



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 2.19.2

Series 2 of the Parables Bookshelf contains a variety of writings covering a wide range of topics related to the Kingdom of God. These writings originally appeared as posts on the Heart4God website, or the Parables Blog, both of which are the websites of Bible teacher Joseph Herrin.

Waco, Texas and the Weapons of Our Warfare

HAND TO HAND COMBAT



Waco, Texas and The Weapons of Our Warfare

Joseph Herrin (01-11-2013)

It is ever my desire to be led of the Spirit of Christ as I fulfill the ministry that has been entrusted to me. In the last two posts I have addressed the issue of gun ownership by Christians. I believe it has been the Spirit of Yahshua that has directed me

to write on this subject at this time. Yahshua would spare those who have eyes to see and ears to hear from the tragedy that will befall those Christians who resort to carnal means to respond to what will shortly occur in

America and the nations.

I pray frequently for the Father to guide me, to order my steps, and to lead me to those issues that He wants me to address with His people. I have often asked Him of late to give me understanding of the days approaching that I might offer godly counsel to His sons and daughters.

Two days ago upon awakening I spent time in prayer. My specific petition was that Yahweh might order my steps that day, and lead me by

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His Spirit, giving me an anointing to fulfill the ministry of writing of which I am a steward. When I checked my e-mail a sister in Christ who is in her eighties had sent me several links to videos on the slaughter of the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas that occurred back in 1993. I had never looked into this event in any depth as my writing ministry did not begin until 1999.

When I saw these e-mails, my initial reaction was to disregard them, for I am continually receiving multitudes of e-mails and links from readers, and I don't have time to pursue them all. When I noted that the first video was nearly two hours in length, my thought was that I desired to begin a writing on another topic that day and attending to these videos would be a distraction from my goal. After a moment of consideration I decided to open the video and see what its main message was, intending to spend no more than a couple minutes watching it. Several hours later I was still watching videos of this event in Waco.

What changed my mind was a realization that this story aligned perfectly with what the Spirit had been leading me to share with the saints regarding the issue of Christians relying upon guns and bullets to protect them. Yahweh was answering my prayer that had been uttered just moments before by guiding me to a subject He wanted me to consider. In it is a message for His people.

Who Were David Koresh and the Branch Davidians?



The Branch Davidians were an offshoot of the Seventh Day Adventist Church known as Davidian Seventh Day Adventists. The name was NOT a reference to David Koresh, who was the spiritual leader of the congregation in Waco, Texas. David Koresh, however, may have chosen his name because of his affiliation with this religious group. He was born Vernon Wayne Howell. In 1990 he changed his name after being a member of the Branch Davidians since 1983.

The name Koresh is a transliteration of the Persian name Cyrus. David Koresh also named his son Cyrus, after the Persian King Cyrus who was much revered by this group. Cyrus is spoken of in the Scriptures. Yahweh called King Cyrus "My servant." Yahweh entrusted to this Gentile king the task of rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem.

II Chronicles 36:22-23

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia - in order to fulfill the word of Yahweh by the mouth of Jeremiah - Yahweh stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also put it in writing, saying, "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'Yahweh, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may Yahweh his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

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David Koresh believed he had a parallel calling to that of King Cyrus. He believed he had also been chosen to perform a great work by God.

The word “Branch” in their name was a reference to Christ, as can be observed in the sign above. The prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Zechariah all refer to Yahshua as “the Branch.” You can see the Scripture references in small print at the bottom of the sign.

This group began in 1935 when Victor Houteff, an outcast from the Seventh Day Adventist church, established a base near Waco. In 1929 Houteff had printed a document titled *The Shepherd’s Rod: The 144,000 - A Call for Reformation*. He presented this document to the leadership of the SDA church where it was apparently given little consideration. It was quite a lengthy writing, and it is reported that most of the church leadership never took the time to read it.

One SDA leader who did read it rejected it while admitting he had only skimmed parts of the writing. His points of disagreement did not relate to the main message of the writing, which was the identity of the 144,000. This teaching became a foundational text for this splinter group of the SDA church. At the height of Houteff’s popularity, more than 900 people joined his churches. After Houteff’s death others took over leadership and the group experienced a sharp decline. By the time of the Waco massacre there were a little more than 100 people in the fellowship.

Before David Koresh joined the Branch Davidians, the group had moved to a new location near Waco where they adopted a communal living style. Many of the members had regular jobs in the community of Waco, while living at the compound. These men and women were deeply devoted to their faith in

Christ. The study of the Scriptures was a major focus of their lives. It was their practice to conduct Bible studies twice a day. Despite the media characterization of these people as brainwashed disciples of David Koresh, many of them pre-dated Koresh in their affiliation with the Mount Carmel Center (the name of their compound), and they embraced their beliefs willingly, having found them to be persuasive and compelling.

According to numerous reports, the men, women and children had a reputation of being good people, were well liked by those who knew them in the Waco community, and lived moral lives. There are videos available on the Internet showing the members of this group involved in church services, and the appearance bears great similarity to church meetings one would find throughout America. There are some differences, however, in their practices and beliefs as most Christians have not adopted a communal living arrangement, and some of the doctrines of this SDA splinter group are not common among other denominations and churches.

