

# The DEFENDER - April 2017



“... 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: The Age of Laodicea

We live in a time foretold of over 1900 years ago. In Jesus' revelation of Himself to the apostle John He gave a graphic prophecy of the modern day apostate church. He gave us these insights through His message to the church of Laodicea, a first century church that didn't stand for anything. The apostasy of our day and age lines up perfectly with the Laodiceans. Their indifference led them to idleness. They became hardened and self-satisfied. They were complacent, Christian in name only. Sound familiar? The apostle Paul gave us a warning in **2 Timothy 3:5**. He said that many would come in the last days having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof. These so-called Christians claim to represent Jesus Christ, but they never see the transformation of a soul from darkness to life. They don't have the power of the true gospel. In fact, they're more interested in social action than they are the things of God. Another name for them is the religious left. And the religious left is on the rise in U.S. politics today.

The first century church in Laodicea was lukewarm, indifferent, and materialistic, but it still was challenged by Jesus on the basis of His love for them, even in their lost state. He makes the same offer to lukewarm churches today. But the left isn't interested in repenting of their sins and turning to Him. Instead, they're focused on their agendas. Which quite conveniently line up with much of what is being espoused by the political left. Keep in mind that one day the one world religion will be marching in lock-step with the one world government. Evil minds (the Antichrist and the False Prophet) think alike.

Social activists, political progressives, and sadly, many evangelicals are today promoting social justice imperatives. Things like income redistribution, climate change, population control, and socialized medicine. The framework for global governance is known as sustainable development. That's code for restraining developed countries through multinational power. The system promotes, in addition to the above, abortion on demand, welfare programs, and the elimination of national sovereignty, parental authority, and religious liberty. And right alongside this we have syncretism, the belief that religious worldviews once thought incompatible can actually merge, with the end result being the creation of a one-world religion. Syncretism is possible because modern-day evangelicals in the age of Laodicea have embraced the social gospel while rejecting the authority of God's Holy Word.

This Laodicean snowball, which is quickly rolling downhill and picking up speed, may in fact be diverted temporarily by nationalistic movements as seen in America with the election of Donald Trump, the Brexit movement in England, and the popular rise of such figures as Geert Wilders in the Netherlands and Marine Le Pen in France. But the final word on the matter always comes from God...in His time. Jesus was very clear in His revelation to John that the age of Laodicea would in fact be the last of the church ages. It's here now. How long will it last? Only God knows.

*Rev. David Lewis*

# **The Temple Mount Powder Keg Part III – The Third Temple Will Rise**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

“Behold the man whose name is THE BRANCH ... he shall build the temple ... and rule upon his Throne ...” (Zech. 6:12-13). When Zechariah published this prophecy, the second temple was Israel’s worship center and would be until its destruction by the Romans in 70 A.D. “I will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem...” (Zech. 8:3). “Behold, the day of the Lord cometh ... I will gather All Nations against Jerusalem ... the city will be taken ... Then shall the Lord ... fight against those nations ... (Zech. 14:1-3).

Some future day: “... the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory ...” (Matt. 19:28). “Ye shall not see Me ... til ye shall say, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matt. 23:39). “When the Son of man shall come ... then shall He sit upon the throne ...” (Matt. 25:31) “... see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power ... look up ... redemption draweth nigh ...” (Luke 21:27-28) “when ... they asked ... Lord ... wilt thou ... restore ... the kingdom” (Acts 1:6).

Whether the foregoing prophecies pertain to two separate wars (the Ezekiel Gog war and Armageddon) or only Armageddon (Rev. 16:12-16), it is certain that destructive warfare is yet future for Israel and Jerusalem: “The Lord ... shall fight against those nations ... his feet shall stand ... upon the Mount of Olives ... And ye shall flee to the valley ... as you fled ... at the earthquake ... of UZZIAH King of Judah ... the Lord shall come and all the saints” (Zech. 14:1-14). Our Lord Jesus Christ pointed to this future time (Luke 22:7-11, 20-22).

Since the near future holds great conflict and will see a fully restored Jerusalem and Israel, what part will the Temple Mount (TM) have in all this? In past historical statements, Arab leaders readily acknowledged that Jewish temples indeed stood on the TM. In more recent times, the Arab world has become obsessed with destroying Israel and keeping her name off Middle Eastern maps. The deadly consequences of this obsession have been most evident since the 1967 Six Day War allowed Israel to liberate Jerusalem and the TM from Jordanian occupational forces. The radical Muslim Brotherhood has since repeatedly called for removal of the “Jewish Threat” that “secretly plots to destroy the Muslim holy sites” on the TM. This is the reason the intifada (civil war) flares with regularity and Arabists justify this with their continuing radical historical revisionism.

