

The DEFENDER - April 2016

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

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



From the Director's Desk: Decisions, Decisions

This is not an article telling you who to vote for in this year's presidential election. I'm also not going to tell you who I'm voting for. Neither one of those is in my job description as a pastor. I've been called to shepherd a flock in spiritual matters, not political ones. But spiritual matters are often tested in the political arena. While it's true that we're not of this world, it's also true that we're very definitely in it.

In America we've been given the privilege of choosing our elected officials. It's a responsibility that we should not take lightly. Especially this year. So the question we need to ask is **how** should a Christian vote? Obviously we should be well informed and seek to know the truth. We must also use the Bible as our guide. Proverbs 14:34 says that "righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 29:2 adds that "when the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked rule, the people mourn." Following God's ways brings prosperity and blessing. Not doing so brings sorrow, degradation, and the judgment of God. Other things to consider are taking an uncompromising stand for the Constitution, religious liberty, and fiscal responsibility. We should stand **against** abortion and euthanasia and **for** a responsible defense of our nation. We need to refuse to be silenced by the enemies of righteousness and freedom while strongly standing for the principles which made our country great. We need to vote our Christian conscience.

Please also keep in mind, that once again, Jesus is not on the ballot this year. Which means that it may come down to voting for the lesser of two evils. Whether that's Ted Cruz, John Kasich, or Donald Trump, the Republican nominee is certain to be the lesser of two evils compared to Hillary Clinton, the presumptive choice of the Democrats. One thing is certain, and that is a vote for a third party or write-in candidate is a vote for another President Clinton. And with that, Christians would suffer under the effects of living under a radicalized, secular U.S. Supreme Court. A court that has a lot to say about our spiritual values. And a court that also will likely have five vacancies that need to be filled over the next 4-8 years. With that said, the next president will have the power to potentially create a 7-2 Supreme Court skewed in their ideology. With a liberal progressive in the White House, we may never see another conservative victory again. See you at the polls.

Rev. David Lewis

A Woman Rides the Beast

Part II – Authentication by Fulfilled Prophecy

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“And I saw a woman drunken with the blood of the saints and ... of the martyrs ...” (Rev. 17:6).

History is replete with periods of persecution of God’s chosen nation and of the church of Jesus Christ. During the Dark Ages, the visible organization that unfurled the Christian flag, persecuted, tortured and murdered Christians. Even while subjecting His own to the rod of correction, God preserved a remnant in Israel (Jer. 30:11; 31:31-36).

God’s rod upon Israel was their being exiled into Babylon accomplished by Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BC. In fulfillment of prophecy, God returned a remnant to repopulate the land in preparation for the future appearance of the promised Messiah. Centuries elapsed until that tiny window of time opened for numerous prophecies to reach consummation.

The iron legs and feet of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream represented the coming world rule from Rome. Rome had conquered Israel and was in governance when Christ was born, lived and suffered crucifixion. Forty years after Christ’s return to heaven, Israel was again exiled from their land and remained so for over nineteen hundred years.

A prophecy much debunked by destructive critics was nevertheless brought to fruition when Israel raised the Star of David flag in 1948. Interestingly, hostility, by Israel’s neighbors restarted after centuries as if on cue. Today, all eyes are focused on Jerusalem in fulfillment of Zechariah’s “cup of trembling” prediction. Many speculate as to when the “time of the Gentiles” will end and the “time of Jacob’s trouble” will begin (Luke 21:24; Jer. 30:7; Zech. 12:2-3).

Similarly, Nebuchadnezzar’s “legs and feet of iron” described by Daniel is for many Biblicists indicative of a revived Roman Empire yet future (Daniel 2:31-44).

Many specific prophecies were initiated and perfected beginning at Christ’s miraculous conception and continuing through His resurrection. From that time and even now, bizarre fabrications have been advanced to explain away the genuine historicity of consummated prophecies. The deceitfulness of man’s nature aside, God’s Word and biblical truth are more durable than an anvil surrounded by a thousand broken hammers (Jeremiah 17:9).

Hebrews were always ready for someone to restore the greatness of David’s throne and relished those promises. Few understood, let alone welcomed, a suffering slaughtered Messiah and since crucifixion only entered Israel’s realm centuries after the prophecies were penned, they could not even comprehend it. It was centuries before Rome’s rule that David and Isaiah wrote God’s prophecies. Almost no one understood that their Messiah would make two separate advents to earth. Hindsight is twenty-twenty and today we know that Christ came and defeated Satan judicially and morally two thousand years back. When Christ returns, Satan, his

puppet rulers, his armies and all unrepentant reprobates will be vanquished eternally (Ps. 22:6-8, 12-16; Isa. 9:7, 53:3-6; Zech. 9:9, 12:10).