You have perhaps seen billboards along the interstates equating Sunday worship with the mark of the beast spoken of in Revelation. This is a teaching of the SDA church. Seventh Day Adventists, as their name implies, hold to a seventh day Sabbath (Saturday). They also advocate adherence to various parts of the Mosaic Law, such as the dietary laws, while also going beyond the Law in suggesting that vegetarianism is the optimal diet for mankind to eat. They condemn the consumption of all forms of alcohol, caffeine, etc., and they observe the Hebrew feast days set forth in the Old Testament.

Despite the generally good reputation of the group in Waco, there was significant infighting as factions arose in the group. One faction was led by George Roden who was presumed to be the de

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facto leader of the Mount Carmel community, and the other group was led by David Koresh. Roden forcibly expelled Koresh from the property in 1985, resulting in Koresh and about 25 church members relocating temporarily to Palestine, Texas where they lived in tents for almost two years.

Roden's support began to wane, and Koresh's acceptance by the majority of the church members was solid despite his exile. Roden, realizing that his support was fleeing, challenged Koresh to a contest to see who could raise the dead. Roden exhumed a corpse for the purpose, and Koresh reported this to the local authorities. The authorities informed Koresh that he would have to supply proof, such as photographic evidence, that Roden had exhumed a corpse, so he returned with seven armed men to gather the evidence when a gun fight broke out. Roden received a slight wound, and was pinned down behind a tree when the local Sheriff arrived and brought an end to the confrontation. At trial Koresh explained that they had gone to uncover evidence of a crime against a corpse. His followers were all acquitted and his own charges ended in a mistrial.

Not long afterwards, George Roden murdered a member of the church with an axe and was imprisoned. He owed a large sum of money on the property, which Koresh and his followers were able to raise to acquire the property for their own use.

Attitude Toward Gun Ownership

Other than this single event where David Koresh and some followers took guns with them to obtain evidence of a crime being committed on the Mount Carmel property, I know of no other time when violence was employed by the group. Nevertheless, this event reveals a reliance upon carnal weapons and actions to accomplish personal goals. What

was done by these men was not performed at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

David Koresh, as the pastor of this group, began placing an emphasis upon apocalyptic teachings. He was focusing much on the seven seals of Revelation. He believed that he would ultimately be martyred, and that his martyrdom would serve as a catalyzing force to overthrow the evil government of this world and usher in the Davidic kingdom in Jerusalem. Koresh was an advocate of armed resistance, and he frequently criticized the American government, and particularly the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

It was widely reported in the news media that Koresh was stockpiling weapons, but in actuality Koresh had a gun business that he used to generate funds. Hundreds of guns were purchased to be taken to gun shows to be sold. At the time of the raid on the compound, one of the church members who oversaw this activity had taken the majority of the guns owned by the Branch Davidians to a gun show, a fact which the government was surely aware of since they had the compound under surveillance for some weeks prior to their assault on the property. This business of being a gun reseller was legally licensed, though this in no respect implies that it found approval in the eyes of God.

Motive for Government Assault

If you have received your information on the Waco massacre from the government and mainstream media sources, you undoubtedly have encountered many false views of what occurred. Two days before the assault on the compound, the local newspaper in Waco began running a series of highly inflammatory articles against David Koresh and the Branch Davidians. Koresh was accused of having multiple wives, committing child abuse, and brain-

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washing the members of the church. None of these charges have ever been substantiated. The timing of this media attack points to collusion by those in power to present an image of the ensuing conflict that would provide justification for the government's actions.

It was the BATF that led the assault on the compound, yet the BATF has no authority to investigate or prosecute people for the crimes which the newspaper was accusing Koresh. The true motive for the assault was never disclosed by the media. What is evident is that the BATF wanted David Koresh and the adult members of the Davidian group silenced, and dead men tell no tales. Much evidence has come out in ensuing years that reveals that the FBI who took over the jurisdiction of this matter from the BATF, gave instructions to the church members inside the compound that no one was to exit the building or they would be shot. On the day of the final assault, the government destroyed all exits to the building except one. They set fire to the compound and had snipers positioned at the one remaining exit. As members sought to flee the flames they were gunned down. More than twenty of the 79 members who perished had gun shot wounds and all were found in the vicinity of the exit to the burning building.

The media, however, reported that Koresh had murdered his own people, or that they chose to commit group suicide.

In videos posted online, it is disclosed that there were two members of David Koresh's group who were compiling information on the activities of the BATF just prior to the raid. One of the members was a computer professional, and it is suggested that he may have breached the BATF computer systems and acquired information on secret plans to disarm the American populace. It is suggested in the video that this is a possible motive for the

BATF raid on the compound.

Although one can only speculate whether this was indeed the true reason, what I am convinced of is that the BATF did not launch this assault because David Koresh was suspected to be a polygamist or a child abuser. Such things are outside of the scope of the BATF. I also sincerely doubt this all-out raid where the BATF went in with men on the ground and men in helicopters firing bullets into the compound before there was ever a knock on the door was precipitated by a concern that the group might have illegal weapons. It is not illegal to own weapons, not even large numbers of them, and as mentioned, most of the group's guns were off-site at a gun show at the time of the assault.

There was some darker motive for which the BATF launched this attack. The most probable motive I have heard expressed is that the Davidian members had uncovered plans by the government to illegally foment civil unrest, mass gun casualties, etc., to provide an excuse for the BATF to begin confiscating American's guns.

