

# The DEFENDER - July 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: Let Freedom Ring

Happy Birthday America! The land of the free and the home of the brave turns 240 this month. Only God knows for sure how many years we have left, but we're starting to show our age. I pray the bells of freedom will continue to ring, although unless God blesses us, I fear the foundation which has begun to crumble, will continue to fall apart. One of the hallmarks of a strong foundation is our national security. And two of the pillars which support that security are no longer trustworthy. Our military is inadequate; both undermanned and outdated. And our borders resemble a sieve, with people flowing through them at an unprecedented rate. Add to that a stagnant economy with little hope for improvement and you have a nation which appears to be, to borrow a nautical term, dead in the water.

Can America return to its glory days? Not without the hand of God. If the Almighty Creator of the universe, the Supreme Being of all time and space and all that is within it, can number the hairs on every head, and know when every bird falls from the sky, is it not possible that He has ruled in the affairs of men, choreographed the very movement of entire nations and peoples, and prepared a land, blessing it mightily, for a testimony to His faithfulness and goodness? I submit to you that He has: The United States of America.

For our legacy to continue, however, we need to turn our collective hearts back to God. Hear the words of Thomas Jefferson who said, "God, who gave us life, gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever." I tremble for my country as well, as I believe God's patience and long-suffering may be nearing an end.

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said that "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). God blessed America at its founding. And He is still able to hear the cries of the righteous from heaven, forgive our national sins, heal our land, and give us back our country. Will He do that? Will we forsake our ways and seek to follow His? Time will tell, but time may be running out.

*Rev. David Lewis*

## **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jerusalem Part II – From Now to the Millennium**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

Isaiah's prophecy provides a picture of Jerusalem's (ZION) future during the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth from the Holy eternal city. The coming full reconstruction of Jerusalem and Israel will yield economic and religious freedom for God's chosen nation. "And they shall build the old wastes ... the former desolations ... the waste cities ... of many generations ... ye shall be named Priests of the Lord ... ye shall have double ... For I the Lord love judgment [JUSTICE] ... I will make an Everlasting Covenant with them" (Is. 61:4-9).

Revelation 21 and 22 describe Jerusalem during Christ's future reign as a city of peace and tranquility where doors and gates will never be locked. "And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there ... they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it. And there shall be no ... thing that defileth neither ... abomination, or ... a lie: but they ... written in the Lamb's book of life" (21:25-27).

Jerusalem will experience periods of peace followed by wars during the times Christ described in Matthew (24:21). "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no nor ever shall be." Jerusalem historically is a city that has repeatedly swung from peace to war and so it will be before and during the Tribulation. Disasters described in Revelation 6, 8 and 9 (seals and trumpet judgments) will befall it when the "day of the Lord" commences.

Some futurist theologians believe that, at a point during the tribulation, Israel will experience the adversities and turbulences of Ezekiel 38 and 39 – the Northern armies of Gog and Magog that will be destroyed by God's divine intervention "upon Israel's mountains" (38:17-23).

All teach that in the last of the tribulation, armies will be fighting in Israel and Jerusalem up to the very day of Christ's second coming. Zechariah wrote: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh ... I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle and the city shall be taken ... Then the Lord shall go forth and fight against those nations ... his feet shall stand ... upon the Mount of Olives ... before Jerusalem ... the Mount of Olives shall cleave [split] ... there shall be a great valley ... the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee" (14:1-5).

The Lord brings to the inhabitants of Jerusalem His supernatural strength and a final total victory. "In that day shall the Lord defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem ... the angel of the Lord before them ... to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem ... And I will pour upon the house of David ... the spirit of grace ... they shall look upon me whom they have PIERCED, and they shall mourn for him, as for an only son ... for his firstborn..." (Zech. 12:8-10).

Daniel's visions inform us that there will be political and religious deception initiated by "that man of sin" (2 Thes. 2:3) and this Antichrist will make a political covenant with Israel (Dan. 9:24-27). During the first three and one half years of the tribulation, this pact will bring a degree of stabilization in the Middle East. At the mid-point of the seven years, the Antichrist will desecrate the temple just as Jesus prophesied (Matt. 24:15) which will be followed by a time of devastation and death never before seen nor ever will again (vs. 21-22). No one knows how, but God will actually "shorten" the days themselves and of course, this exact thing has not yet occurred. Some believe this man of sin will be active in the affairs of the city of Jerusalem but he will turn its prosperity into persecution.

