isolation from the distractions of the world and have a
personal revival where we focus on the ONLY thing in the world
that really matters — JESUS!

Two TV Personalities —In response to President Trump's
appointment of Vice President Mike Pence to head up the White
House Coronavirus Task Force:

"Why Mike Pence? What is his plan to stop the virus, absti-
nance?" Jimmy Kummel, TV host.

"Mike Pence? Someone who thinks we ought to pray instead of
looking at science? Come on, let's get real about it." CNN
anchor, Don Lemon.



(www.qsrweb.com)

GotQuestions.org —

Question: "Why would God allow COVID-19?"

Answer: Without being too dogmatic, we know that, generally speaking, one of God's purposes in trials is to get the world's attention off themselves and onto Him, their Creator and Savior — which is the biggest part of the answer to the question at hand.

"Why would God allow COVID-19?" Millions are suddenly asking that question right now, believers and non-believers alike, which means that God is on their minds.

God desires for all people to earnestly seek Him and find Him, discovering that He is actually close to us (Jeremiah 29:13 and Acts 17:26–28).

God desires us to sense our own weakness and neediness so that we put our trust in Him (2 Corinthians 12:9).

God desires people to fear Him with proper reverence and awe (Proverbs 9:10).

God desires people to love Him more than their own lives (Matthew 10:37 and John 12:25).

God desires people to show love and gratitude for the Savior by loving and helping fellow humans, especially the suffering (Romans 15:1 and James 2:14–17).

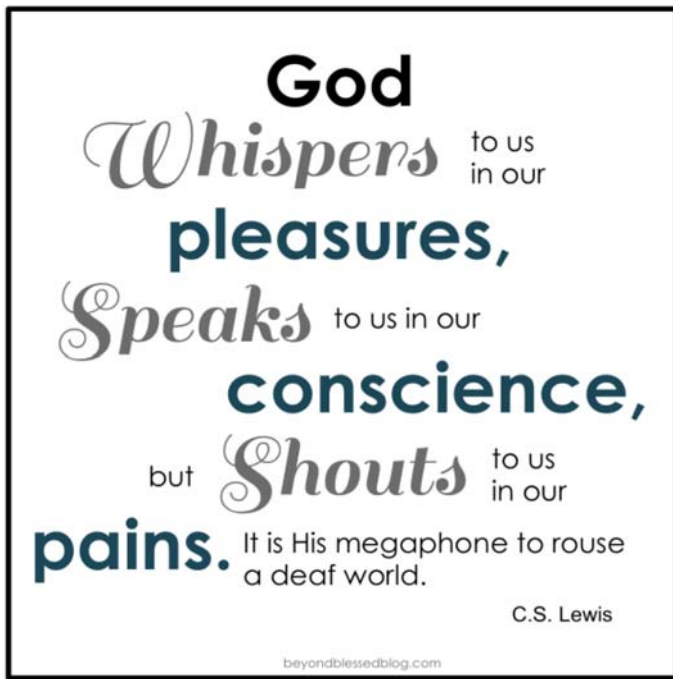
God desires to shift our focus and affection away from this temporary, troubled world to our eternal, heavenly home (Colossians 3:1–2 and Hebrews 12:1–2).

Drive-through Confessions —

Father Scott Holmer, a priest at St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church in Bowie, Maryland, is shown below sitting blindfolded while taking drive-through confessions.



Writings of C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) — From his book, *The Problem of Pain* (1940).



U. S. District Judge Justin R. Walker — Ruling on the constitutionality of the mayor of Louisville, KY outlawing church drive-in services.



Judge Justin R. Walker

“On Holy Thursday, an American mayor criminalized the communal celebration of Easter. That sentence is one that this Court never expected to see outside the pages of a dystopian novel, or perhaps in the pages of *The Onion* [a satirical newspaper]. But two days ago, citing the need for social distancing during the current pandemic, Louisville’s Mayor Greg Fischer, ordered Christians not to attend Sunday

services, even if they remained in their cars to worship — and even though it’s Easter. The Mayor’s decision is stunning. And it is ‘beyond all reason,’ unconstitutional.” The judge further pointed out that the mayor was allowing drive-through pickup of alcoholic beverages. He then proclaimed: “If beer is essential, so is Easter.”

Note: This young judge (only 38 years old) is a Harvard Law School graduate and was Brett Kavanaugh’s legal clerk before he was appointed to the Supreme Court. President Trump has appointed him to the Washington D.C. Court of Appeals, which is considered by attorneys to be the second most important court in the nation. His appointment is pending before the Senate. Pray for his confirmation.

Jorge Gomez — Attorney for First Liberty Institute, the nation’s largest law firm devoted entirely to the defense of religious freedoms.

“Even though the nation is in the midst of a pandemic, it is essential that we protect religious liberty. And while it’s necessary to comply with temporary state-mandated restrictions for the

sake of demonstrating love for our fellow man, we will not — and should not — tolerate churchgoers being ticketed by the police for following CDC guidelines at church.”

Kelly Shackelford — The President and CEO of First Liberty Institute.

“I think this is really historic, what is going on . . . what’s started to happen now is you’ve got people starting to do crazy stuff and discriminate against the Church and attack religious entities . . . The question is whether we are going to have a loss of First Amendment rights and religious freedoms in a permanent way. What is the new normal after all this, legally?”

Meanwhile, the First Liberty Institute has been busy filing lawsuits against Mayors and Governors who have overstepped their authority by infringing on religious freedoms. They have won freedom for churches in Kentucky, Mississippi and New York and are continuing to actively intervene where requested to do so.

Attorney General William P. Barr — Responding officially to local and state government harassment of churches.

“In times of emergency, when reasonable and temporary restrictions are placed on rights, the First Amendment and federal statutory law prohibit discrimination against religious institutions and religious believers. Thus, government may not impose special restrictions on religious activity that do not also apply to similar non-religious activity. For example, if a government allows movie theaters, restaurants, concert halls and other comparable places of assembly to remain open and unrestricted, it may not order houses of worship to close, limit their congregation size or otherwise impede religious gatherings. Religious institutions must not be singled out for special burdens.”

Southeast Baptist Church in Fort Payne, Alabama —



World Zionist Organization — Reports a sharp increase in cases of anti-Semitism following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. Moshe Kantor, President of the European Jewish Congress, reported that “there has been a significant rise in accusations that Jews, as individuals and as a collective, are behind the spread of the virus or are directly profiting from it. The language and imagery used clearly identifies a revival of the medieval ‘blood libels’ when Jews were accused of spreading disease by poisoning wells.”

Steele Creek Missionary Baptist Church in Bristol, Tennessee —



Deborah Homeister — A Christian homemaker in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

“What if everything this world revolves around has been put on pause?

What if everything that distracts us has been set aside for a specific purpose?

What if, in the midst of this horrendous epoch in human history, the author of time is granting humanity a ‘time out’?

What if for one brief time in human history, humanity is being given ‘extra time’? And, if so, why?

What if it is to enable us to consider why we are here, to be given the time (and the absence of busyness) to genuinely consider the most important matters in the entire universe? Time to ponder good and evil, if mankind can have peace, where do we go when we die, and why? Is there really any hope?

And what if we only have a short window of time to find the evidence that answers these questions and many more besides?

Is there anyone who has the power to take something horrendous, something more wretched than COVID-19, an instrument of pain and death, and use it as a means of accomplishing something so beautiful, so momentous that the greatest minds that ever lived, could not have conceived of it?

It has happened once before . . . on a Friday, some 2,000 years ago, when the most painful instrument of death ever devised by man was turned into the most wonderful, most beautiful gift ever offered to man. The Roman cross became the instrument used to produce the cure for the virus that leads to eternal death and separation from the One who created us, making it possible to have a relationship with Him who loves us more than we could ever begin to imagine . . .

The proof? The first day of the week following that Friday, the One who took my death was raised from the grave to prove that the Cure worked, and that is the Cure He offers to ALL who will come to Him and ask for it. Because He lives, I and all who accept His payment for the Cure will never experience eternal death. His name is Jesus the Christ, the only Son of the living God . . .”

Don McGee of Amite, Louisiana — Bible prophecy evangelist and author.

“Getting to the crux of the pandemic, the Wuhan virus, along with every other pathogen on earth, is the direct result of human sin . . . No problem humanity is dealing with actually has its source in physical illness, trauma, politics, weather or whatever.

Does that mean that preaching Jesus’ Gospel will eradicate health problems? Not at all! The planet is cursed and will not be saved by medical efforts, by the church (post-millennialism) or by politics. Peace is indeed coming to this planet, but it will be personally delivered by Jesus at His Second Coming . . .

However, what the Gospel does, and what only the Gospel is capable of doing, is to give hope to a hopeless world — a real hope that guarantees there is something far better that is soon to come, no matter what catastrophe might hit humanity.”

