

Thanksgiving in Times of Trouble

By Steve Huston



On Christmas morning, before opening gifts, my wife and children gather around to actively listen as I read the “Christmas Story” from Luke chapter two. I assume that many of our readers have a similar tradition. This month, we will “gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing” and read the “Thanksgiving chapter,” I Chronicles chapter sixteen. Inside is found a wonderful “Thanksgiving” meal, bountiful praises to the most high God, a reminder that “he cometh to judge the earth,” and the real reason for all this praise and thanksgiving: “***O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.***” (v. 34)

It’s vital that we learn this truth and hide it deep within our heart and mind; it must be our constant reminder of who God is. No matter the circumstance, regardless the hurt, turmoil, or trouble, our God IS good; his mercy endures FOREVER! This is reason enough to give Him thanks; He is worthy of all glory, honor, and praise.

With the unimaginable horrors of Hamas’ attacks upon Israel and her innocent civilians, we continue to believe that He who keeps Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps; God is still sovereign and allows such trial and hurt for His purpose. Even as I write these words, my heart is burdened for Israel and over the very real prospect of such tribulation coming to America and what that would mean for myself and my own friends

and family. Even so, I am reminded and comforted by the words of Methodist preacher John Wesley and puritan divine John Flavel, as they point to the goodness and mercy of God as His sovereign hand of providence intercedes in the lives of men and countries. I imagine that much of what we suffer can be attributed to God’s enduring mercy.

John Wesley, in writing to a young person regarding the various trials she was going through, encouraged her with these words: “*We know indeed that these as well as all things are ordered by unerring wisdom, and are given us exactly at the right time, and in due number, weight, and measure. And they continue no longer than is best, for chance has no share in the government of the world. The Lord reigns and disposes all things, strongly and sweetly, for the good of them that love him.*” Do we trust our God enough to give thanksgiving and praise in the midst of our storm?

John Flavel reminds us that: “***Sometimes God uses the hand of enemies.*** *He has bowed the hearts of many wicked men to show great kindness to his people that were intended for evil and mischief. Joseph’s brothers designed his ruin, but God used it for his advancement. The design and scope of providence must not escape our thorough consideration. Above all others, this is the most warming and melting consideration—*

*‘And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose’ (Rom. 8:28). ...Consider also the relation providence bears to our prayers! This is sweet meditation. ***Prayer honours providence and providence honours prayer!***” O that our prayers would show our trust in the Creator of heaven and earth; let our heart echo that of the centurion, with tears, “Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!” **Dear Reader, His mercy endureth forever!***

Times of trouble will come: international/national upheaval; disease and death; emotional, financial, mental strains; relational issues; sin, and a host of things too numerous to list. None of it matters in regard to our response to it. In the midst of the pain, sadness, or even devastation, **trust in God’s goodness and mercy.** Remember God’s will for you as described by Paul in I Thesalonians 5:18. “*In every thing give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*” When anxiety creeps in, remember to “*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*” (Phil. 4:6)

Come what may, “***O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.***”

Personal Note from the President



As never before, as our staff gathers together and considers the privilege and the responsibility of writing our upcoming newsletter, we see the horrendous changes unfolding in real time right before our eyes. We discuss. We pray. We seek to be used of God recognizing with gratitude that we still have the Freedom of Religion. The Freedom of Speech. We are thankful, acknowledging that there are so many around the world who no longer have or have never had these precious freedoms.

We are aware these freedoms we have are very fragile. We also recognize – all of us at American Decency Association – that we are blessed to have one another as colleagues, as kindred spirits, as brothers and sisters in Christ and to be able to approach the news on this basis.

While we are attentive to the news on a daily basis, we recognize that our viewpoint is not shared by what is known as mainstream media - which is what most people follow, including friends, acquaintances, and even family members. It is bewildering to us. But more than that it is troubling because we recognize that the mainstream media is also a mouthpiece of untruths of leftist ideology. Many are negatively influenced and don't even know it.

What do I consider examples of mainstream media? The Detroit Free Press, Detroit News, CBS, NBC, MSNBC, CNN, the Washington Post, New York Times, Reuters, Associated Press, most local television and radio news reporting, PBS. And, on and on it goes all across the USA – from small town to big city.

What position does mainstream media hold in regard to whether the 2020 election was fraudulent or not?

What about the issue of masking? What

does the media say about the 6 billion dollar “gift” that the U.S gave to Iran in recent months? What position does your local television news take in regard to whether there is a growing concern that our government is allowing illegal immigrants to pour into the country by the millions unscreened?

