

## How Then Shall We Live?

By Steve Huston



First U.S. Chief Justice John Jay warned: “No human society has ever been able to maintain both order and freedom, both cohesiveness and liberty apart from the moral precepts of the Christian religion... Should our republic ever forget this fundamental precept of governance this great experiment will then be surely doomed.” He’s right; but some will say, “What about everything we’re going through?”

With false and hollow speech calling for unity and healing while attacking those who they call for unity with, how should we respond? With censorship, election fraud, lacking commonsense COVID “science” (with its masking, social distancing, and questionable vaccinations); promotion of the Red-Green axis (strange bedfellows of communism and Islam), China and their stealing of our intellectual property, technology, and their desire to overtake America’s economy, etc.; to deplatform a duly elected president and the Left’s desire to impeach him again (the first time fraudulently and at great expense to the taxpayer), lawlessness and injustice; the fact that Big Tech can shut down conservative platforms, apps, and websites, and yet still host child porn, thereby encouraging human trafficking, degradation of those created in the image of God, and selling sin; abortion; Antifa not being designated as a domestic terrorist organization while those who marched peacefully, thanks to a handful of dissidents (and

most of those likely strategically placed Leftists), are targeted as domestic terrorists; it’s easy to understand the frustration and anger. The Biden/Harris administration hasn’t even taken office yet and the First Amendment, for all practical purposes, is dead and they are already setting their sights on wresting the Second Amendment from our Bill of Rights as well. Technocracy. The Great Reset in which we are given hope to “build back better,” who in their right mind wouldn’t fight against these things?

Maybe the hypocritical inconsistency drives you nuts: “There needs to be unrest in the streets,” (Rep. Ayanna Pressley D-MA) regarding violent mobs: “They’re not gonna let up and they should not let up.” (Kamala Harris “vice-president elect”) “If you see anybody from that cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store...you get out and you create a crowd you push back on them...” (Rep. Maxine Waters D-CA) “I just don’t know why there aren’t uprisings all over the country. Maybe there will be.” (Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi D-CA) Great numbers of others have called for violence against President Trump, his family, and his supporters. We’ve seen it perpetuated against MAGA hat wearers; yet no charges against those elected officials who have incited such vitriol. On the other hand, in the face of an apparent stolen election, the President calls for peaceful protestors to come to Washington D.C. as is their First Amend-

ment right to “peaceful assembly,” and he is accused of causing a riot and blamed for a handful of people who “stormed the Capitol.”

Our concerns are further founded as the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress opens with prayer to “the creator god Brahma” and ending with “Amen and A woman.” House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) also warns: “...*this majority of the new 117th Congress plans to adopt new rules that would silence our constituents’ voices in Congress. ... Worse, they would penalize any member who shares news or views that maybe our allies in the media deem fake. ... For our constituents, it means freedom of speech is silenced. Good ideas are stifled. And dissent is punished.*”

With the hope of justice and a restoration of constitutional principles constantly being laid before us only to be consistently yanked away, it’s natural that our emotions rise and fall like a yoyo. It drives some to exhaustion, depression, and sets many on edge, ready to snap in anger or give up in despair. **But for the Christian, Jesus has a better way; after all, He is our Hope, our Comfort, Redeemer, and Sustainer.** He tells us to love our enemies, to bless them that curse us, and to turn the other cheek. This does not mean that we set the

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## Personal Note from the President



I am writing this two days before the inauguration of an evil man who will be installed as president of the United States, but it is a fraudulent, illegitimate presidency. These last months have been arduous for all of us as we have watched, waited, prayed and struggled with great sadness to observe the unfolding of the daily news. On certain rare days our hopes would momentarily rise only to fall again with another harsh note of treachery.

I felt the need to join with hundreds of thousands (a million plus?) for a bus ride to Washington DC on that ill-fated day January 6, 2021. With high hopes but solemnity, I was a part of that magnificent group of patriots from throughout the nation to stand with other Americans and with our embattled president, President Donald J. Trump. The gathering was peaceful, filled with a wide variety of everyday American people. There was hope in the air yet there was a strong sense that without the help of God this might well be our last stand for our Constitutional Republic.