Future predictions were as difficult for them then as they are for students today. Even when Jesus clarified His teachings of coming events (including His crucifixion) few comprehended. Dullness prevented most from understanding that Daniel had recorded the exact date of Christ's triumphal entry on Palm Sunday and that Zechariah had also supplied details and that Malachi's prophecies required a temple still standing (Dan. 9; Zech. 9; Micah 5:2; Mal. 3:1).

For centuries none could know that Israel's legal right to capital punishment (stoning) would be outlawed when Christ was upon the earth nor that the temple would be totally destroyed forty years later as Christ prophesied (Matt. 24:2).

The Romans practiced crucifixion in perfect fulfillment of scripture – Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. Roman mentality gave vinegar to Christ, placed Him between thieves, gambled for His robe and pierced His side. Christ gave up “the ghost” by His own power and will, thus preventing the breaking of His bones (Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; John 19:36).

Bible-honoring teachers conclude that Daniel's God-inspired interpretation of the King's dream depicted four kingdoms: Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon, the coming Medes and Persians, the reign of Greece initiated by Alexander the Great and finally the Roman Empire. Of these, Rome will rise from history past represented by the ten toes of iron mixed with clay. This revived empire will be led by the Antichrist and will be a combined world-wide religious and political governance. John saw this as a beast mounted by a purple and scarlet clad, blood swilling woman. As in ancient Rome, resisters will be killed (Revelation 13:15).

Antichrist, colluding with apostatized Christian leaders and those of other religions, will reinstitute a modern version of ancient Rome's Emperor worship when he declares himself to be deity requiring worship. Millions will adore him.

In John's vision the name Babylon was written on the forehead of the woman riding the beast. Babylon was the first in Daniel's vision of four beasts and its dominating evil influence extends into the succeeding three kingdoms and reappears in full bloom at the end of the age (Daniel 7).

Consider it's possible soon coming in the following example. In 1993, 6000 representatives of the world's faiths met in Chicago. The Dalai Lama called for “spiritual awakening.” Chuck Colson was awarded for his ecumenical endeavors. For the first time, representatives of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Catholicism, the World Council of Churches and countless others met together. Followers of Wicca (witchcraft) performed a full-moon ritual. Defying Christ's great commission, all agreed not to proselytize each other's adherents. Since that time denominations have even apologized for bringing Christ's message as when the United Church of Christ apologized for witnessing to Jews ([Matthew 28:19-20).

From the outset of God's dealing with mankind, He separated the Regnum (political rule) from the sacerdotium (religious rule), the proper separation of Church and State. In pagan

lands, these were always combined under one head as sacral societies. In a sacral society every person must actively conform to the combined church and state ordained sacraments; no exceptions. Nebuchadnezzar, for instance, commanded all to bow to his image when the music played or be killed. What one believed or what their conscience held was irrelevant.

God, however, wants the hearts, minds and souls of those who trust in and believe His Word. God in His sovereignty calls elect sinners, man in his responsibility responds to the call. Sacraments serve only as acknowledgements of God's grace already present in the lives of believers.

God raised up Moses to lead politically but Aaron was called to lead in all facets of worship. God required strict adherence to all particulars and to the division instituted in worship. Violations of God's commands cost the lives of Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu. Uzziah, king of Israel, intruded into worship and was struck with leprosy, and Saul was removed from being king (Lev. 10:1-2; I Sam. 15:10-23; II Chron. 26:16-21).

God's words are not pliable for those bringing liberalizing notions. Of this Eve could testify. Cain insisted on his deviant way but God only passes over sin when he sees the blood as with Abel's sacrifice. This is the only God-given covering for sin (Gen. 2:17; 3:6, 21; 4:3-8; Ex. 12:3-13; Heb. 9:22; Rev. 1:5).

Scripture points to but one acceptable atonement for the sins of mankind, the Cross of Jesus Christ. For just this alone, there can be no basis for compromising dialogue with any other religion.

Startlingly, both Catholic and Protestant seminaries and their leaders are fellowshiping with the leaders of and adopting doctrines from Hinduism, Buddhism and New Age belief systems. At least for these free thinkers, Christ's work was not as He said, finished. Some are espousing concepts such as obtaining a "Christ consciousness" and reaching the spirit realm through eastern religions' meditative practices. The practice of yoga is now accepted. The spirits reached are not the Holy Spirit, however.

