

# The DEFENDER - February 2014

"... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3)

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



## From the Director's Desk: Presidents Day

There was a time, not too long ago, when our country honored two of our more noteworthy presidents each year on their birthday. In fact, they were the only presidents to be so honored; one on February 12th and the other on February 22nd. The reasons were several, with not the least being that they both were standard bearers of our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage. George Washington, our first Chief Executive, and Abraham Lincoln, our 16th, both relied on the hand of Divine Providence in the affairs of our nation.

George Washington once said "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." In June of 1779, while our nation was still in its infancy, General Washington prayed "Almighty Father, if it is Thy holy will that we shall obtain a place and name among the nations of the earth, grant that we may be enabled to show our gratitude for Thy goodness by our endeavors to fear and obey Thee." And in his last address to Congress in 1796 he said that it was his "...fervent supplication to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, and Arbiter of Nations, that His Providential care may still be extended to the United States; that the virtue and happiness of the People, may be preserved; and that the Government, which they have instituted, for the protection of their liberties, may be perpetual."

On March 30, 1863, Abraham Lincoln issued a historic proclamation appointing a National Fast Day. In it he said "...it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history: that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord." In speaking of the great trials he faced as a result of the War Between the States he said on October 6, 1862, "In the very responsible positions in which I happen to be placed, being a humble instrument in the hands of our Heavenly Father, as I am, and as we all are, to work out His great purposes, I have desired that all my works and acts may be according to His will, and that it might be so, I have sought His aid."

Conversely, the current occupant of the Oval Office has informed us that we have come a long way from what our Founders intended. On June 28, 2006 he said that "Whatever we once were; we are no longer just a Christian nation. We are also a Jewish nation, a Muslim nation, a Buddhist nation, a Hindu nation, and a nation of unbelievers." At the very least, Barack Hussein Obama seems to be downplaying the current role of Christianity in America. We've always had people of other faiths living here, in part, because they could. Patrick Henry said it best, "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here." To emphasize the importance of that, try to start a Christian church in Saudi Arabia and see how far you get.

We need to return to honoring our leaders who took a stand for our Christian faith by singling them out on their birthdays. It's time we retire Presidents Day, lest someone gets confused and thinks we're honoring Mr. Obama too.

*Rev. David Lewis*

# **Not Wrath But Rapture**

## **Part I – From Genesis to Malachi**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

Both in the Old and New Testaments, the Spirit of God speaks of a pouring out of divine wrath upon men. It is variously called, “the great tribulation,” “the time of Jacob’s trouble,” “the coming hour of temptation,” “the day of the Lord,” and other terms.

This specific period of judgment is apart from each person’s everyday trials and tribulations (John 16:33). Speaking for us all the Apostle says, “We glory in tribulation;” Christ had taught, “blessed are ye which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 5:10). So long as Satan remains the “god of this world” there will be tribulation (2 Cor. 4:3-4; Ep. 2:2-3; 1 Pet. 5:8). The world he corrupts remains in diametric opposition to God’s plan and purpose. In our time, just to live a godly life is to invite persecution (2 Tim. 3:11-12).

Yet there is one form of tribulation that God’s adopted children, the sheep of Christ’s pasture, will not suffer: the divine wrath of the “great tribulation” (Matt. 24:21; John 10:2-4, 27-28; Rev. 3:10; 1 Thes. 5:9). So we, as believers drawn to Christ, look for the “uppertaker not the undertaker;” Christ delivers us from the wrath to come (1 Thes. 1:10; 4:16-18; John 6:44).

Some have taught that the Old Testament passages referring to the great tribulation were all fulfilled in the past days of Israel’s sufferings. However, when comparing the Old Testament verses in the light of New Testament scriptures, this position becomes untenable. Equally, without support, is the teaching that the great tribulation eventuated under either pagan emperors or else under the Papal persecutions and inquisitions of the Dark Ages. These ideas all fail in light of recorded statements of Prophets and Jesus Christ indicating Jacob’s trouble is yet future.

Moses gave an ancient message to Israel (Deut. 4:25-31) “And the Lord shall scatter you.” This was literally fulfilled in 70 A.D. Moses also said, “... if thou shalt seek the Lord ... thou shalt find him ....” Though Israel was reestablished in 1948, they have returned in unbelief. This negates also the partial return from Babylon in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, but rather refers to the World-Wide present day Diaspora. One day a remnant will return, not only to the covenant land, but also to their Messiah. God promised to remember His “everlasting covenant” with Abraham and his seed (vs. 30-31). Verse 30 speaks of a tribulation in the “latter days.”

Many Psalms are pertinent to this yet future great tribulation but space does not allow exposition of these. We can consider only a few statements from Prophets.

