

# The DEFENDER - August 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: Putting Together the Right Team**

Who you associate with says a lot about who you are. Successful people are often surrounded by others who are like-minded. You see it in the business world, in sports, in the church, and of course, in politics. People are quick to criticize Chick-fil-A, but even with being closed on Sundays, they've moved past all the other fast food restaurants and into first place. With the Cathy family, their Christian faith is the common denominator for their successful operation. They abide by God's commands and He has obviously blessed them. It can work the same way in the church, if God's people are putting *Him* first, rather than themselves. We've been blessed here at Cub Hill with a Session that does just that, and God has used our small church in mighty ways, both locally and around the world.

But there are other ties that bind people or organizations together for success. In the sports arena you often hear talk of teams having the right chemistry, or camaraderie. When everyone is pulling in the same direction, aiming for the same goal, they're often rewarded with success. The 1980 U.S. Olympic Ice Hockey team's victory over the Soviet Union comes to mind. That brings us to the political realm, where the sum is not always equal to its parts. Many individuals are cutthroats, backstabbers, and liars, but because they all have an agenda that the party's platform supports, they find a way to get along. And often succeed.

Which brings us to the presidential election this year. The campaign of 2016 is proving to be unlike any other. Neither candidate is universally well-liked meaning there is no clear-cut favorite in this race. Compound that with an electorate that shows no party loyalty, and the election may be up for grabs. What might be of interest, especially to the readers of a Christian newsletter, is what kind of team will surround each presidential hopeful. With Hillary Clinton it seems as though America will get something similar to a third Barack Obama term. In other words, more of the same. Loretta Lynch, in all likelihood, will continue as Attorney General, and John Kerry may do the same as Secretary of State. Other appointees may lean left of Lenin, in order to appease the Bernie Sanders crowd. No one in that group is exciting to me as a born again believer. On the other hand, Donald Trump is surrounding himself with folks who are pro-life and pro-Constitution, meaning the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendments should be safe. He also has promised to appoint conservative Supreme Court justices, and that gives me hope. Ultimately, we know it's the Lord who places and removes people from power (**Daniel 2:21**). His choice this year could signal continued judgment or a reprieve for our land. I pray your vote is pleasing to the Lord.

Rev. David Lewis

## **Turn Your Eyes Upon Jerusalem Part III – David’s Throne Restored**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

During the Millennium, Jerusalem will be the focal point of all earthly activity, particularly the worship of Jesus Christ. Jesus will again be present and visible, the center of spirituality and worship, and many scriptures point to this future time.

Worship in the coming Millennial Temple is described by Jeremiah (33:15-22) and Ezekiel (37:26-28). “And I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an EVERLASTING covenant.” The New Covenant spoken of by Jeremiah (31:31-37) and by the Lord Jesus Christ at the Last Supper, will be fulfilled at last. “This is the covenant I will make with ... Israel ... I will put my law within them, and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they ... my people....”

Spiritual life of holiness and righteousness that brings joy and peace will be, unlike today’s world, prevalent. Satan will be bound, demons inactive, and spiritual life and religious harmony will repose in the united authentic worship of the world’s true King Jesus Christ, the Mighty God (Is. 9:6-7).

Isaiah wrote, “... in the last days the ... house of the Lord will be established ... nations will stream to it ... people will come and say, Come let us go up to ... the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us ... that we may walk in his paths ... He will judge between the nations ... they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks ... neither shall they learn war any more” (Is. 2:1-4).

Jesus Christ will rule from the Throne of David in a divinely blessed theocracy of beauty, grace, and mercy from Jerusalem throughout the Millennium. There will be universal justice and peace (Is. 2:3-4, 11:2-9). Jeremiah recorded God’s promises regarding this coming era (33:15-16). John Bunyan seemed to allude to such a coming time in his depiction of the “Celestial City” in his famous novel *“The Pilgrim’s Progress.”*

Scripture reveals another time of concern when Satan will be “loosed” for a final rebellion against God (Rev. 20:3, 7-10). Satan will gather his forces but all are destroyed by God’s fire from heaven (this is not Ezekiel 38-39) in a grand finale over Satan and evil. Now we can truly shout “Free at last.” This is immediately followed by a final judgment of God (Rev. 20:11-15), and then comes a final purging and renewal of the earth by fire (Matt. 24:35; 2 Pet. 3:10). Jerusalem will be replaced by the real celestial city – the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:1-2).

