

## God IS Faithful!

By Steve Huston

I'm sure most of our Michigan readers, and elsewhere, are disappointed over the mid-term results; my 12-year-old daughter was distraught. I was disappointed as well, but I noticed a few things as I went over to the American Decency office: the sun was still shining, the birds were still singing, and we can have joy in the midst of sorrow because joy comes from an eternal source. Happiness is temporary, from happenstance; while joy is lasting and eternal. It's with this in mind that I offer some thoughts, many of which would be appropriate to include in your prayer time.

**First**, let us remember that NOTHING takes God by surprise and NOTHING is outside His control. His ways and eternal purposes are higher – much higher – than our ways and our purposes. Let us give praise to our Almighty God instead of moaning, groaning, or becoming angry and bitter over it. If we believe that He is sovereign, then we need to be seeking what our role is in His plans. We need not focus on what things look like; but rather, look to the Lord. God cannot be voted off His throne and He certainly doesn't abdicate it. He is faithful and true. Hallelujah!

**Second**, don't be distracted by disappointment or whatever evil comes our way through these results. Instead, we need to keep our minds stayed on the Lord in order to obtain that promised perfect peace. Our hope is not in an election or any politician; our hope is in the Lord, let us always look to Him.

**Third**, although Proposal 3 passed and a culture of death and lost parental rights have been codified, pray for individuals. May God move upon the individual hearts and

minds of those either considering an abortion, those attempting to help children receive an abortion, or those performing one. We can still individually stand for the truth



and speak up for life. Might God grant us, as the Apostle Paul prayed for, boldness to speak as we ought. Let us all the more have frequent and difficult conversations with children and young adults that God has put within our sphere.

**Fourth**, let's pray for steadfastness, faithfulness, and a renewed desire to stand on, and, for truth. As I have often told my children, we do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. Regardless of whether

anyone else sees it, God ALWAYS sees. We don't do it because it's popular; we do it because it's the right thing to do. One of those right things to do that may be met with resistance is sharing the gospel. If we want to affect change within our nation, it will start with people coming to the Lord. More important than the election and its consequences is the salvation of souls and their eternal destination.

**Finally**, imprecatory prayers are good, Biblical, and cathartic. We are called in everything to give thanks; we are called to pray for those in authority over us. That being said, we should thank the Lord for His sovereign will in this matter; pray that those in authority, by God's grace and mercy, will bend their will to salvation and righteousness; and should they not, pray that God will remove them from their position, replacing them with a man who will stand faithful and true to God and His Word.

Allow me to end with a chorus that we often sing in my church. It's entitled *God Is Enough*.

*My God is enough,  
He proves it o're and o'er,  
He's never known to fail,  
His power still prevails.  
Down through the test of time,  
God's people always find;  
Whatever life may bring, God is enough!*

## Personal Note from the President



The year was 1985. Jan, elbowed me in church and whispered, "You should look into that." A church elder was saying that a newly forming anti-pornography group was seeking others to join the group. I was 39 years old. I knew the degrading and addictive nature of pornography, for God had won my heart - and by His grace and mercy - strengthened me out of that. I was primed and prepared for such a call. At an informational meeting, the county prosecutor compared images in a Sears catalog to Playboy magazine, trying to make the case that there were things in the catalog that were along the lines of some images in a Playboy magazine. I felt that he was downplaying the impact of pornography. Within a year, I was the president of that fledgling anti-pornography group.

The founder of the group was Jim Schultz. Jim, having lived in Detroit, was shocked that in the small town of Fremont and other surrounding rural communities there was pornography in gas stations, a newsstand, convenience stores. With Fremont having a lot of churches, he was saddened and felt that this shouldn't be.

Now some 37 years later I am saddened and overwhelmed by the continued degradation as I've continued the fight and followed the path on which God has led me. Along the way I have met many people who I've grown to love and been helped by and have served and stood with over these years.