There is prophesied a coming third temple in Jerusalem (the materials have already been assembled). It will be the "Tribulation Temple" (Dan. 9:27; Matt. 24:15-16; 2 Thes. 2:3-4; Rev. 11:1-2). This yet future temple will foster greater religious fervor among the Jews and will help to prepare Israel for their eventual recognition of Jesus Christ as their Messiah at His second coming at last.

The visions given to the Apostle John pointed to those unusual two witnesses (Rev. 11:1-14) who will preach the gospel for 1,260 days during the tribulation. Raised up by God, these two will make their proclamations safely for three and one half years but then will be killed by the Antichrist. Their bodies will lie in the streets for three and one half days. God will resurrect them and rapture them to heaven. A great earthquake will occur and thousands will perish. When God has the "last word," everyone hears it.

These two witnesses are prophets of doom for Jerusalem, the city where the crucifixion of the Messiah Jesus Christ occurred (Rev. 11:8). The references to Sodom and Egypt in this verse implies that Jerusalem is not yet the "Holy City" because it once again receives the blood of God's martyred prophets.

Revelation 17 and 18 point to a revived form of "Babylon" during the tribulation. Many prophecy scholars believe this revived Babylon is a world-wide religious movement while others also think an economic or commercial center will be related to the old historical city. One thing is indisputable, its absolute abolishment is assured. This modern version of Babylon will be destroyed in a single day (Rev. 18:8-10, 17-29). It will no longer exist once Christ wins the war of Armageddon and the Millennium begins. Babylon's destruction was also prophesied in the Old Testament but was never completely eradicated (Isaiah chapters 13, 14 and 47; Jeremiah chapters 50 and 51). Certainly the Antichrist spirit of Babylon still brings adversity and animosity of God's elect.

Whether Armageddon is a single day's battle or a campaign, there will be intense fighting in Jerusalem (Zech. 14:1-3). Jerusalem's only permanent security will happen only at the return of the "Prince of Peace" (Is. 9:6) the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We have scripture for where the Lord will first reappear. We have the angel's prophecy: "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven, this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, so shall come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). Zechariah tells us, "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives" (Zech. 14:4). Christ also gave His great prophetic message from that Mount (Matthew chapters 24 and 25).

Many prophecy scholars believe the rapture of Christ's elect (His "body" the church) occurs before the seven-year tribulation (1 Thes. 4:14-17). At the rapture, Jesus does not return to the earth but meets His church in the air. At the actual world-shaking Second Coming, Christ returns to earth itself with His saints – the church (Zech. 14:4-5; Matt. 24:27-31).

Christ returns to earth and re-establishes the Throne and rule of David in Jerusalem where He will judge the nations and establish His Millennial kingdom (Rev. 20). Now at last the Old Testament prophecies of a coming Messiah-King will be realized. He will rule at last as King of kings and Lord of lords (Is. 2:1-4, 9:7; Zech. 9:10, etc.). Now Israel will experience her full and final regathering (Ez. 39:25-29; Amos 9:14-15). Christ's coming reign will be glorious (Jer. 23:5-8; Zech. 6:12-13).

As hard as it is to comprehend, all the land from Jerusalem outward will become a plain (Zech. 14:10). Jerusalem will be elevated and will better accommodate the Temple and all the world's people will be drawn to worship God and His Son Jesus Christ. Ezekiel's vision assumes the presence of Jerusalem by his extensive description of the coming third temple (Ez. Chapters 40-48). He mentions life giving waters that will flow out of the Temple that will renew the Dead Sea into a fresh water reservoir (Ez. 47:1-2) and will be a great giver of life (6-12). Now at last the Adamic and Noahic curses are forever abolished.

During the Millennium, Jerusalem will be the CENTER of all human activity especially the worship of our King Jesus Christ, and blessings will flow as a river. Nothing will ever again come between a loving Heavenly Father and His elect children (Jer. 33:15-16, 20-22; Zech. 14:16, 20-21).

Keep looking up.

