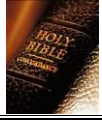


The DEFENDER — July 2026

“ . . . defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

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IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S Desk: Pledging Allegiance

The United States of America celebrated its Semiquincentennial on July 4th this year. It's been 250 years since the adoption of our Declaration of Independence from King George III and the British Empire. There's a popular t-shirt in the public square that proudly proclaims "I Stand for the Flag and Kneel for the Cross." The American flag and the cross of Christ are two symbols worth dying for. Many patriotic men and women have done the former while many faithful Christians have done the latter.

The Bible exhorts us to "put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand" (Ephesians 6:13). Like many of our forefathers, Christians today are the linchpin of our republic. Colonists who knew and served the Lord knew that it was God, and not the government, who grants us our freedoms. 250 years later nothing has changed. Except that evil has worsened. Not even the seditious reporting of the treasonous legacy media can hide the fact of Iran's nuclear ambitions, Russia's land grab, China's hegemonic desires, etc., etc. Does anyone else see an end time axis of evil here (Ezekiel 38)?

250 years does not an empire make. And I'm not suggesting that America has those aspirations. Remember, it's our Sovereign Lord who changes the times and the seasons. He removes Kings (presidents, prime ministers, etc.) and sets up Kings (Daniel 2:21). We don't know the mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:16, Isaiah 55:8). But with that said, God still tells us that "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). Righteousness, simply put, is right standing with God. Forget the unbelievers in America. The relevant question is, are Christ's followers in proper fellowship with the Lord? Because sin is a reproach to any people. In the Old Testament, being under reproach meant facing disgrace due to unfaithfulness to God. Could Christian America's unfaithfulness to God bring disgrace to our land from enemies foreign or domestic? Will God's judgment come to America? Or is it already here? Have 70 million abortions come home to roost? Has the pride of homosexuality that has infiltrated God's church caused Him to remove His favor from our land that was once "one nation under God"? Has the election of God-denying communists in New York City, Seattle, and the state of Virginia signaled to God that, as Abraham found out in Sodom, there are none righteous left in the land?

Has America run its course? Has time run out? Time will tell. But time may not be on our side. Come November, America may be a completely different looking country. One that has been 250 years in the making. It's time for those of us who stand for the flag to apologize to our war dead. It's time for those of us who kneel for the cross to confess our sins to God and repent. Or none of it will matter as God will have weighed us in the balance and found as lacking. Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin (Daniel 5:25-28). God's authority is ultimate and earthly kingdoms are transient.

Happy Birthday, America!

Rev. David Lewis



Prophecy: Our Pearl of Great Price
Part II – Knowing the World We Live In

Compiled by Robert Luthardt, Sr.

There are certain aspects of prophetic truth that are beyond understanding until the time of the end or the “LATTER DAYS.” Daniel was told, “But thou O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book ... till the time of the end: many shall run to and fro and knowledge shall be increased ... But go thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest ... at the end ...” (Dan. 12:4,13).

Much revealed to Daniel could not be understood in his day (like modern conveyances and modern weaponry). Indeed, though the Book of the Revelation was itself NOT sealed, there is much hidden from John and his contemporaries.

Consider the Kings of the East and their attacks upon western powers (Rev. 16:12-16). There we read, “And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up so that the way of the Kings of the East might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs came out of the mouth of the false prophet ... spirits of devils, working miracles which go forth unto the Kings of the earth ... to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth ... And He gathered them together into a place called ... Armageddon.”

Who are the Kings of the East that are animated by the unclean spirits under the power of the Dragon (SATAN) the beast and the false prophet? Armageddon involves the clashing of Eastern and Western Empires contending for the possession of Palestine (Israel since 1948). This clash is in the future but still beyond WWI and WWII and before we are “caught-up” to meet the “Lord in the clouds” (1 Thes. 4:13-18).

Why is this required? After we are taken with the Lord to heaven to be evaluated for rewards and attend the Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9), we then return to earth with the Lord (vs. 11-14) and the victory of Armageddon (vs. 19-21).

Since the trumpet and vial judgments run parallel (simultaneously – Rev. 8:6 and 16:1), the same spheres of groups of people are referred to and are the Kings of the East that are leaders of a tremendous Asian Army God will bring down into Israel in the Last Days. “And the four angels were loosed ... to slay the third part of men” (Rev. 9:15-21). We see before us a highly figurative vision couched in symbolic language as is throughout Christ’s Revelation which He ... “sent and signified by his Angel unto His servant, John” (Rev. 1:1).