In 1987 I was asked to be American Family Association's first state director. We (our organization) had effectively driven pornography out of a number of stores in our communities. I flew to Tupelo, MS and met with AFA's founder, the Rev. Donald

Wildmon, and he sent me home with a one-hour movie created by Dr. Jim Dobson and Pastor Jerry Kirk. It was a 16-millimeter movie called "The Winnable War". It was addressing the deleterious impact of pornography on America. Dobson had served on the Attorney General's Commission on Pornography (AG Ed Meese) for 14 months and Dobson was sharing the need for America to fight back against pornography. There were victories taking place during the Reagan administration - hard fought victories against dial-a-porn and pornography kingpins like Michigan's Harry Mohny (the man behind Deja Vu out of Durand, MI).

At that time, there was no such thing as DVDs or live-streaming; so having a 16-millimeter film as we did led to churches inviting me to come and show the 1-hour movie. I showed that movie 125 times throughout Michigan alerting and warning people of the godless impact of pornography upon individuals (young and old), families and the culture - calling people to pursue holiness without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14).

Already in those days - the 1980s and '90s - in my travels from one church and one community after another, when the movie was over and I had had an opportunity to speak, it was always only a small remnant of people who would come forward to speak with me, sign up for our newsletter, ask me to come back again. A lot of times, it was mothers and homeschoolers who were especially troubled by not only pornography, but also indecency, and the growing concerns regarding television programs and movies that were filled with images and themes which were undermining Christian values and families.

I saw it too when working for years to pass strengthened obscenity legislation. We battled for upwards of 6 years to finally experience that day where we attended the signing of the bill into law (1991).

But then to experience the harsh realities that there still had to be willing county prosecutors and community concern and

pressure to see that the law against obscenity be enforced. I saw back then that elections have consequences. And I also saw that seemingly only a true conservative, a Christian conservative would make prosecuting obscenity a priority.

Years ago, Pastor John MacArthur, Grace Community Church (Sun Valley, CA), preached that God had taken His hand of protection off from America due to our country's failure to follow after God and His precepts.

Now the year is 2022. What of my calling? Those years of travel, speaking, newsletters, multiple interviews including on CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, WJR, WGUV, a full-page ad in the New York Times, preaching at local churches, testifying at hearings - was it all for naught?

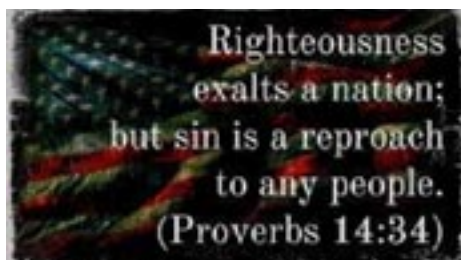
What about those who have been working so diligently and faithfully opposing election fraud? Those who are in foreign fields facing persecution but are sharing the Gospel anyway? What about parents and grandparents living and loving their children and families where sometimes the training and love seems to be rejected? What about the horrendous electoral results in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Montana, California, Kentucky and ...?

So, are our labors worthless, foolishness? Scripture is replete with admonitions and encouragements to the contrary. Here is but one: 1 Peter 1:7-9. *"That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls".*

Do you receive these words as truth and righteousness? We believe you do, as we also do. Your support, as the Lord leads, is yet another encouragement to us that you want us keeping on despite and/or especially in the midst of the growing tide of secularism. **God IS faithful!**

## Receiving the due penalty of our sin

By Lisa Van Houten



The red wave fizzled - despite universal projections from conservatives and liberals; despite soaring fuel prices, skyrocketing inflation, and plummeting approval ratings for Joe Biden; despite the historical precedence that the party in power typically suffers large midterm loses.

Pundits will try to dissect why the Republican tsunami never materialized. Was it due to voter fraud or the biased media shilling for the Democratic Party? Or perhaps the imbalance of advertising as leftist groups poured millions and millions of dollars into ad campaigns to mislead voters regarding candidates and ballot proposals? Was it apathy among conservatives compared to younger voters steeped in leftist ideology who voted overwhelmingly Democratic?

