

The DEFENDER - October 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: Who Does God Want?

It's not my job as a pastor to tell you who to vote for. But it is my job to tell you what kind of leader would please the Lord.

We should pray for leaders that would make our society safe and therefore conducive to the spread of the Good News. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God (**1 Timothy 2:2-4**). Securing our borders and eliminating sanctuary cities would go a long way in accomplishing that. Donald Trump has stated many times that this would be a priority in his administration. Hillary Clinton? Not so much.

Proverbs 6:17 says that God hates the hand that sheds innocent blood. This is a direct reference to the act of abortion. There can be no blood more innocent than that which runs through the veins of an unborn child. The sanctity of life is important to God, as we are made in His image. Mr. Trump has stated that he would appoint conservative, pro-life judges to the Supreme Court, perhaps in an attempt to overrule Roe vs. Wade. As many as five vacancies may be available on the high court during the next presidential administration. Mrs. Clinton wants to keep abortion legal, stating that a woman's decision to end the life of her child in the womb is her reproductive right. Naturally, she would appoint progressive, pro-death judges.

God told Abraham that He would bless those who bless Israel and curse those who don't (**Genesis 12:3**). David said that we should pray for the peace of Jerusalem; and those who love her shall prosper (**Psalms 122:6**). During a recent meeting, Donald Trump told Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that if elected he would recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the State of Israel. There are currently few countries, the United States included, which recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Most countries have their embassies in Tel Aviv. Israel is the only country in the Middle East with freedom of speech and freedom of religion, and yet the United Nations treats them as a pariah state. In addition, Barack Hussein Obama has done much in the last eight years to destroy our relationship with Israel, separating them from their closest friend and ally.

God is going to decide who He wants in the Oval Office for the purpose of bringing about His great plan of redemption. **Daniel 2:21** tells us that God removes kings (leaders) and sets them up, and Solomon says that the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, who will turn it in whatever way He wills **Proverbs 21:1**. God is sovereign and controls everything that happens. The world is moving according to His purpose and toward His specified end. Whoever is elected as our next president will fulfill His perfect will. To God be the glory. And all the Lord's people said, Amen!

Rev. David R. Lewis

Back to the Future Again

Part II – Daniel’s Vision in Chapter Seven

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

The second beast Daniel saw arise out of the Mediterranean Sea was, “like a bear and it raised up itself on one side and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise devour much flesh” (7:5).

The national emblem of Russia is the bear, and it is a most powerful kingdom to the north of Jerusalem and Israel. Most people over forty remember Russia as a nation of subjugated people crushed under the heel of Marxism/Leninism/Stalinism. The oppressed Russians were forced to abandon Christianity for the religion of the atheistic brand of socialism.

One of the universal aspirations of the political rulers of Russia since Peter the Great in the 1600’s has been to have warm water seaports. Prophecy scholars believe that Ezekiel 38 describes the Russian bear as “Gog.” Daniel wrote, “Persia [Iran], Ethiopia and Libya with them” (current Russian allies) are involved in adventurism in the Middle East. The failed move of Russia into Afghanistan seemed a thinly veiled attempt to eventually move into Iran. Today, as with Syria, Russia is now closely allied with Iran. Some see these three (Iran, Libya and Ethiopia) as being the three ribs Daniel saw in the mouth of the great bear that looks southward. Russia has tons of munitions staged in these countries.

Judging current political tensions in the world is beyond the scope of this article. Still, according to Ezekiel 38 and 39, the military forces of a great power to the north of Jerusalem is prophesied to one day invade the Middle East even to Israel’s mountains in the last days of this age. God declares what will happen to this invader: “And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts ... against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land (38:15-16) aerial warfare, paratroopers?” It SHALL be in the latter days (vs. 16). “And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains saith the Lord God: every man’s sword shall be against his brother. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands ... overflowing rain ... hailstones, fire and brimstone ... I will magnify myself ... in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the Lord.” This has not yet happened (38:21-23). God causes Gog to move his forces southward: “I will bring thee against my land” (vs. 16) “and put hooks into thy jaws, and bring thee forth ...” (vs. 4).

Could it be that when “Gog and Magog” come down from the north nuclear weapons might be used? fulfilling Joel 2:30-31, “And I will show wonders in the heaven and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and terrible day of the Lord come.” To say exactly who this northern enemy is may be difficult, but a direct line on a globe from central Jerusalem cuts through the center of Moscow.

When reflecting on the first nine verses of Ezekiel 38, the fact emerges that God Himself is against Gog. The Marxist atheism of Russian rulers and their anti-Israel activities sets them for eventual judgment on its own demerits. It should be remembered that no enemy could come against Israel before 1948 – the first year Israel was reborn as a nation in modern times. Before 1948, Israel did not exist and the “Promised Land” was called Palestine. Palestine was under the control of the Muslim Ottoman Turks for hundreds of years which only ended when the British defeated them in World War I.