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo —



“Our behavior stopped the spread of the virus. God did not do that. Faith did not do that. Destiny did not do that.”

Albert Mohler, President of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky —

“There is no coincidence in the hostility of Democrats towards religious liberty — it reflects the secular trajectory of the Democratic Party.”

Mike Gendron — Founder and Evangelist of Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries in Southlake, Texas.

“Most of the world is highly concerned about the deadly coronavirus, but few are as concerned about sin, a far more deadly disease that affects everyone at conception.”

Grace Lutheran Church in Atlanta, Georgia —



Peter Leithart, President of Theopolis Institute for Biblical, Liturgical & Cultural Studies in Birmingham, Alabama —



Peter Leithart

“It’s difficult to read biblical descriptions of cities and nations under judgment without being struck by the resemblance to the world of April 2020. Our city streets are silent; there is no longer ‘the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride,’ not even the wailing of a funeral dirge (Jeremiah 7:34).” Leithart continued to explain that biblical judgment includes punishment, but it also involves “unmasking, exposure, testing and clarification.”

With regard to the United States, Leithart said he could think of ten reasons why the Lord has allowed us to be infected with the virus:

- 1) We have turned from the living God to love, fear and trust in idols of our own making.
- 2) We don’t honor the image of God in one another. Thus, we leave the homeless unhoused, the naked unclothed, the hungry hungry. We hide ourselves from our own flesh.
- 3) We live as if God doesn’t exist. We are practical idolaters.
- 4) We know no Sabbath in our 24/7 economy.
- 5) We do not have proper respect for the elderly in our society due to the erosion of the institution of the family.
- 6) We have aborted over 60 million babies since 1973, and in many places, the killing of babies is considered to be an “essential service” during the pandemic.
- 7) We are defying God’s sexual norms, with many mocking the very notion of sexual purity.
- 8) We take our hope from rises in the stock market rather than looking to God.
- 9) Our public discourse is not truthful.
- 10) Our industries are devoted to fostering covetousness.

Peace Lutheran Church in Canada —



There are several churches by this name in Canada. We were unable to determine the location of this one.

Carol Swain, a former tenured professor at Vanderbilt and Princeton Universities, who now serves as a Christian columnist at www.bethepeoplenews.com. —

“The market place is empty,
No traffic in the streets,
All the builder’s tools are silent,
No more time to harvest wheat.
Busy housewives cease their labors,
In the courtroom no debate,
Work on earth is all suspended,
As the King comes thru the gate.”

Carol began her article by observing that when Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote these words for “The King is Coming,” they were warning of Jesus Christ’s imminent return . . . but the description of society could be applied to the current pandemic. She then added the following thoughts about the spiritual significance of the pandemic:

“The unusual cessation of human activities in the world’s busiest cities cannot be explained by the facts surrounding the current global pandemic. We have had far more serious pandemics happen without the world ceasing its activities (SARS and H1N1) . . . Worldometer’s 2 percent death rate for coronavirus is a drop in the bucket compared with the fatality rate of SARS (10%) and MERS (34%).



Carol Swain

The global shutdown strikes me as a divine warning . . . God is the master of perfect timing. Nothing happens by coincidence.

. . . America was founded by men who sought to establish a nation that would share in the covenantal blessings of ancient Israel. Charters and states constitutions, the Mayflower Compact, Sunday Blue Laws and our system of justice with its requirements for due process and the rule of law — all speak of the influence of the Bible. Increasingly, our nation has strayed away from her Judeo-Christian roots . . . Broken vows have led to confusion and chaos. We are on a collision course with the God of the Bible, who assures us that He changes not.

Unfortunately, many of America’s religious leaders have been silenced out of fear, or they preach and endorse a false gospel that is contrary to what the Bible says about sin and its consequences. Good is called evil, and evil is called good (Isaiah 5:20) . . . As a people, we have repeatedly broken the moral laws outlined in the Judeo-Christian Bible. In the Old Testament, national sins brought national judgment. We are told that innocent blood cries out from the grave (Genesis 4:10) . . .

Abortion and the spilling of innocent blood continues during the pandemic . . . Lawlessness is rampant in the United States . . . We have the transgendering of young children . . . There is rampant adultery and fornication among Christians and open calls for the celebration of alternative lifestyles that include homosexuality, polygamy and polyandry, accompanied with demands for the decriminalization of pedophilia and bestiality. ***Morally, we are a broken people.*** Clearly, the end times prophesied in the Bible are nearer now than ever before . . . ❖

Have We Become A Nation of Sheep?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Many years ago, I had a conversation with a rancher from West Texas who specialized in raising goats. I asked him if he had ever considered raising sheep. He responded with a loud and firm, “NO!”

When I asked him why he was so emphatic about not having anything to do with sheep, he said, “Let me explain to you the difference between sheep and goats. A goat is born looking for something to eat. A sheep is born looking for a place to die. Sheep are God’s dumbest animals.”

Now, I am no expert on either sheep or goats, but everything I have heard since that time from sheep experts has confirmed the rancher’s observation. For example, one of my favorite Christian books is the classic that is titled, *A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23*, by Phillip Keller. The author spent many years raising thousands of sheep in South Africa. He makes it clear in his remarkable book that sheep must have a shepherd’s care 24/7 — all because they are too stupid to survive on their own.

This conclusion was reinforced to me by a guide I used for many years in Israel. He was born and raised in Florida. When he made aliyah to Israel, he worked on a kibbutz (a collective farm) for several years before becoming a tourist guide. His job at the kibbutz was serving as a shepherd. He could tell you horror stories all day long about the stupidity of sheep — about how they were totally dependent on a shepherd for their survival.

All of which reminds me of the radically different response in our nation’s history to two major natural disasters.

The greatest weather-related natural disaster in our nation’s history was the Galveston Hurricane of August 1900. It produced a storm surge so great that a monster wave swept over the entire Galveston island. The result was 6,000 to 10,000 deaths.

The survivors went to work immediately to recover from the disaster. They divided into work groups with different assigned tasks. One was responsible for gathering dead bodies. Another had the responsibility of taking the bodies out to sea and dumping them — until it was decided the bodies had to be burned because they kept washing back onshore.

Another group was given the task of clearing all the debris. While they worked on that project, an additional group started hauling in dirt, with the goal of raising the elevation of the island. Meanwhile, plans were being made for the construction of a sea wall.

There was no state aid. Federal aid was unheard of. It was a matter of self-help or no help at all.

One hundred years later, in 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. The response? People stood in the water and asked over and over, “Where’s the government? When are they coming to rescue us? Don’t they care for us?”

That is a vivid contrast. It’s goats versus sheep.

Yes, we are to be sheep when it comes to our relationship with God. We are to be submissive and obedient to His Word and dependent on Him.

But we are to be goats when it comes to government, lest our precious rights and freedoms dissipate like an early morning fog exposed to the sun.

Does fear justify giving up living? Does it warrant surrendering our constitutional freedoms — freedoms so many have died to preserve?

Do a few extra dollars justify becoming serfs of the state? That’s happening right now in our nation. Our Congress, in its madness to buy votes, passed a stimulus bill that added \$600 per week to state unemployment benefits. Thus, if a state pays \$350 per week, that means an unemployed person will receive \$950 per week! If a person was making \$15 per hour (and most were making less than that), their gross income per month was \$2,400. Under the federally subsidized unemployment insurance plan, they will take home \$3,800 a month! I ask you, what incentive will they have to go back to work?

All across our nation, employers are finding it difficult to hire the workers necessary to reopen their businesses. The sad thing is that so many people on unemployment would rather sit at home and be couch potatoes, living off the government, than give up their government dole and go back to work.

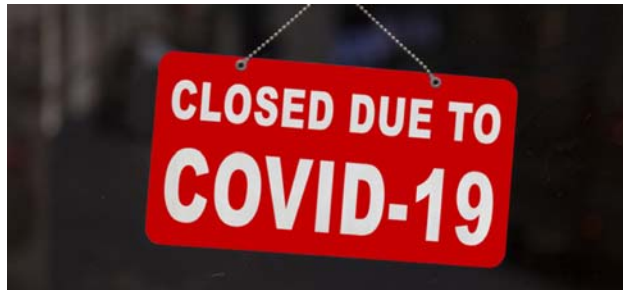
Where is the self-reliant, god-fearing, pioneer spirit that made this nation great? It is dead, and the power-hungry Socialists are only too glad to step into the vacuum and supply your every need at the cost of your individual freedom.

And as this willing dependence on government grows, you can be absolutely certain that the godless Socialists will begin to limit the free exercise of religion because they hate Christianity and all that it stands for.

They will declare preaching against abortion and homosexual “marriage” to be hate speech. They will demand that churches and ministries endorse such abominations or lose their tax exempt status. Employment with government at all levels will depend upon signing a statement endorsing practices that violate God’s Word.