**Yet what few will consider is that the results of the November election is evidence of God's judgment on our nation - removing His hand of blessing and allowing, as it says in Romans 1, "the due penalty" of our sin.**

For nearly 50 years Americans could blame the death of tens of millions of babies on Supreme Court justices who imposed a "right" to abortion upon our land, overruling the will of the people in many states. Now with the overturning of Roe v. Wade, for the first time since 1973 Americans can have a say in whether our nation will protect the most vulnerable or continue to sacrifice them on the altar of convenience.

On November 8, millions of Americans voted for a party that campaigned feverishly for the right to continue to butcher the unborn. In addition, abortion was directly on the ballot in five states. Three states - my home state of Michigan, as well as Vermont and California - voted on proposals to en-

shrine in their state constitutions an unlimited right to abortion, up until the moment of birth. They all passed overwhelmingly. Two other states, Republican-led Kentucky and Montana, struck down pro-life ballot initiatives.

Kentuckians voted against amending the state constitution to clarify there is no right to abortion. The initiative failed by a 52-47% margin. Montana voters rejected a ballot measure which would have codified into state law protections for babies born after a botched abortion. The Montana Born-Alive Infant Protection Act would have required medical professionals to perform lifesaving medical care on infants who survived abortions or were born prematurely, but it also failed by a margin of 52%-47%. Let that sink in: Montana voted to let babies born alive be left to die. We give live-saving medical treatment to the vilest of criminals, but not newborn babies who survive an abortion. Daily Wire senior editor Cabot Phillips, reacting to the Montana decision, remarked: "... *We deserve the judgment we will face for our wickedness.*"

Here in Michigan, the vote wasn't even close; Proposal 3 passed by over 12 percentage points, with nearly 2.5 million people voting to make Michigan one of the most pro-abortion states in the nation. Incredibly, more people voted for the radically pro-abortion Proposal 3 than voted to re-elect Governor Gretchen Whitmer. Exactly 50 years ago in 1972 - just months before the Roe v. Wade decision - Michigan voters at that time also faced a ballot proposal which would have legalized abortion in the state. In 1972, Michiganders overwhelmingly rejected that proposal, voting to protect the unborn. Fifty years and a generation later Michigan voters clamored for the right to kill babies, unlike their predecessors who voted to protect them. It's a reminder of the book of Judges - "... *And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done ...*" and "*everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*"

Why did God allow these abortion proposals to pass and a party of death to prevail? Just as there is a physical cause and effect,

God makes clear in His Word that there is a spiritual cause and effect.

\* "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.*" (Proverbs 24:34)

\* "*Woe to those who call evil good and good evil ...*" (Isaiah 5:20)

\* "*See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you .... But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. ... I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days ...*" (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

**Our nation has chosen sin over righteousness, evil over good, and death over life.** We shouldn't be surprised if America receives God's reproach.

As Chris Hohnholz wrote on Twitter: "We are a culture under the curse of Romans 1. God continues to give a Christ-rejecting nation over to a debased mind. Our country drinks up depravity like water. Therefore, what should seem like obvious reasons to reject such leaders in turn is the very reason they are voted for by unregenerate and sinful people."

Yet for the true Church, our task remains the same. As Christians, we are to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. We are to pursue holiness. We're to defend the defenseless and be salt and light in an ever-darkening world. **We are to proclaim Christ to the lost and hurting.** Our calling doesn't depend on who governs our state or nation. Our fight for the unborn doesn't end. Our hope is not in government, but in the God Who holds His people secure and sovereignly rules over the affairs of men.

## Short Words, but Long Times

By Chris Johnson



Four hundred and thirty years. Forty years. Seventy years. Four hundred years. When we read through the Bible, it's easy to skim past those time periods and just read the next chapter of the story, but those years were filled with generations of God's people trying to live according to His will. They are short words, but long periods of time.

It was four hundred and thirty years between Joseph and Moses. Jacob's descendants had no written scriptures, no prophecies, a lifetime of slavery ahead of them, and a legend of a God who made a covenant with their great, great, great, great (lots of greats) grandfather. After the Exodus, for forty years, Jacob's people wandered in the wilderness fortified only by the word of Moses and the wonders they had seen this God do – no Holy books, no deep religious traditions, no prophecies.