In light of the recent disclosure of the Obama administration, and Attorney General Holder paving the way for thousands of American guns to be funneled to the hands of violent Mexican drug gangs in an operation that has become known as Operation Fast and Furious, it is apparent that American authorities have been involved in clandestine acts to promote violence and murder for the sole purpose of providing justification to overturn the Second Amendment and take guns out of the hands of the citizenry. That David Koresh, a vocal critic of the BATF, may have obtained sensitive information and suffered this assault as a result seems quite credible.

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US News and World Report 7/24/95 P 30

up to a Treasury Department review. Critics argue that the ATF's search of assets warrants were sloppy and they are information that was in fact left months old. Government of Idaho under that a judge-ordered one step to warrants and claim that defense lawyers for surviving Davidson cannot identify them. The forensic officials say a

size of the evidence. In the Texas Rangers found the 10 compound remained 18 illegal machine guns and four illegal hand grenades.

PREPARING FOR THE RAID. In the plate of the occasion, the ATF's failures were easy and routine. The agency's intelligence gathering was especially unimpressive. The ATF's intelligence gathering was especially unimpressive. The ATF's intelligence gathering was especially unimpressive.



One video online reveals that after the slaughter of the men women and children at the Waco compound, the BATF raised their flag on the property.

This insensitive act provides further support to the belief that the BATF waged a personal war of annihilation against a group they saw as a threat to their organization and aims. The dark powers that control the BATF are revealed in the seal for this organization.



Right in the center of this seal is the Masonic architect's square, and on the square are 13 stars.

Lessons From Waco

Brothers and sisters, if you have read the previous two posts, you will recognize that I am not sharing this information because I am a Second Amendment advocate. If there are Americans that are not Christians who are upset about the present government eroding their right to keep and bear arms, I am not here to criticize them. What have we to do with judging those outside the church? Paul told Timothy not to entangle himself with the affairs of this world (II Timothy 2:4). The citizens of this world will do as they choose. The disciples of Christ belong to another kingdom.

I share these things to declare to those who are disciples of Christ that if you take up carnal weapons to combat the evil in this world, you will be committing yourself to carnal conflict. It will surely come. Christ stated:

Matthew 26:52

“Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword.”

The apostle Paul declared:

II Corinthians 10:3-4

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh...

Our warfare is NOT against the governments and people of this world. As Christians we are not called to defend the constitution of the nation in

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which we dwell. Nor are we called to take up arms to protect property, or even life. Our weapons are spiritual. The prayers of the saints avail much.

I would far rather entrust my life, and that of my loved ones, to the hands of an all-powerful and all-wise God, than to trust in my own fleshly ability to protect these same ones. By setting my focus upon spiritual realms, and looking to Yahweh for security, defense, leadership, and every necessary thing, I am able to walk in the Spirit. My experience has not been reduced to one of fleshly conflict. My focus is spiritual, and my weapons and resources are spiritual.

If you arm yourself for conflict with the government, then a conflict of arms you will get. Look at what occurred in Waco with this church group that did this very thing. Did they prevail? Did the government's evil actions end up being exposed and condemned? Was justice served? Did light triumph over darkness? Will you fare any better if you fight fire with fire? Will your guns deliver you from a government that has ordered billions of rounds of ammunition in the past couple years, who has millions of fully automatic assault rifles, tanks, grenades, and Predator drones that can fire missiles with pinpoint accuracy at homes, automobiles, or men on the ground?

I entreat you to NOT set your focus to engage in conflict on this level. You will not win. These are not the weapons of our warfare. You have been given the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the girdle of truth, the gospel of peace, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Let God fight for you. When He says flee, then flee. When He says hide yourself away as Elijah did at the Brook Cherith, then do so. And when He says it is time to suffer that He might be glorified through your faith and patience, then yield yourself freely to the cross.

The Luciferian governments of this world have no compunction regarding the torment and murder of men, women and children. If you enter into a carnal conflict with them, you will not win. They will out-carnal you. They can be more fleshly than you. They will be more vicious, more ruthless, and they have greater weapons at their disposal.

This is not the case, however, if you walk according to the Spirit. The little finger of Yahweh is greater than all the armies of mankind.

There is a rallying cry in Texas that says, "Remember the Alamo!" The Spirit would say to His people, "Remember Waco!" Don't travel down that same road. Don't look to carnal weapons to deliver you in a day of distress. Don't lower yourself to the level of conflict that this world would choose. Rise above it. Put your faith, your trust, your defense, in the heavens.

Psalms 3 (A Psalm of David)

O Yahweh, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, "There is no deliverance for him in God." Selah. But You, O Yahweh, are a shield about me, my glory, and the One who lifts my head. I was crying to Yahweh with my voice, and He answered me from His holy mountain. Selah. I lay down and slept; I awoke, for Yahweh sustains me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Yahweh; save me, O my God! For You have smitten all my enemies on the cheek; You have shattered the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to Yahweh; Your blessing be upon Your people!

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The Rat Race of the Religious System

Joseph Herrin (07-26-2010)



"Christianity started out in Palestine as a fellowship; it moved to Greece and became a philosophy; it moved to Italy and became an institution; it moved to Europe and became a culture; it came to America and became an enterprise." -Sam Pascoe

What I would share with you in this post is extremely important. You will have to be patient for a moment, slow your racing mind down, and focus intently upon the words I am writing. Some concepts are so foreign to the religiously trained mind that they are at first difficult to grasp. If you have spent any significant length of time in the Christian religious system, in denominational, or non-denominational churches, then your mind has been influenced subtly, yet powerfully, in ways you may not have contemplated.

