

## Saved By a Man-King?

By Steve Barwick

Psa 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Psa 146:3 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

Pro 29:25 The fear [i.e., reverence] of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

God's people have always made the mistake of looking for a man-king to save them. When God instituted a system of *judges* back in the Old Testament times, before the reign of the kings of Israel, His people Israel rejected that simple but effective form of government.

And what kind of system did they reject, exactly, in favor of their man-king? Well, if you had a problem, you took it before one of the judges, like Samuel, and he'd explain what *God's Word* says about how to deal with your particular problem.

But that very simple yet effective form of government put the responsibility for problems squarely back on the people where it belonged. It was a system designed to show God's People how to solve their own problems by learning and instituting God's Word into their personal lives in order to reap His blessings.

Of course, the people didn't like having to conform to Father's Word. They didn't like being personally responsible for their actions. They longed to have a man-king ruling over them, just like the surrounding heathen nations, to solve all of their problems for them.

### Holy v/s Worldly

God's people didn't want to be holy (i.e., set apart from the rest of the world). They wanted to be just *like* the rest of the world. They wanted to join the crowd. Whoever was most popular, they'd follow like sheep.

Their rejection of God's system of judges was a slap in the face to our heavenly Father, who had taken care of them like little babies ever since the exodus from Egypt. As it's written in the great book of 1 Samuel:

**1Sa 8:4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah,

**1Sa 8:5** And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now **make us a king to judge us like all the nations.**

**1Sa 8:6** But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD.

**1Sa 8:7** And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.

**1Sa 8:8** According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee.

God's People didn't want God ruling over them. That was the bottom line, and God knew it. What they wanted was a man-king who would promise them the world, and indulge their fantasies. But Father warned this would not in any way turn out the way they thought it would. They simply didn't know how good they already had it with Father ruling over them through His system of judges.

So Father gave His people one last chance. He sent Samuel the judge to explain to them exactly what would happen if they rejected His simple system of government and chose a man-king in place of Father's Word and Father's Way. As it's written:

**1Sa 8:9** Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them.

**1Sa 8:10** And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

**1Sa 8:11** And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots.

**1Sa 8:12** And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots.

**1Sa 8:13** And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers.

**1Sa 8:14** And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants.

**1Sa 8:15** And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants.

**1Sa 8:16** And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work.

**1Sa 8:17** He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.

**1Sa 8:18** And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day.

Our heavenly Father explained to the people, through His judge, Samuel, that instituting man-king rulers like those of the heathen nations would result in tyranny, war, high taxes, bad economy, family disruption, involuntary servitude and loss of personal freedoms. Any of that sound familiar to you? It should. He also explained that you get what you ask for, and once He's given it to you, short of national repentance you're pretty much stuck with it. You refuse to hear Him, and He'll refuse to hear you when his previous warnings begin to come to pass exactly as He said they would.

Yet the people repeatedly *demand*ed a man-king, rejecting our heavenly Father, along with His Word and His way. As it's written:

**1Sa 8:19 Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us;**

**1Sa 8:20 That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.**

**1Sa 8:21** And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD.

**1Sa 8:22** And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

Our heavenly Father finally gave them exactly what they wanted in the form of their first man-king, Saul, a man who couldn't even keep his own donkeys in the pen without losing them. But he was tall, and handsome and a tough talker. And the people loved and trusted in him more so than trusted in the Lord.

And, of course, as you know from the books of Chronicles and Kings, Saul's turbulent reign as king was followed by a long string of additional man-kings, who, with very rare exception, turned out to be even more evil and tyrannical than Saul, and caused far more problems for the people and the nation than they ever solved.

Indeed, the man-kings ultimately led the nation of Israel and its people into *utter ruin* at the hands of the heathen nations – yes, at the hands of the very nations God's people had so longed to imitate. God, in utter exasperation with His people, finally gave the northern tribes of Israel over to conquest by the heathen Assyrians. And God later gave the southern tribes over to conquest by the heathen Babylonians.