A thousand years later, the people of Judah (all that was left of God's people) were taken into exile for seventy years. And then when they returned there were 400 years of God's people living for the first time since the Exodus with silence from God, under the boot of the hated Romans, looking for the promised Messiah.

These are only a few of the periods that the Bible doesn't give an account of where we're not told of great heroes or great villains, we're just told that God's people had to wait.

We're not told what life was like before the new pharaoh made the Israelites his slaves, other than that the old pharaoh had put them up in the best land in Egypt. Did they stage protests when this change took place? Did they have #HebrewLivesMatter yard signs?

Babylon too was enticing enough that many of the Hebrews chose to stay there rather than returning to their homeland. Esther and Mordecai, and Nehemiah were well connected in the Persian courts as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were under the preceding regime. How did the Jews decide whether to stay or leave? Should they return to their homeland or stay in Persia and work for its benefit? Did they host debates? Print flyers? Donate to grants and foundations?

We're not told, and so we turn the page, half a second for us – decades and centuries and generation after generation for them.

That is how history continues after the times of the Bible, as well. We break things into "Ages" or "Periods" when we study history, and convert a thousand years into a one inch segment on a timeline. Our eyes glaze over statistics and dates and death tolls, memorizing data points so we can get good grades and go to college to study computer science.

In the 1300s, the Black Plague wiped out between a third and a half of the population of Europe. If you were alive, about half the people you had grown up with were not. In the American Civil War, 620,000 men were killed – for today's population that would be as if 6 million of our fathers and brothers had killed each other. Of course, the upheaval surrounding the World Wars as well as the actual fighting gave up casualties in a number never imagined before: 70 to 80 million.

If we don't think people were saying "this must be the end," during the Black Death or the World Wars, or after the fall of Rome, or any number of other horrible periods of transition in history, we're mistaken. But what God has always told His people is not to look at their circumstances, but to look at His promises. And God has always been faithful to care for His people, even after He's let things get really bad.

Of the many, many times in His Word that God shows His power in miraculously changing the course of history for the good of His people, my mind goes to the story of

Hezekiah and Sennacherib.

Found in Isaiah 37, the word of God tells us how Sennacherib's mighty army was encamped against the walls of Jerusalem, and the Assyrian king sends his emissary to mock Israel for putting their trust in God. Think of Israel's scouts reporting the conquests of the Assyrian nation, and then reporting that that army is headed this way. They've pillaged this town, and then the next. Survivors stream into the gates of Jerusalem. How long will the walls hold? How long can we feed all these extra people? Then Hezekiah humbled himself and trusted God with the future of His people. The next morning 185,000 Assyrian corpses lay outside the gates of the city and Sennacherib and the rest of his army were gone.

This is still the God we serve. He is not stymied by our little black dots on a ballot or by the corruption of those who count them.

When we look back at the tapestry of history we can see His work, and His hand is still able.

I will end with the word of the Lord, by the mouth of Isaiah, to Sennacherib. Let us also pray this over God's enemies of our day. *"I know your sitting down, and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me. Because you have raged against me and your complacency has come to my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came."* ~ Isaiah 37:28-29

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# Courage or Capitulation

By Lisa Van Houten



What can we learn from the midterm election? One thing blatantly obvious is that we are truly a nation divided. When Pennsylvania voters elect a senator, who is clearly cognitively impaired due to a debilitating stroke, just because he has a “D” behind his name, it’s evident that overcoming that partisan divide is no easy feat.