Have you ever considered that the entire system of what passes for Christianity today is a perverse corruption of Yahweh's plan for His people? I am not

speaking merely of the many doctrines of demons that have entered into the church, such as that which is called "prosperity doctrine." No, I am referring to the overall system of getting people saved so they can join a church, get involved in its programs, and devote their lives to a corporate entity that is proclaimed to be the body of Christ.

Recently, a brother in Christ forwarded to me the speech given by an 18 year old girl in upstate New York. Erica Goldson was the valedictorian of Cocksackie-Athens High School, and was given the opportunity to address all those gathered at her 2010 class graduation ceremony. What she shared is remarkable in its insight for one so young.

Erica chose to talk about the education system in America. Following is the major portion of her speech. As you read it, please consider how these words spoken of the American education system relate to the Christian Religious System, for they are very similar in purpose and practice.

Here I Stand

Erica Goldson

(Valedictorian Speech 2010 - Delivered Wednesday, July 7, 2010 to the students, parents and faculty gathered at Cocksackie-Athens High School.)

There is a story of a young, but earnest Zen student who approached his teacher, and asked the Master, "If I work very hard and diligently, how long will it take for me to find Zen? The Master thought about this, then replied, "Ten years..." The student then said, "But what if I work very, very hard and really apply myself to learn fast - How long then?" Replied the Master, "Well, twenty years." "But, if I really, really work at it, how long then?" asked the student. "Thirty years," replied the Master. "But, I

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do not understand," said the disappointed student. "At each time that I say I will work harder, you say it will take me longer. Why do you say that?" Replied the Master, "When you have one eye on the goal, you only have one eye on the path."

This is the dilemma I've faced within the American education system. We are so focused on a goal, whether it be passing a test, or graduating as first in the class. However, in this way, we do not really learn. We do whatever it takes to achieve our original objective.

Some of you may be thinking, "Well, if you pass a test, or become valedictorian, didn't you learn something? Well, yes, you learned something, but not all that you could have. Perhaps, you only learned how to memorize names, places, and dates to later on forget in order to clear your mind for the next test. School is not all that it can be. Right now, it is a place for most people to determine that their goal is to get out as soon as possible.

I am now accomplishing that goal. I am graduating. I should look at this as a positive experience, especially being at the top of my class. However, in retrospect, I cannot say that I am any more intelligent than my peers. I can attest that I am only the best at doing what I am told and working the system. Yet, here I stand, and I am supposed to be proud that I have completed this period of indoctrination. I will leave in the fall to go on to the next phase expected of me, in order to receive a paper document that certifies that I am capable of work. But I contest that I am a human being, a thinker, an adventurer - not a worker. A worker is someone who is trapped within repetition - a slave of the system set up before him. But now, I have successfully shown that I was the best slave. I did what I was told to the extreme. While others sat in class and doodled to later become great artists, I sat in class to take notes and become a great test-taker. While

others would come to class without their homework done because they were reading about an interest of theirs, I never missed an assignment. While others were creating music and writing lyrics, I decided to do extra credit, even though I never needed it. So, I wonder, why did I even want this position? Sure, I earned it, but what will come of it? When I leave educational institutionalism, will I be successful or forever lost? I have no clue about what I want to do with my life; I have no interests because I saw every subject of study as work, and I excelled at every subject just for the purpose of excelling, not learning. And quite frankly, now I'm scared.

John Taylor Gatto, a retired school teacher and activist critical of compulsory schooling, asserts, "We could encourage the best qualities of youthfulness – curiosity, adventure, resilience, the capacity for surprising insight simply by being more flexible about time, texts, and tests, by introducing kids into truly competent adults, and by giving each student what autonomy he or she needs in order to take a risk every now and then. But we don't do that." Between these cinderblock walls, we are all expected to be the same. We are trained to ace every standardized test, and those who deviate and see light through a different lens are worthless to the scheme of public education, and therefore viewed with contempt.

H. L. Mencken wrote in The American Mercury for April 1924 that the aim of public education is not to fill the young of the species with knowledge and awaken their intelligence... Nothing could be further from the truth. The aim... is simply to reduce as many individuals as possible to the same safe level, to breed and train a standardized citizenry, to put down dissent and originality. That is its aim in the United States. (Gatto)

To illustrate this idea, doesn't it perturb you to

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learn about the idea of “critical thinking.” Is there really such a thing as “uncritical thinking?” To think is to process information in order to form an opinion. But if we are not critical when processing this information, are we really thinking? Or are we mindlessly accepting other opinions as truth?

This was happening to me, and if it wasn't for the rare occurrence of an avant-garde tenth grade English teacher, Donna Bryan, who allowed me to open my mind and ask questions before accepting textbook doctrine, I would have been doomed. I am now enlightened, but my mind still feels disabled. I must retrain myself and constantly remember how insane this ostensibly sane place really is.

And now here I am in a world guided by fear, a world suppressing the uniqueness that lies inside each of us, a world where we can either acquiesce to the inhuman nonsense of corporatism and materialism, or insist on change. We are not enlivened by an educational system that clandestinely sets us up for jobs that could be automated, for work that need not be done, for enslavement without fervency for meaningful achievement. We have no choices in life when money is our motivational force. Our motivational force ought to be passion, but this is lost from the moment we step into a system that trains us, rather than inspires us.