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# Sheltered

By Nancy Long

Psalm 18:2a -- *"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer;  
my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; .....*

Psalm 31:1a -- *In Thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; .....*

Psalm 32:7 -- *"Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from  
trouble; Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance."*

Psalm 61:2b -- *"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."*

Psalm 62:7b -- *"..... The Rock of my strength, and my Refuge, is in God."*

Psalm 89:9 -- *"Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof  
arise, Thou stillest them."*

Psalm 94:22 -- *"But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my  
refuge."*

Isaiah 25:4 -- *"For Thou hast been ..... a refuge from the storm ....."*

Matthew 8: 23-27 -- *"And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples  
followed Him. And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea,  
insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was  
asleep. And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying,  
Lord, save us: we perish. And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful,  
O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the  
sea; and there was a great calm. But the men marvelled, saying,  
What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!"*

## A Shelter in the Time of Storm

The Lord's our Rock, in Him we hide, A shelter in the time of storm;  
Secure whatever ill betide, A shelter in the time of storm.

A shade by day, defense by night, A shelter in the time of storm;  
No fears alarm, no foes affright, A shelter in the time of storm.

The raging storms may round us beat, A shelter in the time of storm;  
We'll never leave our safe retreat, A shelter in the time of storm.

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear, A shelter in the time of storm;  
Be Thou our helper ever near, A shelter in the time of storm.

Chorus -- O, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A weary land, a weary land;  
O, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A shelter in the time of storm.

Text -- Vernon J. Charlesworth -- 1880, but adapted by Ira D. Sankey

Music -- Ira D. Sankey --1885

We believers face, and are tossed about by, life's "storms" every single day. They may be health related, or emotional, or mental, psychological, or even spiritual challenges ..... financial struggles, complicated relationships ..... crises of all sorts. We get hit from all sides, often with more than one at a time ..... bombarded, it seems. Should we be surprised, though? Should we be taken unaware? Jesus spoke very distinctly when He said, "*..... In the world ye shall have tribulation: (trouble, misery, sorrow, grief) but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33b).

Our sovereign God, appropriately, and in **His** time, **sends** the storms and trials of life, each designed for a purpose ..... every last one providentially prepared to draw us believers, those of us who are His children, closer to Himself. Isn't that where we really want to be anyway ..... sheltered by His love, nestled in His everlasting arms ..... safe and secure from any harm??

Look at the small bird in the picture below ..... not a care in the world, just waiting, and resting, until the storm is over, so he can soar once again. We, I think, miss a lot of what the Lord has for us ..... His perfect peace, tranquility, and rest, when we refuse to stop, and wait on Him ..... when we continue to set our affection and attention on the "problem", rather than the One who designed it to help us grow in grace and knowledge of Himself.



There's no need to worry or fret, or wring hands over the "what ifs" of life. We have been given the faith to believe in the Supreme Creator and Ruler of the universe. We **know** the One who holds tomorrow!! We have been given grace sufficient by the One who is our Rock, steady, unchanging, surrounding us with His love and promise of protection, in the midst of any ..... and every storm we encounter!! We are not promised or guaranteed a life devoid of storms, but we are assured a sanctuary in the midst of them. God is on the throne, sovereignly governing all things. Earth's struggles soon will cease. The winds and waves may knock us around a bit, but so reads the hymn, "Hiding in Thee", written by lyricist, William O. Cushing, *"In the tempests of life, on its wide heaving sea, Thou blest Rock of Ages, I'm hiding in Thee."*

Peace in the midst in the storm ..... Praise God, we can have it!! Take rest in the arms of Jesus.

**IF GOD could close the mouths of the lions for Daniel, part the Red Sea for Moses, make the sun stand still for Joshua, open the prison for Peter, put a baby in the arms of Sarah, and raise Lazarus from the dead THEN He can certainly take care of you! NOTHING you are facing today is too hard to Him to handle!**

# **We Have No Choice**

**By Kevin Bruffey**

For 2016 the two major political parties have not given voters a credible choice worthy of our vote. On the Democrat side we have Hillary Clinton, the liberal whom conservatives have loved to hate for decades. Her claims to fame are that she has been mired in scandal of some sort for her entire career and like other liberals firmly believes that government is the answer to society's problems. Then this year, the Republicans proved how swift they are by nominating Donald Trump, a man whom throughout his career, whenever asked to take a political stance has sided with the left evidenced by supporting late term abortion and same sex marriage. While many want to give him the benefit of the doubt because of the strong conservative stances he has taken since beginning his run for president others are skeptical as they heed Paul's warning to Timothy about appointing a young convert to leadership who hasn't been tested.

