

THE SECRET OF HIS PURPOSE THE PLAN FOR THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES
TO HEAD UP ALL THINGS IN THE KING,
EVERYTHING IN THE HEAVENS AND ON THE EARTH,
IN JESUS....

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#69

Depraved Minds in Our Day

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Before launching into what is on my heart, I have one caveat. Although I am going to address a heinous evil that has arisen in American politics, we must keep in mind that God always has His 7,000 that have not turned to idolatry and rebellion against His divine order, set in motion at the very beginning of creation itself. Of course, 7,000 is a symbolic number (perfect in meaning), but it generally relates to what is called a *remnant*; a number that is much smaller than the general population or group in view. Clearly, our nation has a remnant of the righteous that are in Christ and Christ is in them. Only the Lord Jesus knows the true number. Added to this is the fact that Jesus Himself declared that He is building His ecclesia. We can be assured that, regardless of what we see in the natural and temporal, nothing is thwarting Him from His building project. As for us who belong to Jesus, one of our responsibilities, the most vital one from the standpoint of the body of Christ, is for us to build ourselves up in love (Ephesians 4:16). God is love!

Now, again, a heinous evil has arisen in American politics and it is almost beyond belief that such a thing could or would ever be contemplated in a nation founded by God. This evil started in the heart of certain segments of the populace and is now being incorporated into the laws of our land, particularly at the state level. But we must not exclude the federal level, for just this week (as I pen this), the US Senate tried to pass a bill to nationally deal with this evil and 44 senators voted against it. The primary perpetrators of this evil reside mostly in one political party. I usually refrain from naming specific groups, but anyone who follows the news can figure it out on their own.

What is this heinous evil? It is the murder of not only the unborn but now the murder of the born. Some call it *infanticide*, but let us not introduce a word that might get lost in the conversation; it is murder. At the state level, laws are either being considered or have already been put into effect that allow for a baby to come out of the womb alive (or, right before full gestation) and then be murdered based on agreement between the mother and the doctors. Recently, the governor of Virginia said that the child would be kept comfortable while alive until a decision is made to murder (my word) the child. Their reasoning (a stretch of the word) is that the mother has rights and the child has none. Some justify all this by claiming the child is not really human at that point; therefore, it has no rights and killing it is justified, especially if it has a genetic deformity the mother does not want to live with. Of course, these same abortionists claim that laws like this are to protect the mother's health. This is the slippery slope of abortion that was legalized by the US Supreme Court in 1973, and is supported by the woman's rights movement that trumps the rights of the unborn and the father that participated in the process.

We could go on focusing on the evils of these laws and movements, and I will bring some others into the picture later, but I want to bring evils such as this into scriptural perspective. What does God have to say about such things? And, are these things the judgment of God? Is there an underlying cause? You might be surprised by the answers.

A Nation Rejects God as King

To begin, let us turn to Hosea.

To thy mouth, with a horn! Like an eagle, on the house of Yahweh,—because they have violated my covenant, and, against my law, have they transgressed. Unto me, shall they make outcry, My God! we acknowledge thee— we, Israel! Israel hath cast away what is good,—an enemy, shall pursue him. They, have appointed kings, but not from me, have made rulers, but I have not acknowledged them: of their silver and their gold, they made themselves idols, to the end they might be cut off. (Hosea 8:1-4 Rotherham)

As for Ephraim! like a bird, did their glory, fly away,—no birth, and none with child, no conception. Yea, though they rear their children, yet will I make them childless, till there be no human being,—for it is, nothing less than woe, to them when I depart from them! Ephraim! just as I provided for Tyre, was planted in a meadow,—yet, Ephraim, must needs bring forth for a murderer his children. Give them, O Yahweh—what wilt thou give? Give them, a miscarrying womb, and breasts dried up. All their wickedness, is in Gilgal, yea, there, have I come to hate them, For the wickedness of their doings—out of my house, will I drive them forth,—no more will I love them, all their rulers, are unruly. Smitten is Ephraim, their root, hath dried up, fruit, shall they not bear,—yea, though they do bring forth, yet will I slay the darlings of their womb. (Hosea 9:11-16 Rotherham)

A luxuriant vine, is Israel, fruit, beseemeth him,—According to the abundance of his fruit, hath he brought abundance to the altars, according to the goodliness of his land, hath he made goodly statues. Hypocritical is their heart, Now, shall they be held guilty,—He, will break down their altars, he will destroy their statutes. For, now, will they say, We have no king,—for we revere not Yahweh, and what could, a king, do for us? They have spoken words, swearing falsely, in solemnizing a covenant,—therefore shall judgment, spring up like a poisonous plant, on the ridges of the field. (Hosea 10:1-4 Rotherham)

Hosea was a prophet to Israel. As I have noted in another article, Israel and Ephraim were synonymous as a result of Jacob-Israel's adoption of and prophetic blessing on Joseph's two sons. In another article, I have proposed that the United States is a prophetic fulfillment of the promise to Abraham to have a great nation—I recognize this may not be a very popular view, but I am not alone in thinking this way.