Past and modern revisionism was a factor in the failure of the Oslo Peace process of 1993 when the TM was declared always and only Muslim. Islamists overtly denied then and now that the Jews ever controlled Jerusalem or had temples on the TM. Despite the obvious absurdity of such claims, these revisionisms were introduced into the textbooks for Palestinian schoolchildren and is preached regularly by Jerusalem Mufti and Imams in their messages in their Mosques. The Muslim Brotherhood propagates this line to world media outlets as well.

The unfathomable Israeli concessions that gave exclusive Muslim control on the TM have allowed wanton destruction of ancient archaeological artifacts that relate to the early and late association of the TM with Israeli history. Recent “construction” activity on and under the TM by the Palestinian TM Authority accomplished three things: de-Judaize the TM; erect a super Mosque, and provoke Israel so violence (jihad) could appear justified. Each of these fit well with the claim of Islamic superiority.

After several years of heavy construction for “renovations” by the WAQF (TM Authority), the inevitable happened to weakened ancient structures: a portion of wall collapsed next to the Al Aqsa Mosque (September 2003). The WAQF authorities were claiming the Jews allowed or even caused the collapse, hoping Islam’s holy sites would be destroyed. Earthquakes frequent this area, but if destruction because of natural seismic activity impacts the construction weakened foundations, Israel will be blamed. When a dangerous bulge appeared in the TM southern wall at the time of heavy “construction” under the TM, it was reported in Newsweek magazine as “Jerusalem’s Armageddon Wall;” a depiction that speaks for itself at a time when U.N. votes overwhelmingly are against Israel who survives primarily by U.S. vetoes.

On the Israeli side of this issue is the Temple Institute. Since 1986, this group of rabbinical scholars, researchers, designers, artisans, and craftsmen have been educating the Jewish public on the significance of past temples in Jewish history and heritage and the hope for building the prophesied Third Temple. They have created what they call “a temple in waiting” to fulfill Exodus 25:8 to construct God’s commanded sanctuary (temple). They seek construction as soon as possible in readiness for their coming Messiah that they (along with Futurist Christian theologians) believe is soon. Christians, of course, are looking for Christ’s promised Second Coming (John 14:1-3).

This Temple Institute has manufactured over 100 sacred temple vessels for when services resume in the Third Temple on the TM. A computerized loom has been created that manufactures priestly garments to comply with ancient Biblical imperatives. Other items to be or have been fashioned include: the 8 garments of the High Priest (inner robe, belt, turban, pants, etc.) also the “Remembrance Stones” and the woven ephod to hold the 12 precious and semi-precious stones representing the 12 Tribes of Israel, the outer robe decorated with bells and pomegranates, silver trumpets to call the faithful to worship, altars, urns, ewers, incense pans, forks, shovels, carts (for burnt offerings) gold and silver mizraquot (vessels to catch sacrificial blood) lavers, flasks, measuring cups and many more necessities according to Biblical law and tradition. Also in this Third Temple will be a six-foot menorah (candelabra), a golden altar of incense, and the Table of Showbread.

In 2003 in the Dead Sea region at a Jewish community known as MITZPE YERICO (between Jericho and Jerusalem), the Temple Institute built a full-scale model of the Third Temple. This model has functioned as a training site to prepare priests for service once the actual temple is raised on the TM. There candidates practice the music, design and sacred duties. Many of the participants come from a priestly lineage and heritage. As an accurately scaled structure, this temporary temple permits the opportunity for learners to become knowledgeable and to perfect temple ritual.

There is also a more determined activist group called “The Temple Mount Faithful” whose goal is to “liberate the TM from Arab occupation” and then to immediately rebuild the Third Temple in the place chosen by God – “the center of the TM, that very same place that Abraham was directed by God to take Isaac to be sacrificed” – Mount Moriah” (Gen. 22:1-4). From that time and for hundreds of years this sacred area was known and revered. God later led King David to purchase this very acreage, “the thrashing floor of ARAUNAH the Jebusite” -- to be the place where the temple would be raised (2 Sam. 24:16-25).

Many Jews believed that when Israel captured the TM in the 1967 Six Day War, the exile that began with the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple in the 70 A.D., finally ended and full restoration of the Third Temple would begin. Yet secular Israeli officials in 1967 returned the TM to Muslim control, thus blocking restoration and the removal of Muslim symbols of conquest and the installation of the Third Temple on the TM. As time has passed, the Temple restoration movement has worked to educate Israelis and has influenced significantly Israeli public approval.

There is no more volatile acreage on earth than the TM. It is a tinderbox of political, social, religious, and military” explosives” that one spark could ignite into a fiery conflict of deadly warfare. Militant Islam’s stance regarding the TM has always called for extreme violence and constantly threatens war. On the other side, Temple activism by some Israelis inevitably raises tensions as they adamantly and tenaciously cling to the belief that the TM will have the Third Temple standing one day soon in the center of a fully recovered TM.