So when Gog and his forces are defeated on the mountains of Israel, God will have shown Israel and the whole world His invincible power: “In the LATTER days, I will bring thee against MY land, that the heathen [Gentiles] may know me, when I shall be sanctified [vindicated] in thee, O Gog, BEFORE THEIR EYES” (vs. 16). God Himself will destroy Israel’s mortal enemy on the mountains of Israel. However, the prophecy that Israel will one day “dwell safely” (38:8) will be elusive until the return of their true Messiah, Jesus Christ (Zech. 12:8-14; 13:1, 6).

The Russian bear, under the KGB trained dictator Putin, is poised and ready to devour much flesh but God alone knows if and when they would move against Israel. Such a time and event may be nearer than we know.

After Daniel’s vision of the bear comes the third beast: “... I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.” Some have thought this leopard-like beast might refer to African nations especially those with Muslim rulers. The leopard is native to Africa. Others make a plausible contention that the four winged, four headed leopard represents modern Germany. During the early twentieth century, Nazi dictator Adolph Hitler preached about his 1,000 year THIRD REICH. It only lasted about 12 years (thank God). After Germany’s total humbling by World War II, Germany was divided between the free western nations and the darkness behind the Stalinist Iron Curtain. To keep people from escaping to western freedom, the communists built the Berlin Wall, making eastern Germany a virtual prison camp.

Today Germany is reunited and is one of Europe’s most powerful nations once again and could reasonably be thought of as a fourth Reich which fits the four wings and four heads symbolism. Sadly Germany has a strong tradition of Antisemitism that could rear its ugly head and there is the current influx of Muslim refugees who have no love for Israel.

In Daniel 7:7 is described the fourth beast: “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and break in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.” Most prophecy scholars believe this 4th beast to be the same ten nation empire described in Daniel, chapter 2, who will exercise power over all the earth when Christ returns. The beast has iron teeth and iron is the symbol of Rome. It will destroy or devour any nation in its way. Some think this last beast will be ruled by a world dictator – a cruel ruler who will be one of history’s worst mass murderers.

A coming world dictator and his reign are described by Daniel (7:19-23) “Then ... the fourth beast ... whose teeth were of iron, and his nails brass ... devoured ... whose look was more stout than his fellows.” His reign will be short – 3 and one half years. Then the Messiah Jesus Christ returns, destroys the fourth beast and then sets up His everlasting kingdom.

“I saw in the night visions and behold, one like the Son of Man came with clouds of heaven ... to the Ancient of Days ... And was given him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an EVERLASTING dominion, which shall NOT pass away, and ... NOT be destroyed (Dan. 7:13-14).

Christians have every right to believe from the prophetic scriptures that the return of Jesus Christ is very near. The one coming can only be Jesus who chose as one of His titles “Son of Man” and promised He would return at the end of the Age to save the earth from those who would destroy it. He will establish His kingdom at that time (John 14:1-6).

Since the marriage of the Lamb to His bride, the true separated church, occurs before Christ’s physical coming to earth proper (Rev. 19:7-14) and those left behind on earth will be mere professing Christians tangled in false gospels and improper associations following those who claim to be Prophets and even Apostles; deception will abound. Even now we hear of Hindu practices in “churches” (Yogi), “lying signs and wonders” occurring and unity with avowed unbelievers.

Contrariwise, born again, Bible believing Christians are watching and waiting for the return of God’s Lamb who will this time prove to be “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” (Rev. 19:16).

Keep looking up.



His Perfect Peace

By Nancy Long

Isaiah 26:3 -- *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee."*

John 14:27a -- *"Peace I leave unto you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you* "

Phil. 4:7 -- *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus".*

2 Thess. 3:16a -- *"Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means"*

When I think of heaven, I don't think so much about streets of gold, or mansions prepared, or even the saints I might be blessed to meet, but rather my thoughts are drawn mostly toward peace specifically, the Prince of Peace, bringing perfect harmony, contentment, tranquility, calmness, and rest for **all** of eternity, endless, forever and ever, and ever! Who can fathom?! Who can completely grasp this amazing truth?! No one, I'm thinking, is able to totally comprehend or understand knowledge such as this!! It is way too high beyond human ability to conceive. It's too deep, too profound, too incredibly wonderful for our minds to wrap around, although undoubtedly, something on which we ought to meditate.

Heaven's perfect peace is guaranteed, and promised to all of us who believe on (trust in) the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31). Yes, this is, of course, true, but the aforementioned Scriptures assure us that "perfect peace" can be ours as well, while still living here on this earth. God, the Holy Spirit, resides within each one of us believers. He is living **His** supernatural life in us, so we, God's children, need to have more of an eternal perspective, "*setting our affections on things above, not on things on the earth*" (Col. 3:2). We live in this world, we can all agree, but we are **not** to be of it!!

There is not one promise in the Bible, of which I can think, that guarantees we will be free from troubles, trials, heartaches, and pain while living in this bubble we call "time"; in fact, God's Word clearly says just the opposite (John 16:33).