As President Trump was well into his lengthy speech, I joined others who began heading to the Capitol about a mile and a half away. Up to this point there was hardly a police or security officer to be seen. Though suddenly along the route, several police vehicles sped by on the way to the Capitol. I wondered why. All is history now as we now know there was a 35-year-old military veteran tragically and unnecessarily shot in the throat - killed by police. And there was more violence and mayhem yet to come, though it must be made clear nothing approaching by any stretch of imagination, the mayhem of this past summer seen in many American cities including Washington, DC where fires, lootings, boarded buildings characterized our Amer-

ica and left an indelible mark upon millions of American hearts, minds, and memories.

Since that day (January 6) much has been written about what really took place at our nation's capitol. I write this in this context: America has been deeply penetrated – thus the “deep state”. Author Diana West masterfully documents this in her book *American Betrayal* published in 2013. Communists already were behind the scenes in high places back in the 1920s and in the FDR White House in the World War II days. The truth teller, Senator (Wisconsin) Joseph McCarthy, paid a great price in diligently testifying (warning, warning, warning) before the U.S. Congress of the “Red Threat”. He was vilified then and his name is still ridiculed seemingly whenever someone mentions communist infiltration. “Hah. You’re like Joe McCarthy”. 1. America has been infiltrated long ago by many enemies foreign and domestic. (China, Iran, Russia, the Muslim Brotherhood, Antifa, Black Lives Matter, the mainstream media, Google, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, bought off politicians from the right and the left). 2. We have wondered why President Trump seemingly hasn’t had the resolve to invoke the Insurrection Act (Article IV. Section 4). The long and short answer is that as his administration wore down it became abundantly clear that his only support (which is the most important element of support) was the American people. Trump had the resolve! But, other than a handful of government officials, he was a “sitting duck.” And, as we have all seen, he has been attacked on every side. You might ask what about the military; the Pentagon, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were staffed and infiltrated with Obama placements. 3. Joe Biden? I would be surprised if there was one reader of this newsletter that doesn’t recognize that Joe Biden is bought and paid for by the Chinese Communist Party. However, he is not the only one. Consider just to name a few: Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Wall Street, the NBA, .... 5. Lastly, returning to that fateful day of January 6 as Congress met to determine what would be done with the uncertified votes of six particular states. So much was at stake at this moment in time. Diana West’s blog from 1.17.

2021 addresses this, though not what many of us want to acknowledge: *What would Congress do? What would Vice President Mike Pence, presiding as president of the Senate, do? ...* [My note: Diana West lays heavy blame on Mike Pence here as it has been reported by Rudy Giuliani, the President’s lead lawyer, four of the states were prepared to decertify. The Vice-President could have called for a ten-day delay to engage in a full audit. As we know, he didn’t. It is a great mystery to many Christians as to why he didn’t – including me.] *Vice President Pence ... even before President Trump had finished speaking, released his plan to certify the Biden-Harris electors, including those from still-contested states, thereby enabling and endorsing a new American tyranny. He permitted challenges during the joint session, but they were doomed to be pro forma.*

*Congress had suspended the American people. Everything that has happened in this country since, one manufactured crisis after another designed to justify and further our descent into tyranny.*

I had asked Trevor Loudon to speak to a gathering in Muskegon this past weekend (January 16) to address where we are at. We now are in the middle of a Communist Revolution.

God has spoken. We have marveled at God’s mercy over these many years. We have wondered if He had taken His hand of protection off from us. He has given many signs that America had fallen away. Are we now recognizing our great need to go to our knees seeking His presence and asking Him to prepare us to be the people that He wants us to be, and prepare us for further fallout which likely will include persecution. It is a new day in America. Habakkuk 3:17: ***Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.***

# Big Tech Narrative

By Chris Johnson



Referring to the Capitol protests and riots on January 6, Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina made this statement, “In seeing the events that transpired...it’s clear that people, some people, have been brainwashed. And I’m grappling with: How do we carefully and honestly pull these people out of it and bring them back into reality?”