Why will Jerusalem continue to exist? The very name Jerusalem was and is beloved by Jesus Christ (Matt. 23:37). This New Jerusalem is depicted as descending from heaven and is to continue to exist throughout eternity (Rev. 3:12, Chapters 21-22; Heb. 11:8-10, 12:22-25). The truly redeemed children of God will happily serve him eternally (Rev. 22:3).

Scripture began with a garden that our first parents were assigned to develop. They rebelled and became the forebears of a race of rebels (Jer. 17:9; Gen. 6:5, 11-13; Rom. 3:10-23). Our race shunned God's garden in favor of their Babylonish religion and a tower to their prideful wickedness.

Prayers of thanksgiving to our gracious God for His only divinely begotten Son's intervention into our sin-diseased world, who will finally establish His righteous dominion on earth and throughout all eternity, are to the blessing of a reborn humanity – a resurrected and renewed family of God's own elect children – Christ's very own brothers and sisters.

By its scripturally provided dimensions, our New Jerusalem would cover two-thirds of the continental United States, but the shape of the New Jerusalem is given as a cube – it has height as well as length and width. Whatever its shape, it was created by the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3) and it will house our mansions (John 14:1-3). It will be a heavenly city for eternity, and nothing of earth was ever a part of it. It has an earthly essence in that it is described as physical and geographical. It will be prominent in the new heavens and the new earth that replace the present cursed creation (Gen. 3:17-19). Our new city, paved with streets of gold, will descend from the heavens once this present world is consumed by God's fire (2 Pet. 3:10).

John wrote, "I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and ... earth passed away ... I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem coming down ... from God ... a bride adorned for her husband [beauty beyond description] ... the tabernacle of God is among men ... they shall be his people ... " (Rev. 21:1-3). Revelation Chapters 21 and 22 are simply TOO specific to be dismissed by amillennialists and allegorists. Though there are many unanswered questions about the future, John leaves NO DOUBT that Christians will live in eternal conditions in God's "Celestial City." Christians should always take God's words in their literal sense as long as the literal MAKES SENSE!

Present day Jerusalem is a mere dot on a map to most people. Still it is monumentally important because of history and its prophetic significance and is critical to God's plan for future history. All scripture is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16) so prophecy concerning Jerusalem is of the greatest consequence. When God shares the future with his children it is to effect changes in each one. If God can make changes in entire nations, He can and will work out fine details in OUR LIVES. "Ask and it SHALL be given, seek and ye SHALL find, knock and it WILL be opened" – our daily creed (Luke 11:9-13) and blessing.

We should attempt to see our eternal destiny from God's scripturally provided perspective and realize that the future of EVERY believer (there are no insignificant Christians) is eternally linked to Jesus Christ who always was, is, and ever will be linked to Jerusalem.

Christians are properly instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. God's peace in Jerusalem facilitates the spread of the gospel, and we ought to ask for the salvation of that region's people. The Middle East's problems are very obviously significant, but so are God's prophetic solutions found in scripture and Christ's teachings particularly.

We can relish the words of David as we await the return of Jesus Christ, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: may they prosper who love you. May peace be within your walls, and prosperity ... For the sake of my brothers and my friends I will now say, my peace be within you" (Ps. 122:6-8). Sadly, Jerusalem must first pass through her greatest trial and calamity before this prayer is fully realized. Peace will only come with the return of the Prince of Peace and that only after the devastations of the "Great Tribulation" (Matt. 24:21-22). So to pray for the protection and a permanent peace for Jerusalem is to ask God to bring a speedy culmination of His plan of tribulation and then finally peace.

It is wise for Christians to pray for God's chosen nation – the Jews of Israel but also those dispersed across the globe. We pray for their salvation though not necessarily for their patriotism for the current government. Evangelicals were a strong force in 1948 to establish a Jewish homeland in the land promised in perpetuity to Abraham and his blood descendants through Jacob.