### **The So-Called Immigration Crisis**

That brings us to the so-called "immigration crisis," in which the heathen nations and peoples of the world are now swarming into our lands (i.e., into the western Christian nations), attempting to take us over from within. The powers-that-be are also exporting our nation's industrial and business might to the foreign nations of the world, resulting in a situation in which some 96 million Americans are now hopelessly out of work.

Worse yet, just as our Father's Word has warned, the powers-that-be are now setting up a global government and trade system in which the foreign nations will basically make the rules and reap all of the benefits, while our people foot the bill. It's a return to the old system of Egyptian captivity, where

God's people were forced to labor to make the bricks, while the Egyptian rulers enjoyed the lavish buildings, temples and homes made with those very same bricks.

Today it's called the New World Order, or the New World Economic Order. What this means, essentially, is that the heathen will rule over us, and everything we do will be in service to them. The goal is to cause the living standards of the people of the western Christian nations to plummet, while simultaneously raising the living standards of the foreign nations at our expense.

The good news is this: Our heavenly Father has given us a very *specific solution* to this crisis. You can find that very clear, God-given solution written of in Joel chapter 2 – the very same chapter in which it's written that the heathen nations moving in among us and trying to take us over from within are actually part of God's judgment on His people. He even refers to this takeover of His Christian people as "*My great army, which I sent among you*" (Joel 2:25).

In other words, our heavenly Father has *purposely* sent these heathen nations in among us. And why? To get our attention. To see if we'll finally listen to what He has to say, or if we'll continue to ignore Him and do what we've *always* done, i.e., try to find a new man-king to save us.

As you'll see in the following verses, the solution God Himself has decreed has *nothing whatsoever* to do with electing another man-king to rule over us and save us from our problems.

God *Himself* wants to solve this end-days crisis for us. *He* wants to be our King again. *He* wants us to turn to Him, and ask *Him* to be our ruler and our Savior. And He tells us *exactly* what we have to do in order to induce Him to step in and save us from the heathen onslaught. As it's written:

**Joe 2:12** Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

**Joe 2:13** And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

**Joe 2:14** Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?

**Joe 2:15** Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

**Joe 2:16** Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet.

**Joe 2:17** Let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, Spare thy people, O LORD, and give not thine heritage to reproach, **that the heathen should rule over them: wherefore should they say among the people, Where is their God?**

**Joe 2:18** Then will the LORD be jealous for his land, and pity his people.

If you *truly* want God to intervene and save the western Christian nations from the heathen onslaught, *this* is what you have to do. Putting up a wall isn't going to do it. Electing a new man-king because you think his last name is somehow "Biblical" isn't going to do it.

The *only* thing that will bring His saving hand to bear in the matter and ultimately solve the problem is turning back to the Lord in humble repentance, begging His forgiveness, acknowledging that we're His heritage and asking Him to turn back the reproach. As it's further written:

**Joe 2:19** Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen:

**Joe 2:20** But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.

**Joe 2:21** Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: **for the LORD will do great things.**

**Joe 2:22** Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength.

**Joe 2:23** Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

**Joe 2:24** And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil.

**Joe 2:25** And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you.

**Joe 2:26** And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

**Joe 2:27** And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

The question is, as Christians, do we actually *believe* what our heavenly Father has to say? Do we actually *believe* He'll step in to save us, if we'll just humbly turn back to Him with our whole hearts and minds, repent, and ask for His help? Or do we reject His very clearly-stated solution, in favor of a new man-king and his solutions?

### **What God's Word Does and *Doesn't* Say**

As you can see, God's Word doesn't say "Elect another man-king to save you." It doesn't say "Elect Donald Trump and let him solve all of your problems for you." It doesn't say "Elect Ted Cruz and let him solve all of your problems." It doesn't say "Elect Marco Rubio and let him solve all of your problems." It doesn't say "Build a big wall and save yourself."