Dr. Ironside lived before and during WWI when Turkey controlled all of Israel but lost it all in the aftermath of WWI. Great Britain then assumed control of Israel’s Promised Land. Ironside noted that others came to believe that one day the Euphrates would run dry at some points. This has already happened since several dams have been added and can be so again, to allow for armies to cross over. This becomes more ominous as the DAY OF THE LORD draws nearer.

Remember our hope from the words of our Lord, “lift up your head” for “your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28). Since Ironside’s time, several huge dams have been built that have temporarily

interrupted the river's flow and could be used again on short notice. The world of Christ's enemies will soon hear the tocsin of war again.

While we recognize the unsaved world's opposition to God's Word, we must stand with the Apostle Paul who wrote contrary to those who only claim to believe in and love the Lord Jesus Christ but fail to discern the mysteries God revealed to Paul (Ep. 3:1-11). We read that all are to put on the "NEW MAN" (4:24) and to not grieve the Holy Spirit ... whereby ye are sealed (vs. 30) by the grace of God (Ep. 1:8-10).

John came preaching the nearness of the Kingdom of Heaven and the King who is to rule over it. The offer of this King and Kingdom was now open provided the people were ready to receive it. After its thorough rejection by Israel's leadership (Matt. 23) the gospel of the Grace of God was instead received by the Body of Christ (Ep. 1:22-23; Rom. 12:5): The regeneration of Israel "AND" Gentiles brought to faith by the grace of God (Ep. 2:8-13).

God, from the beginning of Christ's ministry, dealt with man by sovereign grace in the mystery of taking from both Israel AND Gentiles (Mark 4:11; Rom. 11:25; Ep. 3:1-9) a people for His name. He is gathering out a company to be for all eternity the body and bride of His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7, 21:2). In due time, God will fulfill all promises, especially to Israel and Abraham (Gen. 17:1-8, 12:1-3). Dr. Ironside always wondered when Palestine would be again the Promised Land with Mt. Zion and Jerusalem as the seat of Christ's Throne.

Ezekiel 37 has been partially fulfilled in the Valley of the Dry Bones, "So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived ... an exceeding great army" (verse 10 and 24-28). What awaits is Israel's rescue by the return of Christ to rule forever. Jeremiah also wrote of a future time when the scattered tribes of Israel would return home out of their exile across the whole earth (30:1-18). This was not the return under Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah, for in lack of faith few returned at that time.

But in coming days, God will exercise judgment over Israel instead of Babylon, Medes, and Persians or of Alexander's Empire, nor of Roman Caesars. God declared, "... I will bring them from the north country ... from the coasts of the earth ... a great company ...". "I am a Father to Israel ... Hear the Word ... He that scattered Israel will ... keep him as a shepherd doth his flock ... they shall not sorrow anymore at all" (Jer. 31:31-40).

God promised, with the restoration of the people to the Promised Land, a NEW COVENANT for Israel. The blood of this COVENANT has already been shed. Our blessed Lord held the communion cup in His hand and said, "This cup is the NEW COVENANT in my blood." This is the basis of all blessing both for Jew and Gentile. In this age all who believe are united in one body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27; Ep. 1:22-23).

There are scores of passages that clearly and definitely declare that He that scattered Israel will re-gather them to their land. We are to trust God for all His promises, especially for our own nation, "... And I WILL bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Gen 12:3). Why? Because our Savior came from Abraham!

We have the whole history of Israel for 1900 years epitomized in one verse (Hos. 3:4) and the future in the next: "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king ... or a sacrifice,

an image, an ephod and without a teraphim.” Afterward shall the children of Israel return and seek ... their God, and David their King ... in the LATTER Days (verse 5).

This has been awaiting fulfillment since 1948 (Ez. 37). One would have thought that Israel without the temple, without Jerusalem, would have disappeared centuries ago. Instead, God kept them to begin again as a vibrant nation on May 14, 1948. They are no longer a divided nation and will no longer be worshipping idols when the Lord returns. For those nations that fail to bless Israel, Jerusalem shall become a “cup of trembling” and a “burdensome stone.” Pray God our present leadership in America is compelled to “Pray for the peace of Jerusalem” (Zech. 12:2-3).

We find in Genesis 12 the beginning of the nation of Israel as the real “Jehovah Witnesses” chosen by God to prove that He was the living God speaking through chosen prophets (Is. 43:10).