Yet the one bright spot for conservative voters on election night was Florida. A swing state that turned ruby red, as Gov. DeSantis coasted to an overwhelming victory, pulling along a slew of other down-ballot Republicans, including all 30 local schoolboard candidates he had endorsed. DeSantis even won majorities in Democratic strongholds. In other states where Republicans did prevail, candidates often underperformed expectations winning by the skin of their teeth. So, what was different about Florida? When Ron DeSantis was first elected governor in 2018, he squeaked by, winning 49.6% to 49.2 %. This year, DeSantis decisively won by 20 percentage points. **The difference between 2018 and 2022 is what DeSantis did during those four years, and should serve as a model to other Republicans.**

Voters in Florida rewarded DeSantis with their vote because he did what we expect our leaders to do – lead. He didn’t betray conservatives, he didn’t cower to the media or political correctness, but rather confronted the woke mob and implemented policies that bettered his state, while reinforcing conservative principles. As DeSantis said in his victory speech after winning re-election: *“We have embraced freedom. We have maintained law and order. We have protected the rights of parents. We have respected our taxpayers, and we reject woke ideology. ... We will never, ever surrender to the woke mob. ... People have come here because our policies work. Leadership*

*matters. We refuse to use polls and put our finger in the wind.”*

DeSantis repudiated the COVID hysteria - refusing to capitulate to lockdowns, mask requirements, school shutdowns, and vaccine passports. Just as important, DeSantis recognized that these national mandates were unconstitutional threats to liberty. As a result, Florida’s businesses continued to thrive, while other states are still suffering the loss of countless businesses. As student test scores plummeted nationwide due to school shutdowns, Florida students tested highest in the nation.

DeSantis refused to bow to LGBT pressure, but boldly spoke out against the indoctrination of children. He refused to capitulate to outraged media and corporate bullies, signing Florida’s Parental Rights in Education law. DeSantis also revoked Disney World’s special status after it attacked that law. In addition, Florida banned puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and transgender surgeries for minors. DeSantis also signed a bill prohibiting critical race theory from being taught in Florida schools. *“In Florida, we will not let the far-left woke agenda take over our schools and workplaces. There is no place for indoctrination or discrimination in Florida,”* he stated.

Meanwhile, other Republicans have cowardly caved to liberal pressure. The Federalist gives examples, in stark contrast to the bold leadership of Ron DeSantis: *“Too many Republican governors have taken office only to reject the concerns of the people who voted them in. Republicans, from Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb to Utah Gov. Spencer Cox to Arkansas’ Asa Hutchinson to South Dakota’s Kristi Noem, have opposed bills by their state legislatures to keep sexually confused males out of girls’ sports. (DeSantis signed the Florida legislature’s bill to do just that, signaling that Florida is ‘going to go off of biology, not ideology.’)”*

*“Holcomb shuttered church buildings and limited services to 10 people or fewer during the Covid panic. Cox defended excluding white kids from a basketball scholarship program based on their skin color. Noem refused to call a special session to allow her*

*legislature to pass a bill banning Covid vaccine passports. Republican Gov. Larry Hogan of Maryland compared people ... who chose not to wear a mask during Covid to drunk drivers. ... Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee refused to condemn the politicized Justice Department’s prosecution of peaceful pro-life demonstrators in his state and the FBI’s raid on the home of one pro-lifer, 73-year-old Tennessean Chester Gallagher.”*

**As I write this, twelve Republican senators just betrayed conservative voters and their own party platform by siding with Democrats, voting to advance the so-called “Respect of Marriage Act.”**

Democrats needed ten Republican turncoats to reach the 60 votes needed. This legislation goes much farther than codifying gay marriage, it opens the door to further perversions of marriage, such as polygamy, and is a direct threat to religious liberty. “Make no mistake,” Alliance Defending Freedom warned, “this bill will be used by officials and activists to punish and ruin those who do not share the government’s view on marriage.” Family Research Council explains this legislation is “light-years more radical” than the Obergefell ruling which forced gay marriage upon the nation and will crack down “on parents, charities, adoption agencies, teachers, Christian schools, counselors, and Bible-believing professionals—the government would be declaring open season on anyone who believes in marriage as it’s always been: the union of a man and woman.” The twelve Republicans who voted to advance this legislation: Sens. Roy Blunt (MO), Richard Burr (NC), Shelley Capito of (WV), Susan Collins (ME), Cynthia Lummis (WY) Rob Portman (OH), Mitt Romney (UT), Dan Sullivan of (AK), Thom Tillis of (NC), Joni Ernst (IA), Lisa Murkowski (AK), and Todd Young (IN).