Several years back, notables including John Paul II, the Dalai Lama, Anwar el-Sadat (Muslim) and U Thant (Buddhist) formed the Temple of Understanding and a United Nations sponsored religion. Could this be a forerunner of John's prophecy in Revelation of the religious/political entity represented by the woman of scarlet and purple upon the beast? Will this lead to the time when believing in and proclaiming God's absolute truth will be anti-societal. A hate crime, maybe?

Christ's exclusive Gospel is always applicable in every situation and everywhere. Especially so as "we see that day approaching." Christ's message was, "I work the work of Him that sent Me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Keep looking up.

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He Giveth More Grace

By Nancy Long

Psalm 57:10 -- *For Thy mercy is great unto the heavens, and Thy truth unto the clouds."*

Isaiah 40:29 -- *"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increases strength."*

1 Cor. 1:3b & 4 -- *"..... our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted by God."*

2 Cor. 4:17 -- *"For our light affliction which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."*

2 Cor. 9:8 -- *"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."*

2 Cor. 12:9 -- *"And He said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in weakness'. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."*

James 4:6a -- *"But He giveth more grace"*

1 Peter 5:10 -- *"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."*

Jude 2 -- *"Mercy unto you, and peace and love, be multiplied."*

He Giveth More Grace

*He giveth more grace when the burden grows greater;
He sendest more strength when the labors increase.
To added affliction He addeth His mercy;
To multiplied trials, His 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 arms everlasting, awaiting;
The Father, both thee, and the load, will up bear."*

Refrain

*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!*

Words - Annie Johnson Flint

Music -- Hubert Mitchell

Annie Johnson Flint was born on Christmas Eve, 1866, in Vineland, NJ. Before Annie had even reached her third birthday, her mother had died giving birth to her baby sister. Her father, suffering from an incurable disease himself, succumbed a few years later, leaving Annie orphaned before the age of six a sweet little girl, only a handful of years old, who had already suffered such a huge and devastating loss.

Annie and her sister were soon adopted by the Flint Family, who treated the girls with much love, bringing them up in the Baptist faith. Here again though, another sad happening, both adopted mother and father died, around the time the sisters reached adulthood, leaving the girls, once again, parentless. Annie became a teacher, but had to leave her chosen profession because of many maladies, in particular, a severe case of crippling rheumatoid arthritis, deforming her to the point that she was unable to walk, being practically bedridden for about forty years. Her aspirations to be a composer and a concert pianist came to naught, since her twisted fingers could barely move. She mostly used her knuckles to write on the typewriter. **God** hadn't stopped working though, He just had another purpose!

Annie lived most of her life in an environment filled with pain, not only emotionally and psychologically, but also physically. Despite this, though, Annie was able to write some of the most amazing poems, some of which were turned into music, about the magnificent, as well as the more than sufficient, grace of God..

Does this mean that God works only through brokenness and pain to display the power of His amazing grace? Are we not able to see clearly the marvelous grace of God, unless we're hurting?

Surely we humans are able to see God's love and mercy through the dailies and details of our lives. We only need to turn our heads to see the beauty and magnitude of God's creation **"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shewing His handiwork"** (Psalm 19:1). The warmth of His sun the beauty of His leaves seasonally changing colors, the splendid display of cherry blossoms in Washington, DC, creating an unforgettable experience for all who see the power of His wind and water, often destroying entire areas. Things which are so clearly seen, we really are without excuse here (Rom. 1:20).

God's love, His mercy, tenderness and compassion, perhaps can be seen in some ways, through His creation design but His grace, His **more than ample grace**, is, I would think, a topic that is quite unfathomable **unless** our hearts are aching. **"When we've reached the end of our hoarded resources, our Father's full giving is only begun."** When we are at our lowest God 's grace ministers!!

"If none of God's saints were poor and tried, we would not know half so well the consolation of God's grace."

"God's grace is illustrated and magnified in the poverty and trials of believers."