The next thing the world will see is the beginning of the end of Gentile world rule (Daniel, chapter 2). The Church of Jesus Christ is to be ready for the any moment return of Christ for His Bride.

Keep looking up.

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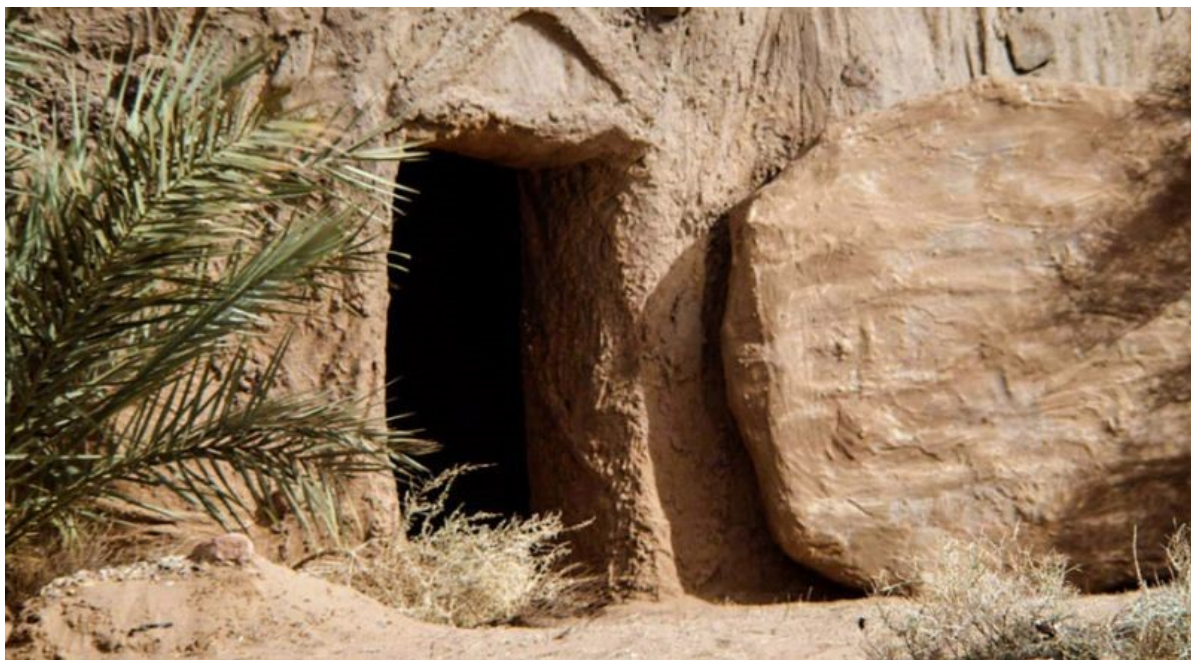
Author:

Publisher:

The Lamp of Prophecy

Harry A. Ironside

Zondervan Publishing House (1940 ed.)



Matthew 24:36: But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but My Father only. –KJV

The Humanity of Christ and “The Secret Things of God” in Matthew 24:36

By Joseph Burghauser

In Matthew 24:3, the disciples ask our Lord of the signs and the timing of His Second Coming. In verse 36, He tells them that “My Father only” knows “that day and hour” (Mark 13:32 includes “nor The Son”).

This may trouble us as we know that Jesus is the Second Person of The Triune God, and that God is all-knowing (omniscient). But we need not be troubled as we must understand that in the Incarnation, God The Son became a sinless man as well as retaining His Deity (the hypostatic union). Regarding His omnipotence, when the human nature of Christ was asleep in the boat (Mark 4:37-41), in His Divine nature He was upholding the universe (Hebrews 1:3). It is helpful to examine a few of the Scriptures that deal with God’s omniscience, Christ’s human nature, and Christ affirming His omniscience after His Resurrection.

The Bible repeatedly tells us that God is omniscient. 1 Kings 8:39, Psalm 139: 1-4, 15-16, and Isaiah 46:9-10 are among the many verses that reveal this attribute of God. Yet, there are times when God gives the appearance that He does not know something, and that even He must investigate a matter. This is not due to His lack of knowledge, but for His testing of and revealing Himself to man. For example, in Genesis 3:9, God asks Adam, “Where art thou?” and in Genesis 18:21, God said concerning the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah: “I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto Me; and if not, I will know.” Just as God describes Himself as having feathers, a face, an arm, eyes, etc., this is done for God to communicate to us in a way that we can understand. (John 4:24 and Luke 24:39 tells us that “God is spirit” and does not have a physical form.) It appears that God repents, from Scriptures such as Genesis 6:6-7. We know that He does not repent or change from such verses as Numbers 23:19, Malachi 3:6, and James 1:17. It appears that He comes down to investigate, but we know that He already knows everything. Likewise, it may appear from Matthew 24:36 that Christ was not omniscient in terms of the timing of His Second Coming, but that must be understood as regarding His human nature, and only in His incarnation prior to His Resurrection.