Many enemies have besieged, plundered, and conquered Jerusalem in history, but none matter except He who will finally rule there. There are differing views as to the heavenly Jerusalem. Dr. J. Dwight Pentecost wrote, "When the occupants of the New Jerusalem are described ... they are in their eternal state, possessing their eternal inheritance, in eternal relationships with God ... the occupants of earthly Jerusalem are described as seen in the millennial age having a relationship to things heavenly ... yet their position there is not eternal or unchangeable."

In the heavenly Jerusalem will be those individuals already possessing resurrection bodies. Scripture speaks of an earthly city of Jerusalem and a heavenly New Jerusalem. When this future New Jerusalem will appear is not known but both cities are God's plan of history.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

Keep looking up.

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# **Open My Heart**

**By Nancy Long**

Psalm 42:1 -- *"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God."*

Psalm 119:18 -- *"Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."*

Psalm 119:27 -- *"Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts: so shall I talk of Thy wondrous works."*

Psalm 119:127 -- *"Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold."*

Psalm 119:172 -- *"My tongue shall speak of Thy word: for all Thy commandments are righteousness."*

Ephesians 1:18-19 -- *"The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; That ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power."*

## Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see, Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me;  
Place in my hands the wonderful key, That shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear, Voices of truth Thou sendest clear;  
And while the wave notes fall on my ear, Everything false will disappear,  
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let it bear, Gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere;  
Open my heart, and let me prepare Love with Thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God, Thy will to see;  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mind that I may read, More of Thy love in word and deed;  
What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead? Only for light for Thee I plead.  
Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready my God Thy will to see;  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Text and Music -- Clara H. Scott

This really ought to be the heart's cry of every Christian ..... to have a passion and a hunger to know the Sovereign God of the universe more fully, deeply, and completely ..... to desire for the eyes of understanding to be opened, to be enlightened, to be illumined with spiritual truth and wisdom.

Clara H. Scott, musician and hymn writer, taught music at the Ladies Seminary in Lyons, Iowa, and in 1859 published the Royal Anthem Book, it being the first volume of anthems published by a woman. Of all the songs she composed, "Open My Eyes" is probably the most memorable, although Clara never knew just how popular this beautiful hymn would become. She was thrown from a horse drawn carriage and killed only 2 short years after it was completed. This hymn was most likely inspired by Clara's reading of Psalm 119:18 *"Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."*

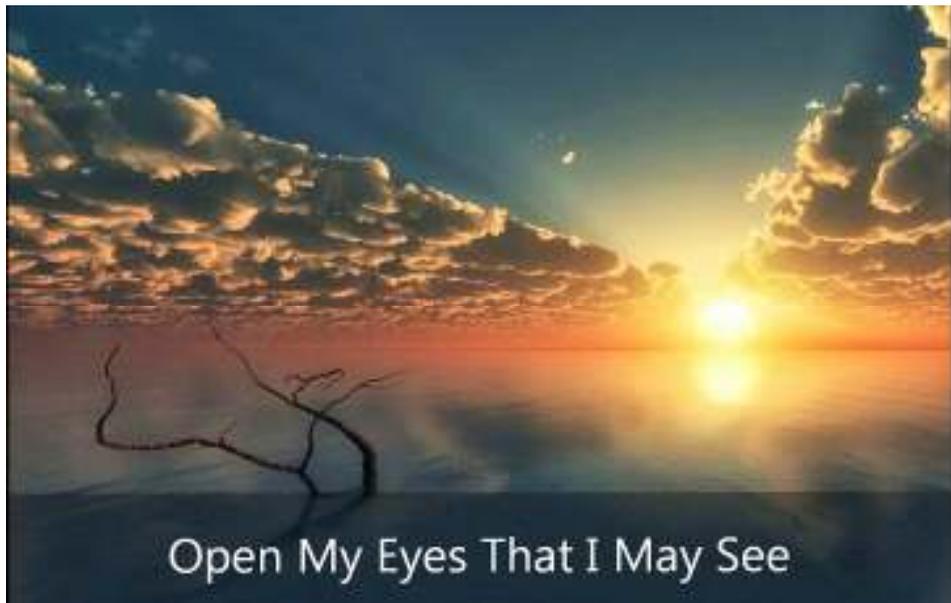
There are two categories of people: those who are spiritually blinded and those who have been pricked and quickened by the Holy Spirit, therefore been made spiritually alive. The apostle Paul wrote, *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one"* (Romans 3:10-12) ..... and again in 2 Cor. 4:4a, *"the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not ....."*.