There is one issue that Clinton and Trump share and that is their support for state sponsored gambling. This is an issue that seems to fly under the radar but deserves attention from the public due to the many ways gambling affects individuals, families, businesses, and the community at large. Some comparison studies show that gambling has greater impact costs than drugs and alcohol. One reason is because the casinos make deliberate accommodations for gamblers. The chairs placed in front of slot machines are deliberately made ergonomically comfortable for players. The images on the terminals entice players to continue playing which has led some to engage for hours on end. Many casinos don't have windows to ensure gamblers will focus their attention on the games inside the casino.

Money can be lost in a relatively quick period of time with gambling which makes it dangerous and quite damaging. Players wager their money on chance thinking they can win big quickly. This also involves poor stewardship because they are exchanging their resources for the possibility of getting a return, not a certainty. Better stewardship of resources would involve going to a shoe store, for example and getting a pair of shoes in return for money given to the business.

Exchanging resources for chance as described above involves putting one's hope in the wrong things. Biblically, one should work to obtain fruit as the Lord established in Genesis 3:19 in which He told Adam that he will obtain bread by the sweat of his brow. Seeking to profit from chance is also stealing because it involves gain without providing anything in return. In fact, with gambling the gain is also at someone else's expense for in a gambling exchange one person always walks away

with more than they had to start with while another person walks away with less. Contrast that with the shoe store example where one party walks away with a pair of shoes and the other gains revenue which means both sides benefit.

So, in essence gambling appeals to the flesh. Our worldly side would not work and sacrifice in order to gain which is God's order. Proverbs 13:11 addresses the consequences of this by telling us that wealth gained by vanity shall be diminished but on the contrary points out the fruits of obedience by stating that gathering by labor will lead to increase.

As mentioned, gambling involves stealing since each player has no intention of providing the other anything of value. Therefore, the other person's needs and welfare are not being considered. This is especially pragmatic when large sums of money are involved and people with addictions are playing. Being a loving neighbor as Jesus commanded certainly involves considering the impact our actions have on those around us.

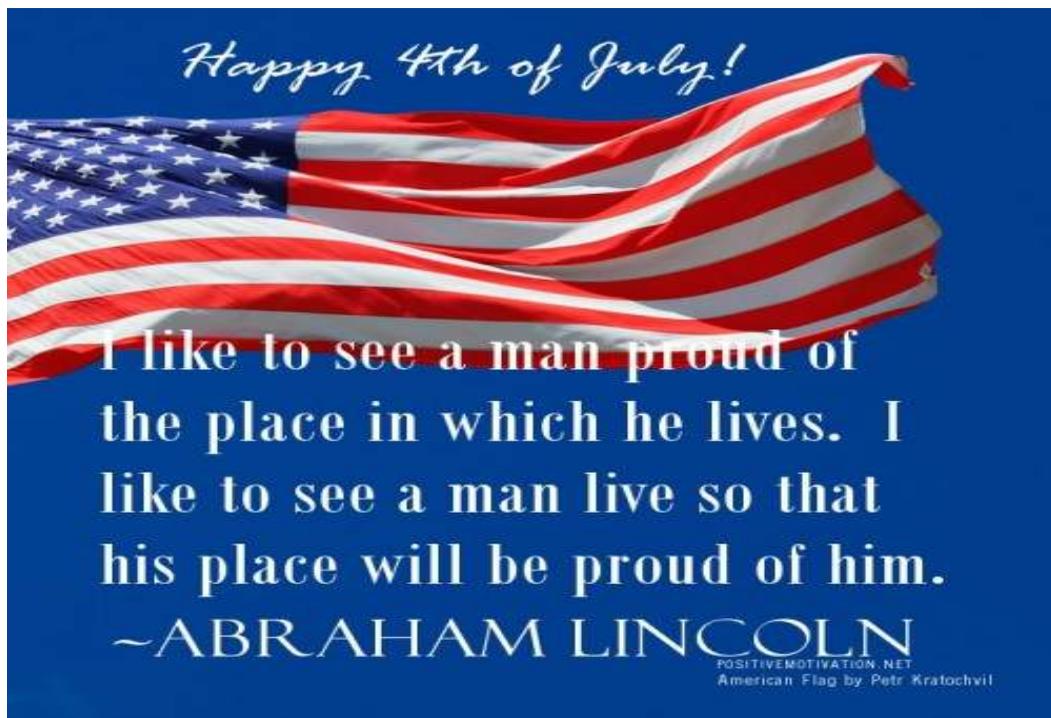
By our flesh, we also don't turn to God for our security though in the Doxology we're told to praise God from whom all blessings flow. If people adhered to that principal state lotteries would have far fewer customers. We know that our salvation comes by grace through faith as we're told in Ephesians 2: 8. 1 Peter 1:4 states that we have an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled that does not fade away which is reserved in heaven. Jesus also told us that He will lose none of all that the Father has given Him, John 6:39. With that in mind, a person who entices others to gamble especially for games involving big prizes only leads them astray and away from the true hope found in the Lord. In fact, I'd venture to say those leading others to gamble are propagating a false gospel for our hope does not reside in material riches. After all, even if a person wins a big jackpot, they can't take it with them to heaven.