Are you willing to take a stand for liberty? Even more important, are you willing to suffer persecution for God’s Word? When the crackdown on Christianity intensifies, as it will, forcing us to keep our religious beliefs within the walls of our churches, are you going to be willing to say to government officials (as Peter and the Apostles did): “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29)?

With respect to government, are you a sheep or a goat? ❖



Why Progressives Love Crises

Dr. David R. Reagan

“Our constitutional liberties are at stake, and the precedents set during this health crisis will have far-reaching implications in the decades to come.” — Dr. Albert Mohler, Jr., President of Southern Theological Seminary.

There is nothing that liberal “progressives” love more than a crisis. That’s because it always gives them an opportunity to trample individual liberties by extending the power of government.

And although they may lighten up on some of the more draconian measures after the crisis is over, things never return to where they were before. Thus, throughout the 20th Century, in response to World Wars I and II and the Great Depression, there has been a steady increase in the power of the federal government and the presidency, while the rights guaranteed under the Constitution to States and individuals have constantly eroded.

Liberals believe that Mankind’s greatest hope is government, not God. And guess what? They think they have the wisdom to tell those of us who are less enlightened how we should live. Their goal, therefore, is a welfare state where everyone is dependent on government for their sustenance, thus rendering them lackeys of the state.

It reminds me of when John F. Kennedy was elected in 1960. At the time, I was living in Boston where I was attending a Harvard graduate school. Kennedy started robbing us of our professors by appointing them to key positions in his new administration. This prompted the renowned conservative spokesman, William F. Buckley, Jr., to observe: “I would rather be governed by ten people selected at random from the New York City phone book than by a dozen professors from Harvard.”

George Orwell was equally contemptuous of liberal intellectuals. He wrote: “There are some ideas so absurd that only an intellectual could believe them.”

The Irresistible Temptation

Liberals infatuated with power just can’t resist the temptation to tell the “deplorables” how to live their lives — and to force them to comply if they are not willing to do so voluntarily. Since we are not smart enough to appreciate their greater wisdom, we must be forced to obey.

Take, for example, those of us who are stubborn enough and who are thoroughly unenlightened enough to demand holding a worship service during a pandemic — even if it is in cars scattered across several acres. We must, of course, be arrested,

thrown in jail and fined. Some drive-ins, like Sonic, can be open, but drive-in churches must be closed.

Public Complicity

Liberals are not the only ones to blame for the erosion of liberty in our nation. We, the people, also share the blame. We are too anxious to run to government for a handout, even if it means the surrender of freedoms. Also, we are often just too lethargic or too busy to stand up for our God-given rights.

I’m reminded of when the Supreme Court ruled in 1980 that displaying the Ten Commandments on the walls of school classrooms was unconstitutional. We quietly and dutifully removed them. In contrast, when the Communist government of Poland demanded that all crucifixes be removed from the classrooms of that nation, the Polish people went to the streets and declared, “Over our dead bodies!” The Polish government backed off.

It Could Be Worse

I shudder to think what would be going on right now if the liberals controlled both houses of Congress and the Presidency. There is no doubt in my mind that they would use the crisis to do everything possible to restrict Christian freedoms. They hate Christianity with a passion because they view it as their greatest obstacle to the transformation of America into a socialist society where government controls the economy and Christian morality is taboo.

When New York City Mayor, Bill de Blasio, arrogantly threatened to **permanently** close any church that might violate his orders, he boldly expressed the secret desire of all liberal “progressives.”

Our Constitution guarantees the “free exercise of religion.” President Obama rephrased it over and over in his speeches as “freedom of worship.” What he was saying was that, in his opinion, the only thing the Constitution guarantees is the freedom to worship God as you please — inside your church building, synagogue or mosque. But nothing beyond that. And, my friends, that is where our increasingly pagan society is

headed.

Likewise, the “progressives” can hardly wait to greatly expand hate speech legislation to include any preaching or teaching or advocacy against abortion and sexual perversion.

The Need to Take a Stand

Christians must not remain silent on these issues, even if it means fines and prison time.

We must have the same attitude as the Apostles who founded the Church. When Peter was dragged before the Sanhedrin Council and condemned for preaching the Gospel, he boldly responded, “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

Are you willing to do that? You might keep in mind that the Apostle Paul wrote some of his best stuff from a jail cell! ✚



Long-Range Economic Consequences

Dr. David R. Reagan

Many have been asserting all along that the cure our nation has pursued for the coronavirus — namely, stay-at-home orders and business-shutdowns — is going to prove to be more painful than the virus itself.

That assertion seems to be coming true before our very eyes as millions of people have been thrown out of work and thousands of businesses have declared bankruptcy.

But there is a greater long-range threat on the horizon that could prove to be even more devastating. I'm thinking about the impact of the stimulus packages passed by the Congress. They have added four trillion dollars to our national debt overnight. And subsequent packages could easily add an additional one to two trillion, making the total somewhere around six trillion.

Our national debt was already at \$24 trillion when Congress enacted the pandemic stimulus packages. But that is not the true debt level of our national government. When you add to that our government's unfunded Medicare and Social Security promises, plus pension and health care liabilities, the total debt of our

national government before the pandemic came to over \$124 trillion, or a total of \$802,000 per taxpayer! (For detailed statistics, see the National Debt Clock at www.truthinaccounting.org.)

And how are we covering the cost of the stimulus packages? We are doing so by selling treasury bonds and printing money. That solution means that two grim prospects are staring us in the face — either a runaway inflation or a debt service so great that it crushes our economy.

The Danger of Inflation

Most people do not recognize the devastating impact of inflation, so let me give you some examples. In 1960 when my wife and I got married, we could buy a week's worth of groceries and household needs for less than \$25. Seven years later in 1967, we purchased our first house. It was located in Sherman, Texas. It was a new, three-bedroom, two-bath brick home in a very nice neighborhood. It cost \$17,500. The payments were \$200 a month, and I was financially stretched to make them on my professor's salary of \$9,000 a year.

The worth of the dollar was suddenly and radically changed by the rapid inflation that occurred when President Nixon abandoned the gold standard in the 1970s, resulting in a rate of 11%. During the administration of President Jimmy Carter (1977-1981), the rate shot above 14% and prices began to escalate so fast that restaurants stopped printing the price of meals on their menus. Instead, they penciled the prices in each day. In comparison, the inflation rate for our nation during 2019 was 1.5%.



Demonstration at the Colorado State Capitol Building. (Yahoo.com)

In 1967 the median household income in our nation was \$6,900 per year. Today it is \$63,000. The average salary of a school teacher in 1967 was \$7,692. Today it is \$60,482. Keep in mind that these are equivalent figures! Thus, \$8,000 in 1967 had the same purchasing power as \$62,125 today.

The point is that rapid inflation is a monster that can make all of your savings worthless overnight.



(<https://irannewswire.org>)

The Threat of Deflation

And then there is the threat of deflation which could be produced when the interest rates on our national, state and city debts result in bankruptcies and defaults on retirement plans and entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare.

The bottom line is that we cannot continue to pile up debt by trying to kick the can down the road. The chickens are going to come home to roost, particularly when there is no political will to cut our over-bloated city, state and national budgets.

Further, we need to keep in mind that we are acting irresponsibly by placing our debts on the shoulders of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. What we are doing is equivalent to my purchasing a 50 million dollar mansion on a 100-year note that obligates my ancestors to make the mortgage payments long after I am dead.

The Judgment We Are Begging For

I have always believed that God's ultimate judgment on our nation for our unrepentant sins would be economic in nature. I first expressed this belief in my book, *America the Beautiful?* (2003). When considering the possible ways in which God might pour out His wrath on this nation, I wrote, "The first thing that comes to mind is an economic catastrophe that will result from our out of control debt situation . . . There is no way to escape the conclusion that America has become a debt junkie." I concluded with this observation:

I believe an unprecedented economic collapse is highly likely because money is the real god of America, and the true God of this universe is a jealous One who does not tolerate idolatry. God, by His very nature, is going to be compelled to destroy our false god.

A Jolting Personal Experience

I went to the Soviet Union in 1992, shortly after the collapse of the Communist government. The nation was in absolute chaos. It was hard to believe that only a few months previously this had been the most powerful nation on planet earth, with

more nuclear weapons than any other country.

In Moscow, all the stores were empty — and I mean completely empty of both food and clothing. Thousands of people were standing on the sidewalks with card tables full of items to barter. People were trading food products like milk and potatoes for clothing and other essentials. At the first-class hotel where we were staying, the only food they had to serve us was potatoes, and we had to share one Coke between four of us.

As I viewed this heart-breaking scene, the Lord spoke to my heart and told me to go back to America and share the devastation He can pour out on a nation in an instant, no matter how powerful it may be — just as He did with Babylon in Old Testament times.

He said for me to emphasize that His judgment on our nation would be much worse. After all, the Russian people had been under a totalitarian dictatorship for 70 years during which time Christians had been severely persecuted and the distribution of Bibles had been outlawed.

