

# The DEFENDER - July 2018



“. . . 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: Of Kings and Presidents

It's long been reported on these pages that there is a direct correlation between America's founding fathers and their belief in, and loyalty to, Judeo-Christian standards; and the direct blessings of God on our nation. Israel's King Solomon stated it simply and correctly in **Proverbs 14:34**: Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. Translation? A right standing with God will bring His mercies. A nation's real greatness doesn't consist of its military conquests or the intelligence of its people, but rather its observance of God's statutes and principles. A nation's sin, on the other hand, will bring God's displeasure, resulting in degradation and even condemnation of its people.

A cursory review of the statements made by America's early leaders clearly validates this. James Madison, our fourth president and "Father of the Constitution" said, "The future success of America is not in the Constitution, but in the laws of God upon which this Constitution is founded". He went on to say, "We have staked the whole future of all our political institutions upon the capacity of each of ourselves to govern ourselves according to the moral principles of the Ten Commandments". Perhaps our third president, Thomas Jefferson, said it best: "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 from 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".

David, who preceded his son Solomon as King of Israel, said in **Psalms 33:12** "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord". David and Solomon knew a little something about governing a rebellious and difficult people. We're at a time in our country's history right now when we need God's favor more than ever. As Jefferson said, God's justice cannot sleep forever. And unless we as a nation repent of our sins, God has every right to take away our liberty and our pursuit of happiness.

As we celebrate our nation's 242nd birthday this month, let's pray that the true Christians here in America remain vigilant, faithful, and obedient to God, understanding that we can see our present and future clearly by looking at our past. We may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know the One who does. And just as our founding Fathers relied on the hand of Providence to shine the light on the path He had prepared for them, we also can trust in His faithfulness to us, no matter what the future may hold for our land. God has a plan in motion for those whose trust is in Him, and as Paul reminds us in **Philippians 1:6**, we can be confident that He which has begun a good work in us will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Happy Birthday, America!

*Rev. David Lewis*

# The Rise of the Man of Sin

## Part III—History's Epilogue

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

Way back in 1898, the evangelical preacher, Samuel J. Andrews, released his book, *Christianity and Anti-Christianity In Their Final Conflict.* Andrews lived during the time of perhaps the greatest departure from and attack upon God's written Word in 1,800 years. He saw what could well be the first steps toward the prophesied "FALLING AWAY" (2 Thes. 2:3-4).

The 19<sup>th</sup> Century was a time of great advances in archeological discoveries: lost cities were found, and historical mysteries solved, etc. Manuscripts were found and those published before the 16<sup>th</sup> Century – "pre-printing press" – were always handwritten. The vast majority were copies also in handwriting.

Consider Caesar Augustus' decree that "all the world should be taxed" (Luke 2:1). Copyists would be employed to write many copies for wide distribution. From the original first generation, copies were made and then copies of the copy to even many generations from the original were required. These latter were likely to contain copyists' errors. Archeologists examined the scrolls for authenticity by what became known as the legitimate science of Higher Criticism.

Since we have none of the original parchments penned by the New Testament writers, copies must be relied upon. However, any supposed problem is overcome by the existence of many copies (some in the thousands) of the Apostles' writings. The overwhelming majority agreed, down to even the punctuation (over 95%). Of the remainder, only a slight amount had changes such as an added or missing comma, etc. Only a handful of copies had significant changes, and even the majority of these affected no established teaching. We have God's Word as He intended.

Latitudinarian theologians (those taking unjustified liberties with God's Word – Rev. 22:18) warped a useful tool – Higher Criticism – into a destructive criticism that attacked God's Word and the ancient creeds based upon it.

Andrews also became aware that universities in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century were awash in other anti-Christian and anti-Biblical concepts such as atheistic Socialism, Communism, Fascism, Evolutionary theories, et. al. (Incidentally, the billions of transitional fossils – the missing links – that even Darwin said had to be in the fossil record, are STILL MISSING – molecules in the mud to man in the crib is not even believable science fiction).

Scriptural narratives show that Jesus differentiated between His preaching to the people and leaders of Israel and His more in-depth clarifying instructions to His followers. When His disciples asked why, Christ replied, "It is given unto you to know the mysteries ... to them it is not given," as was prophesied (Matt. 13:10-15; Is. 6:9-10).