As far as Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton are concerned with respect to gambling, their involvement isn't exactly the same. Trump stands out amongst all the presidential candidates this cycle because for decades he ran casinos in both Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Clinton, while opposing gambling expansion as First Lady of Arkansas in 1984 when her husband was governor, went on to support gambling expansion for New York when she ran for U.S. Senate in that state. In 2008 she showed support for the government regulating online gambling which, while well intended by many, does not prevent the social impact of gambling. Both candidate's support for gambling is a red flag considering the cronyism created when government intermingles with gambling interests. Often times state governments will take measures to prop up casinos at the taxpayer's expense.

There's also a broader matter. Civil leaders are in power to promote the people's interest. To put it more specifically, they're to protect our God-given rights and punish wrong-doers. For this to occur, a leader must be a respecter of persons and fear God. Pushing an agenda for gambling as both candidates have already done shows a lack of respect for the citizenry. I question how much they value our liberty when I consider a stance for state sponsored gambling places the government's interests ahead of the people's.

There are many instances of character that can be addressed for both candidates. Hillary Clinton saying, 'what does it matter?' when asked about the four servicemen killed in Benghazi or the careless use of a private e-mail server which put classified military data at risk. Then there's Donald Trump who still insists that there's nothing wrong with using eminent domain for private use though it is prohibited in the Constitution which our founding fathers were wise to stipulate, knowing the cronyism it would lead to. Trump's prideful arrogance and demeaning attitude are also a concern. The scriptures tell us that those who exalt themselves will be humbled, Matthew 23:12 and that pride comes before destruction, Proverbs 16:18.

In the Book of Acts, Paul used his Roman Citizenship to advance the Gospel. Considering how he used his for good, let's consider ways we can use ours that does not involve supporting these candidates.



## **America**

America I love you, land of my birth.  
America I love you, the greatest land on earth.  
I love your mountains, majesty, and the seashores sparkling white.  
I love to see the sunrise, chase away the dark of night.  
Then, see Old Glory waving, o'er the land of the free.  
Yes, America I love you, you are home to me.  
America, dear America, I pledge to you my all,  
And I pray that God will bless you, and never let you fall.

Hank Arthur

## **Take Back America**

Political correctness is proclaimed throughout our land today,  
And there's a perpetual backsliding sweeping over the U.S. of A.  
Gullible people have meekly accepted the leadership of godless men,  
They stood back and quietly allowed the legislation of sin.

When the laws of our country oppose the Word of the Lord,  
We find ourselves standing under the shadow of His sword.  
Yes, He is God of love, but if you will only look,  
It is written, He will punish evil, it is written on the pages of His book.

Speak out against abortion, and against homosexuality.  
Don't wait for someone else to speak, it's up to you and me.  
Stand up for righteous living, and petition God above.  
We can take back America, through prayer and Christian love.

Hank Arthur

*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
Outdoor Movie Night (July 15th)	8:00 PM