In contrast, during that same time period, God had poured out abundant blessings on our nation. Further, we have churches on every corner, an average of five Bibles in each home and we have the Gospel being proclaimed on radio and television. In short, unlike the Russian people, we have no excuse before God for our wanton rebellion against Him and His Word. The verse the Lord laid on my heart for this nation was Luke 12:48, which says, "And from everyone who has been given much, shall much be required . . ."



(<http://manassaschurch.org>)

God has sent prophetic voices to this nation to call us to repentance, and He has emphasized the seriousness of their messages by inflicting us with remedial judgments like the Vietnam War, the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina.

But we have turned a deaf ear and have plunged full speed ahead with our ungodly behavior. We are literally begging for the wrath of God, and when it falls, we will have no one to blame but ourselves. We need to remind ourselves of these words in 2 Chronicles 7:

13) If I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people,

14) and My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin and will heal their land. ✚

Prophetic Implications of This Global Crisis

Mike Gendron

Students of Bible prophecy are not surprised by events that have been triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic. That's because the Lord Jesus Christ gave us signs to watch for that would precede His Second Coming, and one of those many signs that we are seeing today is "pestilence" (Luke 21:11).



Mike Gendron

Pestilence is defined as a "contagion or infectious epidemic that is virulent and devastating."

The Lord Jesus said the signs will arrive like "birth pains," meaning they will increase in frequency and intensity prior to His return. It is true that we have seen devastating plagues and pestilences throughout history, but none of them have had the far-reaching global impact of COVID-19.

Could it be that our sovereign Lord is giving a merciful warning of a more devastating pestilence that awaits those who do not seek Him as their Savior and refuge? During the Tribulation, one-fourth of the world's population will perish by pestilence, plagues and the sword (Revelation 6:8). More plagues will follow that will kill one-third of the remaining population (Revelation 9:18).

Globalism

Another one of the prophetic signs is that of a global government that will be ruled by a dictator who will have "authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation" (Revelation 13:7). He will cause everyone to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and no one will be able to buy or to sell without the mark (Revelation 13:16-17).

The current worldwide pandemic has been a catalyst for globalists to centralize and digitize data on a growing segment of the world's population. The ultimate goal of the globalist agenda is widespread surveillance and control over people's lives, including our jobs, our religious activities, our medical care, our travel and our buying and selling.

Historically, we have seen that every serious crisis has brought about new opportunities for government control. This coronavirus crisis will eventually pass, but the government will never forget how easy it was to take control of our lives.

The World Health Organization is proposing a cashless society because cash may be spreading the coronavirus. To prevent the spread of the disease, they claim we need to use the latest technology to buy and sell.

Health experts are turning to technology to take over the contact tracing of the virus. An invisible quantum dot tattoo implant that will track who has been tested for and vaccinated

against COVID-19 is now in the works. Countries like Singapore and China are using cellphone-based tools to identify and monitor people who might have been exposed to someone with COVID-19. Google and Apple have partnered to build a Bluetooth-based tracking system that can automatically log people's interactions.

The push for a global government, coupled with the necessary tools for surveillance technology, will one day enable the Antichrist to introduce his mark that will control a global economy.

Over 180 countries throughout the world have been dealing with the devastating effects of this pandemic. Government-enforced lockdowns and stay-at-home orders have produced angry protests, rising unemployment and economic collapse. The rising death count, along with all the fear-mongering and misinformation produced by the liberal media, is fanning the flames of hysteria and causing growing confusion and hopelessness.

Bill Gates, who is a vocal proponent for population control, has pushed for massive worldwide vaccinations. He recently stated, "Mass public gatherings will not come back 'at all' until we have everyone on the planet covered by vaccines."

A Secular Messiah

The whole world may be primed for an intellectual genius to rise up with all the solutions for a new world order of peace and prosperity. The apostle Paul described him as the "man of lawlessness," "the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4). He will come in accordance with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders (2 Thessalonians 2:9).

Of course, we do not know when he will appear, because his appearance will be according to our Sovereign Lord's prophetic time clock. When the "beast" does appear, the whole earth will marvel as they follow him (Rev. 13:3).

We have seen how God disciplines His people who go astray and how He judges godless nations with pestilence and famine. The wisest response to God's judgment has always been repentance, faith and obedience to the one true God and Savior.

Christians, who have been called out of darkness into the glorious light of our Savior, are not to be troubled or afraid. Our Lord is with us no matter how hopeless the situation or circumstances appear to be. He sovereignly controls everything in His creation, including COVID-19. We do not know what the future holds, but we do know Who holds the future.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23) ✚

Mike Gendron is the founder and spokesman for Proclaiming the Gospel Ministries in Southlake, Texas. It is a ministry whose purpose is to reach Catholics with the Gospel. The ministry's website is located at www.proclaimingthegospel.org.

To those who hate the Church: Be careful what you despise.

Michael L. Brown

As a result of the current lockdown, we have learned how little some elected officials think of the local church. Liquor stores offer essential services. Churches do not. Abortion clinics must keep their doors open. Church buildings must keep their doors closed. In short, we can do just fine without the church.

This attitude goes hand in hand with the increasing animosity in America towards Christian faith in general, with many resenting the Church's tax-exempt status. In the eyes of the critics, these churches and their leaders are getting rich off the people, aided and abetted by the laws of the nation. And many say it is high time for this to stop.

To those who denigrate or even despise the role of the church in society, I offer you a strong word of caution: be careful what you belittle (or hate). The church is doing far more good than you can imagine.

It's easy to point to some extravagantly rich TV preacher, but that person is as common in ministry circles as the proverbial dodo bird. The vast majority of pastors are overworked and underpaid, and they do what they do out of love for God and love for people.

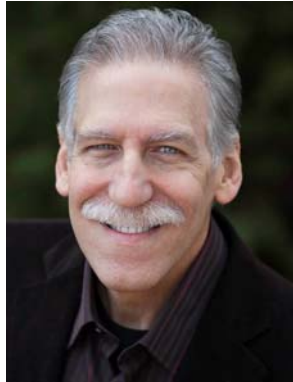
That means people in your community — people with needs and challenges. The church is there to help meet those needs — to provide free marital counseling, to provide free programs for children and youth and to provide free classes for recovering addicts. That is what churches do.

During this time of shutdown, many churches are providing food for needy families in their communities, feeding countless thousands (by now, probably millions) across the nation on a weekly basis. That is what churches do.

Who do you think runs many of the local soup kitchens? Helps supply the food banks? Gets involved in schools to mentor underprivileged youth? Volunteers at the hospitals? That is what churches do.

Take away the influence of the church in a given location, and a real hole will be left in terms of acts of compassionate service. The same is true of faith and hope and inspiration and encouragement. The last thing America needs is a diminished and weakened Church.

This also holds true when it comes to morality, although those who hate the Church will mock me for even saying this. But God's people are called to be a restraining influence against evil — a voice advocating for good and a moral conscience to a



Michael Brown

sinning world. In the words of Jesus, we are called to be salt and light, and when we fail to function in that way, moral deterioration accelerates.

To be sure, we have often been our own worst enemy. We have been hypocritical. We have been riddled by sexual and financial scandals. We have engaged in partisan politics. And more. That's why it doesn't surprise me greatly that a 2018 Gallup poll indicated that "the country's perception of pastors fell to a record low in 2018." Yes, "Fewer than half of American Christians (42%) believe clergy have 'high' or 'very high' standards of honesty and ethics . . . Self-identified Christians were about as likely to rate clergy's ethical standards as just average (43%), and about 1 in 10 (12%) considered them 'low' or 'very low.'"

It would appear, then, that the very bad reputation of the few has colored the general perception of the many, as I feel confident that the average, committed church-goer thinks much more highly of his or her pastor than this survey would indicate.

But we must also factor in the hostility of the left towards conservative Christian ministries. This was put on grand display with New York City's treatment of Samaritan's Purse, as Christian healthcare workers labored sacrificially, day and night, only to be told by elected officials and others that they were not welcome because of their Christian beliefs.

This, in effect, provides a microcosm of the left's relationship to Bible-believing churches. The hostile society despises and rejects them, to its own detriment.

And that reminds me of an old story about a famously rich and infamously miserly Jewish man who lived in a town in Europe.

Every year, the local synagogues would send requests to him for financial help for the poor, and every year, he would gruffly refuse. Naturally, he was judged harshly by others in his town. "He has so much money, but he won't even donate a dime!"

After he passed away, there was a sudden drop in financial support for the poor, and the leaders could not figure it out. It was only then that they learned that this rich Jewish man had been incredibly generous, responsible for large, anonymous donations every year. But he was so determined not to get any earthly credit for it that he pretended to be a miser. It was only after he was gone that the community realized the vital role he played.