What does mainstream media report regarding the growing lawlessness in American cities and the failure of law enforcement to enforce the law against those who wantonly break into stores and steal tens of thousands of dollars of merchandise in one evening?

You get the idea. A most recent, egregious example was the bombing of the Gaza City hospital! According to Hamas and the mainstream media, it was the Israelis! Over 500 innocents reportedly killed including babies. By the time the facts came out that the strike was an errant Hamas bomb, it was too late. Protests against the “guilty” Israelis were exploding in the Middle East, in Europe, and in the U.S.

How do these things happen?

A verse that comes to my mind quite often is the following: “*Test all things. Hold fast what is good. Avoid all appearances of evil.*” [I Thessalonians 5:17]

Do you recall seeing television clips done by various reporters as they would take their video cameras into the streets and ask everyday persons such questions as, “Is a man who says he’s a woman really a woman?” Often the person questioned would answer, “That’s a woman.” Upon further questioning the person interviewed might respond, “Well, he identifies as a woman, so she’s a woman.” The questioner might also ask, “What would you say if I told you that I was a dog?” Answers would vary, but include, “If you say you are a dog, then you’re a dog.” Now granted that kind of idiotic response is not deep and wide. Is it?

And another example pointing to the gravity of our situation even at the local level is when communities allow their libraries to host a “drag queen story hour” with parents bringing their young children to be entertained by a man in sexualized garb reading books (that’s another issue) to children gathered on the pervert’s lap or at his/her

feet. The question: “Why would a librarian, a library board, a community open the doors to such a mindless, godless assault upon the innocence of children?”

It isn’t easy to confront wickedness - especially if we can’t discern the truth from a lie, whether it’s perversion at the library or a fraudulent election in our local township.

Another verse that comes to my mind and heart quite often is this: “*they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean;*” (Ezekiel 22:26)

I am writing this on the evening of Joe Biden’s return from visiting with Prime Minister Netanyahu. I discern that he failed in adequately providing assurances to Israel, our closest democratically governed ally in the Middle East, of the United States’ overwhelming support in their battle against evil forces on every side of their little country: Hamas, Hezbollah, Iran, Gaza, Lebanon. Instead he showed weakness that helped foster Palestinian demonstrations around the world including major cities throughout America.

Quoting Gary Bauer (October 18, 2023): *Joe Biden served four years as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has often presented himself as some kind of foreign policy ‘genius.’ In fact, Biden’s ‘extensive foreign policy experience’ was the main reason why Barack Obama chose Biden as his running mate in 2008.*

But Robert Gates, Obama’s defense secretary, tried to warn us. Gates said that Biden’s ‘been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades.’

Clearly, Gates recognized the truth that Obama missed. Just look at the world around us. The Biden foreign policy fiascos are piling up fast! Joe Biden surrendered to the Taliban. He allowed a communist Chinese spy balloon to fly over our country. He opened our borders to criminals, gangs, deadly drugs and potential terrorists. He drained half of our strategic petroleum re-

[Continued on Page 4]

Will the Real Terrorists Please Stand Up

By Lisa Van Houten



The recent horrific Hamas terrorist attack upon Israel captured the attention of Americans, reminding us of our own 9/11 when ruthless terrorists targeted innocent American civilians. Gary Bauer reported two days after the attack - when the known death toll was 800 Israelis (that total is now over 1,200) – that in proportion to the U.S. population, it would be equivalent to 20,000 - 25,000 Americans being killed in an attack. (Considering 3,000 were killed on 9/11, it would be as if we had at least seven 9/11 attacks within a 24-hour period.)

The barbaric slaughter of families within their homes; the beheading of babies; the Hamas paragliders who descended upon concert-goers in an open field, mowing them down with machine guns – it all reminds us of what we have complacently forgotten: Islamic extremism is still alive and well. To Islamic extremists, Israel is the “Little Satan” and the U.S. is the “Great Satan.” **So why do we think what happened in Israel, couldn’t happen here?**

Then consider the recent data obtained by Fox News regarding our porous southern border. In the last two years under the Biden administration, the U.S. Border Patrol has encountered 72,823 “special interest aliens” entering the U.S. - many from the Middle East. A “special interest alien” is the term used by government officials to refer to an illegal alien from a nation that either promotes terrorist activity, harbors terrorists, or poses a possible security threat to the United States. The totals include:

6,386 from Afghanistan; 3,153 from Egypt; 659 from Iran; 538 from Syria; 139 from Yemen; 123 from Iraq; 164 from Lebanon; 1,613 from Pakistan; 15,594 from Mauritania; 13,624 from Uzbekistan; 30,830 from Turkey.