**This is how Republicans lose – by cowardice and capitulation to leftist ideology.**

DeSantis laid a blueprint for success by leading boldly and unashamedly articulating and advancing conservative principles. As DeSantis said: “The goal is not to just lose ground more slowly. The goal is to regain ground in an offensive direction.” Until Republicans learn that lesson, they will continue to lose.

# Falling in line or just falling?

By Steve Huston



Certainly not what should be, but this is what we are experiencing. The “Law of the Land” is only law until it’s decided by elites that it’s not. Truth is only “truth” and applicable to life until political, medical, educational, and other elites decide that it’s no longer truth, replacing it with “fake science” and deceptive lies that will further their agenda. Marxist elites and social engineers decide that rights can be redesigned and reapplied to the extent that such rights no longer belong to those to whom they were originally given - now bestowed only to the protected class that meets the agenda being pushed by an out-of-control government.

This isn’t a new phenomenon rearing its ugly head; but those who have eyes to see are seeing it more clearly than ever before. On *The Briefing* (11/2/22), Dr. Mohler shows how the medical establishment, with its several arms - including the insurance industry - have fallen in line with LGBTQ revolution enthusiasts to “change the entire society.” He helps us to see that to simply fall in line is to actually fall.

“...one of the things to note is that medical debate is largely disappearing. ... When you look at the major professions, the easiest to imagine in the secular context are medicine and law. You look at medicine and law, what makes a profession a profession is that it defines itself, it licenses itself, and it regulates itself. It sets the rules by which the profession and the professionals in it are to operate. So, if you can establish what is the best practice in the law, you can change the entire society.

“If you can change what is considered to be the best practice when it comes to something like medicine or medical treatment or health policy, you can also change the entire nation. You can change the entire culture. But there’s more to it than just that. Because

as you’re looking at the professions and as you’re looking at how moral change takes place...you recognize it’s even more complicated and the reality is even more powerful. ...you start with doctors and you start with redefining medical practice, best practices, or best medical care when it comes to the medical profession. But the medical profession doesn’t pay for itself. Someone has to pay for it. And one of the big players when it comes to paying for medical care is the insurance industry.

“But it’s not just the insurance industry. It is also federal and state governments when it comes to state taxpayer supported healthcare, Medicare, Medicaid. But not only that, all kinds of economic transfers between governments and between government and medicine. You’re looking at medical research being a part of this as well. My point is this, *you are looking at a major moral agenda being redefined in medical terms and being presented to the public and to patients as if this is now settled medical practice, when what it represents more than anything else is a transformation in the society in moral, even more than in medical terms.*”

Dr. Mohler shows how this happened in the 1970s regarding homosexuality: “...the American Psychiatric Association before, at an annual meeting, they completely changed their position, they considered homosexual desire, homosexual orientation, and homosexual behaviors all to be forms of psychiatric unhealth.

“And that unhealth came with specific diagnoses and all the rest. But in the course of one meeting, all of a sudden it changed into an absolute reversal. Now it is no longer a matter of psychiatric unhealth to be a male homosexual or to practice homosexuality or to be driven by homosexual desire, but rather, it is now unhealth to be unsettled about that fact about oneself.”

Today, the “T” of LGBTQ (transgenderism) is in the “reversal stage” of the medical community, as they fall in line with prevailing thoughts, surgeries, and medications, all absent from real science. It’s not even that a majority of the people believe such things

are good or real solutions.

Gary Bauer reported (11/2/22), “According to a recent survey by Summit Ministries, 75% of those who understand the issue say the transgender movement has gone too far in pushing sterilizing drugs and mutilating surgeries on children.

“In fact, even some transgender activists now admit they have ‘gone too far.’

“A Rasmussen poll found that 75% of Americans believe there are only two genders, and 68% said that teachers should not be counseling students about gender identity without parental consent.

“In spite of the left’s efforts to mock Florida’s Parental Rights in Education Act, which prohibited teachers from discussing issues of sexual orientation and gender identity with young children, polling found that the law was widely popular. Even a majority of Democrats supported the legislation!”