Indeed, it says nothing at all about solving the problem through another man-king, or through a new building project. Instead, God says in Joel chapter two, in essence:

*“Turn back to Me with a right heart and a right mind, and I’ll PERSONALLY step in and solve the problem for you.”*

In fact, from verse 12 to verse 18 in Joel chapter two, God gives us the specific instructions we need to follow in order to get His attention and obtain His favor in this matter. It says, in a nutshell:

*“Turn back to Me, your Father and your Creator. Rend your hearts. Come back humbly on your knees and with tears of repentance and ask me to help you, and I’ll personally step in and solve the problem for you, restore your greatness and make everything right for you again.”*

Have you heard Donald Trump or *any* of the other conservative candidates saying that once they’re elected they’re going to take this matter straight to God, and lead a campaign of prayer and humility and national repentance so we can obtain God’s favor once again and have the crisis resolved from on High?

Not hardly. Trump even admitted publicly that he’s *never* asked God for forgiveness; in fact, he said it’s never even dawned on him to do so.

In all of the debates so far, there’s not been even *one* mention of solving the problem by humbling ourselves before the Lord and returning to Him. I haven’t heard it from Trump. And I haven’t heard it from Cruz or Rubio or Carson, either. They all cast themselves as the up-and-coming saviors of this nation, each with their own separate plans of national salvation that have no reference to God whatsoever.

Then, from verses 19 to verse 27 in Joel chapter two, our heavenly Father reveals exactly what He’ll do for us, in return, if we – His Christian people – will just follow His very simple instructions in the previous verses. In a nutshell, He says:

*“You follow my instructions, and I’ll reverse the whole situation you’ve gotten yourself into. I’ll step in and save you from the heathen. I’ll pour blessings upon you that you can’t contain. In fact, I’ll get rid of the heathen and will prevent them from bothering you anymore...I’ll deal wondrously with you and you’ll never be ashamed again.”*

But our people, once again, won’t follow that relatively simple God-given solution. They don’t want God and His Word. They won’t humbly turn to God in repentance, and ask for His help. They apparently prefer the *curses* of God to the blessings. They want to elect another man-king to solve the crisis. As my grandkid’s favorite cartoon character, Sponge Bob always says, “*Good luck with that!*”

### **The Blessings or the Curses?**

Verse 25 of Joel chapter two very clearly tells us that the locust army – i.e., the heathen nations pouring into the western Christians nations and trying to take over from *within* as well as from *without* through the New World Economic Order – are His great army.

He sent them among us. In other words, they're part and parcel of those national *curse*s our heavenly Father warned us would come forth from Him if we turned our backs on Him after He established and prospered us as a people.

As it's written in Deuteronomy 28, if we stick with God, He'll bless us beyond measure and put us on the top of the heap among all nations. But if we turn away from Him and His policies, He'll take away those precious blessings and allow the heathen to rule over us:

Here's an excerpt from the section of Deuteronomy 28 on the promised *blessings* if we follow God's ways:

**Deu 28:11** And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD swore unto thy fathers to give thee.

**Deu 28:12** The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

**Deu 28:13** And the LORD shall make thee **the head, and not the tail**; and **thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath**; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

The western Christian nations have fit that picture for hundreds of years. We've reaped the blessings, over-and-above all other nations on the face of the earth. But over the course of this past century, we've largely turned our backs on our heavenly Father, as a people. We've become secular. We've largely rejected our Christian heritage. And thus, the promised curses now come into play.