In addition, in just the first two weeks of October, special interest aliens included

more than 30 Iranians, 60, Syrians, 35 Pakistanis, 285 Afghans, and nearly 2,000 Chinese. This does not include the more than 1.7 million known “got-aways” who have successfully evaded Border Patrol agents and entered the country during the Biden administration. How many of these known “special interest aliens” and “got-aways” entering the U.S. are trying to escape the radicalism of their country? How many are coming with the purpose of doing us harm? We have no way of knowing because we have no way to vet people from these “special interest” countries.

Bill Melugin of Fox News reports: *“I’m told unless [illegal aliens] have committed a crime previously in the U.S., or they are on some sort of federal watchlist, there’s no way to know who they are because most of their home countries don’t share data/records with the U.S., so there is nothing to match a name to when BP [Border Patrol] agents run fingerprints.”*

Wouldn’t you think this risk would be a major concern for those tasked with protecting America and her citizens? Yet under the Biden administration, the FBI and the Department of Justice are target-fixated on American citizens, who they’ve labeled as “domestic terrorists.” **Recently, a bombshell report released by Newsweek revealed that the FBI is targeting Trump supporters as “domestic terrorists” heading into the 2024 election.** *“The federal government believes that the threat of violence and major civil disturbances around the 2024 U.S. presidential election is so great that it has quietly created a new category of extremists that it seeks to track and counter: Donald Trump’s army of MAGA followers,”* Newsweek reports.

In October of last year, the FBI added a new terrorism category, labeled “AGAAVE-Other,” which stands for “anti-government or anti-authority violent extremists.” Newsweek reports: **“For the first time, such groups could be so labeled because of their politics.”** The report added, *“The threats listed are all clearly associated with America’s right and in particular with Trump’s MAGA supporters.”*

One unnamed senior intelligence official told Newsweek that he believed “Trump’s

army constitutes the greatest threat of violence domestically...politically...that’s the reality and the problem set.” (ellipsis included in the Newsweek quote). Notice that this FBI official refers to Americans who vote for Donald Trump in militant terms – an “army.” And says the quiet part out loud – they are a “threat” politically.

The report also reveals: **“nearly two-thirds of the FBI’s current investigations are focused on Trump supporters and others suspected of violating what the FBI calls ‘anti-riot’ laws.”** Did you catch that? Let me repeat that staggering statistic: Nearly two-thirds of the FBI’s current investigations are focused on Trump supporters. As unvetted “special interest” illegal aliens enter the U.S.; as pro-Hamas leftists in America shout “long live the Intifada,” an explicit call for genocide – our FBI spends two-thirds of its time looking into Republican voters. **“Similarly, ‘assessments,’ a shadowy tool used by the FBI to spy on Americans who have political or ideological associations deemed unfavorable by the agency, ‘more than doubled from 2019 to 2021,’”** the Federalist reports.

Joe Biden frequently paints half of America as “extremists” with comments such as: *“Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are a threat to the very soul of this country,”* giving the greenlight to his DOJ and FBI to go after them. The line repeated by these government agencies is that “domestic terrorism” – aka conservative Republicans - are **the number one threat to national security.** Here’s just some of what the FBI and DOJ have been up to under Biden: In 2021 and 2022, the Justice Department labeled parents as “domestic terrorists” subject to FBI investigation because they raised concerns at local school board meetings about CRT and transgender ideology. The FBI also has targeted pro-life activists and sought to investigate traditional Catholics as “violent white supremacists.” The FBI has been accused of planting agents at the January 6 Capitol protest and instigated the plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. As PJ Media reports: “The Bureau weaponized Jan. 6, 2021, against MAGA supporters. It is important to know that the majority of protesters on Jan. 6 were

[Continued on Page 4]

Personal Note (Continued from Page 2)



serve for partisan political reasons. Europe is in the middle of its first major war in nearly 80 years. Israel is in the middle of its worst war in 50 years.

This morning, we woke up to the news that the U.S. embassy in Lebanon was set on fire and is being partially evacuated. Iranian-backed militias marched on the U.S. embassy in Iraq. The Israeli embassy in Jordan was attacked. A synagogue in Berlin was firebombed. Eight airports in France were locked down after credible bomb threats. Vladimir Putin is in Beijing meeting with Premier Xi. Iran, which Joe Biden has given billions of dollars, is now threatening America.

