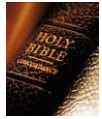


The DEFENDER— September 2026

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



A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S Desk: Buckle Up!

I ended my article last month by saying that God has a plan for each of us. And for America. And that I can't wait to see it unfold. Well, buckle up your seat belts because time moves quickly. This life will soon be past. God has given us all an expiration date. He's given one to America too. We just don't know when that is. But something has happened in our country recently that has never happened before in our 250 year history.

Communism, being sold as Democratic Socialism, is being openly promoted. There may have been a closet communist over the years, who, not showing their true colors, got elected. But they're wide out in the open now. New York City has elected a communist mayor. So has Seattle. Virginia has elected a communist governor. And keep your eye on Michigan, Maine, New Jersey, and Oregon in the coming election. If you don't think things can change quickly, think again. Most of our large urban areas are sanctuary cities. That means their populations are growing with illegal immigrants who have been promised free things. You and I know that nothing is free. Someone is paying for it. And that someone is the American tax payer. More and more of our younger Americans are being taught in many of our institutions of higher learning that socialism is a better alternative than capitalism. But it's not Swedish-style socialism that people like Bernie Sanders and Zohran Mamdani want. That's just the bait.

Ultimately they want wealth and power. They want to control the people so that they can control our assets. That's how they fund their oligarchies. They'll tax us all into poverty. The elections this November will have consequences whereby our nation may look very different when the dust clears. But for those of us who are the Lord's people, we know that He has the final say.

God is sovereign and providentially rules the Universe that He has created. And His will, not ours, will be done. On earth as it is in Heaven. So what does that mean for the Bible believing Christian trying to navigate through the uncharted waters? The Lord gave us our marching orders in Matthew 28:19-20, where He commissioned us to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.”

Our thoughts and minds are on things above. We view the world through the lens of scripture. And God has a plan for us with an expected end (Jeremiah 29:11). When the last saint is brought into the fold by God's grace, it won't matter what the Kings of earth are plotting to do. Our Lord will break them ... and dash them in pieces (Psalm 2:9). Tighten your seat belt. The clock is ticking.

Rev. David Lewis

The Forbidden Book—Part 1

Divine Authorship Through Human Instruments

Compiled by Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.” (Ps. 119:89)

“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of God will stand for ever.” (Is. 40:8)

“For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Matt. 5:18)

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” (Matt. 24:35).

“But the word of the Lord endureth forever.” (1 Peter 1:25)

The word Bible has its root in the Greek word for the plant papyrus from which a form of paper can be made. The scarcity of the earliest manuscripts results from the necessity that scripture was painstakingly copied by hand and the inherent fragility of the paper. Sheepskin proved the most durable but the skins of a small flock were required for just one Bible. There is also the sad fact that Bibles were burned during the many persecutions.

Our God did some writing with His own finger on tablets of stone demonstrating the permanency He intended for His Word (Deut. 10:1-5). Also, to the same point, God called His prophets to faithfully preserve His Word as did Isaiah who was instructed, “Now go, write it ... in a book that it may be ... for ever” (Is. 30:8). Likewise with Jeremiah who was moved to record, “Thus speaketh the Lord God ... Write ... that I have spoken ... in a book” (Jer. 30:2, 36:2).

Minor prophets were similarly directed by God to permanently secure access for His children to His everlasting Word. Habakkuk penned, “... the Lord answered ... write the vision ... upon tables that he may ... readeth it (Hab. 2:2). God repeatedly charged men to set His word to writing to preserve it for all generations (2 Pet. 1:21). Moses on one occasion was commanded to “write this for a memorial in a book and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua” (Ex. 17:14) and also to read God’s Word, “... in the audience of the people” (Ex. 24:4a, 7). God gave to Moses the blessing of recording the incomparably marvelous creation account and of His choosing and sanctifying a people for His name and for setting down laws and prophecies. Graciously God permanently secured the Bible’s life-giving words that are still enlightening minds and saving souls in our time (Rom. 10:5-11, 17; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:19-21). We may have full assurance of life eternal when the supernatural gift of faith is made operative and we are thereby enabled to BELIEVE, and is confirmed to our spirit by the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 14:17; 1 John 5:13; John 20:31; 1 Cor. 3:16).

Ezra the Prophet was led of God in 536 B.C. to assemble all God inspired sacred Hebrew scrolls which we now call the Old Testament. In the New Testament era (A.D. 210) Origen assembled the group of writings that met the strict tests for canonical acceptability. In 315 A.D., the orthodox churchman Athanasus listed the 27 books accepted as “God-breathed” and so belong in the New Testament. Faithful scribes preserved these for us.