Enough said. ✚

Michael Brown is a Messianic Jew who serves as President of the FIRE School of Ministry in Concord, North Carolina. Additionally, he is the host of a daily, nationally syndicated radio program called, "The Line of Fire." He also hosts an apologetics television program called "Answering Your Toughest Questions." His website can be accessed at <https://askdrbrown.org>.

The Book of Job: A Modern Version

Anton van Reenen

(Editor's note: Nothing could be found about the author of this article.)

There was a day that Satan came before the Lord, and the Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?"

Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it."

And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my Church, how they gather every Sunday, and praise and worship My Holy Name? They do this year in and year out, every Sunday morning, all over the world. From the time the sun rises in the east until the sun sets in the west, My Name gets glorified, like a wave washing over all the earth."



(<https://christianity.stackexchange.com>)

Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Have You not blessed them with health and wealth and prosperity, with which they have built beautiful church buildings, and filled them with amazing technology? Have You not blessed them with all manner of talents that they bring together in these beautiful churches they built and worship You with beautiful music that appeals to their senses? But stretch out Your hand, and take all that from them, strike them down with a plague or even just the fear of a plague, and they will go quiet and worship You no more. This wave of worship, running from the east of the earth to the west, every Sunday morning will stop, and all will go quiet. Who will worship You then? Who will still make Your Name great?"

And the Lord said to Satan, "They are in your hand." So Satan unleashed a deadly virus upon the earth, and soon churches closed all over the world. Everyone, Christians and Gentiles hunkered down in their homes, and everything went quiet . . . and Satan and the angels and God were watching and waiting as a great silence fell over all the heavens and all the earth.

Then one angel called out; "Listen!," and another called out; "I hear it too . . . it's coming from the east." In a small living room, in a locked-up house, came the sound of a piano being played, and a voice singing:

Holy, holy, holy,
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,



"Job and His Three Friends" by French painter Jean Jacques Tissot (1836-1902). (<https://artsandculture.google.com>)

Perfect in power, in love, and purity!

And another angel called out: "Listen, over there, in the west!" And the sound of a guitar, coming from a bedroom could be heard with a voice singing:

All hail King Jesus, All hail Emmanuel!
Kind of kings, Lord of lords, Bright Morning Star!
And for all eternity, I'll sing Your praises,
And will reign with You, throughout eternity.

And slowly, from all directions on the earth, the sound of instruments and voices could be heard, louder and louder, until it became a symphony of worship, rising up to Heaven. A cacophony of song, praising God, declaring His greatness, thanking Him for His grace, His mercy and His forgiveness. Songs of dedication and declaration, songs of encouragement, songs filled with the joy and peace that can only come from God, sung by thousands of men and women, young and old, wherever they were, accompanied by whatever means they had.

And God turned to Satan and said, "Did you notice . . . today is Tuesday! Now, My Church, having been freed from all the business that filled their lives, worships Me every day of the week, for they still know that 'I Am'! The wave of worship that runs from sunrise in the east until sunset in the west now circles the earth, every day, as the earth circles the sun."

And all of Heaven fell down on their faces and worshiped God, calling out "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His Glory!" And Satan turned and walked away, defeated as he has been since the day of Calvary.

I want to encourage you today, in this unprecedented time in the history of man, to not let your voice go quiet, to not pack your instrument away. All of creation and all of heaven is standing still right at this moment, waiting, watching . . . Now is the time to make your voice heard throughout the heavens, now is the time to pour out your heart before God.

There is now no audience; there is no technical team; it's just you before the Lord. Seek Him in this time, draw near to Him through worship. If you have never done this before, discover the beauty and blessings that come with intimate, personal worship of God. ✚

The Mystery of Suffering

Why do the Righteous Suffer?

Dr. David R. Reagan

Two days before Christmas, my phone rang, and I received the news that a dear friend had lost her battle with leukemia. She had suffered terribly for almost five years. She was a devout Christian who had exhibited great faith throughout her suffering.

Shortly after Christmas I received a letter from a radio listener. She outlined a crisis in her faith in the following words:

Just a few days ago, a very close friend of mine's mother was stabbed in the neck outside her church and was killed. The Scriptures over and over speak of God's protection for us, but yet, several times, I have seen horrible things happen to God's children. This makes me unsure of exactly what God's protection means for us. Are these scriptures not to be taken literally? Were they not given to us to offer us hope and to prompt us to trust in the Lord?

Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

There is nothing in all of life that tests faith more than suffering — both on the part of the one who suffers and on the part of those who must watch a loved one suffer.

There is always the tendency to cry out, "Why me, Lord?" There is always the temptation to do as Job's wife suggested — to curse God and die (Job 2:9).

Suffering is paradoxical. It has a way of making or breaking us. It can convert a person into a bitter, depressed and vengeful wretch who spends his time shaking his fist at God. Or, it can have the opposite effect; it can draw a person deeper into the Lord and shape that person more fully into the image of Jesus.

The response depends upon the quality of one's faith. As Billy Graham used to put it, "The same sun that melts the butter hardens the clay."

The Example of Job

But why must the righteous suffer? It is a difficult question. The Bible is full of many examples of righteous people who suffered mightily. Ezekiel says that Job was one of the three most righteous men who ever lived. Yet, who has ever suffered as Job did?

Job's incredible suffering was aggravated by his so-called friends who came to him and blamed it all on his sins. Their accusations were unjustified, for the very first verse of Job says he was "blameless, upright and a God-fearing man."

Unfortunately, the friends of Job are alive and well today, anxious to blame all our misfortunes — all our suffering — upon our personal sins.

Later, another friend of Job gave him a partially correct answer to the reason for his suffering. He said it was for the



The Scream by Norwegian artist, Edvard Munch (1863-1944).

purpose of refining Job in righteousness.

I call that a "partially correct answer" because the Bible clearly teaches that suffering can refine us spiritually if our hearts are truly yielded to God.

Consider these words of Paul, another righteous man who suffered mightily (Romans 5:3-4):

... we also exult in our sufferings, knowing that suffering brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope ...

Job suffered that he might be refined in righteousness. But there was another, more important and ultimate reason for his suffering.

As Job continued to cry out, "Why me, Lord?" the Lord finally appeared to him and responded to his question with a long series of questions: "Where were you when I created the heavens and the earth?" "Where were you when I spoke the lion into existence?" "Where were you when I hung the stars in space and gave them names?" (See Job 38-41.)

In short, the Lord was saying, "Who are you to question Me?"

Other Biblical Examples

God never answers the question, "Why me, Lord?" Instead, He calls upon the questioner to lean on his faith and trust that God knows best and that all things work together for good for those who know the Lord (Romans 8:28).

Thus, when Habakkuk cried out, “Why me, Lord?” The Lord answered, “The righteous shall live by faith” (Habakkuk 2:4).

When Paul cried out, “Why me, Lord?” The Lord answered, “My grace is sufficient for you” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Those are tough answers. They call us to tough faith — the kind of faith that my friend so powerfully demonstrated in her suffering.

Purposes of Suffering



(www.focusonthefamily.com)

There is no doubt that we sometimes suffer as the result of our own sins. But much of the suffering we experience in life is due to other reasons.

- We suffer because we live in a fallen world corrupted by the sin of Man.
- We suffer because suffering refines us in righteousness.
- We suffer because suffering restrains us from falling in love with this evil world and therefore helps us to maintain an eternal perspective, reminding us that we are to be aliens and strangers passing through this world to a better life in a new, perfected world.
- We suffer because suffering motivates us to lean hard upon the Lord, trusting in Him as we have never done before.
- We suffer because the faith we demonstrate in the midst of suffering brings honor and glory to God.

And, yes, we suffer for purposes known only to God Himself.

God's Promise

God never promises that the righteous will not suffer. But what He does promise regarding suffering is something glorious.

He promises that He will walk through the suffering with us and give us the grace and strength to deal with it victoriously. In Psalm 23, He says: “I will walk with you through the valley of the shadow of death.” In Isaiah 43, He says: “I will pass with you through the high waters and will walk with you through the fire.”

If my friend could speak to us now, I’m certain she would testify that God was faithful to these promises in her own life.

A Suffering Shared

But let us keep in mind that my friend did not suffer alone. Her husband and children suffered with her. And through that shared suffering, there emerged a deeper and more meaningful

fellowship within their family.

Their times together in the midst of the suffering were more precious than ever before. They cried together. They laughed together. They prayed together. And through it all, they grew to love each other more. They also grew spiritually.

My friend’s husband and children will now have a compassion toward those who are suffering that will transcend any feeling they could ever have developed apart from their own experience of suffering. They have gone through the fire, God has gone with them, and in the process, they have been uniquely prepared to minister to others who are suffering.

In the future, they will be able to embrace the suffering of others and say, “I know how you feel.” And through that simple act they will be able to minister the love of Jesus in a special and unique way.