Today, just about everyone with any engagement in the political world would agree with Rep. Mace. The left thinks the right is brainwashed, the right thinks the left is brainwashed, and some of us think that everyone is brainwashed and that finding someone with a public persona, right or left, who isn’t trying to brainwash you too is nearly impossible.

Brainwash *might* be too strong of a word. Certainly, nearly universally, talking heads, media personalities, and politicians are trying to sell us one of two main narratives, which boil down to: Trump Good or Trump Bad.

Through one of these two lenses, nearly every media outlet views nearly every news story, certainly on the national level. If you are looking for “reality” as Representative Mace seeks to appeal to, good luck.

This is unfortunate, as while the truth is often bent to conform to one of those narratives, or both at the same time, it is rarely so simple and the incompatibility of the Trump Good narrative and the Trump Bad narrative are the heart of the conflict in our country today.

And the only thing worse than having two all-encompassing, conflicting narratives with tenuous relationship to the truth, is having only one acceptable all-encompassing narrative, with the power to enforce that narrative on society and suppress any

cheeky up-start narrative, or heaven forbid unfiltered truth, to be heard.

Political commentators in our day, no matter their background – legacy media, independent journalists, new-media personalities, politicians, what have you – have at least one thing in common: they use social media, and primarily Twitter, as their preferred method of telling their side of the story even as the story is unfolding. Whether it be President Trump, Jake Tapper, Ben Shapiro, or the Young Turks. Twitter is an information weapon, where users can shape the perceptions of their followers and reach new followers every day.

Imagine if only one side had access to that weapon. Imagine if there were a massively impactful event with conflicting reports which fed conflicting narratives, but only one side was allowed to share their experiences, observations, and perspectives.

The steps that Twitter and Facebook have taken to lock down dissenting opinions of the events of January 6 is more newsworthy than the Capitol riots, themselves. In so doing, Twitter has proclaimed themselves to be the judge: the narrative they support is true, because the alternative cannot be allowed to even be considered.

Remarkably, Twitter established themselves in this position by ousting the leader of the free world from their service. You might suspect that after protestors purporting to be Trump supporters stormed the Capitol, President Trump might have something to say about that. Yet, in that very moment Twitter decided that you could not hear what he had to say. At least, not in the way that people had grown accustomed to hearing from him.

Facebook did likewise.

On top of that, the most popular alternative to Twitter, Parler, was then booted from Amazon’s servers with no warning and very little time for the service to back up its content. This was based on the claim that sharing the same differing perspectives violated Amazon’s terms and conditions and it left many social media users with no place to share their own experiences and perspec-

tives.

It’s not just fishy that they jumped at this opportunity just days after Trump pushed the idea of removing FCC protections that protect these sites from being sued. In fact, there are a great many victories for the left claimed with this one bold move. It ostracized the president and discouraged his supporters who were there or watching from home by identifying them with the few violent rioters whom the vast majority had no interaction of affiliation with; it helped squelch the counter-narrative of Trump’s massive base; it took the news cycle off of election fraud; it established one narrative as legitimate, and delegitimized any evidence to the contrary.

Finally, it established precedent. If one of the most massive and popular companies in the world can cancel the President of the United States for what it decides is an inappropriate statement or policy, anyone who has publicly approved of his positions can be cancelled by anyone.

Indeed, as my colleague writes elsewhere in this newsletter, we’ve already seen credit card companies refusing to render services to those who do not uphold their preferred positions.

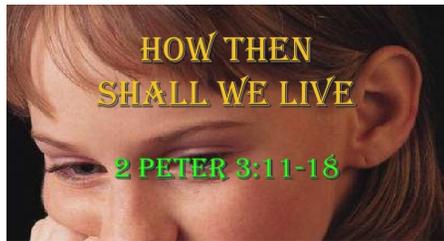
Let me ask you this: have you seen any of these tech companies come to respect liberty *more* in the past several decades?

The truth of what happens in the world is not always what we want it to be, but in a world where unvarnished truth is scarce, we must have access to different perspectives. If we’re committed to Christ we should care deeply about the truth even though, more and more, we have to work harder to find it.