In 382 A.D. Jerome, after mastering the Hebrew tongue, received a commission to translate both Testaments into Latin which was then a widely understood language. Jerome was the first to place an asterisk next to the apocryphal books as being inferior to the 66 canonical books. Only writings by men universally regarded as unquestionably guided by the Holy Spirit or taught by Jesus Christ merit being called God's Word. By 1400 A.D. the scriptures had been translated into hundreds of languages, but by 500 A.D. it was legal (by Church edict) in Latin alone. Sadly, this arbitrary ruling effectively led to denying Christ's teachings to the laity. The light and liberty Christ died for on Calvary's cross became dim and all but completely obscured in the days of the spiritual and intellectual declension of the Dark Ages (400 A.D. to 1400 A.D.) and the relegation of the masses of people to serfdom (Is. 61:1-3; John 8:32; Rom. 8:21; 2 Cor. 3:17; James 1:25).

Chapter divisions were first added to the Bible at the University of Paris around 1200 A.D. and verse divisions around 1500 A.D. In 1480, the first printed Bible came off the Guttenburg press—in Latin—all non-Latin languages were still forbidden. There were many languages but only one allowed by the autocrats that ruled in the "Holy" Roman Empire. Common people were perennially relegated to abject servitude because the language of learning was confined to Latin. Another ill-omened development of the Dark Age was the ever increasing concentration of social, political economic and ecclesiastical power in the hands of the select few—especially in "Divine Rights" kings, emperors and popes.

The "very good" of Christ's creation and later sacrifice that brought light and life to ALL men (Gen. 1:31; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-17; Ep. 3:9; Heb. 1:1-2) was plunged into a thousand years of darkness. During these centuries of religious and academic retardation in Western Christendom, the light of Christ's teachings was obscured by the intrusion of extra-biblical doctrines and dogmas, regulations and rites under which all classes suffered. In place of Christ's commandments and simple Gospel message came the works-righteousness neo-pagan concepts such as adoration of "saints" and the forbidden production of their icons or images, meritorious pilgrimages to shrines, penances, purgatory, confession, priestly absolution, et. al. The Biblical plan of salvation was submerged by superstitions, and man-centered forms and ceremonies. Clerics no longer relied solely upon the fully "finished" work of Christ at Calvary and God's unmerited GIFT of faith alone by grace alone (John 6:44-47, 19:30; Ep. 2:1-10; Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 2:8-15, 20-22).

By the 16th Century, a great recovery of Christ's teachings had been obtained and the unscriptural additions to the Lord's Supper (the bread was called God and was bowed down to) were corrected. The tokens of bread and wine were to be a reminder only of the broken body and shed blood of the "Lamb of God" of the New Covenant that Christ substituted for the lamb used in the Passover (John 1:29; Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). Scripture nowhere commands or gives power to any man to transform bread into the very flesh of Jesus Christ. The bread is to remind us that Christ is NOT on the Cross but right now, as one reads this, sitting on the right hand of God making intercession for us (Ex. 20:4-5a; Ep. 2:8-10; Heb. 9:11-15, 25-28, 10:10-14).

During the Dark Ages, the period of a "famine," not of bread but of God's Word (Amos 8:11) there arose the non-biblical practice of granting indulgences from sins for a set sum of money. Church offices and benefices were sold to the highest bidders. A hundred and fifty years before the great corrective of the Protestant Reformation, occurred the "Babylonian Captivity" of the Church. Two Popes were elected in 1377, one in Italy and one in France, and a general Council met at Pisa to remove the scandal. Their solution? Elect a third Pope and excommunicate the others.

Christ had plainly warned His Apostles that they were NEVER to become exalted rulers (Matt. 20:25-28; Luke 22:25-26; Rom. 12:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:5-6). Our marching orders are always subordinate to God's Word and commands and not to man's ideas alone (Jer. 17:9-10; Rom. 3:10-23).

Throughout human history God has exercised His right to change the hearts of kings and mere men to become His faithful servants. One such was Columba in 560 A.D. who founded a Bible College on the Island of Iona off Northwest Scotland. His influence to spread the Bible and its teachings lasted 700 years. He and his compatriots, called Culdees, were eventually forced underground when the exalted Church Rulers brought condemnation and persecution.

The Lord is never without a witness and then appeared John Wycliffe, the “Morning Star” of the Reformation. Wycliffe had been the Master of Balliol College of Oxford, England (1362-1372), and he had reached many thousands with Christ’s gospel. He was the first to widely circulate the Bible in English, albeit handwritten. His “Lollard” preacher-boys reached the lower classes bringing many to salvation.