Suffering and Hope

There is one final point I would like to make. It is expressed in the scripture presented earlier from Romans 5, where it says: “suffering produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope.”

How in the world does suffering ultimately produce hope? The answer is really very simple. As we lean on the Lord in faith during our suffering, we learn that He is faithful to His promises to be with us and to sustain us and to comfort and strengthen us. That, in turn, motivates us to have even greater faith in the promises He has made about the life to come — our hope that we will be resurrected and glorified and will live forever with our Heavenly Father.

That is why Paul, speaking of the Second Coming of Jesus, could say with absolute confidence in Romans 8:18: “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” ✚



There are many churches by this name. We were unable to identify this particular one.

Thoughts

Glenn Meredith —

Glenn is the pastor of the Brookhaven Church in McKinney, Texas.

“The Resurrection was God giving you a receipt for the payment for your sins.”

“One of the greatest evidences of the Resurrection was the 180 degree turn-around overnight of the life of Paul — from a murderer of Christians to a proclaimer of the Gospel.”

“God’s delays in your life are always on purpose because God’s timing is intentional, and God is always in the timing.”

“Miracles are often matters of timing, and the timing is supernatural. In fact, the timing is for the purpose of convincing us that God is in the matter.”



Pastor Glenn Meredith

“The waiting periods in your life are not accidental. Rather, they are God ordained . . . Waiting is a battle of faith. That’s because when we go through times of waiting, we are being tested about what we believe about God.”

“When God is silent, we are called to have faith that He is working behind the scenes for our good.”

“Hopelessness is never from God.”

“God provides by grace what we need to serve Him, but we must receive it by faith.”

“You must learn to trust God’s Word more than your feelings or circumstances.”

“Faith is an action. By faith, Abraham *believed*. And by faith, Noah *built* an ark.”

“You never have enough faith at the beginning of your journey with the Lord — God develops it along the way. God just provides you enough faith to take the first step.”

“How do you serve a God who has no needs? By serving His people.”

Brief Thoughts by Others —

“Bible prophecy is the central nervous system of the Bible.” Todd Hampson, author and illustrator.

“The reason we have been accepted by God is because God rejected Jesus in our place.” Robert Morris, pastor of the Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas.

“Instead of fishing for men, the Social Gospel people say the role of the Church is to clean up the fishbowl.” Andy Woods, pastor of Sugar Land Bible Church in the Houston, Texas area, and president of Chafer Theological Seminary in Albuquerque, NM.

“Universities today practice ABC tolerance — meaning, ‘Anything but Christianity.’” Russ Miller, Creationist teacher.



Provocative —

“When Christians buy lottery tickets, they do not seem to realize that they are saying to the Lord, ‘I’m not satisfied with the financial resources You have supplied me. I want more money, and I want it so badly that I am willing to take the financial resources you have entrusted to me and put them at risk in order to get more.’ The bottom line is that gambling is an expression of greed.” Source unknown.

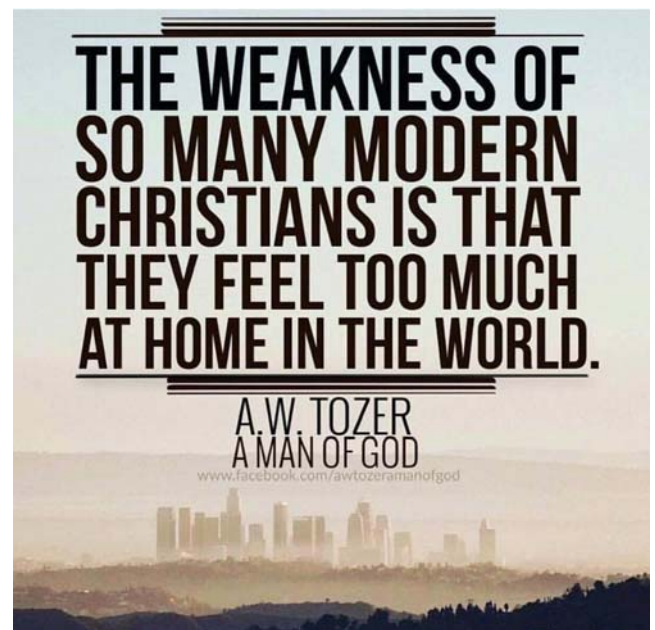
“Moral entropy has no stopping point. The Moral Perversion Movement will never reach the point where it is satisfied. It can achieve societal approval of polygamy, prostitution and pedophilia — and it will want approval of bestiality.” Jill Martin Rische. Like her famous father, Walter Martin, Jill is a Christian apologist who maintains a website of her father’s writings as well as her own. She also works closely with Jan Markell.

A Poem —

Reliance

Please open the door to my heart, Lord,
For this door has been tightly closed.
Forgetting your tender mercies,
My pride tried to carry the load.
And, it’s only when I learn to trust,
Not only on self to rely,
That You reveal all Your glory,
From earth to the heavenly skies.
Your majesty takes my breath away,
Your mercies bring tears to my eyes,
Humbling myself in gratitude,
For redeeming such a sinner as I.

Submitted by Barbara Bartlett Martin in Waco, Texas. She says that she composes poems while serving with Discipleship Unlimited Prison Ministries at the women’s prison in Gatesville, Texas.



Television Schedule

Staying Busy

Our ministry has never shut down during the pandemic, mainly because we are located in a rural area outside of any city limits. Our County Judge did not shut down any businesses in our county. He left that up to the mayors.

So, we have been operating full steam. What has been different was the cancellation of all our speaking engagements for the months of March, April, May and June. The appointments for July and August were still up in the air at the time of this writing, although Dr. Reagan decided that due to his age, it would be best for him to cancel all remaining speaking engagements this year that require him to fly to the destinations.



Shown above are Dave Reagan, Billy Crone and Nathan Jones. We were able to shoot two TV programs with Billy in early March before the pandemic shutdown occurred. His programs are scheduled to be broadcast in July.

We have been very busy with Internet speaking engagements via both Zoom and Skype. We have also been involved in radio broadcasts and podcasts.

And, of course, we have been recording TV programs. Colonel Tim Moore has been spending an increasing amount of time on our campus, and we have utilized him to shoot a series of Question and Answer programs about the book of Revelation. Tim has also been recording many of the short video clips which we are posting daily on our website. This is a new feature of the ministry, called "Prophetic Perspectives." We are using these videos to provide brief commentaries on the national and international news from a biblical perspective. ✚



Tim Moore & Nathan Jones on the "Prophetic Perspectives" set.

Television Broadcast Schedule

National Networks (6):

Daystar — Wed. 6:00pm CT, DirecTV 369, Dish 263, cable, broadcast stations, satellites and web streaming (daystar.com).

Word — Tues. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 373, Cable, AT&T U-verse, cable, satellites and web streaming (thewordnetwork.org).

CTN — Wed. & Fri. 12:30pm CT, DirecTV 376, Dish 267 and web streaming (ctnonline.com).

GodTV — Thurs. 8:30am CT, DirecTV 365 and web streaming (god.tv).

NRB — Sun. 4:00pm CT, DirecTV 378 and web streaming (nrbtv.org).

TCT — Sun. 7:30pm CT, DirecTV 377, ten broadcast stations in the Midwest, and web streaming (tct.tv).

Regional Networks & Area Stations (6):

Arkansas

VTN (The Victory Television Network) — Covering the state of Arkansas, Sun. at 10:00pm, Tues. 9:30am and Sat. at 2:30pm CT (vtntv.com).

Kentucky

WBNA — Louisville, Sun. 8:30am ET, channel 21 (wbna21.com).

Louisiana

FVN — Southern Louisiana broadcast stations and cable, Sun. 12:30am, Mon. 8:30am, and Wed. 7:00pm CT (familyvisiontv.com).

Texas

CFNT — Wichita Falls, Fri. 3:00pm CT (cfnt.org).

KDAF — Dallas/Ft. Worth, Sun. 8:00am CT, channel 33 (cw33.com).

KSCE — El Paso, Sun. 10:30am MT, DirecTV & Dish Local 38, AT&T U-verse 38 (kscetv.com).

Internet Networks (9):

Lamb & Lion — lamblion.com

HisChannel — hischannel.com

YouTube — youtube.com/user/ChristinProphecy

GodTube — godtube.com

Truli — truli.com

Vimeo — vimeo.com

DailyMotion — dailymotion.com/us

Roku — roku.com

FaithXtreme — faithxtremetv.com (Australia) ✚

Note: The most important way you can help us through the economic impact of the pandemic is to become one of our Prophecy Partners. You can find detailed information about our Prophecy Partner program on our website at www.lamblion.com. Basically, it requires a commitment to pray regularly for the ministry and to supply a monthly donation of \$25 or more. In response, Dr. Reagan will send you a monthly insider letter, and we will provide you a gift each month like a video, booklet, this magazine or our yearly calendar. Thanks! ✚

The Lamb & Lion Weekly Podcast

Nathan E. Jones

Back in 2009, I was attending the annual Pre-Trib Study Group conference held here in the Dallas, Texas area. This conference garners some of the greatest teaching and preaching minds in Bible prophecy, so naturally, the age range of the audience tends to skew on the more mature side.