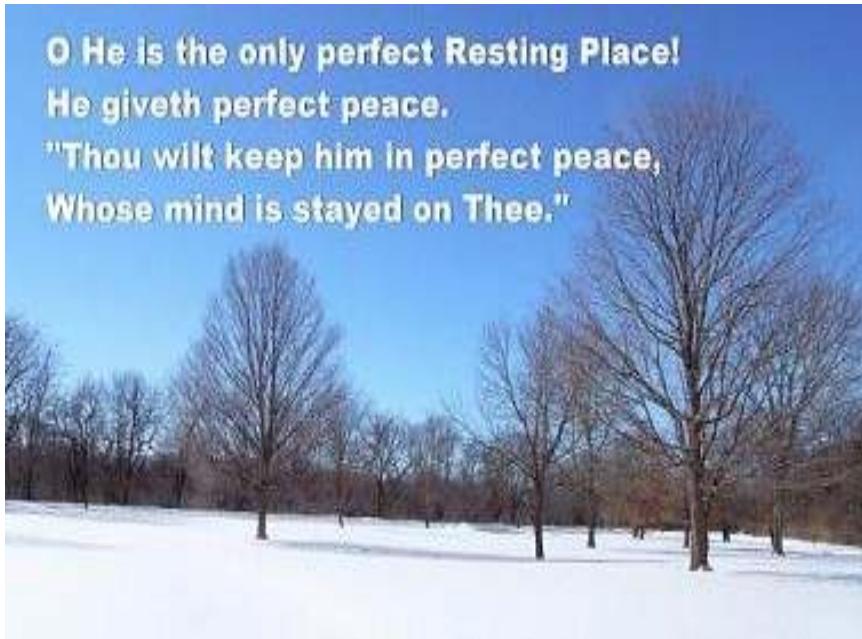
We dwell in a world plagued by sin, consequently all people suffer with various types of pain physical, emotional, mental, financial, relational and/or spiritual. However, we are able, because God has promised, to be assured and know, unquestionably, an

inward peace, an incredible calm, a serenity placed within our being, a supernatural joy soul comfort.

What this says to me then, is that we can have **His** perfect peace this side of heaven, even in the midst of harsh, and unrelenting, earthly storms:

*"And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And He was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake Him, and say unto Him, Master, carest Thou not that we perish? And He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, '**Peace, be still.**' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm"*
(Mark 4: 37-39).

The winds and the waves obey the Lord, Jesus Christ!! Can He not then bring peace to a troubled heart?! When increasing pain feels as though it's ripping your life to shreds, get out from "under those circumstances"! Listen to **His** still small voice of calm, and remember, **"Peace, be still"** is still His directive, no matter what He sends. *"Be still, and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10a). *"There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave"* so states the hymn, 'Constantly Abiding', *"a peace it cannot take away I've a peace that has come here to stay."*



Respect Life and Honor God

Opinion Commentary by Kevin Bruffey

When it comes to the issue of abortion, the question that begs to be answered is, "Why choose life?" To answer that, it's important to explore who we are as humans. The more these questions are answered the more abortion becomes unthinkable. The first thing to establish is that there is a creator - God. We did not come into being by chance. He had a plan for each life - from the dawn of time, to conception, through our stay on this planet, and into the next life for eternity. We are made in His image, and with our unique DNA structure, we all stand apart from one another. While as humans we may have similarities, our specific purposes for life, as designated by God, are quite distinct.

Each life is God's handiwork. It would be as if an artist labored in his shop over paintings and sculptures. Then suppose he left for a period of time and allowed his assistant to watch over his work. Imagine how disrespectful it would be if the assistant mishandled the pieces, whether they be complete or in progress, and allowed them to break or become damaged. Well, if this is a disrespectful act for the assistant to commit, consider how much more disrespectful we're being to God when we disregard human life.

God grants us rights which are evident in the Ten Commandments and in other parts of scripture. One of those rights, unalienable like the others, is the right to life. Each person from the moment of conception has this right. Not one person regardless of their stage in life or their performance or stature has a greater hold on this right than any other. So, to take innocent life is to take from that person and from God. As said, God created each person for His purpose and intent, so taking life means that that person has lost their opportunity to fulfill their God-given purpose.

Each time innocent life is taken, life is cheapened along with our regard for God as the chief architect of creation. We should regard God and everything He created as great. With abortion we're saying that we know what creation is worthy of life which leads to an elitist mentality. Elitism goes directly against the Biblical Worldview because we all have intrinsic value due to our humanity. To put it another way, no one is more important than anyone else, we just have different purposes.

When we carelessly disregard life through abortion, we must consider how this impacts how we treat one another in general. With all the talk on bullying, we should consider the instances of bullying inside of the womb, which exceeds roughly 55 million since Roe v. Wade. Bullying incidentally stems from an elitist mentality in which some kids think they are more worthy than others.

While there are problems in society in terms of caring for people, abortion is no way to reduce costs to address those who are a supposed burden, namely the unborn. This mentality regards the unborn as an inconvenience which opposes God's view of them. Instead of saying we can't afford this burden, the thing to say is we can't wait to be a blessing to this child and give it the chance to live out it's God-given purpose!

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.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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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 Night Youth Group	7:00 PM
Religion & Politics Forum (Sat. October 15th)	1:00 PM
Gambling & A Better Hope Forum (Sat. Oct 24th)	1:00 PM