This goes beyond LGBTQ issues. Think about the many troubles physically, economically, emotionally, and politically that we’ve experienced regarding all things COVID-19 (not limited to masks, social distancing, “vaccines,” and elections). Our Constitution was set aside; business, personal, and religious freedoms were trampled; medical best practices were discarded and replaced nearly overnight; safety precautions which had been put in place for the public’s safety were ignored; professionals who disagreed, giving warning against the agenda-driven demands were de-platformed and attacked; and the list goes on.

**The lack of transparency, the denial of discussion, the various professions falling in line, combined, is causing us to fall. It’s happening across the board with many national and international issues, bringing about the demise of our nation.**

When did “We the People” become so lethargic and unaware and unthinking that “We,” not each individual but as a whole, willingly gave up our right to think,

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## Falling in line or just falling?

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decide, and self-govern? Why did “We,” by and large, decide to fall in line with whatever the elites and their minions said regarding whatever topic and whatever end they pushed us toward? **Do “We” even realize that simply falling in line behind these professions/elites who have fallen in line simply makes us fall?**

How did such a great nation, given such great blessing, turn from a city shining on a hill to a path leading to what the Bible calls “a proverb, and a byword”? By denying the law which guarantees our rights, by denying those rights as being God-ordained, and by denying the Truth from which those rights spring, that’s how. In exercising those rights, it’s necessary to submit to the realities of Truth and to submit to the boundaries put forth by the Giver of these rights.

Dear Reader, never forget that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. When a profession or government denies God’s existence or what His Word tells us, their “wisdom” and “knowledge” should be suspect. That doesn’t mean we reject everything they say; but we must do our due diligence, checking their “truth” with the only real Truth, which is the Word of God. Either we comply with God regarding His definitions and designations or we rebel against Him; there is no third option. The results are directly dependent upon our choices. The prophet Isaiah lists those choices and rewards definitively. “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. **If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.**” (Isaiah 1:18-20)

## Michael Perkins is back in Fremont



**Join us as God's truth teller Michael Perkins comes to Fremont!** The battle is raging and the darkness is seemingly having its way - taking large swaths of innocent lives and confused souls down paths of sorrow and brokenness, if not ultimately hell.

Many of you have seen the widely viewed and nationally acclaimed movie, *In His Image* – produced by Michael Perkins. And, if you haven't, you really need to put the viewing of this film on your bucket list. By God's grace we have squeezed time in from his traveling schedule to speak to those able to join us. Michael has a tight schedule as his main purpose presently is interviewing (for AFA's next documentary) several individuals who have been particularly influenced by AFA's founder Donald Wildmon. I am one of those, and am never shy about saying it.

Be a part of our year-end event on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022** at the **American Decency building** (203 E. Main Street, Fremont, MI) at **12 PM**. We'll provide a luncheon as we fellowship with Michael, followed by his presentation as Michael speaks about the burden that God has laid upon his heart - **LGBT Activists In the Church**.

How is it possible that such activists have infiltrated the church and how should we respond to them? With various government policies in place, what can the church do? Michael is always well-researched, having the facts in hand; and his presentations are always wrapped in the wisdom of God’s Word, something that is so desperately needed today. Join us as Michael delivers a message marked by God's Word in regards to one of the most concerning battlefronts of our time. (To help us plan, please RSVP at 231-924-4050.)

## An Increased Urgency

By Bill Johnson



As the urgencies in our culture increase, our response has also been marked by increased urgency. These changing times, we believe, have required an ability not to grow weary in well-doing but rather to stand as God calls and enables. We are humbled that at such a time as this, God has - by His grace - kept this ministry alert, equipped, and blessed to continue to be, in a very real sense, an instrument of His love, mercy, grace, and truth before a watching world in our local community, in Michigan, and throughout our nation as God renews us day by day.

We are under no illusions as to our vulnerability and our weakness in a society that is growing increasingly hostile to Christians and to a Christian ministry that desires to live and serve Jesus and His people, come what may. The need is great for faithful ones like you and me to stand. We may not win the battles, yet we know the war ultimately has been won. We minister in that victory, striving to be faithful to the calling God has given us.