We can be thankful that we can always find the deepest truths in God’s Word. Let us build our foundations of our lives on that, rather than the world’s narratives.

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truth down and remain silent, but we must always check our motives to be sure we are doing so in love and to the glory of God.

In keeping with the words of Jesus and the example laid down by Him and his disciples, Jonathan Edwards, in his farewell sermon, gives advice that we must implement in our personal lives, particularly in these days we find ourselves in and those not far off:

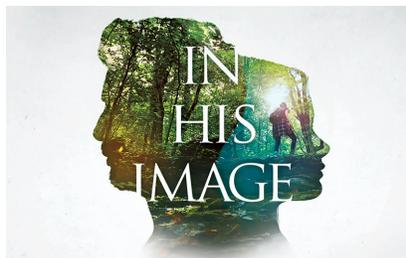
“As you seek the prosperity of this society, it is of vast importance that you should avoid contention. ... Contention, heat of spirit, evil speaking, and things of like nature, are directly contrary to the spirit of Christianity, and do, in a peculiar manner tend to drive away God’s Spirit from a people, and to render all means of grace ineffectual, as well as to destroy a people’s outward comfort and welfare. ... watch over your spirits and avoid all bitterness towards others. However wrong you may think others have been, maintain with great diligence and watchfulness a Christian meekness and gentleness of spirit; and labour, in this respect, to excel those who are of a contrary part. ... Indulge no revengeful spirit in any case; but watch and pray against it; and, by all means in your power, seek the prosperity of this town. **And never think you behave yourselves as becomes Christians, except when you sincerely, sensibly, and fervently love all men, of whatever party or opinion, and whether friendly or unkind, just or injurious, to you or your friends, or to the cause and kingdom of Christ.**” After all, as Jesus admonished, “For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:46-48)

The answer to America’s problems is not a Constitution or a certain administration. The answer is humble repentance, turning from our wickedness and living in holiness, and trusting in Jesus’ atoning work on the cross. Love and share the Gospel; that will change America.

*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*

~ 2 Peter 3:11-14

## In His Image By: Chris Johnson



Last October, ADA had the privilege of screening American Family Studios’ powerful new film, “In His Image” in our auditorium. We are now pleased to announce that this hopeful and encouraging movie is available for streaming and on DVD.

“In His Image” is a documentary which gathers the perspectives of pastors, theologians, and de-transitioned transsexuals to celebrate God’s image in humanity, specifically in the way that He designed genders and sexuality.

This is a subject we hear more and more about these days as LGBTQ activists seek to push it to the center of every institution, including the church.

“In His Image” reminds viewers that every person is worthy of dignity and respect as Image Bearers of God while upholding God’s design for humanity.

God made them male and female – and that’s what He called “good.”

Particularly compelling are the testimonies of the several ministry leaders who have come out of the transgender lifestyle. They walk the viewers through the struggles that convinced them they were stuck in the wrong body, how unfulfilling their lives were as they struggled with their identity, and the grace and love of God and family that led them back to compliance with God’s design.

Our audiences found “In His Image” to be helpful and encouraging and we think you will too. We encourage you to order your copy today (see enclosed response card) or check it out at [InHisImage.movie](http://InHisImage.movie). We urge you to point others to it as well. Every pastor NEEDS to view this film and should encourage it in his adult and older teen Sunday School classes. It might be particularly helpful to those who have loved ones struggling with this issue, but the truth this movie communicates should be seen by everyone.

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# Letter to Mainstream Media

By Guest Contributor

Dear Mainstream Media Journalist,

You overlooked me January 6, surrounded as I was by the throng of patriots in Washington, D.C. Holding my makeshift sign—one part Orwellian warning, one part inspirational Bible verse—I hardly stood out, though I joined my voice with probably a million others, all aching after months to *finally* be heard.

Though you seem not to have seen the million of us, you labeled us rioters, domestic terrorists, insurrectionists, a mob. I confess I was offended, even felt a bit misunderstood. Sadly, after your breathless coverage of a relatively few scofflaws—many of whom do not appear even to have been of our group—your unwary audience may be forgiven for thinking my family and I endanger the Constitution of these United States. So with my apologies for the personal history lesson, your oversight compels me to share the reason we gave up three days to stand for freedom.