We are more than robotic bookshelves, conditioned to blurt out facts we were taught in school. We are all very special, every human on this planet is so special, so aren't we all deserving of something better, of using our minds for innovation, rather than memorization, for creativity, rather than futile activity, for rumination rather than stagnation? We are not here to get a degree, to then get a job, so we can consume industry-approved placation after placation. There is more, and more still.

The saddest part is that the majority of students don't have the opportunity to reflect as I did. The majority of students are put through the same brainwashing techniques in order to create a complacent labor force working in the interests of large corporations and secretive government, and worst of all, they are completely unaware of it. I will never be able to turn back these 18 years. I can't run away to another country with an education system meant to enlighten rather than condition. This part of my life is over, and I want to make sure that no other child will have his or her potential suppressed by powers meant to exploit and control. We are human beings. We are thinkers, dreamers, explorers, artists, writers, engineers. We are anything we want to be - but only if we have an educational system that supports us rather than holds us down. A tree can grow, but only if its roots are given a healthy foundation...

I am now supposed to say farewell to this institution, those who maintain it, and those who stand with me and behind me, but I hope this farewell is more of a “see you later” when we are all working together to rear a pedagogic movement. But first, let's go get those pieces of paper that tell us that we're smart enough to do so!

[S o u r c e :
<http://americaviaerica.blogspot.com/2010/07/coxsa-ckie-athens-valedictorian-speech.html>]

I (Joseph Herrin) attended the public education system for 12 years, graduating from High School, and later going on to earn a college degree. It was what I was conditioned to do. The thought never occurred to me while I was in attendance that the system itself could be an evil thing. I never questioned whether it was preparing me to be a godly person, or considered if the goals of my education were those God would choose. The American education system was training me to be a good corporate citizen. I was a member of the greatest consumer nation on earth, and I was being groomed for a life

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devoted to consumption.

While in school, the merits of excelling in the system were made known to me. With better grades came the promise of higher pay, and more money being available to spend on my pursuit of “The American Dream.” Little did I realize that I was being indoctrinated in the art of consumption. I was fed dreams of materialism, and my pursuit of materialism served the ends of the global corporations. My money would end up in their pockets. My life’s labor would further their empire.

II Peter 2:3

And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you...

American society promotes covetousness. Advertisements are inescapable. If you watch television, or even go to the movies, you will have to abide a barrage of commercials that are aimed at creating a desire for some company’s product. If you drive down the road you will be met with billboards intended to produce a desire for some service or product. You cannot read a magazine, or listen to the radio, without the constant drone of corporate consumerism invading your mind through sounds and images.

How many Americans ever question whether the endless drive to attain material possessions, and to enjoy one pleasure after another, is actually righteous? How many have considered what type of life God would lead them to if there were not the constant and pervasive influence of society telling them what they should be pursuing? The American education and cultural system has made slaves of an entire population. The citizens of the nation live to acquire material possessions, and then spend the balance of their lives trying to hold onto what they have gained. Is this the will of God?

Luke 12:15

And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

This article is not about the American system of materialism, however. It is about the Christian Religious System. The same blindness that affects the citizens of America, also holds sway in the church.

Isaiah 42:19

“Who is blind but My servant, or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace with Me, or so blind as the servant of Yahweh?”

I want to entreat you to consider the goals and practices of the Christian Religious System, particularly in Western nations. Going to church is what people are conditioned to do. Participating in the stereotypical programs of the various denominations is considered both right and proper. A focus on church attendance, supporting the church financially, and living a church-centric life is accepted without any critical thinking.

How many Christians have stopped to question whether the goals and practices of the church are in synch with the desires of God? Christians are conditioned to not ask such questions. They are herded along with everyone else, directed through endlessly repeated sermons that proclaim the virtues of attendance, program participation, and tithing. Being a good corporate citizen of the church is equated with spirituality.

What is Yahweh’s desire for His sons and daughters? As I have been sharing everywhere I go, He

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desires sons (male and female). He wants sons in His image. He is seeking sons who are conformed to the image of Christ so they can rule and reign with Him in the ages to come.

Are the churches producing sons in the image of Christ? Absolutely not! Rather, they are aborting every son that begins to show marks of maturity. To be conformed to Christ's image, one must be led of the Spirit, not conformed to the pattern of this fallen world system.

Romans 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Christ did not lead a life centered on the synagogue. He did not live to fulfill the programs and plans of the synagogue's leaders. Christ never equated participation in the life of the local synagogue with spiritual life. He lived to do the will of His Father. The Father's will was not made known to Him by men, but by the Spirit who was given to indwell Him. Those who have been born of the Spirit of Christ have received the same Spirit to serve as their guide.

I Corinthians 2:10-13

For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man, which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit...

The Christian Religious System is antithetical to

the purposes of God. The system has indoctrinated Christians to believe that they must come to the church building weekly to hear the word of God spoken to them by an appointed minister. The minister will perhaps give them a 15-30 minute message, often including admonitions on attendance, participation in programs, and tithing. Before and after the message of the minister there will be announcements that serve as commercials for all the events, programs and services of the corporation called the church.

The saint is trained to be a good corporate citizen, and his continuance as a good corporate citizen is assumed to last as long as life is in him. ***Do the programs of the church lead to conformity to Christ?*** The instrument Yahweh uses to conform sons to the image of Christ is the cross. There is an afflicted path to be walked. There are difficult experiences to be endured. There are trials to be passed through, all the while the saint is to be crucifying the flesh that the Spirit of Christ within him might arise.