A summit between Joe Biden, the king of Jordan, the president of Egypt and the president of the Palestinian Authority was abruptly canceled. Foreign policy and defense experts are now asking, 'Can we fight a war in Europe, a war in the Middle East and a war off the coast of China all at the same time?' Not surprisingly, there's growing speculation that the Biden Administration may restart the military draft. ...

What lies ahead?

The Johnsons (Chris' family and Jan and I) just returned from a weekend conference at the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter where we were under the potent influence of Biblical messaging via Biblical archives, archeological finds, displays describing God's creation and His plan for salvation, redemption, God's love for humankind, His remedy on the cross and our hope beyond the grave. One of the highlights was a visit to the planetarium at the Creation Museum that displays the stars, the planets, our galaxy and galaxies light years beyond our solar system. All of this and so much more, including messages and presentations from Ken Ham and a dramatization of Corrie Ten Boom's life and family under Hitler and her years at Ravensbruck and how God kept her

and used her as she leaned on Him to minister in times of great travail. Hiding Jews in their humble household in the Netherlands, sharing the Gospel with suffering souls in Ravensbruck, staying true to God's Word providing hope and encouragement and winning hurting souls to Christ in evil days.

Parts of the world are now in that kind of travail. We must be watchful. We too must be providing hope and encouragement and winning hurting souls to Christ.

Although it is wonderful and is a great encouragement and strengthening, we don't have to go to Ken Ham's ministry locations to be reminded of God's goodness and plan for us. Corrie Ten Boom had no such place to go to for daily strengthening. I am not using this as a feel-good ending but to personally remind you that God lives within you if you are a believer. I am burdened for people like you and me. The days are desperate. Let us be sure as men and women of God to get under His hand of grace, mercy and authority. *Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you.* Matthew 6:33.

It is a consistent desire of this ministry to be as timely as possible as we deal with unfolding issues of special significance. We have taken this last-minute update as far as we could as we face printer deadlines. With great sadness, what we have written about at this hour, as dreadful and horrible as it is, promises to be heightened significantly.

"No, it is not in man's power to sing when all is adverse, unless an altar-coal shall touch his lip. It was a divine song, which Habakkuk sang, when in the night he said, 'Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.' Then, since our Maker gives songs in the night, let us wait upon him for the music. O thou chief musician, let us not remain songless because affliction is upon us, but tune thou our lips to the melody of thanksgiving." ~ Charles Spurgeon, Evening by Evening

Will the Real Terrorists Please Stand Up



[Continued from Page 3]

peaceful and that many of the individuals sentenced to years in jail did not do anything violent, and, in some cases, didn't even enter the Capitol. Yet there were no consequences for violent pro-abortion activists who attacked and burned pro-life centers and churches, Antifa and BLM got off largely scot-free for burning and looting cities, and the government and media were strangely silent about violent 'transurrections' at multiple state Capitols."

As the FBI ignores true terrorism and instead targets voters based on their political views, it is they who are engaged in election interference and are putting our nation at risk. **Our federal law enforcement agencies are supposed to be apolitical – not used as a cudgel to intimidate citizens who hold differing political opinions from those in power. We are on the verge of losing our Republic, teetering on the edge of tyranny.**

Pray for justice and righteousness to prevail. Despite the judgment our nation deserves, may God be gracious and merciful once again.

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Will You Eat the Bugs?

By Chris Johnson



“No Farms, No Food.”

If you live in a farming community you might have seen this bumper sticker on the back of a pickup truck at a stoplight or in a parking lot. They’re a great reminder to city-slickers who might get irate at being the last in a twenty car parade whose Grand Marshall is hauling a manure spreader.

The makers of this sticker explain the purpose for the catchy reminder like this: *“America’s farms provide an unparalleled abundance of fresh, healthy, and local food, but they are rapidly disappearing...”*

I doubt even the American Farmland Trust knows the extent to which that last bit is true as they ship out this clever little slogan, but the makers of a similarly named documentary do.

“No Farmers, No Food: Will You Eat the Bugs?” is a timely and important documentary coming from the bold minds at The Epoch Times.

“Will you eat the bugs?” sounds like an outlandish question we can’t imagine anyone answering ‘yes’ to. Kids who grew up in the ‘90s and their parents might recall Timon and Pumba trying to convince Simba to eat slugs in the Lion King. If “now fortified with meal worm” were splashed across a cereal box, they might have a hard time closing the sale.