One statement in the Gospel of John (the Gospel that emphasizes the Deity of Christ) of His omniscience is found in John 2:23-25:

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in His name, when they saw the miracles which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself unto them, because He knew all men, And needed not that any should testify of man: for He knew what was in man.

The Gospel of Luke emphasizes the humanity of Christ. Luke 2:52 tells of the 12 year old Jesus: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” In His human nature, Jesus had to learn, and “He humbled Himself” (Philippians 2:8) by at times limiting His use of His Divine attributes. Luke includes references to Christ’s omniscience in Luke 5:4-7, 6:8, 9:22, and 11:17.

So, Matthew 24:36 tells us that it was not the Father's will, at that time, that He would (in His human nature) know when His Second Coming would be. (In His Divine Nature, He knew it). We are not told the reason for this, and it seems to be one of the "secret things" that belong to God (Deuteronomy 29:29).

After His Resurrection, the Scriptures indicate that our Lord fully knew the timing of His return. In Matthew 28:18, He said: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth." Since He was "given" "all power," this must have included omniscience in His human nature. In John 21:17, Peter said, "Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee." In Acts 1:6-7, the disciples asked if He would "at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (This restoration would be at His Second Coming). Christ answered, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power." Christ did not say that He did not know the timing of His return, but that it was not for them to know.

So, Matthew 24:36 refers to Christ's Incarnation prior to His Resurrection. His not knowing the time of His Second Coming (only in His human nature and before His Resurrection) was due to His humbling of Himself in accord with His Father's will. We are not told the reason for this, but this should tell us to avoid speculation on that timing. We look forward to His return; we cannot (and should not try to) determine the date that this will happen; sadly, many have tried.

I Thessalonians 5:1-2:

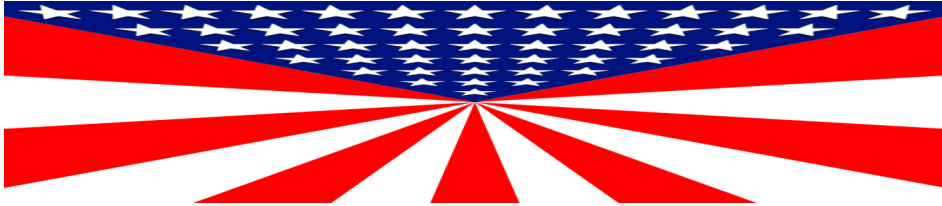
But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.



The American's Creed

William Tyler Page wrote The American's Creed, and in it he said, *"I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, whose powers are derived from the consent of the governed, a democracy in a Republic, a Sovereign Nation of many Sovereign States, a more perfect Union, one and inseparable, established on those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I therefore believe it's my duty to my country to love it, to support its constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies."*



And in so doing—I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

I hope you do as well.

Rev. David Lewis

Our Roots

By Hank Arthur

The roots of our great nation were planted in Christianity.
Because without the cross of Calvary no one can be free.
Many in America live each day under the bondage of sin.
They have sold their souls for pleasure; God's word they will not let in.

We need to cultivate our roots, clear out the weeds and tares.
Turn back to the Ten Commandments and heed the "One Who Cares."
Prayer must be put on our to do list and strive to do what's right.
Pledge our allegiance to God and country and walk boldly in God's light.

The precepts of liberty and justice have been casually cast aside.
Love for God and country has withered away and died.
The roots planted there in Plymouth when the pilgrims landed that day
Must be nourished back to life; don't let them wilt away.

We are a country of diverse people this we cannot deny.
But we can live in peace and harmony if everyone will try.
Let's protect the roots of our country help her to grow and bloom again.
Live peaceably with your neighbor, respect your fellow man.

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
Please contact us if you would like to receive a copy by mail.

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WRITE TO US!

Rev. David Lewis &
In Defense of Truth
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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult Bible Study	10:15 am
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 am
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	12:30 pm
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 pm
Outdoor Movie Night (July 10th)	8:30 pm