Isaiah wrote a graphic description of the future “day of the Lord.” “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger ... the stars ... shall not give their light ... the sun darkened ... the moon shall not ... shine .... I will punish the WORLD for their evil” (13:6-13). “I will shake the heavens ... the earth shall remove out of her place.” These things are yet future.

After the great tribulation, the apostates will have been destroyed but yet a remnant will come to the Lord Jesus Christ. Not only are the unrepentant of Israel to suffer wrath, but also an arrogant world that has forgotten God will be utterly ended. This present world is rushing ahead to disaster. Isaiah again (17:4-11) gives a view of Israel in the “latter days” wherein their apostasy is readily evident.

There are secular, historical accounts of God’s fierce anger against Israel such as that of Josephus’ revelations of events in Israel and Jerusalem after it rejected the Messiah. The land had been productive and thickly populated. After Jesus Christ was rejected, God rejected the people, cast them out of the land and blasted the land. Soon enough Israel became like a desert because the land was denuded of trees and the climate changed. Today Israel has been reestablished but the Jews have returned in unbelief. Sadly they have come back to face the prophesied tribulation and know not what they must endure. We are to pray for them as lost brothers and sisters.

Jeremiah also reported, “... these are the words ... concerning Israel ... a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace ... for that day is great .. it is even “the time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jer. 30:4-9). It is important not to miss that it “is Jacob’s trouble” and not the church’s. We are having our trouble RIGHT NOW. Christians are murdered daily in our present world and evangelization is being curtailed (even in the U.S.). It is critical to distinguish between the Jews, and the gentiles, and the church of Jesus Christ; especially when prophecy is in view. The Church of Jesus Christ has been persecuted for 2,000 years.

Fortunately for the Jewish remnant, they will, through repentance and turning to Christ, be delivered at last from gentile oppression. The true Son of David will finally be recognized as their Messiah who will then be seated on David’s throne. He who was refused when he came with salvation, mercy, and grace will be received when he triumphantly returns in power and great glory.

Ezekiel also reported, “... the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand ... a stretched out arm ... will rule over you .... I will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered .... I will cause you to pass under the rod and I will bring you into the covenant .... I will purge ... the rebels ... ye shall know the Lord” (20:33-38).

God will yet bring a redeemed remnant out of the lands of the gentiles and be their shepherd. These and many other verses apply to a saved remnant of Israel and

not the church. As in the book of Daniel, that crown jewel of the Old Testament, it touches the entire period of “the times of the gentiles” (Dan. 2:28, 31-34, 40-45). “... Michael shall stand up ... for the children ... a time of trouble, such as never was ... thy people shall be delivered, every one ... found written in the book.” God has shown us that from the height of Babylon to the destruction of the revived Roman Empire (the crushed toes of iron and clay) that final “great tribulation” is future; “the latter days” (Dan. 2:28, 12:1-9).

In Daniel God showed the time of Christ’s second coming when the gentile nations are defeated and Christ rules on David’s throne (Dan. 2:35). Now regenerated Jews shall be delivered after sleeping, scatter amongst the gentiles. The remnant awakes to everlasting life, the apostate to everlasting contempt. This also refers to Moses’ tribulation of the “latter days.”

Many, many prophecies from the minor prophets could be cited but we can consider only two. “Proclaim among the gentiles ... prepare war ... beat your plowshares into swords ... assemble ... all ye heathen .. gather yourselves ... (Joel 3:9-11). This is just one of God’s calls to gentiles to come against Israel and the Jews in the “latter day.” At this greatest of wars, our Lord descends to battle, and He brings His saints of past centuries and those from the rapture with Him (1 Thes. 4:16-18).

“Behold the day of the Lord cometh ... then shall the Lord ... fight against these nations ... and His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which ... shall cleave in the midst thereof ... (Zech. 14:1-4). This undeniably is yet a future event on God’s prophetic calendar. This is not an event for the Church but for Israel and the gentile nations who will see and experience the “great tribulation” including all the terrific and startling signs in the heavens and on the earth. So terrible it will be that men will seek death but it will flee from them (Luke 23:30; Rev. 6:16, 9:6).

The Bible foretells many signs for the latter days (Matt. 24:33-34). Though many are for the tribulation period, our generation is the first to see every trend in place. False teachers abound (2 Pet. 2:1-2); they will be noted for their greed (vs. 3); mankind capable of destroying all life (Matt. 24:21-22; Zech. 14:12); a false peace will destroy many (Dan. 8:23-25); chaotic weather will be prevalent (Luke 21:25-26); many wars abound (Mark 13:7-8); violence again fills the earth (Gen. 6:11-13; Luke 17:26-29).

