

The DEFENDER - June 2017



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

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: **Selective Memory**

There's a lot of talk about fake news and revisionist history coming across the airwaves these days. It's really nothing more than a manifestation of the politically correct, post-modern culture in which we live. In a world of diminishing absolutes, where truth is subjective, the Progressives in America are doing their best to foist their false narrative on a nation of people who, quite frankly, are either ignorant of what's going on in the world around them, or apathetic to it all. We've become a country of shallow, narcissistic, cell-phone worshippers who are easy prey for those idealogues who crave the power and authority necessary to impose their will upon others.

History in America is currently being rewritten to promote a false agenda. We've seen the same thing happen before, particularly in the 20th century, where Communist and Nazi powers sought to subject their countries, and ultimately the world, to their evil dictatorships. Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin said, "A lie told often enough becomes the truth." Two decades later, Joseph Goebbels, Propaganda Minister for the Third Reich said, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." And there was a serpent in a garden who once said, "Did God **really** say...?" (paraphrased). The element of doubt is the aim whenever a lie is told. And we know that deception is Satan's greatest tool. Feel free to connect the dots.

Here in Baltimore, in an effort to rewrite the history of the Civil War, former mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake erected an "Interpretive Plaque" at the foot of a statue bearing the figures of Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. The plaque incorrectly states, "These two men became subjects of the Lost Cause movement which portrayed them as Christian soldiers and even men who opposed slavery. Today current scholarship refutes these claims." And now, current Baltimore mayor Catherine Pugh is considering removing this statue from public view. The lie has been told, and unless it is refuted, it will become "fact" in the minds of all who read the plaque and not the unrevised history books. Robert E. Lee was, in fact, a born-again Christian, who called slavery "an institution (of) moral and political evil..." and freed his own slaves several years before the beginning of the War between the States. "Stonewall" Jackson was also trusting in Christ alone for his salvation. So why doesn't Mayor Pugh read the real facts of history and not the rewrites? My guess is that it doesn't fit her agenda, whatever that is. That's the beauty of selective memory. It fits the post-modern mantra of no absolutes. And the problem with that lies in the consequences. Jesus said to know the truth would set you free **John 8:32**. Without the truth we're in bondage. Whether it be bondage to sin, to which Jesus referred, or bondage to political correctness and its associated evils. The choice is yours. So be selective.

Rev. David Lewis

The Sovereignty of God's Word

Part II - Fulfilled and Future Prophecies

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

God's Word effectively established absolute authenticity by its fulfilled prophecies related to Christ's first Advent (Ps. 22, Is. 53, Dan. 9, et.al.) **and** for us in these "latter days," the ongoing reestablishment of God's chosen nation Israel (est. 1948) in the ancient land promised to Abraham and his descendants - Jacob's 12 sons - in perpetuity (Gen. 17:1-8, 28:13-16). These indisputable confirmations give credence to the hope that all remaining prophecies will come to pass. Of the 1000 plus prophecies, half have already been accomplished.

Two predictions of Christ's future return distinguish between the "catching away" of Christ's church, "For the Lord Himself shall descend...the dead will rise...we shall be caught up...to meet the Lord **in the air**...so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thes. 4:13-18) **and** His return to earth proper. In this latter event, He first defeats His enemies and rescues a remnant of Israel and then begins His reign from David's throne, "Then shall the Lord...fight those nations...And His **feet shall stand** in that day **upon the Mount of Olives** (Zech. 14:3-4).

So, while the Rapture shows the Lord coming to meet His Bride **in the air** (coming **FOR** them) (John 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 4:16-17), His return terra firma (the earth itself) is this time **"with"** His saints (Zech. 14:5b; 1 Thes. 3:13; Jude 14; Christ comes with clouds = "multitudes"-Matt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7).

When the Rapture occurs, there will be a miraculous transformation of our physical bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 2 Cor. 5:1; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 John 3:2). When Christ returns to rescue Israel, He comes **to the Mount of Olives**, and earthquakes and deadly warfare ensue, but no transformations at this precise time.

Those saints raptured and transformed are taken to their eternal home in heaven (John 14:1-3) and then to the "judgement seat of Christ" for rewards (Matt. 16:27; 25:23; 1 Cor. 3:11-16; Jer. 17:10; 2 Cor. 5:10) and next to the wedding feast of the lamb (Rev. 19:7-9; Rom. 14:10).

At the final resurrection, those that died in their own self-righteousness and sins will stand before the "Great White Throne" and be consigned to the "lake of fire" (Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-15).