But what if it was a far more affordable option and it was made to taste, more-or-less, steak-y? An UnHerd.com article by Mary Harrington explains the issue: *“The problem... is real. Protein is a key building-block for human health; no wonder that global meat consumption has more than quadrupled since 1961, and is growing most swiftly in low and middle-income countries. Where it’s possible for meat to go from a luxury to a staple, people want it to.”* So far,

so good. Here’s the kicker: *“But the boom in meat production has been achieved largely by industrialising animal farming — a practice with grave environmental consequences.”* The problem with animal protein is that animals fart, which of course causes “climate change.” That and lots of heavy equipment has to burn lots of diesel fuel to produce and transport feed for all of those animals.

Bugs don’t fart.

And they’ll eat anything. They’ll clean up the compost pile. Instead of grassfed beef, we can have trash-fed bugs.

Am I selling it?

Well, it is being sold. According to the Economist.com, *“Insect products are now available in many countries. You can buy cricket snacks in Britain, mealworm burgers in Germany and supermarket-branded cricket powder in Canada.”*

Just recently, the cheap chicken monolith Tyson Foods announced they were partnering with a Netherlands based bug protein company to build a plant in the US. Their CFO, John Tyson, said *“In the long run, insect-protein inclusion in animal-feed diets can be a real thing that exists and can be one that is good for people, planet and animals.”*

Tyson’s Dutch partner brings up an interesting connection – Dutch farmers’ own recent battles with these new forms of food production. If their past predicts American farmers’ future, they’re in for a difficult time.

Last year, I wrote this for the American Conservative: *“The ‘Boers’ (Dutch farmers) aren’t just blocking traffic, they’re spraying manure on government offices and officials’ homes, lighting hay bales on fire in the highway median, and blocking shipments from processing plants.*

“To varying degrees, they’ve been at this for weeks as their parliament has contemplated a measure which seeks to drastically cut emissions from farms, forcing sales of farmland that has been owned in some cases for hundreds of years by the same family. It would mean farms having to slaughter large

percentages of healthy herds. Ultimately, for many small farms, it would mean the end of their livelihoods.

“This is admitted by the Dutch government. According to ABC News, ‘The ruling coalition wants to cut emissions of pollutants, predominantly nitrogen oxide and ammonia, by 50% nationwide by 2030.... ‘The honest message...is that not all farmers can continue their business,’ and those who do will likely have to farm differently, the government said in a statement this month as it unveiled emission reduction targets.’”

Ironically, the Dutch government hasn’t moved to shut down farms because they wanted to produce less food, they want to produce *more* food – in multilevel hydroponic facilities run by employees in white lab coats working for corporations rather than the families who’ve farmed their land for generations.

Such a move here, where animal product are some of our biggest agricultural exports, might force everyone onto artificial meat. Epoch Time’s documentary asks the right question: *“Will you eat the bugs?”*

We strongly encourage you to watch this Epoch Times special at NoFarmersNoFood.com. In the very first few minutes you will see that it is relevant to you, no matter if you live near a farm or far away from agricultural centers in a big metropolitan area. A subscription to EpochTV is required, or new users can get 4 weeks for \$4 to watch the movie.

For those of you living within vicinity of American Decency headquarters in rural Fremont, Michigan, I encourage you to come to our free showings of this powerful documentary.

“No Farmers. No Food. Will You Eat the Bugs?”

**Friday, November 3, 2023
1:00 PM or 6:30 PM**

**American Decency Association
203 E Main Street, Fremont, MI 49412**

Not Second in Importance

By Steve Huston



"For a people who are free, and who mean to remain so, a well organized and armed militia is their best security."

Thomas Jefferson (State of the Union Address)

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, so the modern-day state of Israel rose from the ashes of the Holocaust. Remembering the horrors from which she sprang and the nations which surround and desire to destroy her, one would think that every "man, woman, and child" would be encouraged to own and responsibly carry rifles and pistols for defending their family and nation.

The recent multi-faceted attack by Hamas on Israel may have been reconsidered before initiated or its results would likely have been less catastrophic had civilians been armed at the music festival, fathers armed protecting their families, women armed facing their rapists, and a largely armed citizenry to fight off these bloodthirsty aggressors. Granted, not all of these atrocities could have been stopped, but if the populace were well-armed instead of only relying on the police or military, much of it could have been halted or lessened. **To be clear, I detest violence, but I detest a government hindering its citizens from their God-given duty to defend themselves and protect their families even more.** Israel and, to a lesser extent, the United States have been infringing on the right of her peoples to "keep and bear arms," with more emphasis on "well regulated" than militia.