The people at large and the leaders saw His miracles (healing, raising the dead, casting out demons) but only His closest disciples saw Him walk on water (Matt. 14:24-32), stop a storm (Mark 4:39), be transformed into blinding brightness with Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:1-9). At the same time, Jesus openly gave evidence of His Messiahship and His Divinity (John 10:24-38) and as God in man, He forgave sins (Luke

5:20-26). He called himself repeatedly by the divine title of “Son of Man” (John 1:50-51). Daniel also pointed to a coming divine “Son of Man” (Dan. 7:9, 13-14). The Father shouted out Christ’s divine Sonship (Matt. 3:16-17; 17:5).

The Lord and His disciples repeatedly warned of false Christs and false prophets down to the last days (Matt. 24:21-27; 2 Pet. 2:1-3, 3:3, 17). Paul also warned of deception until the end (2 Thes. 2:3-4, 6-9). Samuel J. Andrews showed that Jesus had alluded to one coming in the future who will be an evil deceiver, “I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive” (John 5:43). The Lord also said this evil personage would commit the predicted “abomination of desolation” in the rebuilt future temple (Matt. 24:15) thereby confirming Daniel’s prophecy (9:27, 12:11).

The coming “Man of Sin” is not presented as the root cause of the future “Falling Away” (apostasy) but the product of it. In him, the fallen nature of mankind is most fully manifested (Jer. 17:9; Ep. 2:1-3). Christ, on the other hand, is redeemed - mankind’s ideal toward which to aspire (Phil. 2:5; Col. 3:13, 17). The “Man of Sin” represents those who scoff at Christ’s redemption of lost souls. The Antichrist will deny Christ and the Father claiming God’s glory and accepting worshipful adoration, “... he as God sitteth in the temple” (2 Thes. 2:4) shewing ... he is God.”

The “falling away” is not merely from formerly Christian denominations but from Christ’s once faithful body of believers who were elected by the Father and sanctified by the Holy Spirit (1 Pet. 1:2) yet some were not really believers at all (1 John 2:19). In that future day designated the “last time,” Satan’s man, the Antichrist, shall come (1 John 2:18).

Our Lord redeemed His enslaved children (Ep. 2:2-3) out of Satan’s darkness and blindness (2 Cor. 4:3-4, 6; Ep. 6:12) while we were yet God’s enemies (Rom. 5:8-10). He adopted us (Ep. 1:4-14) by His mercy and grace alone (Ep. 2:8-10; Acts 2:47; Rom. 9:15-16) in His own good pleasure.

God first called Patriarchs, then Prophets, and then a whole separated nation derived of Jacob’s twelve sons (as tribes) dedicated to Jehovah and sealed by God’s Covenants. In the New Testament era, Christ’s “Body of Believers” (Col. 1:18) constitutes an election distinct from the Father’s elect nation Israel (1 Pet. 2:9; 2 Cor. 6:18) “heirs of God through Christ” (Gal. 4:5-6) Jews and Gentiles.

The church continues on earth until Christ takes us home (John 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 4:13-18), no matter how many or how few. “Many are called but few are chosen” (Matt. 20:16) ... narrow is the way ... unto life and few ... find it (Matt. 7:14). Peter cautioned, “make your calling ... sure” (2 Pet. 1:10) “giving all diligence” to “add to your faith” virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity (vs. 5-7). Nevertheless, the “gates of Hell” shall not prevail against Christ’s foreordained, predestined, called, justified, and glorified, sons of God (Rom 8:29-30; John 1:13-14).

Futurist historians teach that world history confirms Nebuchadnezzar’s vision interpreted by Daniel (Dan. 2). Four kingdoms arose in succession, two in the Middle East and two in Europe. The last to fall was Rome’s Kingdom of Iron. What remains unconsummated is a renewed empire of feet of iron and clay – a theocratic confederacy – and a stone (vs. 45) that smashes that final evil kingdom (Is. 13:9-13; Dan. 2:35, 45). Satan and his fallen angels have been judged (Is. 14:12-15) and await their full and final judgment (Is. 13:9-13; Dan. 8:23-25) in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:19-20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:18). The Devil’s wrath is fierce since he knows his time is short (Rev. 12: 7-9, 19).