See *In God We Trust* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art68.pdf>

See *Wake up America!* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art67.pdf>

See *Abraham's Multitude of Nations* — <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/art/art63.pdf>

Regardless of how one sees our nation, the above verses should cause great pause and concern over what is happening in our nation today. There may be specifics in the above verses that do not directly apply to our present situation; yet, there are clearly several specifics that do, and they are extremely severe and dangerous to the heart of the nation.

The first specific and, we could say, underlying cause of God's rejection of Israel-Ephraim is that they rejected the Lord, Yahweh. They were giving lip service to Yahweh by acknowledging Him as their God, but Yahweh saw it differently. They rejected God as king! This occurred at Gilgal when Saul was anointed as king over Israel.

Then said Samuel unto the people, Come and let us go to Gilgal,—and let us there renew the kingdom. So all the people went to Gilgal, and made Saul king there, before Yahweh, in Gilgal, and offered there sacrifices of peace-offerings before Yahweh,—and Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced there, exceedingly. (1 Samuel 11:14-15 Rotherham)

This goes back to when Israel decided they no longer wanted to have judges over them; instead, they wanted a king like all the other nations.

Lo! thou, art old, and, thy sons, walk not in thy ways: Now, appoint for us a king to judge us, like all the nations. But the thing was displeasing in the eyes of Samuel, when they said, Give unto us a king to judge us. So Samuel prayed unto Yahweh. And Yahweh said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people, in all that they shall say unto thee,—for, not thee, have they rejected, but, me, have they rejected, from being king over them. According to all the doings which they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt, even until this day, in that they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so, are they doing even unto thee. (1 Samuel 8:5-8 Rotherham)

This is where it all began. In God's eyes, when they demanded a king like the other nations, they were not only rejecting Him as their king, but were also saying they wanted a king that was not even on the same page as God. The kings of the nations could never and will never compare to God. For this reason, Yahweh said that all their wickedness was at Gilgal. God's judgment fell upon Israel-Ephraim.

What was God's judgment? It fell upon a number of things, but what stands out is that judgment fell upon the unborn and the children. On one level it was: "I will make them childless, no birth, none with child, no conception." On another level: "Give them a miscarrying womb and dried-up breasts (can't even feed the young)." And yet, on a much more grievous level: "Bring forth a murderer for Ephraim's children." Yahweh said: "Yet if they bring forth children, I will slay the darlings of their womb."

Without doubt, these are strong words and even harder to accept that God's judgment would befall Israel in such a way. But it did!

So that the message is not lost. First, Israel claimed Yahweh as their God. Second, Yahweh was their king, but, at Gilgal, they rejected Him as such and, instead, demanded a king of the flesh, which is what King Saul was. Third, as a result, Yahweh rejected them as His people and brought judgment on them. Fourth, part of that judgment was directed toward their unborn and the born, which seemed to extend from stopping conception to abortion of the unborn to murder of the children.

Does any of this ring true of America today? It is pretty difficult to ignore the connection.

First, we are an Israelite nation born of God, and we acknowledge our God in our national motto. Second, Jesus is king and the ruler of the kings of the earth, but as a nation we have pushed Him out of the discourse of our nation, especially the governance of it (if He was ever there). Third, can we not assume that God has rejected us as a nation, as we have rejected His Son as king? Consider how the office of president has taken on a cultishness, as if the very life of the nation depends on one person residing in the White House. Our presidents are treated as if kings. Yet, they are kings of the flesh like King Saul. The proof that this is so and judgment has fallen on us is in the last item. Fourth, we have aborted millions of children since 1973 and now there is a move to kill the born, right out of the womb. And, this evil is being incorporated into law.

Dear people, this is the judgment of God! Notice that I am not saying that judgment is coming. No! It is upon us, and the proof is what we see happening before our very eyes—this heinous evil. This judgment has come upon us just as it did upon ancient Israel and for the same reason. This speaks to the very heart of our nation as God sees us. The hammer of His judgment has come. Again, see article #68 *In God We Trust*, section titled *The Hammer Judgment*.

I believe many Christians have a wrong understanding of judgment. It is generally taught that people do something wrong and then God is forced to bring judgment. This does not seem to be the way it works. It works this way: It begins when the hearts of His people turn from Him. It is subtle at first, but there are signs along the way. People begin looking at things from an earthly, temporal, and spatial plane. They begin to wander from God being central in the life of the nation, all the while continuing to acknowledge God in some measure. "We are God's people." (In this case, our nation belongs to God.) However, God reads hearts and compares them to their words and actions—lip service, hypocrisy, lies! They keep saying, *God bless America*, but they refuse to repent of their many transgressions against God's divine law and order. God has blessed them with great prosperity, power, and security, and yet, in this, they have begun to worship in their hearts the things of their greatness and not the Creator of all things. What is God to do to turn them back to Himself? The answer is: He must turn them over to the desires of their heart to bring them to their senses, to wake them up. When He does this, He takes responsibility for what judgment will look like. You don't think so? Well, consider what Paul has to say on the matter. The entirety of Paul's wisdom must be presented.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore, God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason, God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the

natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:18-32 NASB)

It all starts with God putting into the heart of humanity a knowing of Him, even if it is looking at His glory in creation. The problem is this truth is suppressed, leading to unrighteous behavior. From God's view, there is no excuse. They know God, but they do not give Him honor or give thanks. From there, it is all downhill. So, what does God do? He gives them over to the desire of their hearts.