On a glorious fall day last October, my kids and I walked part of the path Paul Revere rode to carry news of the British Regulars' march toward Concord and Lexington. It was enthralling to stand in the woods and on the hills where the fortitude of our motley minutemen birthed our nation. In Boston we saw the home Revere left behind to ride, and we gazed up at the steeple where church met state as two lanterns flickered out the message "By sea!" In cemeteries where both bit players and founding luminaries repose side by side, we stood with watery-eyed awe at the final resting places of Declaration signers, tea partiers, and lantern lighters—and Hancock, Adams, and Revere.

Which of these imagined he was heroic? How many others played parts so humble that their names are unknown—their valorous deeds unsung—yet Providence chose them to be difference-makers, leading them to turn the tide in small ways, until at last we were free?

At Valley Forge, I showed my children where my most-revered American, George Washington, suffered alongside his troops. I read to them how God shrouded our army in a dense fog while the general made his humiliating retreat from Long Island. I choked up when I recounted his courage at the Battle of Princeton, as he rallied scattering American troops, leading them into battle himself. When a great cloud of gun smoke enveloped him, his soldiers were certain he'd be killed. But as it cleared, there stood Washington tall astride his horse, victorious in battle, buoying patriot belief that America might *really* be free.

Our founders are long departed, but with each new attack on our American republic, I hope afresh that their sacrifices will not have been made in vain. I treasure above most other things the fidelity, the bravery, the selfless devotion they showed in fighting for our freedom. So I asked: How can one as ordinary as I am be their worthy heir?

I'll never be a Washington, but I might be a Revere. And every time I stand for our country's freedom, I *do* fancy myself following in the steps of past patriots great and small, who did what Providence set before them. It isn't mine to know if the part I'm assigned bears lasting import. But I will, as they did, do whatever is before me; perhaps the same Providence which, against all odds, called into existence the United States of America, will likewise multiply my loyalty and love of country to help save our republic.

Thus it was I found myself amidst a like-minded patriot throng January 6 in Washington, which I wish you would have reported with even a fraction of the fervor you reserved for the acts of comparatively few true rioters. Of course I decry the ugly lawlessness at the Capitol, but the rioters were no more representative of the immense

crowd of patriots amassed than Benedict Arnold was of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

If forced to guess by current appearances, I'd wager we'll not save our Republic, given its tragically tattered state. But perhaps Washington assumed the same as he surveyed his barefoot troops at Valley Forge, or the panicked retreat at Princeton. So when I think my efforts too feeble to count, or hopelessly doomed to defeat, I remember that Providence strengthened Washington, and I swell with new resolve. Squander the courage and honor that won for us our country, and the Providence that willed it so? I will not sit by when called to stand!

So since you never saw us there, a million patriots strong, I'll have you know: My family loves these United States, and we pray daily that we won't lose our Republic. But even if it's lost, I've resolved that I will *never* give my children occasion to ask why I didn't do whatever I could to preserve for them the freedom I'd been given. I owe that much to those who gifted it to me, and to those to whom I'm to gift it.

Sincerely,

A modern-day patriot



# The Great Purge

By Lisa Van Houten



In totalitarian regimes, those in power ruthlessly purge their opposition from society. We've seen it happen in China, Russia, Venezuela as people "disappear," dissenting voices are silenced, and the media becomes a mouthpiece of the regime. We're now seeing a version of it here in the "land of the free." The Great Purge of conservative voices has begun and it's been swift.

In a trifecta of power, Big Tech, the media, and leftist Democrats have united to silence the most vocal of their opposition and send a warning to the 74 million Americans who voted for President Trump - the same thing can and will happen to them.