"The God who has been sufficient until now can be trusted to the end."
(Charles Haddon Spurgeon)

*"God has not promised skies always blue,
flower-strewn pathways all our lives through;
God has not promised sun without rain,
joy without sorrow, peace without pain.
But God has promised strength for the day,
rest for the labor, light for the way,
Grace for the trials, help from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love."*
(Annie Johnson Flint)

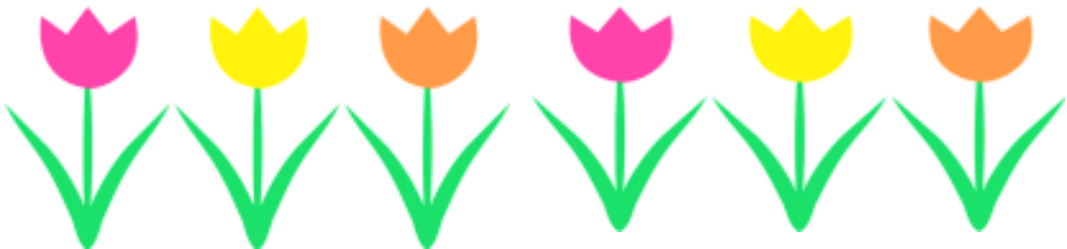
"Once a little girl found a cocoon hanging from a limb in the forest. She took it to her room and placed it in a jar, expecting one day to see a butterfly emerge. One day, she saw the butterfly within the cocoon trying to get out. It was struggling and trying to push out of the tight opening. In an effort to try and help the poor insect, she very carefully slit open the cocoon. After that, the butterfly was able to easily exit the cocoon. But, a strange thing happened. Instead of spreading two beautiful wings, the butterfly had two withered, shriveled, useless, ugly wings hanging by its side. Why?

God designed the butterfly and his cocoon so that the tight opening would straighten and strengthen his wings. Without the pressure of the tight opening, the butterfly was robbed of the beauty of his wings, and more importantly, he was robbed of the ability to fly into the heavens. He was condemned to a life of walking around on the ground!"

We, who are children of God, who have been saved by His grace, absolutely need the struggles, the pressures, and the trials of this life. We must be chiseled and shaped by the Master Designer/Potter if we are going to develop into all that God has saved us to be.

God never promised or guaranteed us a life without pain, a life without problems or days void of difficulties, obstacles, misery or grief. In fact, we have been told just the opposite (John 16:33). What He did promise us, though, is **His** Presence **His** all sufficient grace and **His** permanent, lasting, and abiding perfect peace.

Annie Johnson Flint's faith never wavered. Her last words before closing her eyes in death were, "*I have nothing to say It's alright.*" Praise God, His grace is sufficient for anything. His strength is made perfect in our weakness. Thy will be done!



A Stone's Throw Away—By Hank Arthur

Stephen saw the look in their eyes; he saw the stones in their hands.
He knew his words had cut them deep; he knew their murderous plans.
In that moment, as he looked around, knowing this was his last day,
Stephen looked up and saw Jesus waiting; heaven was just a stone's
throw away.

He said, "I see Jesus, standing at the Father's right hand."
Then, the stones rained down upon him, that faithful, godly man.
He said, "Father, please forgive them, for what they've done this day,
'cause, Lord, I'm coming home now, heaven is just a stone's throw away."

Stephen was strong in his faith; he stood for all that's right.
His enemies could take his life, but they couldn't put out his light.
Down thru the years his story lives, his lamp burning brighter each day,
because he would not let it go out, when heaven was just a stone's throw away.

The Difference—By Hank Arthur

On a beautiful hill, just outside of town, stands a cross, sad and forlorn.
His arms now empty, show stains from the body it had held, which was
beaten and torn.

The sign was still there, for all to see. Here hangs the King of the Jews.
Sunday is dawning, life must go on, but wait, here is someone with news.

It's empty, it's empty, they've taken him away; the tomb was empty just now.

The stone was moved, the tomb was empty, but it all seemed
different somehow.

The sun is shining and birds are singing, the shadows creep 'cross the floor.

The old rugged cross made the difference, nothing will ever be the
same any more.

Jesus suffered and died on Calvary, then rose triumphant from the grave.

He bore our sins and paid our debt, our poor lost souls to save.

When we stand before God at the judgement, and are asked what we
have to say,

Jesus will answer, "The old rugged cross made the difference, there's
nothing for him to pay."

Natural Born Citizen?

By Kevin Bruffey

For the third presidential election in a row the topic of natural born citizenship has arisen due to certain candidates running. No one seems to know what it means. Many have an idea but aren't quite sure. Is a person good if they're born here regardless if their parents are citizens? What if they were born overseas and one parent was a citizen? Or does it take two parents to make them a natural born citizen?