The church does not offer this path to conformity to Christ. They are more likely to offer baseball, softball, golf, and excursions to the mall than they are to lead the saints to take up their crosses to follow Christ. The church stands in the way of the believer, for it will not permit any to be led of the Spirit. Being led of the Spirit will interfere with being led by the church leadership. One cannot fulfill the goals of the corporation while being led of the Spirit. If you are led by the Spirit you will not be the model corporate Christian citizen that those building earthly kingdoms desire to populate their congregations. The church leaders are all too willing to usurp the role of the Spirit, telling the saints what the will of God is for their lives. The end is always self-serving, fostering a dependence upon the church leaders, and resulting in a continuance of the church as a corporate entity.

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Eighty years ago, a wise Christian minister named T. Austin Sparks wrote the following words:

We realize with intense sorrow of heart that all is not well with that which ostensibly represents the Lord here, and that there is a state of things widely prevailing which does not truly accord with the revealed desire of God.

"We live in a time of more than usual dearth spiritually - the state of things may well remind us of Ezekiel's valley of dry bones - we have not merely to cope with evils which have characterized bygone ages, but also with the matured corruption of a time wherein the varied evils of the Gentile world have become connected with, and covered by the cloak of Christian profession; and when we turn to the state of those whose knowledge of truth and high profession might naturally encourage the expectation of more healthy and vigorous Christian action, we find, alas! in many - yes, in the majority of cases - that the knowledge is but cold and uninfluential theory, and the profession but superficial."

Christianity has become so largely a matter of doctrine and creed. The test of Christian life is very much a matter of subscribing thereto. Christian experience has become largely limited to a matter of being saved, without the great Eternal and universal relative factors and issues. Christian service is resolved far too much into a matter of enthusiasm in a great enterprise apart from an adequate apprehension of what the Lord is really after and the indispensable energy and equipment of the Holy Ghost. The Christian "church" is very largely reduced to earthly institutions, societies, denominations, buildings, activities and orders, and the spiritual revelation and apprehension of "the One Body" and "One Spirit" is for by far the most part lacking. Christian teaching has very largely become - at best - a matter of giving addresses and preaching sermons with a presentation of "the let-

ter of the Word," a giving forth of truth as truth, but lacking in "revelation in the knowledge of Him" (Eph. 1:17); that true inwardness of meaning which reaches the heart and meets the deepest spiritual need of the hungry.

The result of all this is that the impact of that which stands for God upon the world, and particularly upon "the world rulers of this darkness" is almost nil, or a minus quantity...

As we get nearer the close of this age the contact with and impact of the forces of Satan is going to be such that only those who know the full testimony of Jesus and stand experimentally in it will be able to go through without being paralyzed. The aspect of things is fast changing. The past twenty years has seen a movement into a realm where the old methods and means no longer prove effectual. We shall soon find a tremendous pressing down of the powers of darkness upon this earth, using the world-powers to such a degree and in such ways as to eclipse anything which has hitherto been. This is in full accord with the Word of God. There will be one, and only one hope for God's people, and that is their knowledge of Him in Christ and the power of His resurrection as a present spiritual reality. Not their activities, enthusiasms, organizations, enterprises, creeds, "churches," orthodoxy, and so on, but HIMSELF. That time, which is now coming upon us - though imperceptible to so many who are preoccupied with plans and programs - will make manifest the principle of the "One Body..."

[Source: "A Witness and A Testimony" magazine, Sep-Oct 1930 Vol. 8-5]

It is no wonder that a remnant are hearing the Spirit calling to "come out of her, My people, lest you participate in her sins and partake of her plagues" (Revelation 18:4). The church has become a place of confusion (Babylon). Not only are her doctrines

Waco, Texas and the Weapons of Our Warfare

leavened, but the very system stands in the way of the saints attaining to “the fulness of the stature which belongs to Christ” (Ephesians 4:13).

It is time for all saints to examine the system itself. Does the system of religion promote a Spirit directed life? Have you been brought to a complete abandonment to go wherever Christ would lead you, and to do whatever He would instruct you to do? Are you comfortable in the church because it assures you that Yahweh is well pleased with those who participate in its programs, while not requiring you to give up everything?

Luke 14:33

“So therefore, no one of you can be My disciple who does not give up all he possesses.”

There is a reason that the Christian Religious System is not under attack by the masses of Christians. There is a reason there is no wide call for reform. The church as a man-made institution is comfortable for those who do not wish to be disturbed. To be led of the Spirit will cost a man or woman everything. Nothing can be held back. Yet the corporate religious system will permit a man or woman to hold onto a significant portion of their property and their life.

People of God, the hour is late. It is time for all believers to question the Christian Religious System in the same way that a young Jewish woman named Erica Goldson has questioned the American educational system. The religious system permits men and women to continue to walk after the desires of the flesh. The Spirit of Christ will not. Do not allow yourself to follow

blind guides. There is One who is appointed to lead you. That is the Spirit of Christ who indwells all the saints.

Galatians 5:16

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days.

Time Is Running Out

Joseph Herrin (11-25-2015)



The Thanksgiving holiday in America will be observed tomorrow. There are a great many things I am thankful for. This past year has brought unexpected blessings. Among them is a car that five brothers in Christ were led to purchase for me, a vehicle that has proven very useful as the ministry to men in prison has been increasing and I find myself needing to make more frequent trips to town to visit the post office. Another tremendous gift was a new, higher capacity printer that was purchased for \$2,200, being a gift from a brother in Christ who wanted to contribute to the ministry to men in prison. I am now printing nearly 4,000 pages every week-end as I prepare newsletters to send to men in prison.