The Left - which condoned the BLM/Antifa riots last summer in which people were killed, federal buildings seized, and stores looted and burned - are now using the lawless actions of a handful of protestors at the Capitol on January 6 as an excuse to bring down the hammer upon their opposition. While the wisdom of some of President Trump's comments could readily be argued as he spoke to the million gathered in DC to protest legitimate concerns of election fraud, nothing Trump said could be considered a call to riot. *"We have come to demand that Congress do the right thing and only count the electors who have been lawfully slated. Lawfully slated. I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard."* Seditious? An impeachable offense?

Yet within hours, Twitter and Facebook banned the sitting President of the United States and then set their sights on other prominent conservatives. For example, Twitter suspended the accounts of Mike Flynn and Sidney Powell and Facebook removed Rep. Ron Paul's page because he had the audacity to claim that Trump did not incite violence. In response to his father

being censored, Sen. Rand Paul stated, "Facebook now considers advocating for liberty to be sedition. Where will it end?"

Harry Truman had a warning of where it will end. Speaking before Congress in 1950, he stated: *"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."*

The witch hunt against conservatives in the last few weeks has been truly alarming. Joe Biden, who claims he wants "unity," compared Sen. Ted Cruz and Sen. Josh Hawley to Nazis for their objection to the electoral certification. House Homeland Security Committee Chair Bennie G. Thompson implied that Cruz and Hawley should be placed on the national terrorist "no-fly list" and petitions are being circulated to have them both disbarred.

Corporate America is also piling on. Simon & Schuster canceled the publication of Josh Hawley's forthcoming book, ironically entitled, *The Tyranny of Big Tech*. Hawley stated in response: *"This could not be more Orwellian. Simon & Schuster is canceling my contract because I was representing my constituents, leading a debate on the Senate floor on voter integrity, which they have now decided to redefine as sedition. Let me be clear, this is not just a contract dispute. It's a direct assault on the First Amendment. Only approved speech can now be published. This is the Left looking to cancel everyone they don't approve of..."*

Conservative journalists are also being targeted. CNN urged cable TV companies to drop Fox News, a Yahoo News reporter urged Twitter to ban conservative journalists such as Tucker Carlson and Mollie Hemingway, and Cumulus Media is demanding that Mark Levin stop talking about a "stolen election" or be dropped from the network.

**If the joint forces of the Left can do this to the most prominent of conservatives, who *can't* they do it to?**

ABC News Political Director Rick Klein called for the "cleansing" of Trump voters. Employers are firing people simply for peacefully attending the January 6 protest. Groups such as the "Trump Accountability Project," are vowing to ensure that anyone who ever served in the Trump administration will never work again. Major banks have stated they will no longer do business with Trump and/or lawmakers who voted against certifying the 2020 election. Last December, a major credit card company refused to process donations for the American Family Association. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) has banned "hate speech" by its 1.4 million members, both in their professional and personal communications. However, what the NAR deems as "hate speech" includes conservative and biblical views on issues such as gender and homosexuality. Punishment could include a \$15,000 fine and expulsion from the organization.

As Joy Pullman wrote at the Federalist: **"This is the kind of power the left holds over all the institutions that make life possible for Americans, and they have already revealed they are not afraid to flex that power against the left's chosen enemies."**

In a modern-day version of tar and feathering, outspoken conservatives are being made an example of in the public square to intimidate everyday Americans into silence. Will we concede the ground they've taken? Will we let our voices be muzzled? Or will we continue to speak the Truth, which Christ commands us to do? Author George R.R. Martin vividly wrote, *"If you tear out a man's tongue, you're not proving him a liar; you're only telling the world that you fear what he might say."*

In Acts, Peter and John, after being thrown in jail, stood before the rulers and said, "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." Where did they get such courage to stand against the political and cultural forces opposing them? Chapter 4 gives the answer. They prayed: **"Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness."** May that be our prayer as well.

# He Is Able

By Chris Johnson



which your hands have sinfully made for you. And the Assyrian shall fall by a sword, not of man; and a sword, not of man, shall devour him..."

No matter what you thought of January 6 and the Capitol protest, did not the day leave you wondering, "And we, how shall we escape?"

One of my favorite thoughts to ruminate on in the Christmas season, which of course follows an election cycle every other year, is Isaiah's prophecy regarding Christ, specifically the declaration that "The government shall be upon His shoulders..."