Since we are helpless ..... lacking any strength or power within ourselves, to see, or to search, or even to have the desire to search any kind of spiritual beauty or wonder at all, then we must conclude that it's **only God!!** God does the choosing, God does the changing ..... God does it all!!

The One who flung the stars into space ..... the One who keeps the world from falling apart ..... the One who knows the end from the beginning ..... this awe-inspiring, sovereign God ..... chose **me** to shed His grace upon!! He loves **me!!** Praise God, He loves me, because without Him I would be lost ..... and He loves any and all of you Defenders as well, who *"Believe on (trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Acts 16:31).

John Newton's hymn, "Amazing Grace" states, *I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*" I wasn't looking, but I will be forever grateful that **He found me!!** He knew me before the foundation of the world. His plan was in place before I was even put together in my mother's womb. *"Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it"* (Psalm 139:6).

Father, open my eyes that I may see. Please, Lord, help all who are Your children, each and every day, to incline hearts, minds ..... and wills toward you. We realize that no one is able to see, without Your supernatural help, all the wonderful teachings You have for us in Your Word. Please activate our senses, make us more sensitive to the spiritual truths you desire for us. Prayer, Bible reading, meditating on God's Word, and even committing it to memory is, I believe, crucial to Christian living. Please, Lord, keep us humble ..... and hungry for God. In the name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.



## **Think Globally, Act Locally**

### **Opinion Commentary by Kevin Bruffey**

For myself and many, when initially taking interest in politics all we focus on is the president. Understandably so, for the occupant of the White House is the top executive in our country and the Commander and Chief of our military who has an assortment of duties, including appointing judges to the federal bench. However, as time goes on, people's interest in politics leads them to remember back to high school civics class in which we're taught that there's also a legislative and judicial branch.

The legislative branch began to have meaning to me when I was in college, at which time a Republican led Congress worked closely with then President Clinton to enact key policy initiatives, including welfare reform and a balanced budget. Also, in college I became involved in a gubernatorial campaign for a candidate who aimed to enact policies implemented by Ronald Reagan at the Maryland state level. During this time, I became familiar with state legislative candidates. Within a few years I was working on campaigns for local candidates, including county executive and a clerk of the court candidate.

The irony that I'm addressing is that while I embraced a philosophy that stresses strength in society coming from the bottom and going upward, my involvement and interest in politics started from the top and worked its way down. While in this election year much focus is on the presidency, as it should be, much of what else effects our country can be overlooked. For one, at the federal level, there are nearly 500 contested House and Senate seats. In Maryland, there are local races in places like Baltimore, as is the case in other parts of the country. To put any race, including the presidency, in perspective, it's important to note that in our country there are over 500,000 elected offices, and they all have an impact.

Going back to the strength from the bottom up adage, another that comes to mind is government is best when it's closest to the people. Unfortunately, with our attention focused so closely on what's up top, we often don't see what's happening in our own back yard, so we don't see opportunities to take action which can make a difference locally.

Through interacting with a friend, I've found that his church and two others in Baltimore County are experiencing unnecessary obstacles trying to relocate or expand their current properties. Though the land each church wishes to use are zoned for church use, they are now fighting battles to ensure that they can use that land. Typical objections include neighbors complaining about potential traffic, though there will only be one day each week when there will be a spike in traffic, not counting days in which activities will take place at the churches during the week. With traffic, noise, and other minor setbacks we see from an assortment of other types of development, including shopping centers and business parks, I see these as cop-out excuses. Another irony I also see is that casinos have been permitted to spread across our state while churches, which pose the antidote solution to problems associated with gambling, are being stymied here in Baltimore County.

Whether or not Christians in Baltimore County, especially those supporting these churches should see this as a roadblock to spreading the gospel, this exemplifies a local effort we can engage in to ensure that Christianity spreads in our area. Not only that, making an impact on this issue doesn't involve making a two-hour trip or catching a train to D.C. to testify before a committee or making a trip to Annapolis for that matter.