It's important to ask these questions because Article 2, Section 1, of the Constitution requires those who run for president to be natural born citizens. Worth noting is the distinction between the founder's requirement for Executive vs. Congress in that office holders for both Houses are simply required to be citizens. For example a citizen could mean someone who comes here from another country, goes through all the proper channels, establishes residency and officially becomes a citizen. A person in this case is also called a naturalized citizen. The 14th Amendment recognizes cases in which a person born of two parents who aren't yet citizens but are here legally. These people are citizens for they were born subject to the jurisdiction or under the legality of our country.

A natural born citizen is a person born of two citizens. When framing the Constitution the founders recognized situations in which two citizens could be abroad at the time of their of child's birth. As affirmed by The Naturalization Act of 1790 those children were granted citizenship without the need to be naturalized. The only caveat was the father must have resided in the United States for some time. Since the founders wrote the Constitution during a time of transition for our country, they also allowed people to be president provided they were simply citizens at the time the Constitution was written. The requirement in Article 2, Section 1, states: *No person except a natural born Citizen, or a Citizen of the United States, at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President...*

The founding fathers were influenced by a Judeo-Christian worldview, legal scholars, economists, and philosophers including Plato. One particular Swiss Scholar who they owed a huge debt to was Emmerich de Vattel. It's in his book, Law of Nations, in which they derive the meaning for natural born citizen. In the 19th chapter Vattel states: *"The citizens are the members of the civil society; bound to this society by certain duties, and subject to its authority, they equally participate in its advantages. The natives, or natural-born citizens, are those born in the country, of parents who are citizens."* He strongly emphasizes the need for the perpetuation of society to be based on citizenship derived from parents who are citizens themselves. Vattel states that a person will follow their father's citizenship so even if they are born in our country they will be tied to their father's native land. While there is no evidence of granting natural born citizenship to children of citizens overseas in Vattel's writings, the concept of following the father's citizenship led to this accommodation in the Naturalization Act of 1790 and in other decisions.

Vattel enlightened the fathers in a number of ways. His writings stressed the sovereignty of nations and the essentials of a republic. As he put it, *"fundamental principle of republican government, which admits the right of the people to alter or abolish the established Constitution, whenever they find it inconsistent with their happiness."* This quote was used by Alexander Hamilton in Federalist 78. John Adams looked to Vattel's sentiment for limiting legislative power by establishing procedures for amending the constitution. In fact, Vattel with his Law of Nations was the most popular contributor to the founder's writings. Law of Nations was used as a textbook in colleges and was often quoted in speeches before judicial tribunals and legislatures, and used in formulating policy. Vattel was one of the most quoted sources by the delegates during the First Continental Congress. After Ben Franklin received three copies of Law of Nations from his colleague Charles Dumas, he sent him a thank you note in which he stressed its importance during the time of the nation's founding.

So, why should we insist that our candidates, and in turn our presidents, be natural born citizens? Well, first of all we as citizens and government officials need to play by the rules. Despite the constitution being over 200 years old, it's still the rule book for which we are to be governed. There may be some who don't like the definition of natural born citizen as laid out here. As Vattel taught, there is the option to amend the constitution which is detailed in the constitution itself. With that in mind, the only reason that a person should be president who isn't a natural born citizen as described above is because the Constitution has been amended. That requirement, of course, hasn't changed by the way of amending, so we should continue in the way the founders have stipulated.

As indicated, loyalty is extremely important for a president who is our commander-in-chief. The founders' requirement for two parents being citizens is a great way to insist on loyalty for as Vattel insisted people tend to follow the citizenship of their father. It's one thing to only require simple citizenship for a congressman, for they are one of many, but we only have one leader to preside over the executive branch. The president is the first leader people think of when they look to our civil government, whether they're in our country or outside of our borders. He is our key head of state which means he is the one we look to represent us before other nations. Furthermore, they as indicated are the commander-in-chief of our military, which is another reason we can't take risks with loyalty.

Natural born citizenship also helps ensure loyalty to our country's values and a commitment to what makes our country exceptional. Two parents as citizens helps to build a foundation of our core values for their children born after them. While natural born citizenship doesn't guarantee an exceptional presidency, it does lay an important foundation for a person to hold the highest position in our government.

Another reason for natural born citizenship is that it is linked to the Bible. In Deuteronomy 17:15 the Israelites are told to appoint a King of their own people. If this command is important enough for God's people then it is important enough for us as well. In keeping with the command which once again instructed them to appoint from their own people, the only way to ensure that in our age is to elect a president from two parents who are both citizens, for then we know they are truly one of us.

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!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Evening Youth Group	7:00 PM