Yahweh continues to sustain me day by day, enabling me to offer all my books, blog posts,

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newsletters, audio files, and other material freely to all who desire to partake of them. I am thankful for all of my brothers and sisters in Christ who have given freely, generously, and without any urging or petition from me, as they yield themselves first to Christ to be used of Him in any way He directs. Your obedience and submission to the Holy Spirit has blessed, sustained, and encouraged me continuously throughout the past year.

I would make mention of one other thing I am specifically thankful for. This particular blessing of the Father is the focus of this post. I am thankful that Yahweh speaks to His sons and daughters, informing them of things to come, and revealing to them how they are to prepare. As the hour draws ever closer for the people of God to experience great trials, sorrows, and difficulties, Yahweh has not been stinting in informing them of the lateness of the hour, and of the types of experiences that are approaching. When so many are walking as blind men, having their understanding darkened, it is encouraging to know that Yahweh will provide light to those who seek first His kingdom and His righteousness.

I Thessalonians 5:4-8

But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

Earlier today I received an e-mail from a brother and sister in Christ who have yielded their lives to embrace a walk of faith and obedience to God for many years now. They have experienced a non-traditional lifestyle, and have been content with far less materially than most American Christians. Even with the modest lifestyle they have embraced, they have practiced unstinting hospitality and generosity to others. They have lived by the principle that you can never out-give God, and if we give freely to the needs of others, Yahweh will give even more abundantly to us.

Deuteronomy 15:7-8

If there be with you a poor man, one of your brothers, within any of your gates in your land which Yahweh your God gives you, you shall not harden your heart, nor shut your hand from your poor brother; but you shall surely open your hand to him, and shall surely lend him sufficient for his need in that which he wants.

Proverbs 11:24-25

There is one who scatters, and increases yet more. There is one who withholds more than is appropriate, but gains poverty. The generous soul shall be made fat. He who waters shall be watered also himself.

This couple has practiced this principle of the kingdom of Yahweh for many years, so it made them stop and take notice when Yahweh recently told them to hold onto a surplus He had give to them. Following is the e-mail I received from them this morning.

Waco, Texas and the Weapons of Our Warfare

Dear Joseph,

A couple of days ago we were blessed with many bags of chicken food - egg layer, scratch and cracked corn - about a year's supply for the number of chickens we now have. As usual, Randy's first thought was who to share it with. He brought a 40 lb bag of layer up to the neighbor where we get water. But this morning he told me that he feels a check in his spirit about giving any more away. Now that is not normal, because Randy knows that we cannot out-give Yahweh. He blesses us and we bless others. So this has caused us to wonder if perhaps we are on the verge of falling into the chaos that has been approaching for so many years.

Just wanted to share that with you, because it is so out of the ordinary for us.

Be blessed,

Love, Randy and Kathy

I wrote this couple back and shared the following:

Hello Randy and Kathy,

Thank you for sharing this with me. I believe that these promptings or leadings from the Spirit of Christ are far better indicators of what is coming than trying to figure things out by reading the news, or observing what Satan is up to in this world. In the recent book I started writing

titled *The Testimony*, it was this very thing that encouraged me to begin writing what will be my 22nd book. (I thought it important to reflect on the things Yahweh has spoken to me specifically in days past for these words from Yahweh are a sure foretelling of things to come.)



It seems fitting that Yahweh would guide me to write 22 books during this wilderness experience which I began in 1999. He has been taking me through similar experiences that a much larger group of His sons and daughters will soon be passing through. Although I cannot say that God has told me that this will be my last book before calamitous events begin to befall the church at large and the nations, I would not be surprised if it is, for Yahweh does work in very symbolic ways.

Something that has been brought back to mind as I have begun work on this book are the words Yahweh spoke to me years ago. He said the difficult experiences He would lead me through were to prepare me for even more difficult days to follow, and He declared that He had called some to experience these things before their brothers and sisters so that as pioneers and explorers they could serve as guides to those who

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would follow. It is words such as these, the leadings and promptings of the Holy Spirit, that are most reliable as indicators of what is ahead of us.

Consequently, I place far more weight upon Randy's experience with the Lord than I do in other signs of the lateness of the hour. I know that Randy hears from Yahweh, and has been guided by Him in many similar instances. So, it is certainly something to stand up and take note of when the Father begins to lead Randy to not give away the surplus he has been given at this time.

Joseph

After I sent this correspondence to this brother and sister in Christ I was reminded of a sign Yahweh has been speaking through for some years now, and which I have written about on several occasions in the past. This sign is the SS United States which now sits as a rusting derelict at a pier in Philadelphia.

The organization that owns this ship, and which has been futilely trying to find an angel investor to restore and re-purpose the ship for some commercial venture, announced back in October that the financial situation of the group had deteriorated to the point where they were entertaining offers to have the ship melted down as scrap. They planned a fund-raiser for October 29th, and I had not found any information on the outcome of their efforts. The thought came to me this morning that perhaps the Father would reveal something further of what lies ahead for the people of God and the nations through this sign. I thought perhaps Yahweh might confirm the

thoughts expressed by Randy and Kathy, and which were in my own heart. When I went to the website for the SS United States Conservancy, I was met with the image and message you find at the top of this post.