On the other side, Islamic groups have never yet even recognized Israel’s founding in 1948 or even their right to exist at all. They will never peacefully allow for the removal of any of their symbols from the TM. So Jerusalem will remain a “cup of trembling” ... “for all people ...” (Zech. 12:2-3). Could the TM be the spark that starts the “Gog War” (Ez. 38-39) or Armageddon and the Lord’s return?

As we see these things, the Lord’s command is to: keep looking up.

**Chief Source:**

The Battle for the Last Days Temple

**Author:**

Randal Price

**Publisher:**

Harvest House – Eugene, Oregon



# **“Because He Lives”**

**By Nancy Long**

Matt. 28:6 – *“He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.”*

Mark 16:6b -- .....*“He is risen; He is not here; behold the place where they laid Him.”*

Luke 24:6a – *“He is not here, but is risen: .....*”

John 14:19b – *“..... because I live, ye shall live also.”*

1 John 2:25 -- *“ And this is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life.”*

## Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus,  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then as death gives way to victory,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Chorus -- Because He lives, I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

Words and Music – William J. and Gloria Gaither

Very soon we will be observing another holiday ..... some call it Easter, while others say, Resurrection Sunday. To many, this holiday means chocolate bunnies, baskets, egg hunts, pretty clothes (usually pastels), and even attending church. However to the believer, this day is the most important holiday of Christianity, because it means hope! Jesus Christ is alive!!

In a nutshell, when this song was written in the late nineteen sixties, things were running amuck ..... all seemed out of control. We were still fighting the war in Vietnam, drugs were everywhere, the "God is dead" movement was being taught in our schools, life here in our land was sinful and evil, without hope, it seemed. This world has gone crazy, thought Gloria Gaither, and here we are, expecting our third child ..... what about the days to come? Somehow though, after repeated praying, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was once again affirmed in her spirit, and she felt a peace and assurance knowing the future is in **God's** hands. There *is* hope!! Not one of us knows about tomorrow, but we **can** know the One who holds it!!!

The hymn, "Because He Lives" was brought about after the birth of Bill and Gloria Gaither's precious baby boy, Benjamin. God's gift of life restored new confidence and faith in the times to come! **Believers** have a hope in Christ!! We, who know Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior, are exhorted to rejoice and be glad in each new day He brings (Psalm 118:24). **He** holds the future ..... not us!! It's **His** perfect, sovereign plan ..... not ours!!

There was confusion in this world almost five decades ago when this hymn was written, and guess what?? There continues to be discord and chaos today, uncertainties everywhere, breakdown of families, disharmony in churches, etc. Nothing has changed really, situations perhaps, but bottom line, "**this world is not our home**"!!

The most beautiful and blessed part, I think, of Resurrection Day, is that it never ends. It's never over!! Jesus Christ is risen from the grave, has conquered death, and lives forevermore!! "*Oh death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory*" (1 Cor. 15:55). Because He lives, we can face life, and death ..... and forever!!

Having this hope takes away the fear of any, what could be, frightening issues of life. Having this hope makes me smile. Having this hope brings me "joy unspeakable"!!

We will celebrate Resurrection Sunday on April 16th this year. Jesus Christ is alive!! I think of the hymn, "Jesus Paid it All" ..... "*Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.*" I leave you with a question on which to ponder. What does Jesus' victory over death, **personally**, mean to you?



*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.  
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

**FIND US ON THE WEB AT**  
[www.indefenseoftruth.org](http://www.indefenseoftruth.org)  
& [www.facebook.com/cubhillchurch](http://www.facebook.com/cubhillchurch)

**FREE APP NOW AVAILABLE**  
for **Android Smartphone & iPhone** users.  
Go to your App or Play Store, and type in  
"**Cub Hill Church**" and download!

**In Defense of Truth is heard in Baltimore on:**

WRBS AM 1230 - Sunday at 6:30 a.m.

**Listen Online:** <http://www.InDefenseOfTruth.org/broadcast> for details.

We are now on internet radio: [www.evangelismradio.com](http://www.evangelismradio.com) (various times).

**Listen also to IDOT's "Moment of Truth"**

airing Monday through Friday during morning drive time  
on WCBM AM 680 in Baltimore.

**DEFENDER CONTRIBUTORS**

Rev. David R. Lewis, MDiv., Director, IDOT  
Robert Luthardt, Sr., Elder, CHBPC  
Nancy Long, Member, CHBPC

**WRITE TO US!**

Rev. David Lewis &  
In Defense of Truth  
2927 Cub Hill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

**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
Good Friday Service	7:00 PM