Here's an excerpt from the section of Deuteronomy 28 that explains the promised curses if we fail to follow God's ways, and turn our collective backs on His Word and His Way:

**Deu 28:15** But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that **all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee**:

The above verse is followed by a long list of curses that conclude as follows:

**Deu 28:42** All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.

**Deu 28:43** **The stranger that is within thee shall get up above thee very high; and thou shalt come down very low.**

**Deu 28:44** He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him: **he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail.**

**Deu 28:45** Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, **till thou be destroyed**; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:

Do you *really* think a mere man – a billionaire, or a Senator, or a doctor, or what-have-you – can overturn God’s judgment on this once-great Christian nation and its people? Do you *really* think erecting a big wall on our southern border is going to stop God from sending the heathen nations against us?

I hope I don’t have to answer that question for you. God has sent these heathen among us, and placed them high above us. And they’re going to *stay*...and the situation is going to grow worse and worse... until we finally grow up, turn back to our heavenly Father in humble repentance, re-claim our Christian heritage, and make the decision to start doing things *His* way for a change.

### **Who Made America Great in the First Place?**

We can’t just put the blame on the presidential candidates.

We’re all personally responsible for failing to follow God’s instructions in this matter. How many of you reading this study, and calling yourselves “God’s elect,” have bothered to claim even *one* of the promises in God’s instructions to us in Joel chapter two?

How many of you have noted the specific *conditions* upon which those promises are based, and have implemented them in your own life? I underlined every one of them so they couldn’t be missed.

But Christians are too busy promoting the man-king they expect to save them, rather than returning to God, kneeling humbly before His feet, repenting, and gratefully claiming His Word and His Promises with love for His astonishing mercy and grace.

Instead of God, they want a loud-mouthed, brash, egotistical man-king promising to rule over them and solve all of their problems for them. Each candidate promises, in their own words, they’re going to “Make America Great Again!” Hip, hip, hooray.

But America will only be great again when the people turn back to that One who made America great *in the first place*. And that’s our heavenly Father.

Our people have always wanted a man-king who will promise them the sky, without having to look up to that One who *rules from the skies*. Our people don’t want to humbly turn back to Him and implement His ways and His already-prescribed solutions. They want that man-king savior, instead.

But Jesus Christ is our only Savior. And doing things *His Way* is the only way out of the predicament that our nation and the rest of the western Christian nations now find themselves wallowing waist deep in.

Yet I’ve not heard one single individual who claims to be of God’s elect saying “*Hey, let’s all turn back to God in sincerity and humbleness and ask Him to solve this problem for us, and prevent the heathen from taking us over, just like He says to do in Joel chapter 2.*”

Why not? They pretend to know God’s Word. But they don’t really *believe* in it enough to *implement* it. Instead, they keep looking for a new man-king to step in and save the day, never realizing they’ve *cast God out in the process*, just like the Israelites of old did during the time of Samuel and the judges.

## Those Who Fail to Heed the Past...

All I hear is “Trump is the best man to save us.” Or “Cruz is the best man to save us.” Or “Rubio is the best man to save us.” Or “Dr. Carson is the best man to save us.” But folks, it just ain’t true.

God Almighty Jesus Christ is the best man to save us from the heathen hordes and from all of the other problems our Christian people face worldwide today. He tell us so, Himself, in Joel chapter two. He explains that He’s perfectly willing to step in and save us, if we’ll just do it His way. Yet we ignore Him and go back to our search for a new man-king.

Listen: *Those who fail to heed the lessons of the past will be bound to repeat them.*

We can look back in Bible history and see that a man-king *never* solved any of Israel’s problems, except to the extent that a small handful of them worked to turn the people back to God. Then things got better, temporarily, until a new man-king stepped in.

Likewise, we can look at our most recent past, and see the same thing. Can you name *any* man-king who’s actually made things better, on anything other than perhaps a very temporary basis? Has any man-king stopped the downward spiral? Has any man-king ever turned back God’s judgment on His wayward people. Not one.