In this spirit, I decided to go through the book of Isaiah this Holiday season, which of course lead up to the events of January 6.

In this reading, I was struck particularly by Isaiah 20, where God commands the prophet Isaiah to walk naked and barefoot among the people of Israel as a "sign and a portent against Egypt and Cush, so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptian captives and the Cushite exiles..." Verse 6 says, "Behold, this is what has happened to those in whom we hoped and to whom we fled for help to be delivered from the king of Assyria! And we, how shall we escape?"

Israel could see the threat of Assyrian conquest looming, but they expected their mighty allies in Egypt to come to their rescue. Later, in chapter 31, God says through Isaiah, "Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many and in horsemen because they are very strong, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel or consult the Lord... The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord stretches out his hand, the helper will stumble, and he who is helped will fall, and they will all perish together."

The chapter goes on to call Israel to repentance for their idolatry and announce that God's people will not be saved by man, but by His own hand, "Turn to Him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel. For in that day everyone shall cast away his idols of silver and his idols of gold,

In my time following politics, I've found it noteworthy how in election years, all of a sudden conservative Christians start planning prayer rallies and quoting 2 Chronicle 7:14, "If my people who are called by name shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land." Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking prayer meetings or any Bible verse whatsoever, but if these events happen only, or primarily, in an election year, where does that indicate that our hopes really lie?

If we are truly penitent, oughtn't that to be happening all year, every year, no matter whose seat comes up for a vote in November? Might it be because we have been Israelites praying that God would allow Egypt to save us?

In Isaiah 10:5, God calls Assyria "the rod of [His] anger." He comes right out and says, "I'm using Assyria to punish my people." In verse 20, He says why he's doing it: "In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in Truth." Who was it that had "struck" Israel? Their former slave masters in Egypt, to whom they now once more turned for help.

In His law, our God commands us to have no other gods before Him, i.e. in His presence; He calls Himself jealous. He says in Isaiah 42:8, "I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other..."

Indeed, we can see in Isaiah 37 how the "invisible sword" of God miraculously destroyed the Assyrian army, in response to King Hezekiah's humble prayer: "O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, enthroned above the cherubim, you are the God, you alone, of all

the kingdoms of the earth; you have made heaven and earth. Incline your ear, O LORD and hear; open your eyes, O Lord, and see; and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which he has sent to mock the living God... So now, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD."

Verse 36 tells us, "the angel of the LORD went out and struck down a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies..."

Our imagination for how God can save His people is too small! Cannot the God who saved His people in Jerusalem from Sennacherib save His church in our day from the growing hostility and authoritarianism we have only begun to see? Do we imagine that He needs a Republican president to do that? Would God be given more glory if He shared it with President Trump?

Yet, we are not Israel. The principles of Isaiah apply to the church today, but the promises God made to Israel for that time are not made to us. He promised Israel delivery from the Assyrian army, we have no such promise.

The band Mercy Me has a song on Christian radio called, *Even If*, and the chorus goes like this:

"I know You're able and I know You can save through the fire with Your mighty hand, But even if You don't, My hope is You alone!"

God is equally capable under any administration to bring relief to His people, yet, we've watched comfortably as Christians around the world have not seen that relief. Even so, the Kingdom of God has grown exponentially in these nations. Do we imagine that this comfort and safety that we have only ever known in the United States is the normal Christian life? May we learn from our persecuted brethren around the world and from the example of Hezekiah and remember, in the words of Mercy Me, "Our hope is God alone!"

# Can I Get an Amen?

By Lisa Van Houten



On January 4, Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, who is also a Methodist minister, offered the opening prayer of the 117<sup>th</sup> session of the House of Representatives. Typically, this long-storied practice in our nation's history doesn't make the news, unless, as Rep. Cleaver did, the prayer is concluded with "amen and awoman." Much attention was focused on his ridiculous woke pandering to inclusivity, as if the Hebrew word "amen" - meaning "so be it" - has something to do with gender.