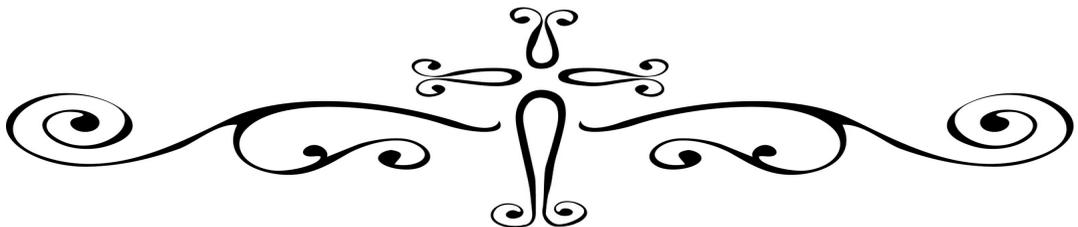
Former Congressman Ron Paul embraces and understands local impact quite well. His organization, Campaign for Liberty, started in 2008, has state and county chapters throughout the nation. Their local leaders understand that the biggest impact is made at the local level. The Baltimore County Campaign for Liberty lobbied legislatures to prevent increases in speed camera fines this past legislative session for 2016, while also making efforts to repeal speed and red light cameras state wide. In Baltimore County they fought to repeal the rain tax and secure property rights for land owners.

The concept of acting locally doesn't just apply to politics. What about community efforts? There are people committed to their churches whether it be through Pastoral and elected leadership, those who teach Sunday School, people who run Bible studies, work with youth, and people who run committees such as those focusing on missions and many others.

Para-church ministries are important to consider as well. Consider those who run and work with the soup kitchens, run spiritual based recovery programs, administer the gospel to those in prison, work with kids in after school programs, work with those in crisis pregnancies, and many others.

There's so many other ways that people are making a difference in their communities including here in Baltimore. The examples I gave only scratch the surface. We all have eyes and ears so we can spot needs around us and apply the love of Jesus. The beauty of it is that we don't even need to introduce a bill in community to do something about it.

While this is an election year and our tendency is to look to the top at candidates and get our hopes up for what they will do, we should ask ourselves, or better yet the Lord, how we can make an impact. Trying to get the right people elected has merits, for we need good civil leaders. However, while there's work they need to accomplish, there are things we must do as well that might not require leaving our neighborhood to accomplish. To close, I'll sight Ephesians 2:10, *"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."*



## Signs of the Time

It is written in the Bible, proclaimed in God's own word.  
There are tragedies coming of a magnitude unheard.  
Volcanoes have been erupting, earthquakes are all around.  
Flooding and loss of lives, in every country can be found.

Now oil, the life blood of our economy, is threatening our livelihood  
and health.  
Isn't it time we became God's stewards, instead of focusing all on wealth?  
We cannot walk our streets at night, it isn't safe during the day.  
Should we not consider doing things God's way?

God laid it on the hearts of men, to write down His Book of rules.  
There are even places in there, where He addresses utter fools.  
They need to heed His warning before it is too late,  
And through their words and actions, seal their own fate.

It used to be in the movies, the hero always won the lady.  
But now, two guys ride into the sunset, then try to adopt a baby.  
It seems we have come exactly where the Bible said we would.  
People are sinning willfully, and claiming that they are good.

Many scriptures in the Bible tell of these last days,  
That are beginning to unfold in oh so many ways.  
The signs are pointing every day to what's written in Revelation.  
How God has turned His back on this once Christian nation.

Trust in God, invite Him into your heart today.  
Put kindness and humility back in your life to stay.  
No, we can't change the future, what's going to be will be.  
But you and I can trust in Christ, and live with Him in eternity.

Hank Arthur



## **Thoughts on the One World Church**

I hear they are talking again about a one world church,  
and many say it has much merit.

You can be baptized, and shoot the infidels during morning mass,  
then break for lunch, and everyone can share it.

Idols should be all grouped together in the designated place,  
before the services begin.

Holy cattle from India should be watered and fed,  
before letting them out of their pen.

The Holy rollers and all snake handlers are cautioned, if possible,  
to keep the isles all clear.

The Baptists and Methodists should just take notes,  
and sit in the upper tier.

Now all those churches that have split up over homosexual behavior,  
will be one again.

For since Government officials are taking over religion.  
there will be no such thing as sin.

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!**

Rev. David Lewis &  
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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 (August 12th)	8:00 PM