Believers are taken to heaven in the Rapture before the "great tribulation" as the "Body of Christ" (Col. 1:24; 1 Cor. 12:27). At the second coming all remain (Rev. 20:6) to reign with Christ (Dan. 2:44; Is. 9:7). The Rapture can happen any time; no one knows the day or hour (Matt. 24:44; 1 Thes. 5:1-4). Christ's return to the earth is at the end of the 7-year tribulation commencing the war of the Armageddon (Matt. 24:21, 29-30; Rev. 16:15-16).

Believers are given no signs to watch for regarding the Rapture for Christ "cometh in an hour we think **not**" (Luke 12:40; 1 Thes. 5:2). Yet, with the Second Coming of Christ to the earth itself there are many signs (Matt. 24 and 25 and Luke 21).

The Rapture pertains to born-again believers in Christ – the Church invisible – from every tribe and nation. The Second Coming involves the whole world. The Rapture, followed by rewards and Christ's wedding feast, will be joyful. The Second Coming will be a time of destruction, death and mourning (Zech. 12:2-3, 10-1; 14:12-13; Luke 21:7-11, 20-28, 36).

The Rapture occurs before the "Day of Wrath" and God's children (Ep. 1:4-12) the "spiritual house" of Christ (1 Pet. 2:5-10) are spared **that** wrath (1 Thes. 5:9; Rev. 3:10). God's wrath at Christ's return will fall on **His enemies**, not on His adopted sons and daughters.

There is no reference to or appearance of Satan relative to the Rapture, but Satan and his minions figure prominently in the last days - "Day of the Lord" (1 Thes. 5:2; Jude 6; Rev. 6:17; 20:10; 2 Thes. 2:8).

Just after the Rapture comes the wedding supper of Christ and His Bride. At the Second Coming the wedding is now past and Christ returns **with** His Bride to the earth. At the Rapture only born again believers see Christ. At the Second Coming the whole world sees Him (Matt. 24:29-30).

After the Rapture comes the Tribulation and Armageddon. After the Second Coming comes the millennial reign of Christ on David's Throne (Acts 2:29-32; Rev. 20:4-6). Christians love the prophecies because those now fulfilled prove God's Word.

From the days of Moses there are recurring references in the scriptures where God commanded His words be written (Josh. 1:8; 8:30-32). Isaiah wrote, "The book of the Lord..." (Is. 34:16) and "the law and the testimony" (Is. 8:16, 20). The scriptures exhort, "Keep those things written" (1 Kings 2:3).

Since we read, "It is not by works of righteousness we are saved," but by grace and mercy (Titus 3:5) we may conclude that the highest that man's works – righteousness can lead to idolatry. Our hope of forgiveness originates with God who renews us as new spiritual creations enabled to believe and to desire to repent (John 3:5-6; 2 Cor. 5:17; Acts 17:30).

The scientific method cannot explain God's salvation plan. The gift of faith by grace cannot be put in a test tube and nothing spiritual can be seen under a microscope. Once a man is biologically dead science is impotent to help him and has no say in what God does for his soul. It is "given unto men once to die [no reincarnation] but after this the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). Those enabled to believe (John 6:44) can say "to be absent from the body is to be **present** with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:1-8). God saved us "before the world began" (2 Tim. 1:9) through Christ's atonement alone (Heb. 9:12, 22, 25-26) freeing us from Satan's bondage (Ep. 2:1-3) and into God's own family (Ep. 1:4-13) after the Holy Spirit raised us to life from being spiritually "dead in sins" (Col. 1:13-14; 2:13) to believe and trust Christ's work alone (Ep. 2:1-10).

Now it is by God's ordaining will alone that we are His children (John 1:12) and **not** by man's will (vs. 13). Until a sinner is drawn by God to Christ (John 6:44) he gropes in his inheritance of death's darkness. Once born again by the effectual work of the Holy Spirit, man is able to believe revealed truth (2 Tim. 3:15-17, 4:1-2) and made to be "wise unto salvation" (3:15).

Even though the Holy Scriptures were written over a period of 1500 years by over 40 different authors, it exhibits and retains a unity in a cohesive wholeness that is miraculous. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit anyone can understand it (Luke 11:9-10). One has estimated over one thousand prophecies are recorded and over half are fulfilled with unified precision.

Satan's defeat began when Herod's assassins found an empty manger in Bethlehem and ended at the empty tomb at Calvary. It was prophesied that Christ would appear as a child (Is. 7:14; 9:6-7) first to His own (John 1:11) but also for all mankind (John 3:16). While we do not have every detail of Christ's first advent we do have all we need for full assurance of life everlasting (John 20:30-31; 1 John 5:13).

God's Word oral or written is "**LIVING**" and "sharper than any two-edged sword" (Heb. 4:12). The entire history of Israel has been one long witness to God's truth and power and even secular historians, past and present, have been obliged to acknowledge God's outworkings or simply not be believed. Evolutionists are especially vulnerable. Archeologists have also conceded God's providences in history since the evidence is overwhelming.