If we can learn anything from the past, it’s this: We’ve got to stop depending upon *man* to solve our problems. It just doesn’t work, folks. As a nation and as a people, we’ve got to turn back to the Lord as directed in Joel chapter two, or it’s going to get much worse than it is now, *no matter who’s the president*. As it’s written:

**Psa 118:8** It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

And as it’s again written:

**Psa 146:3** Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help

And as it’s written once more:

**Pro 29:25** The fear [i.e., reverence] of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

If you’re reading this, and your gut just told you, “Nah, Steve’s full of crap. Trump (or name your favorite candidate) is going to fix all of this for us,” then you’ve *already* rejected God and chosen the man-king in his place. Be very careful, my Christian friend. Be *very* careful what you do out of desperate emotion, rather than out of solid, unflinching dedication to the Word of God, and love for His will and His way.

## What Happens If We *Don’t* Follow God’s Word Now?

Since our people – including all too many of those styling themselves as God’s elect -- are still looking for a man-king to rule over them and save them, the very serious problems faced by the western

Christian nations are only going to become more profoundly troublesome, until we come to that time of Jacob's trouble when the you-know-what is really going to hit the fan under the rule of the ultimate heathen, the antichrist.

In response to that, I've actually had some people reply, "Well, great, Steve, the sooner the better. Let's get this over with. Maybe if we elect Trump (or, name your favorite candidate) it will speed up the timetable." But what saith the Lord to those who want His day to arrive without doing things His way? He says this:

**Amo 5:18** Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.

**Amo 5:19** As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

**Amo 5:20** Shall not the day of the LORD be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

When we do things *His* way, the day of the Lord will be a day of blessing and reward to us. When we do it our own way, via that seemingly eternal pursuit of a new man-king to save us rather than God, it will be a day of "darkness, and not light." In other words, national and personal tragedy.

When antichrist is totally in charge on this earth, and through his great power has "*made war with the saints, and prevailed against them*" (Daniel 7:21) being able to "*wear out the saints of the Most High*" (Daniel 7:25) until they're "*given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time*" (Daniel 7:25)...

...then FINALLY, when there appears to be no hope left, \***maybe**\* it will dawn on those calling themselves "elect" that there was only one place for them to turn all along, and that's to our heavenly Father and not to another man-king promising to save them from God's own judgment against our people for their intransigent rejection of His Word and His Way (i.e., Joel 2:25).

And maybe, just *maybe*, God's Christian servants will *finally* do what our heavenly Father says to do in Joel chapter two, and rend their hearts and not their garments, and turn to Him humbly in repentance, so He can send Y'shua and get this mess over with. Until then, I just sit back in wonder, watching people styling themselves to be God's "elect" but making the same ridiculous error God's people have repeatedly made since the time of Samuel and the judges when they rejected God's way in favor of having a man-king over them.

But hey, all of that prayer stuff and all of that "rending your heart," and humbly asking for forgiveness and help from God Himself is...well...so ancient and outdated, right? In this modern world, we just don't do that stuff anymore, right?

### **What Can *One* Man or Woman Do?**

You might say, "Well, Steve, I'm just one person. What can I do by myself, since the prospect of national repentance is so slim?"

Do what your heavenly Father *says* to do. Daniel was just one person, yet his prayer of repentance for his nation and his people ultimately brought about the fall of Babylon and the release of the people of Israel to return and re-build Jerusalem and the temple of God.

Abraham was also just one person. But his indomitable faith and willingness to do *everything God said* impressed our heavenly Father. And our Father kept every single promise to Him. He made great and powerful nations spring forth from that one man's loins – nations whose bounty we've enjoyed now for centuries, until we began turning our collective backs on the Lord.

Let's take a quick look at what Daniel did when faced with insurmountable heathen rulership over God's people. Daniel the prophet humbled himself in front of God, and confessed his sins and the sins of his people. He acknowledged God's righteous judgment against his people, and begged Father's forgiveness and help. As it's written in Daniel chapter 9:

**Dan 9:3** And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

**Dan 9:4** And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;

**Dan 9:5** We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

**Dan 9:6** Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

**Dan 9:7** O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.

**Dan 9:8** O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

**Dan 9:9** To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

**Dan 9:10** Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

**Dan 9:11** Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; **therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.**

**Dan 9:12** And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.

**Dan 9:13** As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

**Dan 9:14** Therefore hath the LORD watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the LORD our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.