And so, when the host made a call for strong young volunteers to come forward to help move some AV equipment to another room, I found myself and another “young guy” the only two answering the call.

This is how I first met Vic Batista, that other “young guy.” That marked the beginning of one of my most cherished friendships and long-term ministry partnerships. Vic’s naturally sunny disposition and encouraging nature made the chore of moving all of that heavy equipment a joy.

But then, how could he not be happy? After all, Vic was birthed on the cheery Caribbean island of the Dominican Republic and pastored a Calvary Chapel congregation in the tropical paradise of Miami.

Getting Acquainted

It wasn’t just Pastor Vic’s sunny-day background that made him so personable, but his well-spring of joy in the Lord Jesus Christ that perpetually emanates from his pastor’s heart. Vic exemplifies the joy of the Lord.

At the time, Vic was broadcasting over a local Miami FM radio station with his very own Bible teaching program called “Eyes on the Word.”

At the conference, he extended an invitation for me to call in as a guest on that program, which I was happy to accept. It didn’t take long for us to discover that we shared instant chemistry and a love of the proclamation of Jesus Christ’s soon return.

I was impressed by how creative Vic was in choosing our biblical topic to cover for each radio program, and how well researched he was in preparing for the lesson. During our interviews, he preferred to ask the questions and for me to answer them. And, since Miami’s first language apparently is Spanish, Vic fluidly slid with great ease from English to Spanish and back again as needed.

In every program, regardless of the topic, he would always steer our conversation with laser-like precision to a couple of themes: Bible prophecy and the Gospel. Vic wouldn’t end the program unless an invitation to accept Jesus Christ was offered. He even provided his own personal phone number for people to call for prayer. The guy truly impressed me.

Teaching Bible Prophecy

After the first program we recorded together, Vic then invited me to be on more and more programs until, at some unknown point over the years, I became the de facto co-host. And now, over an entire decade later, Vic and I are still recording our weekly teachings, but under the program’s new name, “The Truth Will Set You Free.”

As the times have changed, so too has the media, and we have moved from local radio to a globally downloadable podcast program with outlets over social media such as Facebook Live and TwitCasting.

Over the years, Vic and I have recorded teachings on pretty much every topic related to Bible prophecy in the light of current events. His Calvary Chapel penchant to teach verse-by-verse has led us to cover entire prophetic books of the Bible such as Daniel, Zechariah, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, 1 Corinthians, Jude, 1 and 2 Peter and 1-3 John, with whole chapters taught out of Ezekiel, the Minor Prophets and the Gospels. We even taught verse-by-verse through the entire book of Revelation, which later became a multi-part blog series, and then finally was published as our book, *The Mighty Angels of Revelation*.

Joining the Team

Over the years, Vic has grown close to Lamb & Lion Ministries, and we have often seen him attending our various outreaches, both here in Texas and his native Florida. While preaching, I could look out across the attending crowd and find him sitting out there sporting a huge smile on his face, and still always ready to volunteer to lift and tote things. Vic has been an ongoing source of encouragement.

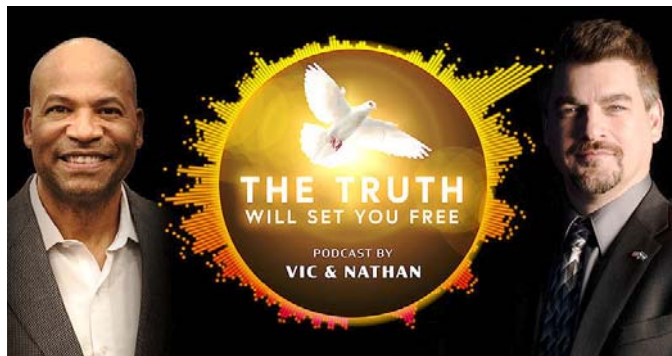
What a joy when Dr. Reagan extended an invitation for Vic to join our ministry as a volunteer assistant evangelist! From that day on, the ministry has become the sponsor of “The Truth Will Set You Free” podcast, which has been added as one of our many evangelistic outreaches.

How to Tune In

Vic and I would like to invite you to tune in to “The Truth Will Set You Free.” We’ll provide you every week with a biblical message with an eye towards the Lord’s triumphant return. We keep the teaching consistently at an every-person’s level, and remembering that there may be pre-Christians listening, we always end with a pointed Gospel invitation.

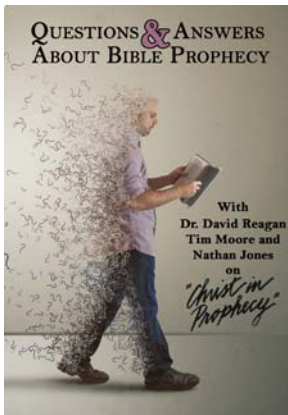
You can tune in by subscribing to “The Truth Will Set You Free” podcast through iTunes and Google Play or via RSS feed. The RSS feed also includes other radio programs our evangelists have been guests on, and you can listen to the audio version of our television program “Christ in Prophecy.” Our archive of programs is available on our website at lamblion.com. Just search for “Podcasts.”

Our hope is that you will be blessed and encouraged by these podcast teachings as they help you survive and thrive in these challenging last days. ✚



Vic Batista and Nathan Jones

Study Resources

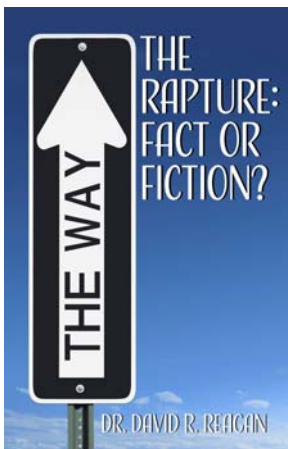
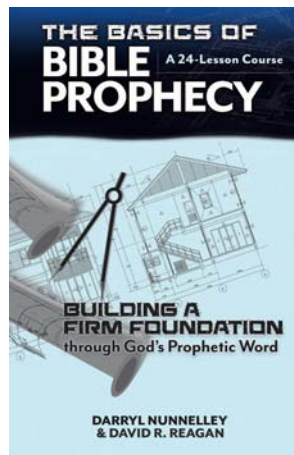


Questions & Answers About Bible Prophecy — This video album consists of two DVDs that contain a total of seven TV programs in which Dr. Reagan, Tim Moore and Nathan Jones respond to questions submitted by our television viewers about the Bible and Bible prophecy. The specific question and answer programs are as follows:

- The Inerrancy of the Bible
- Bible Prophecy in General
- The Signs of the Times
- The Rapture of the Church
- The Great Tribulation
- The Millennial Reign of Jesus
- The Eternal State

This album is a great resource for Bible study groups. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.

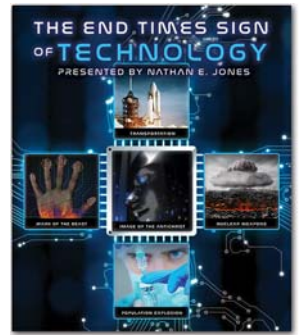
Basics of Bible Prophecy — This book contains 24 lessons regarding the basic concepts of Bible prophecy. Each lesson is short and to the point and concludes with study questions. Some of the lessons are illustrated with charts and diagrams. This book is for both ends of the Bible prophecy spectrum — for those who know little or nothing about prophecy and for those who know a lot and wish to teach it. The book runs 120 pages and sells for \$15, including the cost of shipping. For orders of ten or more, the cost is \$10 per book, including the cost of shipping. The book comes 50 to a box. For churches or Bible study groups wanting to order a full box, the price is \$7 each including the cost of shipping. This book is all you need to launch a group study of Bible prophecy.



The Rapture: Fact or Fiction? — The book is divided into four parts. It begins with an explanation of the concept of the Rapture. The second section focuses on responses to the 21 most frequently asked questions about the Rapture. The third section presents responses to the 13 major challenges that have been presented to the belief that the Rapture is most likely to occur before the beginning of the Tribulation. The final section presents the spiritual blessings of believing in the promise of a Pre-Trib Rapture. This section also contains a strong evangelistic

appeal to unbelievers. 104 pages. \$15, including shipping.

The End Times Sign of Technology — A dynamic, one-hour, computer-animated program about the various signs of technology that clearly indicate that we are living in the season of the Lord's return. The program is presented by Nathan Jones, the Lamb & Lion Internet Evangelist. He explores nine of the technologies that the Bible prophecies will exist in the end times. By the conclusion of this informative and entertaining teaching, you will marvel at how ancient prophecies are being fulfilled in our day, and you will understand how to apply these revelations to your life in these fast-paced times we are now living in. The video album is available only on a Blu-ray disc. It sells for \$20, including the cost of shipping.