Underline this—He gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity to worship the created. I use the cell phone as an example of something that could fall within this category. It has become a national obsession, along with social media and a host of other things, all related to technology. In addition, there is a reason the Hollywood stars are called *idols*, or there is a show called *American Idol*. A good segment of the entertainment field, that often lives in a fantasyland, is idolatrous. It is in our face every single day, if we allow it.

Underline this—God gave them over to degrading passions between women and between men. Where do we see this in our day? The entire LGBTTTQQAAP (they keep adding foolish things to it) movement is exactly to what Paul refers. Contenders argue it is nowhere in scripture, but I don't see how else to interpret Paul on this count. As a side note, as Christians, we must show love to all regardless of their views or status. God is love, and this is our hallmark. In love, however, we must speak truth and not shy from it because the social engineers will call us names or worse. We cannot suppress the truth in unrighteousness, but we can speak the truth in love. For the heaven and hell believers this may difficult to do. My advice, brethren, is to discard the theology of hell that is not scriptural and embrace the God who is love and His Son who is peace. I know my stand against hell is controversial; nonetheless, it is one I believe.

Underline this—God gave them over to a depraved mind. The outcome of this sort of mind is listed above, but here it is again. Paul's list is comprehensive—

To do those things which are not proper, being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful.

Do we see in this in our day? Most definitely! Sure, this has been in the world since the fall. But there are times when God allows such things to ramp up, so to speak, to a level that seems very unnatural. This is our day!

Anyone living in the US, especially since the turn of the century, knows an evil has surfaced that has turned extreme. We see murderous shootings in the public place, especially schools and churches. We see unprecedented greed in corporations, called *corporatism*. We see that power and money rule the day at the expense of the general population. It is called *oligarchism*. And the list goes on. As I continue to say, I don't have to list them; they are self-evident for anyone who has a level of spiritual discernment. For every item on Paul's list, you can find a real-time example in our nation. For those who do not; well, they will never read this article.

But there is one more thing to note. In judgment, God turns people over to a depraved mind. The KJV uses the word *reprobate*, which refers to an "unapproved, worthless, rejected mind." Some political commentators say that a lot of what is going on in the mind of certain factions of the political establishment (and its support in the populace) is a *disease*. Actually, this is probably a good description. I have used the term *political insanity*. Regardless of how we define it, it is a mind that is not thinking normally or, as the expression says, *thinking straight*. It is one that is so far off that it has lost all sense of normal reasoning. It has accepted a lie along the way and keeps digging a deeper hole into depravity.

This is what we see in our day. This is why I claim it is the judgment of God. His hammer has come down upon us to shatter us. And, God takes responsibility for this judgment. But here is the good news. Judgment is not necessarily for destruction, although part of judgment could include some level of it. Judgment, at its heart, is to turn people back to God and give them a clear mind that knows the truth in righteousness and proclaims and lives by this truth.

"Those who err in mind will know the truth, and those who criticize will accept instruction."
(Isaiah 29:24 NASB)

For when the earth experiences Your judgments the inhabitants of the world learn righteousness. Though the wicked is shown favor, He does not learn righteousness; He deals unjustly in the land of uprightness, and does not perceive the majesty of the LORD. ... Indeed, fire will devour Your enemies. LORD, You will establish peace for us, Since You have also performed for us all our works. O LORD our God, other masters besides You have ruled us; But through You alone we confess Your name. (Isaiah 26:9-13 NASB)

The first part is self-explanatory, but the part about fire devouring God's enemies needs to be seen, not through the lens of the old covenant, but through the new. *Is not My word like fire?* (Jeremiah 23:29). Our new lens must see that Jesus is the word and the fire. God is a consuming fire. He alone will burn up the flesh of humanity, while at the same time rescuing humanity (all of us!) from its fleshly, carnal nature. This is what the lake of fire is all about. We are all salted by fire in one way or another (Mark 9:49), some in this life, many much later. This is the absolute 100% success and glory of the cross that we call the *gospel*. It is truly good news. So, even though things look bleak at the moment; ultimately, the Lord will rescue humanity. Let us love and allow the Lord to bring us through judgment to His glory.

I realize this leaves the question open of whether we should be activists against this depravity. All I can say is, do as the Lord leads you; but be sure it is His leading, and leave hell out of it. Love and truth conquer all! God is love, and Jesus is truth. Let us start there.