**Dan 9:15** And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

**Dan 9:16** O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.

**Dan 9:17** Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.

**Dan 9:18** O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.

**Dan 9:19** O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

Daniel most certainly knew how to rend his heart and not his garments, and turn back to the Lord in humility and thankfulness and in search of mercy and grace, just as it's written in Joel chapter two and many other places throughout His Word.

In contrast, today, I see many of God's elect joining in with the rest of the world looking for a new man-king to save them, rather than sincerely turning back to God in accord with His personal instructions in Joel chapter two.

### **As Then, So Again**

There's an old saying about the Bible. "*As then, so again.*" In other words, as St. Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 10:11, the things that were written in the Old Testament were written as "ensamples" (i.e., examples) for those of us living in the final days of this flesh earth age to learn from.

**1Co 10:11** Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Well, if the Old Testament examples are any indication of what's yet to come (and they most certainly *are*), then the time's rapidly approaching when we as a people are going to *lose everything*, because we've failed to do what our heavenly Father says to do.

And perhaps...just *perhaps*...when all hope is lost God's servants will finally do what He has specifically prescribed in Joel chapter two, and turn back to Him, humbly asking Him to save His People and keep them from heathen rule.

### Voting

I agree that voting is a personal responsibility. But it's *not* an act of faith. And it's certainly not the singular act of faith our heavenly Father very clearly and specifically instructs us to carry out in Joel chapter two when we find ourselves under the thumb of the heathen.

I know you have to vote. And I don't care whether or not you vote for Trump, or for one of the other candidates. Just don't vote for them expecting them to *save* you. They *can't*. They can't overcome God's will. They can't overcome God's judgment on His wayward and stiff-necked people.

It's the ultimate conceit for anyone to think mere man can turn back God's judgment without doing it God's way – and that's especially so for those calling themselves God's elect. Only following God's Word in Joel chapter two can turn the tide for us. Its God Himself we need to turn to and plead to. Not some brash man-king.

The heathen locust army pouring in among us is part and parcel of God's will – a “preview” so to speak of what's coming when the antichrist arrives. The rise of the heathen nations and the gradual transfer of our nation's great wealth and industrial might to them is also part and parcel of His will, which is to say, His judgment against us for not doing things His way.

Again, He's *looking to see if we'll wake up, smell the coffee, so to speak, and start doing as He says.*

So consider putting more effort into following God's simple admonitions in Joel chapter two, *if* you really want to see things change for the better. Otherwise, all you've done is made yourself another false idol out of a man. And thinking yourselves priests of God, you'll end up like the wayward Levites of Ezekiel 44, cast out of personal service to God Almighty during the Millennium and made mere door keepers, instead. As it's written:

**Eze 44:10** And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity.

**Eze 44:11** Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house; they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them.

**Eze 44:12** Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity.

**Eze 44:13** And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed.

**Eze 44:14** But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein.

We all think we're good servants of the Most High God. And for the most part, we are. But listen, I've never seen such a time as this, when people calling themselves God's "elect" have been so wrapped up in chasing after another man-king to save them.

We all ought to *know* better. For goodness sakes. How long have you been studying His Word not to know this already? There's no man-king on the face of the earth who can overturn God's judgments on His Christian people. Only God Himself can reverse the tide. And that requires us to turn to Him, in humble repentance, and ask Him to intervene on our behalves.

The bottom line is that if we're failing to follow *His* simple rules, *His* way, when dealing with the critical issues of these end days, then we're deceiving ourselves as to our standing with Him. As it's further written:

**1Co 10:12** Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Don't depend upon your favorite man-king to save you. Yes, vote. Vote for whoever you think will do the best job. Vote for whoever you think will best represent this nation *before God*.