In a recent YouTube video, Dave Kobler, U.S. Army veteran, explained that 25 years ago many Israeli citizens would carry rifles around to protect themselves, but today it is difficult to get a firearm license for a pistol and nearly impossible to carry a rifle. After listing the many obstacles in obtaining a firearm license, he states, "that 'only 2% - 2.6% of Jewish people in Israel have the permit and have a firearm.'" He also shares, "Usually if approved, citizens are allowed to hold a pistol and a limit of 50 rounds, must have a health declaration form from the physician, showing medical approval of

mental and physical health attached to the application. The application must undergo a required weapons training every 18 months once a license is obtained and continuous training requirements. There are strong rules regarding weapon storage."

This savage attack by Hamas is a clarion call for both Israel and America; individual gun rights are vital to reduce violence and to improve safety and security. Instead of making them more difficult to obtain, people should be **encouraged** to own and be proficient with all types of firearms. **After all, if it can happen in Israel, it can certainly happen here.**

America's founding fathers well understood that weakness provokes aggression and appeasement only serves to embolden our enemies. After all, it was Thomas Jefferson who wrote: "**Weakness provokes insult & injury, while a condition to punish it often prevents it. ... I think it to our interest to punish the first insult; because an insult unpunished is the parent of many others.**"

Of course, this is of extreme importance when dealing with other nations on an international level; it's just as important, though, when dealing with one's own government and its anti-gun actions perpetuated upon its own citizenry. Obviously, the "punishment," purposely incorporated into our republican form of government, would look much different than that which is inflicted upon a foreign aggressor, but when any government takes steps to restrict its people's self-defense, lawful, constitutional measures must be taken. Otherwise, **when** "Gaza comes to America," how can we expect a different outcome than that of our Israeli allies?

Do you feel that "**when**" is too strong a word? Sam Faddis, retired CIA officer, accurately states: "*We're looking at what's happening in Israel; it's horrific. Your immediate question, as an American, ought to be, 'How long before Gaza happens here?' And the answer is, 'Only by the grace of God did it not already happen.'*"

When we see the dangers attached to our porous border, well-presented by Lisa Van Houten's article (pp. 3&4) in this news-

letter, particularly the recognition of "special interest aliens," and Sam Faddis' quote from AND Magazine: "*Most of the individuals entering our country illegally are not women or children. They are fighting-age males. Increasingly they are from the Middle East or Sub-Saharan Africa. These are areas in which large, anti-American Islamic terrorist groups operate. The mission of those groups remains the destruction of the United States.*" Continuing, "... you are setting yourself up for disaster. You are creating the conditions under which groups and nations hostile to the United States can infiltrate teams of individuals onto your soil in preparation for an attack."

When we recognize that Islamists have a great hatred for all "infidels," calling Israel the "Little Satan" and the U.S. the "Great Satan," combined with our lack of commitment and integrity in standing with our allies... When we recognize that there is a growing anti-Semitism and support within our nation for Hamas...

When we continue to fund our and our allies' enemies while weakening our own military; nationally call good evil and evil good, thereby weakening our own moral strength; and continue to sell land to China while allowing them steal our intelligence and infiltrate our institutions...

When we realize that these are only the tip of the iceberg, how can we not expect a titanic crash?

Without Constitutional diligence in protecting our Second Amendment rights, we will eventually be put in a very similar situation as Israel was. **Having a properly armed and trained citizenry is a large part of national security.** Why didn't Japan attack the United States mainland during World War II? Paraphrasing their answer, "*How can we attack a land where there's a rifle behind every tree?*" They knew they would be slaughtered, not by the military but by our citizens. **We need to rely on God for our protection but we are also required by the commandments of God to protect our own families, to take the measures that we need, and to use wisdom while we're doing it.**

The Fruit of the Poisonous Propaganda

By Lisa Van Houten



“From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” has been chanted by thousands in American cities and on college campuses at pro-Hamas/pro-Palestinian protests in the weeks following the heinous terrorist attack upon Israel by Hamas. What lies between “the river and the sea?” **The nation of Israel.** (Joshua 1:4) This Palestinian chant, which has been picked up by American leftists, has long been a call to wipe Israel and the Jewish people off the face off the map. At one such student protest on a Seattle campus, a video went viral of Jewish girls pleading with campus staff, crying: “They want us dead, how are you allowing this?” – as her fellow students called for the extermination of Israel. In Sydney, Australia a mob chanted, “Gas the Jews!”

Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif declared on the day of the attack: *“I say to the masses of the people and our nation, and to the free people of the world: Today, the wrath of Al-Aqsa has exploded – the rage of our people, our nation, and the free people of the world. I say to our pure mujahideen: This is the day that you make this criminal enemy [Israel] understand that its time is up. ‘Kill them wherever you may find them.’”* That also was a quotation from the Qur’an (2:191, 4:89, cf. 9:5).

Even before this deadly attack, there’s been a growing anti-Semitism in the U.S. as hate crimes against Jews have risen to their highest point in nearly 30 years. In 2022, there were 1,124 anti-Jewish crimes in America, up 36% from the previous year. Anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment are also common in the more radical elements of the Democratic Party and among some of the leftist faculty members of our nation’s colleges and universities. As just one example, Cornell University Professor Russell Rickford, speaking at a pro-Palestinian protest, called the Hamas attack upon Israel “exhilarating,” stating: *“It was exhilarating! It*

was energizing! ... I was exhilarated!”

There is absolutely no moral justification for Hamas’ atrocities. Yet over 30 Harvard student groups issued this statement: *“We, the undersigned student organizations, hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible for all unfolding violence.”*

To these protestors, Hamas was justified in massacring over 1,200 civilians – raping women, slaughtering babies, burning people alive – because in their eyes Israel is the “oppressor.” They’ve been steeped in Marxist ideology that divides people into two groups – the “oppressor” and the “oppressed.” Those with whiter skin are always the oppressor; those with darker skin are always the oppressed in their warped ideology. It doesn’t matter what the facts are or the historical context. They derogatorily label Israelis as “colonizers” who stole the land from Palestinians, ignorant of or ignoring the fact that Jews preceded Arabs and have lived continuously in the land they allegedly “stole” since the time of Abraham. Instead, the radical left pushes their narrative about imperialism and colonization as justification for Hamas’ depraved attacks. Israel makes up only 8% of the Middle East and is surrounded by extremists who do not want to co-exist, but rather threaten the annihilation of Israel and the Jewish people. Yet in the minds of our own extremists on America’s campuses, Israel “had it coming.” As NYU Law Student Bar Association stated: ***“Israel bears full responsibility for this tremendous loss of life. This regime of state-sanctioned violence created the conditions that made resistance necessary.”***

Many of these will be the future lawyers, judges, politicians, educators, and corporate leaders of America. The venom they spew is the fruit of the poisonous propaganda they’ve been fed in our institutes of higher learning. They rant about “justice” while justifying mass murder. They claim “words are violence,” but condone actual violence. They’re in favor of suppressing the free speech of those with whom they disagree, but are happy to take advantage of the freedom of speech to promote hatred. They extol the ideas of diversity, open-mindedness, intellectualism, but exhibit none of

them. It shouldn’t surprise us that those who advocate for the slaughter of the unborn would also disregard the slaughter of Jewish babies. Their moral compass points south; their darkened hearts do not differentiate between good and evil. (Romans 1)

The moral and intellectual rot coming from our universities and colleges is directly caused by the Marxist march through the institutions that has been occurring under our noses. For decades Marxist revolutionaries have been hired to teach America’s college students. It’s no wonder, then, that the current generation espouses Marxist ideology and denies objective truth. Add to that, many of them have been raised in godless homes. As C.S. Lewis wrote: ***“We make men without chests and expect of them virtue and enterprise. We laugh at honour and are shocked to find traitors in our midst. We castrate and bid the geldings be fruitful.”*** If/when our nation falls, I don’t think it will be from military conquest, but rather because we’ve failed to train up this generation “in the way that they should go.” (Proverbs 22:6)

John Daniel Davidson writing for the Federalist, states: *“They are, like Islam itself, post-Christian, and their morality, like the morality of Hamas, is decidedly pagan. That means they do not believe in universal human rights or inherent human dignity. They do not believe in the Christian doctrine of imago Dei and the moral imperatives that flow from it. They do not believe in objective morality or truth. They reject the Christian precepts that constitute the basis for Western civilization. These are the barbarians who reside beyond the gates of the Christian West. They believe only in power, and they will do whatever they can to gain it. ...”*

Another quote from C.S. Lewis reminds us: “Good philosophy must exist, if for no other than reason, because bad philosophy must be answered.” **We must be Truth-tellers to those who have fallen prey to falsehoods and godless ideology – that includes secular college students, Palestinians worshipping a false god, and Jews who have denied the Messiah.**

For each of them, their greatest need is Jesus. Only in Him will they find peace.