God promised to scatter His disobedient chosen people (Ez. 36:17-19) but He also promised to regather them (Jer. 30:3; 31:10). Since 1948 the nation was officially reestablished and no longer divided (Jer. 31:31-37; Ez. 37: 21-28).

The complete destruction of some of Israel's mortal enemies had been prophesied. Babylon was condemned to ashes and ruins (Jer. 50:17-18; 35-39) to never again be inhabited; it's glory gone forever (Is. 13:19-22; Jer. 25:12, 50:35-46). Tyre was turned to dust and remains deserted today (Is. 23:1). Tyre (Tyrus) was initially destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's armies but it was several hundred years later that Alexander the Great's forces did "scrape the dust" and debris for a causeway to the island where his enemies fled fulfilling the rest of the prophecy (Ez. 26:4,14). Alexander conquered the island sanctuary demolishing the fortress and Tyre disappeared (Ez. 28:1-2, 12, 17-19).

The kingdoms of the ancient world and even into modern times have appeared, risen to greatness, and disappeared in the very order God's Word predicted by Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the multi-metaled image representing history's kingdoms (Dan. 2). The subsequent rise and fall of world empires in the sequence given in scriptures and in corresponding secular historical accounts, is another proof of the sovereignty of God's Word.

Are we now living in the closing days when the feet of iron and clay will appear and that mountain "made without hands" will smash the image and God will set "up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed"? Many believe so and therefore we should:

Keep looking up.



Make My Will, Yours!

By Nancy Long

Lev. 11:44a -- *“For I am the Lord thy God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy.”*

Romans 12:1 – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

1 Cor. 10:31 – *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

Colossians 3:17 – *And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.”*

Take My Life and Let It Be

Take my life and let it be ... Consecrated, Lord to Thee;
Take my moments and my days – Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move ... At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be ... Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing ... Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be ... Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold ... Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ... Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine ... It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart ... it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour ... At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself ... and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Words – Frances Ridley Havergal

Music – Henry A. Malan

Frances Ridley Havergal was born shortly before the Christmas of 1836, into the family of an English clergyman. Her spiritual walk began early. Frances was an extremely precocious child, having not only the desire, but also the ability to read and memorize passages of Scripture, by the time she was four. In addition to this, she began writing poetry by the age of seven.

Frances attended schools in England and Germany, becoming proficient in both Hebrew and Greek. She learned Latin, as well as several modern languages. She memorized the Psalms, the book of Isaiah in its entirety, and as well, most of the New Testament.

Much of the verse Frances composed eventually was set to music, thus she became well known for her hymn writing by the time she reached her mid-30's. She indeed had a passion for the Word of God. She read it, she memorized it she **lived** it. Her deepest desire was to be used of God, to be His instrument, to fulfill **His** purpose in her life. He had His hand in all of her affairs, it seemed. Miss Havergal was known as "the consecration poet". By her own admission, she never wrote a line of poetry without praying over it first, composing such well known hymns as, "*Like a River Glorious*", "*I Gave My Life for Thee*", and "*Who is On the Lord's Side?*" Her life was wholly dedicated to working for the Savior!!

"Writing is praying with me, for I never seem to write even a verse by myself, and feel like a little child writing what is dictated." In 1874 (the same year she penned, "**Take My Life**") she wrote to a friend, "*The Master has not put a chest of poetic gold into my possession and said, 'Now use it as you like', but He keeps the gold and gives it to me piece by piece just **when** He will and **as much** as He will, and no more."*

The life of Frances Ridley Havergal was brief. The Lord took this young woman to her eternal home when she was but 42 years old. She died of severe lung inflammation. She had overflowed her heart, her mind, her entire life, with God, His Word, His sufficient grace, and His peace.

Frances Havergal had such a profound influence over those she touched throughout the short time she'd been given to live here on this earth. However, what's even more beautiful is that this sweet lady's life continues to speak volumes to us today, through her books, poetic works, devotional writings, and hymns. "Take My Life and Let it Be" seems to cover every area of surrender to Jesus. Our commitment as a Christian today ought to be Use my hands, my feet, my voice, my possessions Take over; take control of every moment of every day. Make my will, **Yours!!** I offer up my mind, my heart, myself my entire being. I submit, again, and again, and again. Please, Lord, take my life, and use it!!

*“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things**” (Phil. 4:8).*

Every page, every paragraph, every chapter of your life, and mine, I pray it be under the influence of the Spirit to be used **by** God **for** God.

- June 18th -



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 (June 23rd)	8:00 PM