But don't expect your favorite man-king to fix the problem. Nowhere in the Bible does it say your problems, or your nation's problems, will be solved by a man-king.

Quite the contrary, God's Word says the man-kings will nearly always fail you. In the Bible, the *only* time anything got better under any man-king was when that man-king worked to re-institute *God's Word* and *God's Ways* throughout the land. And that's not a solution I'm hearing from any of our current crop of candidates, Democrat, Republican or other.

So we have to do it ourselves. It's up to us, personally and individually, as Christians and as servants of the Most High God. Just as it was up to Daniel in his day to turn to God in humble repentance and ask Him to intervene on behalf of His people. Just as it was up to Abraham in his day to follow God's Word when all others around Him had rejected it and began worshipping the gods of the heathen nations.

Do it God's way. Otherwise, the fall is certainly coming, and you might be stunned to see yourself caught up in it, rather than standing separately in the safety and Light of Christ watching it unfold.

You don't want to be one of the wayward "Levites" who get so caught up in man's solutions to the problems of these end days that they forget to seek out and follow what God's Word clearly says to do.

Instead, you want to be one of the Zadok who stand by Father through thick and thin – and implement what His Word says -- even when all others are going astray and ministering to their favorite man-kings, i.e., their fleshly idols and worldly ideals. As it's written:

**Eze 44:15** But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:

**Eze 44:16** They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.

It doesn't say "the sons of Zadok, who voted for Donald Trump," or "the sons of Zadok, who voted for Ted Cruz." Or "the sons of Zadok, who voted for Marco Rubio." It says "*the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me.*"

That means they did things God's Way, *not* man's, even in the face of mass apostasy. What a privilege and what a great honor it is to stand side-by-side with the Lord of the Universe at such a trying time – even now, as the final days of this flesh earth age gradually but ever-so-surely come to a close. But you can't do so if you're not following His specific instructions for the specific situations we now face.

Don't allow your emotions to pull you into depending upon some man-king at this critical point in time when you're supposed to be growing closer and closer to your heavenly Father through His Word. You should be implementing His Word into your daily life more so *now* than ever.

By all means, vote. Absolutely. Vote your conscience.

But if you want to see *real* solutions to the very serious problems faced by our Christian people today – including the so-called immigration problem, which is nothing more than an internal take-over of the western Christian nations by the heathen nations – then *follow God's Word*. Do what He says in Joel chapter two. Don't look to mere man to solve problems which our heavenly Father has *already prescribed the solution for*.

### Passover

You've got the Passover coming up in April. That's a great time to get down on your knees and humbly ask Father to intervene on behalf of this once-great Christian nation and this once-great Christian people, just as we're told to do in Joel chapter two. I call on all Christians to do so, but particularly those who claim to be of God's election.

When you take communion this Passover, don't take it just for yourself and your family. Take it for your nation and your Christian people across this globe. Take it not just for personal healing and well-being and salvation, but for the healing and well-being and salvation of all Christian nations and peoples, as well.

God listens. Sometimes, there's only *one* faithful person doing it His Way. And sometimes that one faithful person doing it God's way is all it takes. Regardless, it puts *you* on the right side of God, even if all others are on His wrong side.

Man has had 6,000 years to save himself. Thousands upon *thousands* of man-kings and rulers have promised to deliver utopia, but have only succeeded in bringing about dystopia, myopia and anopia (i.e., turmoil, short-sightedness and outright blindness).

It's time we finally wake up to the fact that the only thing left to do is *what He told us to do in the first place*. Implement Joel chapter two in your own personal life, and watch your heavenly Father go to work from there. If enough of us do it "who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him" (Joel 2:14).

Never forget His promise: *“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land”* (2Ch 7:14). That’s a promise you can count on, beloved.

-- End --

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