What Separates Man From Beast

By Chris Johnson



Ideas have consequences, as the saying goes, and the most foundational ideas have the longest reach in their effect. How we answer questions like “where did we come from?” and “what are we here for?” will influence where we go and what we do.

So, while most of us have probably never thought about the political implications of the early chapters of Genesis, a close examination of recent events in the world around us exhibits how the world has changed as the church has left behind a faithful and trusting reading of that fundamental passage.

I was recently blessed to be able to attend a conference dedicated to that topic, the Fight Laugh Feast network’s annual conference themed: “The Politics of Six Day Creation.”

Located in the conference center at the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, KY, the presentations ranged from looking at geological dating methods to surveying the usage of words in the original Hebrew of the Old Testament to reviewing historical philosophical shifts to discussing how those shifts influence the political landscape today.

To be honest, I’m still trying to wrap my head around radiometric dating and the half-life of Argon and the problems that poses for an Old Earth theory of origins, but the speakers’ illustrations of the philosophical implications of our cultural worldview shift were clearer.

Darwin’s theory of evolution met a need, a need created by the ideology which motivated the bloody French Revolution: humanism.

Not coincidentally, the French Revolution was marked in part by a complete rejection

of religion. They ejected the Roman Catholic church from its position of authority and replaced it with a formal “Cult of Reason,” officially placing humanity and our ability to reason at the top of the chain of being. The problem was, as fast as science was progressing at that time, they still hadn’t come up with an explanation for how humanity had gotten there. It was clear we were at the top, but why?

Along came ol’ Chuck Darwin, less than a century after the French Revolution, with a candidate for the new humanist culture’s consideration: we had descended from apes and were, thus far, the apex of evolution.

A few years ago, while we were renovating our house, I found a piece of firewood wedged between the ground and the floor joist. It had been shoved in there to keep the kitchen floor from sagging. Darwin’s theory was adopted in a similar way: it’s not that it was the unavoidable conclusion of studying the data; it’s that the philosophy of the day needed some explanation that didn’t require a divine authority. In fact, you could say that evolution across species is itself a religious belief. It is a solution to a problem presented by this new humanistic view of the world. It’s the log preventing the floor from sagging. Having declined to acknowledge the existence of the Creator, an alternative explanation of our origin was required.

As the years have dragged on since this humanistic shift, cultures have been able to thrive on the moral foundation laid down by a culture which acknowledged, not only the existence, but the AUTHORITY of the Creator. However, morality based on tradition only lasts as long as the tradition itself and, as we’ve seen in the last few decades, tradition is being rejected from mainstream culture with prejudice.

We find we no longer have a reason to regard life or the God who designed it. What is a woman? Whoever wants to call oneself that. One example which was brought up repeatedly at the conference was that of Francis Collins, the former head of the National Institute of Health prior to and throughout the Covid pandemic and the founder of the BioLogos, a foundation which promotes the

idea that God created the world using evolution over millions of years. Of course, Collins is an avowed evangelical Christian.

However, during his time at NIH, Collins approved atrocious research such as grafting the scalps of aborted babies onto lab rats. The point being made was that the evolutionary worldview requires such savagery. The only way to find which mutation of a thing is the “fittest” is to see what they’re willing to do to survive suffering and blood-thirst. But this is not the worldview of the Bible.

The Bible says we are created, “*in His own Image.*” (*Genesis 1:27*) We aren’t just the result of chemical processes, we’re “*knit together in [our] mother’s womb.*” (*Psalms 139:13*) How can someone claiming to love the Lord take the works of His hands, which He calls His “glory” in 1 Corinthians 11:7, and desecrate it in such a callous way?

Let me point to what Answers in Genesis President Ken said at the conference, “*The devil knows: how do you get rid of the Christian worldview? You undermine the foundation. If you undermine the foundation, the structure collapses... Not only has the world attacked much of Genesis 1-11, but much of the church has, and now we have generations who don’t know how to deal with these issues (gay marriage, abortion, racism) or succumb to them because they’ve been allowed to have this foundation (Man’s Word) ...*”

In contrast, the Bible teaches that God created us for a purpose. Mankind is given the creation mandate in Genesis 1:28: “*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*” Then the “one new man” in Christ is given the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...*” Our purpose is not barbarous survival, but fruitfulness. Dominion-taking, disciple-making, God-honoring fruitfulness.

Hold fast to the Biblical worldview. It is truly what separates us from the beasts.