We’ve entitled this newsletter God IS Faithful, and He has shown His faithfulness to ADA through your faithfulness to our ministry. Your notes and expressions of assurance and encouragement mean more now than ever before as, of course, does your faithful, generous, and kindly support that SUPPORTS and enables us to continue on.

**Will you prayerfully consider once again empowering the work of American Decency Association with a year-end gift, as God leads?** Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. And as God upholds us in this ministry, may He keep you, too, in His great care and service.

# Jacob's Speckled Lambs

By Chris Johnson



One of my favorite things about reading the Old Testament is how reading it in light of the New Testament can give whole new meaning to what seem to be the details that get in our way if we're just looking for a good bedtime story.

Foreshadows of the coming Messiah are everywhere in the Old Testament, where you'd least expect them. Like when Moses throws the branch into the bitter water of Marah (bitter) in the desert, and it becomes "sweet" water that gives life. Then, hundreds of years later in the time of the Judges, Ruth hands a baby to her mother-in-law who calls herself Mara (also meaning bitter) and that baby is Obed who will give birth to Jesse, who's called the "stump" from which David and ultimately the Messiah will come. Mara then again becomes Naomi (meaning "pleasant" or we might say "sweet"). As the branch brought the water of life to Israel in the wilderness, the root of Jesse turns bitterness into sweet.

I want to look at an even stranger Old Testament story though, and see if we can't pull a Christmas story out of it. You won't find it in many story Bibles, but if you've read through the Bible you probably ran across this one and wondered why God saw fit to pass this of all stories down throughout the millennia. Genesis 30 recounts how Jacob earns his flocks from his father-in-law, Laban. Having made an agreement with Laban that any spotted lambs or goats found or born in the flock would belong to him, Jacob discovers (probably not a surprise) that Laban has snuck away all of the spotted animals. Jacob then uses this unusual method to ensure that he not only gets his flock, but that he gets the best of the flock.

Here it is from Genesis 30:37-43: "*Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white*

*streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys."*

Answers In Genesis gives a great job of explaining the possible science behind all this – and it's not that seeing spotted sticks made the sheep have spotted babies – but whether there is a natural explanation or a purely supernatural explanation is not what I find interesting.

Several decades later, Jacob's family survives famine by driving their speckled flock to the land of Goshen, in Egypt, and there, for 430 years, they grow from a family of 12 sons running their father's sheep business until "the land was filled with them."

This part of the story we're more familiar with. "There arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph." He saw Jacob's family as a threat and to deal with this threat he turns them from shepherds into slaves. But, as we know from the account of the Passover and the Exodus, Israel still kept sheep. So, at the time of Moses, Israel was likely still pasturing the great-great grand-sheep of Jacob's speckled flock.

So, while genetics would have allowed for some white sheep to be born, the abundance would have been speckled. Yet when God commands that each household take a lamb for Passover, what is the qualification? It was to be unblemished.

An unblemished lamb would not be so rare as an unblemished person, but yet it would have stood out among its speckled kin, an understated illustration of Psalm 13:10: "None is righteous, no, not one." And yet, we need a righteous Sacrifice to cover our sin.

And so, among those speckled sheep, each Israelite home would find one pure white lamb. In its rarity they would have found it precious. They would take it home and keep it for 2 weeks, so that they would feel its loss. The slaughter of the lamb was not to be a rote slaughter for a meal, but an experience where they would feel remorse when the time came for the sacrifice.

At Christmas time, we celebrate the choosing of our lamb. We celebrate the beginning of the human life of Christ, reveling in His birth, His baby toes, His legendary serenity in the stable, in the shepherds leaving their own flocks to come and gawk at God in human form - all-the-while knowing how it will end. But what's amazing is that we don't have to care for our Lamb before the sacrifice, as the Israelites did. Instead, He – the Bread of Life - is laid in a manger, as if for HIS flock to feed on.

His body will be the grain for His flock to eat, and His blood the wine for us to drink. He is our spotless lamb in a flock of speckled animals, He is our Passover feast.