The Rapture Kit —



This is a remarkable resource designed for those who will be left behind at the Rapture of the Church. It consists of a thumb drive that comes in an attractive box that is illustrated above. And the variety of materials contained on that thumb drive is mind-boggling!

Those materials include a complete Bible and a digital folder with more than 120 pages of important information on the Rapture and the Tribulation. There are also nine eBooks on prophecy, apologetics, Christian living and being a watchman for the Lord; 12 video teachings on the same topics; a two-part audio teaching on why and how to share your faith; an illustrated storybook for children; several spiritual tracts from World Missionary Press and a 40-minute video presentation explaining what has happened due to the Rapture, what is going to happen next in the Tribulation and how to prepare for the Antichrist.

The kit sells for \$35, including shipping. To order any of the resources featured on this page, call our ministry at 972-736-3567, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm CT, or place your order online at www.lamblion.com. ❖

Ministry News

Schedule for 2020 —

July:

CrossPoint Church in Sand Springs, OK [Reagan] (12). This engagement is dependent upon the lifting of virus restrictions. Call the church to verify: (918) 245-2434.

August:

Lamb & Lion Board of Trustees Meeting in Allen, TX, [All staff] (1).

Brookhaven Church in McKinney, TX [Reagan] (30 - evening only). Call to verify: (972) 363-0200.

September:

Immanuel Bible Church in Three Springs, PA [Jones] (12-13).

“Footsteps of Jesus” pilgrimage to the Holy Land [Moore] (12-23). Dependent on Israel reopening to tourists.

Bible prophecy conference at The Bible Center in Breckersfeld, Germany [Jones] (Sept. 26 - Oct.4).

Bible Study Group —



The group of ladies pictured above meet every Tuesday morning in Goodyear, Arizona, to study God's Word. In the Fall of 2018, they began studying Bible prophecy, using the book, *The Basics of Bible Prophecy*, which was written by Dr. Reagan, together with one of our trustees, Darryl Nunnelley. They completed all 24 lessons in the book a year later in December 2019. They sent us a beautiful thank you card and a testimonial about how much the study blessed them. They wrote: “All through our eager adventure into prophecy, we were continually amazed at the amount of concise, clear teaching that was packed into each lesson . . . It was such a blessed time of discovering and growing together in our knowledge and love of our Savior.” The book that they used is illustrated on the previous page.

Ministry Goals for 2020 —

- 1) 4,000 Prophecy Partners (we currently have about 3,200).
- 2) 100,000 subscribers to our magazine (90,000 currently).
- 3) A new edition of Dr. Reagan's book, *God's Plan for the Ages*.
- 4) A record number of new TV programs (hopefully as many as 40 out of 52 programs).
- 5) Reaching more souls than ever before with our message of the Lord's soon return.



Foreign Missions —

Two of the outstanding foreign missions we support have run into major obstacles, and we want to ask you to pray for God to remove these obstacles quickly.

The first concerns John Ishmael in Bangalore, India. For over 40 years, his ministry, which was founded by his father, has been unable to find a secure headquarters location.

They rent a facility, and when the radical Hindus discover their location, they begin to harass and threaten the landlord until he agrees to evict the ministry. This has gone on year after year. Last year, we helped raise the \$300,000 needed for the ministry to purchase a new facility in a Christian community. They were supposed to move into the facility in January. They are still not in it. A couple of simple inspections need to be completed, and they have been pending now for five months! Excuse after excuse is given. Pray that the excuses will stop, the inspections will be completed and John can move his headquarters to his new building.

In Pakistan, the wonderful evangelist we support there, who is now in his mid-80s, is Nazir Gill. He ministers under constant persecution, and often at the risk of his life. His headquarters was recently sprayed with machine-gun bullets. No one was injured, but his computer equipment was destroyed. A couple of months ago, all the bank accounts of Christian ministries were frozen by the government. This has happened before. This time the government demanded a lot of detailed information about the ministry, plus a fee of \$1,000 to reopen the accounts. Nazir supplied the information and the fee, but his account remains frozen. The current excuse for not re-opening it is the pandemic. Meanwhile, we are unable to send much-needed funds to him. Pray for the Lord to get his account opened, and also for his health. He is suffering from heart problems.

Update on Ann —

Dr. Reagan very much appreciates all the cards and email messages many of you have sent in which you have expressed concern for his wife, Ann, and have reported that you are praying for her and for him. Ann is in her ninth year of dementia. She resides at a wonderful memory care facility. Dr. Reagan normally feeds her supper each day, massages her arms and legs, reads the Bible to her and prays with her. Her facility was placed on lockdown by the State of Texas on March 17 and was not lifted until May 17. So, Dr. Reagan is able to visit her once again each day. Her doctor recently recommended that she be placed in hospice care. She can no longer walk, talk or see. She has a rare form of dementia called Benson's Syndrome, which causes blindness. They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 4. Thanks again for your prayers! ✚



Ann Reagan



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The Pandemic

The Book That Provides The Reasons

Because Dr. Reagan's book, *God's Prophetic Voices to America*, supplies the reasons why God has placed the remedial judgment of the pandemic on our nation and the world, we are offering it at a major discount.

SPECIAL SALE!!

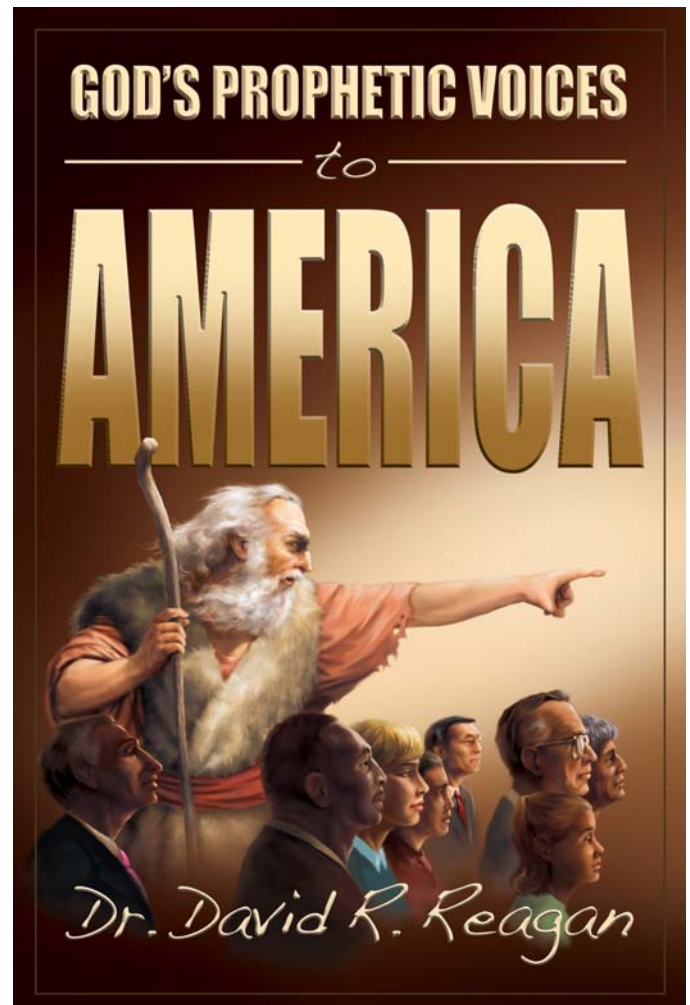
For a limited time, through the end of October, we are offering this book for \$10, including the cost of shipping! It normally sells for \$20.

The book tells how our nation has rejected its Judeo-Christian heritage in behalf of the philosophy (and false religion) of Humanism, and how, in doing so, we have called down the wrath of God upon us. Dr. Reagan shows how Humanism is, and always has been, the religion of Satan.

Next, Dr. Reagan reveals God's overwhelming patience with us over the years since World War II as He has called us to repentance time and time again through a series of 13 prophetic voices — four in the past and nine in the present. He presents summaries of their messages to demonstrate how God has used these voices to speak out against Humanism and to warn our nation of its danger. These are voices that have also alerted us to our sins and have called our nation to repentance lest we suffer the wrath of God.

Four of the voices are from the past. The other nine are currently active. The four voices from the past are Peter Marshall, David Wilkerson, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Francis Schaeffer.

The nine current voices are Donald Wildmon, Erwin Lutzer, David Jeremiah, William Koenig, Jan



Markell, Albert Mohler, Jr., Franklin Graham, Robert Jeffress and Jonathan Cahn.

The book concludes with an essay by Dr. Reagan in which he addresses the crucial question: "Is America Doomed?"

The book runs 288 pages in length and is illustrated throughout with full color photos. You can place your order through our website at lamblion.com or by calling our office at 972-736-3567, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm, Central Time. ✚