Samuel J. Andrews saw the beginnings of a unified universal antichristian religion forming in the 1890’s. He witnessed the formation of the “World of Parliament of Religions” in 1893. The representatives of many religions met in Chicago – Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, and liberal Christians (the latter being radical liberals).

Thousands attended over 17 days. Conservative Christians continue to follow Him who declared, "I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life: no man cometh unto the Father but BY ME" (John 14:6). Any unity with Christ denying religions is an open door for antichrists (2 John 7) who have another "truth" – "another gospel which is not another" (Gal. 1:6-7).

Our Lord gave further light from heaven to enhance Biblical prophecies (i.e. Daniel, chapters 2 and 7) and in the visions John received on Patmos. Stated in "the Revelation of Jesus Christ" is, "And I ... saw a beast rise up out of the sea ... upon his heads ... blasphemy" (Rev. 13:1, 8). "I will show unto thee judgment of the great whore ... with whom the Kings ... have committed [spiritual] fornication" ... "I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet colored beast ... having seven heads and ten horns" (Rev. 17:1-4). "I will tell the mystery of the woman and the beast..." (vs. 7). "The seven heads are seven mountains [hills] on which the woman sitteth" (vs. 9). "And the woman ... is that great CITY which reigneth over the kings (vs. 18) "And the ten horns ... are ten kings ... which receive power as kings for one hour with the beast" (vs. 12). "These shall make war with the lamb and the lamb shall overcome them" ... (vs. 14). "The waters ... where the whore sitteth are PEOPLES ... multitudes and nations ... tongues [foreign languages] ... (vs. 15). It is worthwhile to mention that Rome has for centuries been called the "City that sitteth on seven hills."

Theologians see these Kings in a unity of nations (United Nations?) ruling the peoples in a "New World Order" of man-produced peace and prosperity. They also surmise that the woman that "sitteth on the beast" relates to the now forming ONE WORLD RELIGION. The Lord alone knows when the coming Man of Sin will appear in power and "the mystery of iniquity" will become fully evident. It will not fully emerge until "He who now letteth [ HOLDS BACK] ... be taken out of the way ..." (2 Thes. 2:6-7) and "that wicked be revealed ... whom the Lord shall destroy ..." (vs. 8).

Samuel J. Andrews closed his 1898 book with, "The duty of the true church is to affirm that the Lord Jesus is God in human flesh and He alone is the Alpha and Omega, the LIVING WORD who will one day come back in the air for His church" (John 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 4:13-18) AND later with His Church to the Mount of Olives" to rescue Israel (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:9-11; Jude 14, 15).

Keep looking up.

**Main Source:**

**Author:**

**Publisher:**

Christianity and Antichristiantiy In Their Final Conflict

Samuel J. Andrews

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# God Bless America

By Nancy Long

Psalm 33:12-22 – *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom He hath chosen for His inheritance. The Lord looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioned their hearts alike; He considereth all their works. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is an vain thing for safety: neither shall He deliver any by His great strength. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear Him, upon them that hope in His mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord: He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. Let Thy mercy, O lord, be upon us, according as we hope in Thee.”*

2 Chronicles 7:14 – *“If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”*

We, the citizens of the United States of America, will again celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July .... Independence Day .... America's 242nd birthday of freedom. July 4<sup>th</sup> is celebrated as a legal holiday in the United States, commemorating the day when the Declaration of Independence was signed in 1776. It's the day we became free from Britain's tyranny. We, the people of this beautiful America, have been given a huge responsibility in preserving its liberty, standing on the promises, and the firm foundation, of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God has shed His grace on this country over the past almost two and a half centuries ..... and continues to do so. For how long, though, Lord ..... for how long? We, as a people, have snubbed our noses at Your guiding principles. There's widespread pornography; abortion is extensively and widely accepted, and much other grave immorality is running rampant across this "sweet land of liberty".

Parties, celebrations, reunions, extended vacations, picnics ..... balloons, streamers, festive clothing (all red, white, and blue, of course) ..... pomp and splendor, parades, fireworks, the waving of American flags, patriotic speeches, and the like ..... supposedly in remembrance of, as well as the honoring of, our forefathers who fought to make this country "the land of the free and the home of the brave". Ceremonies and observances are good, but we must be on our knees to a greater degree, praying fervently, and without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17 and James 5:16b) for an awakening, a renewal in the hearts of men ..... a revival!!