SOS

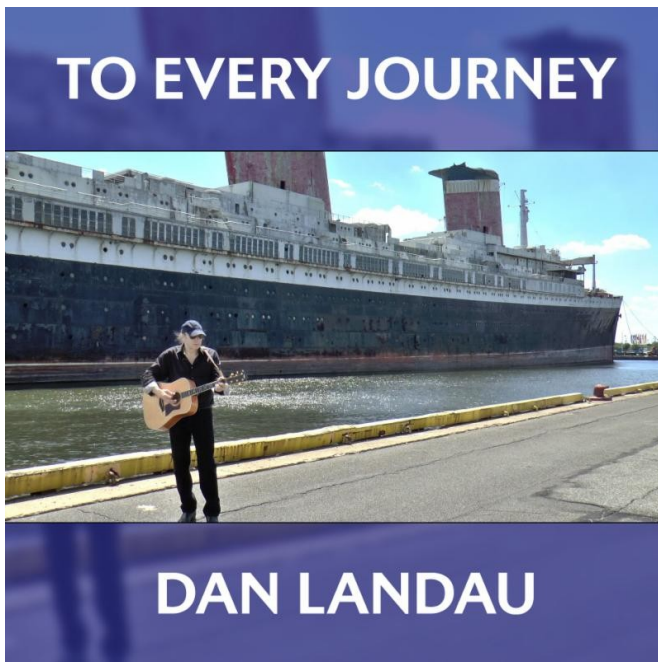
Time is Running Out

hashtag: #SaveTheUnitedStates

I could hardly imagine a clearer affirmation to the e-mail from Randy and Kathy this morning. Yahweh is declaring that time is running out. We are nearing the end of the road for life as we have known it in America and the nations. The experience of the people of God will change drastically before much more time passes.

As I followed the links to various news articles on the conservancy's website I learned that just yesterday an update had been posted revealing that \$600,000 had been raised in the previous 7 weeks to temporarily stave off the scrapping of the SS United States. This is less than a year's expenses, for it costs \$60,000 each month to keep this derelict ship berthed in Philadelphia. Although the leaders of the conservancy speak optimistically of finding investors to restore the ship to its former glory, their hopes have been dashed time and again. The cost of restoring this ship is enormous and would run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. The economic climate is not favorable to such huge speculative investments.

Waco, Texas and the Weapons of Our Warfare



At the gala fund-raiser held in October, singer/songwriter Dan Landau performed a song specifically written for the occasion. The song is titled *For Every Journey*. The song speaks of the inspiration provided by this once, and supposedly still proud ship. It speaks of the ship yearning to be loosed from its mooring to return to sail the deep blue seas. This is a very melancholy song when one realizes that the ship will never set sail again under its own power. Its once mighty engines were removed years ago. Its four propellers have also been removed. It had to be towed to its present location like an old barge, having been stripped of all of its mechanical systems.

The song is rightly described as “*defiantly hopeful*.”

The colors of the SS United States have faded. It is an empty shell containing a moldering interior.



Even as the SS United States is running out of time, so is the nation she represents.

This afternoon I had a Skype session with a sister in Christ who is serving Yahweh as a missionary in Mexico. She asked what I had been working on this day and I shared with her the information contained in this post. She responded by telling me of a brother and sister in Christ who reside in England who recently received a profound message from the Father about the things which are coming quickly to the body of Christ. Yahweh spoke to them of the intense sufferings that are near at hand through the birth of their third child recently.

Yahweh is speaking to many of His sons and daughters, revealing to them events which are near at hand. I am going to write to this brother and sister and ask if they will share their experiences and the revelation Yahweh gave to them that others might benefit in the hearing. I also invite the readers of this blog post to share. If Yahweh has been speaking to you a similar message that “time is running out” and calamitous events are near at hand, I encourage you to share your message with others. Write to me, and I will post these messages in an upcoming

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blog post.

Brothers and sisters, the church has known many years of peace and prosperity, yet the years have produced only decay and spiritual immobility. Yahweh must purge, purify, and refine His people that they might not stand in shame at the appearing of His Son. There is a fiery cleansing to come, but it will be attended by great grace for those who present themselves as a living sacrifice upon the altar of God. Though intense, the coming sufferings of the faithful sons and daughters of Yahweh will be brief. He has shortened those days for the sake of His elect (Mark 13:20).

Note: Understand also, that even having been given national coverage, and the plight of the ship being reported in more than 200 newspapers, only \$600,000 was able to be raised to delay its destruction.



More National News Coverage

May you be blessed with peace and understanding in these days,

Joseph Herrin

Heart4God/Parables



Bringing hidden things to light...

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ARODI	JAALAM
ATAD	JACOB
BEERSHEBA	JAHLEEL
BILHAH	JEMUEL
BOZRAH	JEZER
CAIN	JIMNAH
CHERAN	LABAN
DOTHAN	LEAH
ELIEZER	LEVI
ELIPHAZ	LOT
ELON	LUZ
EPHRAIM	MACHPELAH
ESHBAN	MASREKAH
GERA	MATRED
GUNI	MERARI
HANOCH	NAAMAN
HARAN	NOAH
HEMAM	PADAN
HETH	RACHEL
HIRAH	ROSH
HUSHIM	SHELAH
ISHMAEL	TEMANI
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ISSACHAR	