Men’s hearts may fail them for fear of seeing what is coming, but the children of God are told to “lift up your heads and:

Keep looking up.”  
(Luke 21:20, 25-31).

**Chief Source:** Not Wrath  
but Rapture, H. A. Ironside

# **Under His Wings**

**By Nancy Long**

Psalm 17:8 -- "....., *hide me under the shadow of **Thy wings***"

Psalm 36:7 -- "*How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of **Thy wings**.*"

Psalm 57:1 -- "*Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in Thee: yea, in the shadow of **Thy wings** will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.*"

Psalm 61:4 -- "*I will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of **Thy wings**.*"

Psalm 63:7 -- "*Because Thou hast been my help. therefore in the shadow of **Thy wings** will I rejoice.*"

Psalm 91:4 -- *He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under **His wings** shalt thou trust: .....* "

*"**Under His wings** I am safely abiding,  
Tho the night deepens and tempests are wild;  
Still I can trust Him, I know He will keep me,  
He has redeemed me, and I am His child."*

*"**Under His wings**, what a refuge in sorrow!  
How the heart yearningly turns to His rest!  
Often when earth has no balm for my healing,  
There I find comfort and there I am blest."*

***Under His wings**, O what precious enjoyment!  
There will I hide till life's trials are o'er;  
Sheltered, protected, no evil can harm me,  
Resting in Jesus I'm safe evermore."*

## Refrain

*"**Under His wings, under His wings**, Who from His love can sever?  
**Under His wings** my soul shall abide, Safely abide forever."*

William Orcott Cushing, author of the aforementioned hymn text, based on Psalm 17:8, testified to the fact that the words of this particular hymn were *"the outgrowth of many tears, many heart conflicts and yearnings of which the world could know nothing."* Cushing was a well known and prosperous Christian minister, speaking the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, during the 1800's, in a number of locations in the state of New York. His wife died at a relatively young age, after which he, himself, suffered a paralysis, which caused him to lose his voice, permanently ..... halting his preaching ministry. He was just forty-seven years old.

During this time of distress and sadness William Cushing cried out in prayer, ***"Lord, give me something that will glorify Thee."*** Most probably the answer for which he sought, and passionately desired, was for him to be able to preach again ..... but God providentially had other plans, and opened up a brand new ministry. Through those days of quiet and rest, and focusing entirely on his Lord, he found he had a gift for writing poetry ..... words that later would be turned into hymns, which are still being sung today, all over the world.

Scripture exhorts us to "count it all joy" ***when*** we fall into hard times, seasons when it "feels" as though we've lost everything ..... knowing and believing that the testing of our faith produces patience, and also trust in our Creator ..... maturing our spirits. Kenneth W. Osbeck has written in a wonderful book of inspiring hymn story devotions, *Amazing Grace* , *"In all, William Cushing wrote more than 300 gospel hymns, which have had an even wider spiritual influence than his years of successful preaching."*

We never know when we'll be facing our next conflict or challenge, or unexpected, and also unwanted, problem. We don't know about tomorrow, but we do know the One who holds it. Jesus Christ is our Rock ..... He is our refuge and shelter in the time of storms. He will never, ever leave or forsake His own (Heb. 13:5b). We are under the protection of His Almighty Wings!! May we be willing to rest in that ..... finding His perfect peace (Isaiah 26:3).

*"He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater,  
He sendeth more strength when the labors increase;  
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;  
To multiplied trials, He multiplied peace.  
When we have exhausted our store of endurance,  
When our strength has failed ere the day is half done,  
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that thy need shall exceed His provision,  
Our God ever yearns His resources to share;  
Lean hard on the arm everlasting, availing;  
The Father both thee and thy load will upbear.*

*His love has no limit; His grace has no measure.  
His pow'r has no boundary known unto men;  
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,  
**He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!***

By Annie Johnson Flint

I never cease to be amazed how our sovereign God can take the lemons of life and make the best ever lemonade! *"All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose"* (Rom. 8:28).



### **A Child's Prayer**

Dear Jesus although I'm very small  
And hardly know you much at all,  
I hope that you will hear my prayer  
Because in my heart I know you care.

Please open my eyes so I can see  
Your sovereign grace bestowed upon me.  
Give me ears so I can hear  
Your glorious truths which are so clear.

So please Lord Jesus remember me!  
Open my heart, you have the key.  
Give me your love that is so true  
And everlasting live with you.

Linda Tyson

*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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### **WRITE TO US!**

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## **Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Every Tuesday afternoon, from 1:30-2:30 PM, we are studying "Prophetic Signs of the End Times." We meet in the Fellowship Hall @ Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church, 2927 Cub Hill Road, Baltimore, MD 21234.