Our forefathers ..... those who made our country great were men of God ..... Christian men, for the most part, who believed in, relied on, and practiced the incredible saving Gospel of free salvation from sin, and regeneration unto righteousness (Titus 3:5) ..... the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are so many quotes from men of renown ..... those who played a major role, in either the founding of, or in the developing of, this "nation under God". It's my firm conclusion that our Founding Fathers were largely Christians, believing that Christianity was indeed, the solid foundation of the governing of America.

Governor William Bradford, in writing about the Pilgrims arrival, gives this clear description, *“Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell on their knees and blessed the God of heaven who had brought them over the fast and furious ocean, and delivered them from all the perils and miseries thereof, again to set their feet on the firm and stable earth.”*

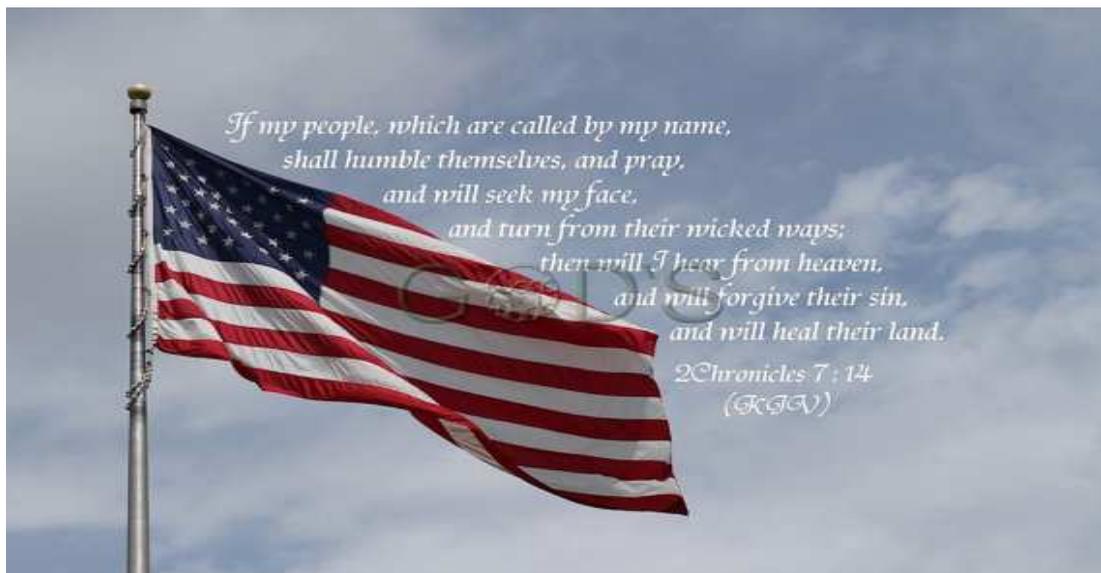
Our nation, at its inception, recognized the hand of the Almighty God!! Have we, at this point in history, forgotten Him? Have we lost sight of His abundant love, mercy, wisdom and strength? Have we buried, somewhere deep within, the truth that, *“the Lord, He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves”* (Psalm 100:3)? Have we been so terribly deceived that we’ve blotted out the validity and soundness of Scripture? Do we no longer see His gracious hand upon our land?

As we, once again, celebrate America’s Independence Day, let us dig into the past, refresh our memories, and remind ourselves, from whence we came. I pray that all of us, with grateful hearts, recall the sacrifices of our godly forefathers, and stand firm on our rich Judeo-Christian heritage. We thank and honor those who went before, for such a legacy!! More importantly, though, we need to get back to our roots, humble ourselves before our Maker, confess our national sins, and seek His forgiveness ..... then, and only then, will we find that promised, perfect peace and rest, in our Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Sovereign God (Isaiah 26:3).

*“God bless America, Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Thro the night with a light from above;*

*From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America, My home sweet home.  
God bless America, My home, sweet home.”*

By – Irving Berlin





“We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and pursuit of happiness—that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

*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 13th)	8:30 PM