**However, the more appalling aspect of Cleaver's "prayer" is that it was offered to idols, rather than the One True God.**

As he closed his prayer Cleaver said this: *"We ask this in the name of the monotheistic God, Brahma, and God known by many names and faiths."* Cleaver lumps the Hindu god Brahma with nameless other false gods - none of which is Jesus, in Whose name we are to pray.

This is no minor thing, as the First Commandment makes clear. *"You shall have no other gods before me."* I'm sure Rev. Cleaver is also familiar with Isaiah 45:5 - *"I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides me."*

When the people of Israel tried to blend the worship of God with pagan idols it never ended well and it won't for America either. Nations that call upon false gods won't be blessed, but instead will stir up God's wrath.

*To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal And compare Me, that we should be alike? ... They hire a goldsmith, and he makes it a god; ... Though one cries out to it, yet it cannot answer nor save him out of his trouble.* Isaiah 46:5-7

We should be outraged that God's name was so dishonored, but at the same time it's not

at all shocking that our now pagan nation would pray to pagan gods. I'm surprised Cleaver didn't add Molech to the mix, considering the Democrats' rabid love for abortion.

In addition, the 117<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives also recently mocked the Creator and His created order by implementing new "gender-neutral House rules" in which gender-specific words such as "mother and father," "son and daughter," and "aunt and uncle" are now forbidden.

The Resolution passed by the House states that these terms should be struck from usage in our laws: "In clause 8(c)(3) of rule XXIII, strike, 'father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, step-father, step-mother, step-son, step-daughter, step-brother, step-sister, half-brother, half sister, grandson or granddaughter ..."

As Al Mohler stated: *Sadly, there are even many Christians who are showing themselves completely confused about this issue. They tend to agree with the moral revolutionaries. "Just give them the language they demand," say these, but the reality is if you give the language, you are redefining the reality. Now you're not changing the reality because the Creator actually establishes that reality. A male is still a male, a female is still a female. XX and XY chromosomes don't change, even as an individual may legally demand to change pronouns. But this is where Christians also have to understand that complicity with this kind of intentional confusion will also be an action that comes with consequences.*

And those consequences are spelled out in Romans 1. The consequence for those who suppress the truth, it repeatedly states throughout the chapter, is this: **"God gave them up."** "More terrifying words have never been written," Tim Challies concludes. "When human beings prove they are utterly hell-bent on sinning, when they fight tooth and nail against God's restraining grace, he begins to release his hand. He begins to give them what they want even

though what they want will destroy them. God releasing his hand of restraint is God extending his hand of judgment."

When we look at our depraved culture and the political chaos around us, when we see an ordained "Christian" minister pray to Brahma and our elected representatives defy their Creator, it's evident that our nation is deserving of His judgment.

"If the foundations are destroyed ..." is the theme of this newsletter. Certainly, the foundational cornerstone of this nation is that our Creator - not government - is the Source of our blessings, of our liberty, and is our only hope. Yet that pillar is crumbling - in part from the decay of the American Church, but also from those who are defiantly striving to pull that foundation out from underneath us.

Contrast Cleaver's pagan prayer to that which was prayed at the very first Continental Congress in 1774: *"O Lord, our Heavenly Father, high and mighty, King of kings and Lord of lords, who dost from thy throne behold all the dwellers on earth, and reignest with power supreme and uncontrolled over all kingdoms, empires and governments, look down, we beseech thee, on these our American States, who have fled to thee from the rod of the oppressor, and thrown themselves on thy gracious protection, desiring henceforth to be dependent only on thee ... Be thou present, O God of wisdom, and direct the councils of this honorable Assembly. Enable them to settle things on the best and surest foundation, that the scene of blood may be speedily closed - that order, harmony, and peace may be effectually restored, and truth and justice, religion and piety may prevail and flourish amongst thy people. ... All this we ask in the name and through the merits of Jesus Christ thy Son, our Savior. Amen."*

John Adams wrote of this prayer: "It was enough to melt a heart of stone." Oh, may that happen again in America! May God turn the hearts of our nation to Him.

**And all God's people said: "Amen."**