When Wycliffe wrote against transubstantiation as being closer to Babylonian “blood-rituals” than the teachings of Christ, Church rulers were filled with wrath. They failed to kill Wycliffe or even silence him, but 44 years after his death his bones were disinterred and burned. They also failed to stop the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ and seeds scattered by men like Columba and Wycliffe took root throughout Europe and later in America.

Keep looking up.



Matthew 24:37-41: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left."-- KJV

The Return Of Christ And Man's Unbelief

By Joseph Burghauser

Matthew 24:37-41 continues our Lord's answer to His disciples' question of the timing and sign of His coming and of the end of the world (Matthew 24:3). Christ has already given signs, including that of the "great tribulation" (verse 21). In verse 37, He begins to compare the condition of people in Noah's day to that of those living near the time of His Return. Genesis 6:11 says that, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence." 2 Peter 2:5 tells us that Noah was "a preacher of righteousness" as he built the ark. In His pronouncement of judgment on man, God said that "his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" (Genesis 6:3). He would wait 120 years before destroying mankind with the flood. God was patient with man, as He will be until His final judgment (Romans 2:4, 2 Peter 3:9). The ancient world did come to an end in the flood, as all humans perished except for those in the ark. At The Second Coming, this present world will also end, with the removal of unbelievers, and the Millennial reign of Christ will begin on earth.

Matthew 24:38 specifies "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage". These are not necessarily sinful activities, but show the seeming normalcy of life and the expectation of its continuance. However, sinful man is often preoccupied with food and drink (Daniel 5:1-4; Luke 12:18-19; Philippians 3:19). I Corinthians 10:31 tells us, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." A sinful man does not do this, unless he is drawn to Him and granted faith and repentance (John 6:37, 44, 65; Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25). A parallel passage to Matthew 24:37-39 is Luke 17:26-27. Luke 17:28-30 adds the account of Lot and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Genesis 19:14 tells us that Lot's sons-in-law were deluded into thinking that Lot was joking. They did not heed the angels' warning. Similar to the unbelief in Noah's and Lot's days is that of those in the days of Christ's First Coming who saw all His miracles, yet attributed them to Satan (Matthew 12:24). In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, we are told that the rich man's brothers would not be convinced of the truth even if someone were raised from the dead (Luke 16:31).

"They knew not until the flood came" means that the people of Noah's day did not accept the fact that the flood was to come upon them, not that they were unaware of Noah's warning of the flood through his preaching (1 Peter 3:19-20). Peter may be understood as teaching that Christ, in the Spirit, preached to the disobedient through Noah. Noah also declared that judgment was coming through his construction of the ark. The word "know" in Matthew 24:39 means a conviction of the truth of the information or to be fully assured of something. So, those living in Noah's day did not "know," that is, they did not believe that the flood was coming. Noah's ark is a picture of Christ, and our Lord compared those in Noah's day who

refused deliverance, to those who will neglect so great salvation (Hebrews 2:3) before His Second Coming.

The “one shall be taken” does not refer to those taken at the Rapture, but to those taken in judgment at His Return. God’s judgment will begin during the “great tribulation” (Revelation 14:7). Multitudes will be killed. Unbelievers who are still alive when Christ returns will then be taken in judgment. This is parallel to those taken away by the flood. The “one who is left” is like those delivered from the judgment of the flood, who were in the ark.

So, Christ is teaching that at His Second Coming, it will be like the days of Noah in that people may be aware of the warning of His Coming and Judgment, but most will refuse to accept it as the truth. 2 Peter 3:3-7 says that they “willingly are ignorant”:

Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water. Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed by water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Just as Noah was obedient to God’s command to build the ark, we should obey Christ’s commands to be in His Word, pray continually, live holy lives, and take the Gospel into all the world. We are to warn our unbelieving world of the Wrath to come, and preach the Righteousness and the Ark that is Christ, Who delivers His people from God's Wrath, and from their sins.

Matthew 7:13-14:

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Luke 18:8b: “Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?”

2 Timothy 3:1-5:

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.



God & Country Service
Friday, September 11th
7:00 pm

Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church
2927 Cub Hill Road
Baltimore, MD 21234

Guest Speaker:
William Federer

Mr. Federer is a nationally known speaker,
best-selling author, and president of
Amerisearch, Inc., a rgb(158, 158, 158, 0.15)
publishing company
dedicated to researching America's noble
heritage. Bill's AMERICAN MINUTE radio
feature is broadcast daily across America and
by the Internet.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Music provided by **The Itzels**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Join us for an evening of praise and thanks to our God for
blessing us with the greatest country on earth.

Free for all ages!
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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.

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WRITE TO US!

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Baltimore, Maryland 21234

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